



COMNAP UPDATE: 19 February 2018

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of COMNAP

COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXX (2018) & Symposium

The 30th COMNAP AGM will be hosted by Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Center for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, on 11, 12 and 13 June 2018.



AGM Registration for COMNAP Members is NOW OPEN:

[COMNAP AGM Registration](#) (your username and password will be requested).

The COMNAP Symposium “*Facilitation of Internationally Collaborative Antarctic Science*” will also be held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, on 14 June 2018.

Call for Symposium Abstracts (Oral and poster presentations) is NOW OPEN:

[Download Symposium Abstract Submission Form](#)

General information for the AGM, the Symposium and all related events can be found on the AGM webpage: www.comnap.aq/SitePages/AGM2018.aspx.

Highlights/key points:

- **Icebreaker** at the [Zugspitze](#) (Sunday 10 June, with transportation to the venue from 1PM/1300hrs).
- **AGM keynote presentation** by Erik van Sebille, Utrecht University, “*Our plastic ocean: sources, pathways and distribution of marine plastic litter around Antarctica*”.
- **Symposium keynote presentation** by Heinz Miller, AWI and former COMNAP Chairman (2011–2014), “*The success of EPICA and the lessons we learned*”.
- **Topical break-out group sessions** on Safety: Harassment; Environment: Reduction of plastics, and reducing fossil fuel usage; Medical: Telemedicine innovations update; & Marine platforms/Facilitation of science session, **which includes an opportunity to prepare and present posters on your vessels**, especially on planned new vessel builds and their capacity and capabilities.
- Special information sessions on **SOOS** and **YOPP** with speakers involved in each project.
- Optional **day tour of Bavaria** (Friday 15 June)-a great way to informally talk with colleagues & visit a castle!

-It’s your AGM & Symposium, so make it fun and informative-

So, submit an AGM Meeting Paper for one of the agenda items or Regional Break-out Groups, prepare and bring a poster on your vessels to display and speak with colleagues about, or submit a Symposium abstract.

For those attending the SCAR & IACS Meetings “POLAR2018” in Davos, Switzerland (15-26 June)

Our AGM hosts have arranged bus transportation from the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Congress Centre to the venue for the POLAR2018 meetings in Davos, Switzerland. You can select this transportation option when you complete your AGM registration on-line. The **COMNAP Mini-Symposium** is going to be held as part of the **SCAR Open Science Conference (19 June)** in Davos. The theme of the mini-symposium is “*Implementing Multi-national Polar Research Projects: the nexus between researcher and the National Antarctic Program*”. More information about the SCAR & IASCs meetings can be found at <https://www.polar2018.org/>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

From the Spanish Polar Committee (CPE-MINECO)

The IX Spanish Symposium on Polar Studies be held in Madrid, Spain, from Wednesday 5 to Friday 7 September 2018. These Symposia have been held since the beginning of Spanish Antarctic research, three decades ago, and are promoted by the Spanish National Committee of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (CN-SCAR). On this occasion, the Symposium is organized by the CN-SCAR together with the Spanish Research Council, the Geological Survey of Spain and the Spanish Polar Research Program of the R&D National Plan, with the collaboration of the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the support of the COMNAP Member CPE-MINECO. The aim of the Symposium is to assemble the entire Spanish scientific community making research on Polar Regions in order to present and analyse the progress and existing perspectives, with the participation of foreign scientists too. All the researchers developing studies within any discipline in Antarctica and/or the Arctic are invited to participate in the Symposium, but also scientists from other fields who are interested in approaching Polar research. The participation of early career researchers is especially encouraged, with APECS-Spain also contributing to the organization and development of the Symposium.

Further information & registration: <http://ixsimposiopolar.igme.es>

From the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)

The KOPRI will hold the 24th International Symposium on Polar Sciences in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, on May 15–16, 2018. In commemoration of the scientific dedication over the years and celebrating the 30 year anniversary of King Sejong Station, the theme of the 24th International Symposium on Polar Science will be “30 years of footsteps in Antarctica: Looking back and looking forward”. The Symposium’s First Circular is now available, see [Symposium Information](#) or contact: symposium@kopri.re.kr.

From the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)

The NPI is proud to announce the release of Quantarctica 3, the latest version of its free, cross-platform compilation of GIS software and high-quality Antarctic scientific data. Thanks to the work of the Quantarctica Project Team, Editorial Board, and feedback from hundreds of Antarctic researchers around the world, this version is Quantarctica's biggest release yet. See <http://quantarctica.npolar.no/>.

From the Ecuadorian Antarctic Institute (INAE)

The INAE wishes to inform COMNAP Member programs that there is space available on their chartered flight which will withdraw their personnel currently participating in the XXII Ecuadorian Campaign in Antarctica. The flight is scheduled for 4 March, 2018, with 64 seats available on the Punta Arenas to King George Island route, and 18 seats available (same day) on the King George Island to Punta Arenas route. Contact INAE’s Technical and Scientific Director for information on booking and fees scoral@inae.gob.ec.

Best wishes to Yves Frenot, who completes his term as Director of the French Polar Institute (IPEV) on 28 February 2018 (the new Director from 1 March 2018 is Jérôme Chappellaz); and to Valery Lytvynov, whose tenure as Director of the National Antarctic Scientific Center (NASC) of Ukraine ended on 6 February 2018 (the new Director is Evgen Dykyi, and Valery remains involved as the Deputy Director of NASC); Welcome to Marcelo Leppe Cartes as the new Director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute (INACH).

You can always find the most current list of MNAPs and DMNAPs, including their contact details, on the Member’s Only area of the COMNAP website (username and password will be requested for access).

XLI Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) & Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) Meeting XXI

The XLI ATCM & XXI CEP Meeting are now confirmed for 13 to 19 May 2018, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meeting website will soon open at <http://www.atcm41.cancilleria.gob.ar/>. The provisional agendas are reduced from the normal agendas, but both include matters of an operational nature. These matters include, but are not limited to inspections, draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluations (CEEs-‘Proposed Construction and Operation of a New Chinese Research Station, Victoria Land, Antarctica’ (China) and ‘Rothera Wharf Reconstruction and Coastal Stabilisation’ (United Kingdom)), and reports from Intercessional Contact Groups (ICGs-including a report on environmental aspects of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs)). These are important matters for National Antarctic Programs which COMNAP Members may wish to discuss with the heads of your ATCM and/or CEP delegations. COMNAP will submit to the meetings our Annual Report (which will be taken as read this year and will not be introduced due to time considerations); will submit advanced information on the proposed timing and agenda for the Search and Rescue (SAR) Workshop IV (2019), and will submit the current edition of the [COMNAP RPA Handbook](#) which now includes guidance related to the environmental aspects of RPA use in the Antarctic Treaty area as developed by our COMNAP Air Expert Group.

Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) Happy anniversary to SCAR... 60 years old!

Since its first meeting in The Hague on 3–5 February 1958, SCAR has grown an international network of thousands of scientists who share a common ambition to carry out Antarctic science for the benefit of society. SCAR will celebrate its 60th year at its 35th Meeting and the [Open Science Conference \(POLAR2018\)](#) at Davos, Switzerland from 15–26 June 2018. See their [60th Anniversary Fact Sheet \(104 KB\)](#). For versions of their press release in several languages, go to the [60th Anniversary folder in the SCAR Library](#).

POLAR2018 Travel Funding: SCAR, in cooperation with the Association of Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), is pleased to announce the availability of travel support for POLAR2018 for early career researchers (up to 5 years past PhD) and for indigenous researchers of all career stages. APECS will administer, coordinate and distribute the funds provided by IASC and SCAR. SCAR is continuing to work with other polar organisations to raise additional funds, and encourages partner organisations to get in touch with the APECS Secretariat (info@apecs.is) if you want to take advantage of having your early-career travel funds for the conference distributed via this APECS-led application process. Application deadline is 28 February 2018, 23:59 GMT. No late applications - No exceptions.

SCAR Medals: Nominations for 2018 Awards are open until **6 March 2018**.

The SCAR Medal for Excellence in Antarctic Research is awarded for sustained research contributions over a career. The SCAR Medal for International Coordination is awarded for outstanding and sustained contributions to international cooperation and partnerships. The SCAR Medal for Education and Communication will be awarded for excellence or innovation in, and sustained commitment to: (a) communicating Antarctic research, (b) making a significant contribution to educating the next generation of Antarctic researchers, or (c) contributing to building new capacity in SCAR member countries.

See www.scar.org/awards/medals/info/ for full details.

The 2018 Tinker-Muse Prize for Science and Policy in Antarctica

Open for nominations until 14 March 2018

The Prize is a US\$ 100,000 unrestricted award presented to an individual in the fields of Antarctic science or policy who has demonstrated potential for sustained and significant contributions that will enhance the understanding and/or preservation of Antarctica. The prize-winner can be from any country and work in any field of Antarctic science or policy. The goal is to provide recognition of the important work being done by the individual and to call attention to the significance of understanding Antarctica in a time of change.

Further details at www.museprize.org.

Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP) “Polar Prediction Matters” platform

In order to strengthen the dialogue between polar forecast providers and users, YOPP together with partners have launched the Polar Prediction Matters dialogue platform at <https://blogs.helmholtz.de/polarpredictionmatters/>. The platform’s specific aim is to foster the exchange between information users and experts on polar prediction. The platform is a means to collect and share individual insights by polar environmental forecast users. These user perspectives will be complemented with contributions by “providers”, such as natural scientists working at meteorological and sea-ice services and at universities, but also by social scientists trying to shed light on how forecast information and products are created, delivered, and utilised. For more information on YOPP and the Special Observing Periods for the Antarctic and the Arctic, see the YOPP presentation to the COMNAP AGM XXIX (2017) on the COMNAP Member’s Only website. It is AGM XXIX presentation 4 “PPT4_Goessling_YOPP.pdf”. Also, further information on YOPP and how any National Antarctic Program can participate will be discussed at COMNAP AGM XXX (2018) and at the COMNAP Mini-Symposium in Davos.

International Ice Charting Working Group (IICWG)

The draft final report from the 18th Meeting of the IICWG is now available, together with the presentations, posters and photos from the IICWG website <http://nsidc.org/noaa/iicwg/>. Also, the IICWG would like to receive information (including reports or papers) on the status of method developments for retrieving new sea ice parameters potentially to be included in sea ice maps. Those parameters include: ice thickness / range of ice thickness, snow depth, ice drift and deformation, percent of ridged ice, net ice volume, ice compression and tensile strength, ice pressure, stage of sea ice melting / rotten ice, ice age, ice albedo, and, for all parameters, estimation of bias, errors, uncertainties.

International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

IAATO’s AGM 2018 will be held from 1–3 May, 2018, in Newport, Rhode Island, USA. The meeting is open to IAATO members and invited guests. See www.iaato.org

Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica (HCA) 15th Conference

The 15th Conference of the IHO HCA (HCA-15) will be hosted by the Diretoria de Hidrografia e Navegação (DHN) and will take place in Niterói, Brazil, from 26 to 28 June 2018. See www.iho.int

*If you have any national Antarctic program news
or other information
you would like included in the next COMNAP Update
send it to sec@comnap.aq by 1 April 2018.*