

# **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists, the International Arctic Science Committee and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research**

## **1 The Parties**

The Parties to this MoU are the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).

### **1.1 Association of Polar Early Career Scientists**

APECS is an international and interdisciplinary organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early faculty members, educators and others with interests in polar regions and the cryosphere. By providing networking and career development opportunities, APECS' activities aim to raise the profile of polar research, develop effective leaders in education and outreach, and stimulate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations. APECS builds on extensive national and disciplinary networks to develop integrated research directions, meet career development needs, and communicate the urgencies of polar science to a worldwide audience. APECS decisions are made by an open Council, and an elected Executive Committee. An Advisory Committee of senior polar researchers provides guidance to APECS. Day to day operations of APECS are currently supported through an international directorate lead by the Director.

### **1.2 International Arctic Science Committee**

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is an International Scientific Associate of ICSU, and was established in 1990. IASC's main aim is to initiate, develop, and co-ordinate leading edge scientific activity in the Arctic region, and on the role of the Arctic region in the Earth system. It also provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Arctic Council and other organizations on issues of science affecting the management of the Arctic region. The decision-making organs of IASC are the Council and the Executive Committee. The day-to-day operations of IASC are supported by its Secretariat headed by the Executive Secretary. IASC's geographical remit covers the Arctic Ocean and the surrounding landmasses.

### **1.3 Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research**

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is an Interdisciplinary Body of ICSU. It was established in February 1958 to continue the international coordination of Antarctic scientific activities that had begun during the ICSU-led International Geophysical Year of 1957-58. Its main aim is to initiate, develop, and coordinate high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. In addition it provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica. The decision-making organs of SCAR are the Meeting of Delegates and the Executive Committee. The day-to-day operations of SCAR are supported by its Secretariat headed by the Executive Director. SCAR's remit covers Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean including the Antarctic Circumpolar Current south of the Subantarctic Front.

## **2 Rationale for the MoU**

The Parties share common goals of working internationally and across disciplines to increase our understanding of Earth's polar regions and their connections to the global system. The Parties recognize the importance of fostering the next generation of researchers that will be

faced with increasingly critical challenges due to the impacts of climate change on these regions and their global significance. This agreement recognizes APECS as the preeminent organization for young researchers working in the Arctic, Antarctic, and Cryospheric regions that strives to provide a continuum of leadership in polar research. This agreement is between APECS, IASC, and SCAR. It does not preclude the Parties agreeing to other MoUs with other programs and organizations, or bilaterally between the Parties.

### **3 Terms of Agreement**

This MoU identifies a joint commitment to the professional development of early career polar researchers and the need for a continuum of leadership in polar researcher as important mutual aims of all Parties. Examples of activities through which this joint commitment may be pursued include, but are not limited to:

- Working together to ensure representation of early career researchers in all aspects of the Parties respective organizations, including but not limited to, participating in business, strategy, planning, and other meetings and activities;
- Communicating to each Parties members updates, newsletters, and other communications of interest;
- Providing endorsement, support, and dissemination of information on activities, projects, requests for participation, etc.;
- Agreeing to representatives of IASC and SCAR serving as members of the APECS Advisory Committee to offer assistance and guidance; and representatives of APECS being available to IASC and SCAR for early career perspectives.

### **4 Financial Implications of the Agreement**

Parties to this Agreement will continue to be responsible for the costs of their own activities, but this does not preclude one party meeting or contributing to the occasional or ongoing costs of another if they so wish. Actual financial contributions to the activities and other implications of this MoU will be considered and agreed to by representatives of the Parties as they arise, and may be changed in accordance with the Parties requirements without any effect on the substance of this Agreement.

### **5 Duration, Revision and Termination of this MoU**

This MoU remains in force for 5 years, at which time it will be reviewed for possible extension. No action by any of the parties will result in the cancellation of this MoU. The MoU may be revised at any time by mutual agreement between the Parties. Any of the parties may propose alterations to the MoU. Parties wishing to withdraw from this agreement should do so by a formal letter signed by the President and head organizational manager (i.e. Executive Secretary or Director) of their respective organization.

Signed

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Kriss Rokkan Iversen  
President, APECS  
Date July 8, 2008

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Kristján Kristjánsson  
President, IASC  
Date July 8, 2008

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Chris Rapley  
President, SCAR  
Date July 8, 2008