



October, 2007

For the attention of: all IYSC and APECS members

*During the last week of September, representatives of the IYSC and APECS met in Stockholm to discuss their future institutional structure. After some debate and discussion, all participants agreed to merge the two organisations under the common name 'APECS'... **and thus was born a new APECS!***

We hope you'll want to be part of this exciting new network that brings together the regional strengths and passion of the IYSC with the professional, interdisciplinary, and international recognition of APECS. The new organisation welcomes involvement from people working in polar regions, or the cryosphere as a whole, from the undergraduate level through to early career faculty, educators and research associates. It will coordinate a broad range of activities and events designed to support the challenges of these different career stages and recognises a place for all participants as we develop through our careers.

If you would like to become involved in the discussions, committees, and activities, that will shape this new APECS, please contact Jenny Baeseman (baeseman@arcus.org) or check out the list of committees and working groups on our website: (<http://arcticportal.org/apecs>)

The following notice gives an overview of the outcomes of this meeting. Please circulate around your networks. You can see the webcast at the APECS website: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs>. We are in the process of updating this site to include all the new developments from the meeting. Please be patient while we post new items. If you would like to help with the website or you have things you would like posted to the site, please contact Peter DiFiorie, APECS Cyberinfrastructure Manager at pdfiore@Princeton.edu

If you have any questions or queries, do not hesitate to contact any of the new executive committee or previous directors/co-chairs of APECS and the IYSC:

APECS Interim Executive Committee:

Kriss Rokkan Iversen (chair), Norway
Dr. Daniel Pringle, Alaska, USA
Hugues Lantuit, Germany
Dr. José Xavier, Portugal
Narelle Baker, UK
Dr. Jenny Baeseman, Director

Kriss.Iversen@nfh.uit.no
pringle@gi.alaska.edu
hugues.lantuit@awi.de
jxavier@ualg.pt
npmb2@cam.ac.uk
baeseman@arcus.org

For specific questions regarding the status of the IPY International Youth Steering Committee:

Melanie Raymond (co-chair), New Zealand
Amber Church (co-chair), Canada

melianieraymond@yahoo.co.uk
amber@alkhemedia.com

APECS: Shaping the Future of Polar Sciences

New organisation brings together polar and cryosphere enthusiasts from around the world.

Following a meeting in Stockholm at the end of September, 2007, the IPY International Youth Steering Committee (IYSC) and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) merged under a new structure keeping the name 'APECS'. This new organisation reflects the needs of aspiring researchers and early career scientists interested in the Polar Regions between the undergraduate level and early career faculty and research positions.

Twenty-four emerging polar scientists and students from eleven countries met in Stockholm to discuss the future of their organisation(s). All participants had joined the meeting either through membership of the IPY International Youth Steering Committee (IYSC), established in 2004 to represent the needs of Youth in the International Polar Year, or through the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), established in 2006 to represent the needs and challenges faced by graduate students, post-docs, junior faculty, and research associates involved in polar research. The activities of the IYSC generally occurred on a national or regional scale with a focus on education and outreach and national networking. The original APECS was structured by scientific discipline and focused on career development and international networking.

The new APECS comes together to shape the future of polar sciences by sharing and developing interdisciplinary and international research directives, career development needs, and communication of these advancing sciences with people around the world. It consists of coordinated regional and national activities, disciplinary science groups, and international activities. A number of committees and working groups were established focusing on career development, communication, education and outreach, and the organization of an international APECS conference in 2009, more information on these can be found on our website. In addition to this, an interim executive committee was elected, chaired by Kriss Rokkan Iversen, a PhD candidate/ research fellow in arctic marine microbial ecology from Norway. Dr. Jenny Baeseman, ARCSS science coordinator at ARCUS, Alaska, was appointed as interim Director of APECS.

A number of National YSC Committees have been created and are of great importance to the new APECS. We would like each national committee to elect a representative to serve as your voice in APECS on the APECS Council. Members of national committees, and current APECS members not attached to national groups, are welcome to join any committee and working group of interest. If you are interested in sitting on the APECS Council, please contact Jenny Baeseman for more information on how you can get involved.

Mentors from the international polar science community were invited to join the meeting to advise on structure, establishment, and funding. APECS is now seeking institutional support, including a coordination office, to help nurture this fledgling organisation and bring its plans into fruition.

APECS would like to encourage all students, post-docs, early career faculty, and research associates with an interest in interdisciplinary and international polar and cryospheric research to become involved with the organisation. Please join at <http://arcticportal.org/apecs> or send an email to APECSinfo@gmail.com stating your interest and ways you would like to get involved.

Get Involved!

APECS encourages all students, post-docs, early career faculty, and research associates with an interest in interdisciplinary and international polar and cryosphere research to become involved with the organization.

Benefits to membership

Because we are an international organization, most of our resources are on our website. Being an APECS member gives you access to resources that will be helpful for your career development, from undergraduate through early career faculty and research associates. Our discussion board allows you to interact with the larger community for questions regarding laboratory procedures or techniques, finding out how to get polar experience, sharing stories from the field and tips for fieldwork survival to discussing recent journal publications and specific science questions. You can also access our publications database, read recent reports from meetings, and join in live webcasts. One of the most useful benefits of membership is likely the membership database itself. Using this tool can help you find other people in your field asking similar questions, developing new international colleagues, or finding additional resources to help your research and career development.

Being an APECS member also gives you access to the may early career workshops and meetings that will be held in the coming months and years. These face-to-face meetings allow for the exchange of dialog that is often rewarding not only professionally, but personally as well. These workshops will have different foci, from very science specific to broad career development strategies. Many of these workshops will have limited openings, and being an active APECS member will give you an advantage in the application process.

Committees and Projects

Recently several committees have been established around various topics of interest in early career polar and cryosphere researchers. These committees are open to all to join and help shape the future of this organization. Many of these groups are using the wonderful tools available through Google Groups. Below the group summaries you will find the homepage of the groups and if you would like to contact the whole group, you can use the address provided under the homepage address.

APECS Science Directives

The group is designed for all those interested in discussing the future of polar sciences... to design new questions, make connections with other researchers, and the like.

Contact Person: Arthur Mason (amason4_at_asu.edu)

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/APECS-science>

Group email: APECS-science_at_googlegroups.com

APECS Career Development

For those of you interested in planning, sharing ideas, etc about ways we can improve our career development - from planning workshops, to sharing resumes that work, to finding jobs, to teaching tricks, etc. If you are interested in hosting an APECS event, please contact this group for planning assistance.

Contact Person: Liz Thomas (LITH_at_bas.ac.uk)

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/apecs-career-development>

Group email: apecs-career-development_at_googlegroups.com

APECS Education and Outreach

APECS is committed to integrating education and outreach into every research project we

undertake. This group has been set up to share E&O ideas, thoughts, resources, etc for educating people about polar sciences.

Contact Person: Melianie Raymond (melianieraymond@yahoo.co.uk) or Rhian Salmon (ipy.ras@gmail.com)

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/apecs-education-and-outreach>

Group email: apecs-education-and-outreach_at_googlegroups.com

APECS Financial Portal

This is the place where APECS members can exchange funding proposals and work together to make APECS activities happen. If you are interested in hosting an APECS meeting, please contact this group for help finding financial support.

Contact Person: Narelle Baker (narelle.baker_at_gmail.com)

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/apecs-finance>

Group email: apecs-finance_at_googlegroups.com

APECS Ethics and Social Responsibilities:

For the APECS members interested in outlining our environmental, ethical and social responsibilities as the next generation of polar science leaders.

Contact Person: Tina Tin (tinatink_at_gmail.com)

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/APECS-ethics>

Group email: APECS-ethics_at_googlegroups.com

Polar Discovery Conference

The purpose of this group is to plan and organize APEC's Polar Discovery Conference.

Contact: Amber Church (amber_at_alkhemedia.com) or James Cheshire (mail_at_jamescheshire.co.uk)

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/polar-discovery-conference>

Group email: polar-discovery-conference_at_googlegroups.com

As you know, our website is our main means of communication with our members. Maintaining and updating this site is critical to APECS. If you would like to help with this aspect of our organization, please contact Peter DiFiorie, APECS Cyberinfrastructure Manager, for more information: pdifiore_at_Princeton.edu.

If there are other things that you believe would be of interest to APECS members and you would be willing to help establish a working group to explore those ideas, please contact the APECS Director, Jenny Baeseman.

Organizational and Institutional membership benefits

- coming soon!

(as soon as we define what these groups are and why they would want to be associated with us)

Advisory Committee Membership

Mentors from the international polar science community were invited to join the meeting to advise on structure, establishment, and funding. APECS is now seeking institutional support, including a coordination office, to help nurture this fledgling organization and bring its plans into fruition. As a mentor, you will become part of a very talented group of international experts willing to help us with many things as we develop this organization's full potential, as well as our individual careers and research projects. To become a member of this committee, you can join through the website

and select 'mentor' or contact Kriss Rokkan Iversen (Kriss.Iversen_at_nfh.uit.no) or Jenny Baeseman (baseman@arcus.org).

APECS Governance

We are in the process of developing the terms of reference, rules and procedures, and constitution for this organization. The two major groups involved with this development are the APECS Council, the governing body, and the APECS Executive Committee, which has been elected by council to draft these documents and help design the interworkings of this organization. For more information or to get involved with these activities, please contact the the APECS Executive Committee Chair, Kriss Rokkan Iversen (Kriss.Iversen_at_nfh.uit.no).

APECS Council:

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/apecs-council>
Group email: apecs-council@googlegroups.com

APECS Executive Committee

Homepage: <http://groups.google.com/group/apecs-executive-committee>
Group email: apecs-executive-committee@googlegroups.com

Contact APECS

For general questions, please send an email to APECS (APECSinfo_at_gmail.com)
For specific committee or organizational questions, please contact the representative listed.

Mailing Address:

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