



WP **26**
Agenda Item: **6.5**
Person Responsible: **E Griffin**

EXCOM 2015

Tromsø, Norway 27-28 August 2015

The CBET Committee and Future Plans

Executive Summary

Title: The CBET Committee and Future Plans

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Introduction/ Background: SCAR is committed to developing scientific capacity among all the SCAR member countries, assisting students, early career scientists, underrepresented groups and emerging programs to participate in Antarctic research. SCAR promotes and facilitates the incorporation of Antarctic science into all levels of education.

Important Issues or Factors: The CBET committee reconstituted from time to time has been actively working on mandated activities. Its main activities are managing SCAR fellowship program, Visiting Professor scheme, supporting APECS.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification: Continued support of both SCAR and CBET activities be encouraged by all SCAR members to achieve the objectives.

Expected Benefits/Outcomes: Increased Capacity in SCAR Member countries, developing Antarctic Programs and early career scientists and students.

Partners: Association of Early Career Scientists, International Arctic Science Committee, International Polar Foundation, ICSU, COMNAP, CCAMLR, Muse Prize and others.

Budget Implications: Fellowships initial allocation \$30,700 for 2015
SCAR Visiting Professor Scheme initial allocation \$5,000 for 2015
CBET general and Early careers scientist support \$3,000 and Secondment \$1,000 in 2015

SCAR has been successful in obtaining external grants to support CBET activities, e.g. ICSU grants, management of the Martha T. Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica from the Tinker Foundation.

The CBET Committee and Future Plans

Introduction

At the 2014 Delegates Meeting the new Terms of Reference introduced in WP25 at that meeting were approved. Repeated below are the suggested mechanisms to achieve the CBET Committees goals:

Mechanisms for achieving aims and objectives

To meet the five objectives (above) CBET has developed following activities:

Objective (i) to help all Members to engage in high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region, and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system;

Provide Fellowships enabling early career researchers to spend time in leading polar science institutions elsewhere.

SCAR itself offers 3-5 fellowships per year. We collaborate with other polar organisations to release the fellowships jointly (COMNAP, CCAMLR currently).

Encourage development of Distinguished Visiting Researchers programme to bring top scientists to countries with less well-developed Antarctic programmes for short periods to teach or spend sabbaticals.

This will enable a larger audience in countries with less developed Antarctic programmes to get access to the latest developments in Antarctic Sciences.

Build and sustain a number of network nodes on specific scientific issues:

This should include each SRPs/ AGs/EGs as network node for their topic of expertise. Interested scientists can visit these nodes to seek opportunities for collaboration.

Objective (ii) to help scientists, to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from SCAR's main programmes and other activities;

Provide funds for scientists from countries with less well-developed Antarctic programmes to attend SCAR meetings and workshops via the SCAR SSGs and SRPs

Consideration also needs to be given to attracting scientists from countries with no traditional Antarctic science programme to work with SCAR Members and programmes, as a means of broadening interest in Antarctic science.

Objective (iii) Award/promote high achievement in Antarctic science and policy at the international level

To recognise high achievements in Antarctic and southern ocean science and policy, the following mechanisms are in place:

- SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research
- SCAR Medal for International Coordination
- Named Lectures – Weyprecht and Antarctic Science OSC Lectures
- Young Scientists Presentation Awards - OSC
- Certificates of Appreciation
- Honorary Memberships
- Other international awards in Antarctic science and policy, such as the Muse Prize.

Objective (iv) Promoting CBET activities for potentially attracting funding from both external donors as well as from national committees

Provide input to brochures and information sheets to address specific groups of potential donors/funding authorities.

Objective (v) To help National Delegates make best use of Antarctic examples to illustrate key scientific principles

This can take the following main routes:

- i. Direct contact with school and universities to interest them in Antarctica and its science.
- ii. Contributing information via website/lectures available via website, about Antarctica and the Southern Ocean to spread the message of major highlights in the current science and research. The National Committees should be responsible for making this information available for their scientific community and general public.

Recent Developments:

The SCAR OSC 2014 included a science session (#48) at which a prize was awarded for the most innovative presentation of Antarctic research results in any discipline. This was the first such award given at a SCAR OSC, and is a follow-on to the linkage of science and creative arts activities at the previous SCAR OSC meeting in Portland, 2012. The 2014 award went to Molly Jia.

The notion of a Polar Education Prize, possibly jointly supported by SCAR and IASC, is currently being discussed informally by interested parties. In due course this may become a firm proposal for a new SCAR Award.

Recommendations:

EXCOM to develop processes to implement the objectives laid out above, taking into account the recommendations of the Structure Review.