Addendum to WP 30: Capacity Building and Education Plan

Draft report on the Capacity Building, Education and Training (CBET) meeting – St Petersburg July 6th 2008

Attendees:

Colin Summerhayes, Mike Sparrow (SCAR) Alain Hubert, Gigi Johnson-amin (IPF) Kriss Iversen, Narelle Baker (APECS)

A meeting was held in the evening of July 6th during the SCAR business meetings to discuss Capacity Building and Education initiatives. Representatives from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Polar Foundation (IPF) and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) attended.

A discussion was held on the SCAR/IPF/IAI/UNEP 6TH Continent Initiative Fellowships. SCAR are intending to advertise the next round of fellowships in February 2009, so before the end of the International Polar Year (IPY). It will therefore be possible to include the 6CI fellowships as in previous years. IPF will also continue the 6CI initiative after IPY has officially finished and so SCAR has the opportunity to continue this fellowship scheme in the future should it so wish.

There has been some difficulty in attracting applications from non-traditional polar (or developing) countries to the 6CI fellowships, despite it being widely advertised by the partners. It was decided that for the next round we should all use the same distribution network as previous but also include the IPY secretariats and the APECS network more fully. There should also be more announcements in mailing lists such as ARCUS, TAMU etc.

Action: All 6CI partners to advertise the 2009 fellowships as fully as possible when SCAR makes the announcement in Feb. 2009. Also partners should investigate new avenues for advertising the fellowships

IPF informed the attendees that they had raised 300,000 Euros for education schemes but this was limited to students at Belgian universities.

IPY has had an education and outreach program but their funding will cease after July 2009. They will try to get funding for a two-year extension and in parallel with this SCAR and IASC will investigate finding funds for this activity. Rhian Salmon from the IPY Secretariat is going to put together a costed proposal to IASC and SCAR.

IPF pointed out that they were looking for a UK person to work on their programme and it was possible that this could jointly cover the Education and Outreach activities of the IPY Secretariat, post IPY, perhaps together with a MoU with SCAR and IASC.

Action: Gigi Johnson-amin to discuss with Rhian Salmon the possibility of continuing the IPY Educations and Outreach work under the IPF umbrella

There was a discussion about the meetings being held after the official end of IPY, such as in Geneva and Washington and whether Education and Outreach activities would be included.

Action: Gigi Johnson-amin to contact Paul Berkman at Scott Polar with regards to Education and Outreach activities during the Washington meeting in November 2009.

SCAR informed the attendees about other possibilities for education and outreach activities in the coming year, such as the idea of an Early Career Researcher Award or support of the Polar Youth Forum in Baltimore, 2009.

IPF enquired as to whether there was a database of all Polar Projects. SCAR replied that such a database existed to a certain extent in the SCAR National Projects, but that currently these were in the members only part of the SCAR website.

Action: Mike Sparrow to investigate if it is possible to have the SCAR National Reports on the public section of the SCAR webpage.

Now that SCAR and IASC has signed an MOU with APECS, the question has been raised to what extent SCAR might contribute to the costs of the proposed APECS Secretariat. A short proposal will be tabled for the consideration of the Delegates.