



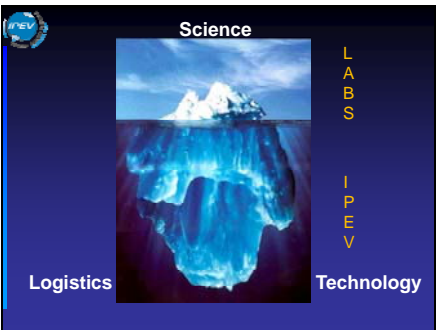
The French Polar Institute in the Arctic  
 Yves FRENOT  
 Director of the French Polar Institute  
 FARO Meeting, held at Montreal in April 2012



The French Polar Institute is a governmental support agency for the French scientific researches in polar regions, with a staff of 50 permanent employees and up to 200 contract employees on the field and an annual budget of about 28 M€. With this budget, we operate a Research Vessel, the Marion-Dufresne, a 120 m long ship working on all the oceans, except in polar areas. It means that our real budget dedicated to the science in polar areas is about 12 M Euros.

The main partners are the Ministry of Research and the CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research)  
 Our mission is to coordinate, support and implement scientific and technological programs in the Northern and Southern polar areas. For this purpose, we:

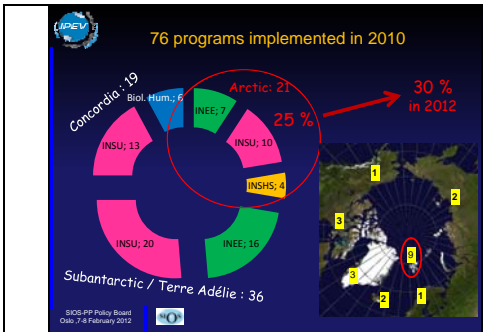
- Select the projects submitted by laboratories from French scientific organizations
- Implement observatories in Earth and Life sciences
- Provide financial and human support to scientists



By contrast with other polar institutes in Europe or in the world, IPEV is a true support agency. It means that scientists are appointed by other French scientific organizations, e.g. the National Center for Scientific Research, the Universities... IPEV provides to these researchers scientific support, namely logistics and technology, once their proposals have been scientifically evaluated by an independent scientific committee. IPEV supports only the work on the field and does not provide funding for the work in the laboratories, analysis of samples, meetings and so on. To cover such expenses, French scientists may generally apply to other funding agencies like the National Agency for Research (ANR).



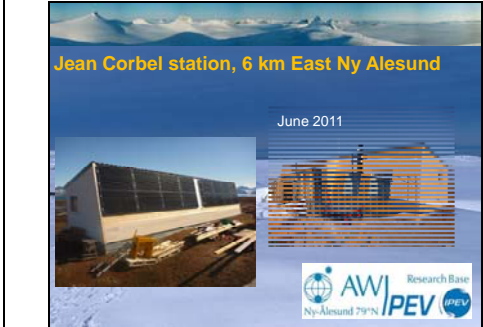
The French Polar Institutes is involved in both hemispheres. We maintain and operate stations in Terre Adélie, at Dôme C in Antarctica, in the French subantarctic islands, Crozet, Kerguelen and Amsterdam Islands and in Spitsbergen. The French subantarctic islands, in the Southern Indian Ocean, constitute French dependencies. In addition, France is a claimant party in Antarctica with an old presence in Adélie Land. These features explain why France is historically more involved in the Southern hemisphere than in the Arctic.



The number of programs supported by IPEV in the polar regions is a reflect of this involvement: In 2010, 25 % of the programs were in the Arctic, and 75 % in the South. Among the 21 arctic programs, 9 were implemented in Ny Alesund, the others in other countries around the Arctic Basin. This number is evolving and the arctic activities of IPEV will be about 30% in 2012.



We decided in 2003 to share our facilities in Ny Alesund with our German colleagues, in order to optimize our infrastructures and to promote cooperation between the 2 countries. These infrastructures include the Koldewey and the Rabot Station at Ny Alesund,



But also the Corbel station, a small station located at 6 km far the Ny-Alesund, extremely useful for scientists working on the glaciers or the ecosystems of the Kongsfjord. During the last years, IPEV invested a lot to improve these small huts, especially developing renewable energies. The objectives were not only to rehabilitate this station, but also to have a “clean”, with few pollution, and where specific measurements, namely in air and snow chemistry, would be possible.

**IPEV activities in the Arctic: 2010 investment**

**Staff**

- 2 permanent engineers at Brest
- 1 logistician during over-winter and summer season at NA
- 2 technicians under contract during the summer seasons (carpenter...) at NA

**Scientists**

- 92 French scientists in the Arctic / 2563 man.days on the field

**Budget (staff salaries not included)**

- Running costs: 372 k€ (~ 250 k€ NA)
- Science support: 310 k€ (~ 205 k€ NA)
- Investment : 357 k€ (NA)
- Scientific equipment investment: 80 k€ (~ 55 k€ NA)

SIDS-PP Policy Board  
Octo. 7-8 February 2012

In addition to these stations, our investment in Arctic activities are the following:

**Staff**

- 2 permanent engineers at Brest
- 1 logistician over-winter and summer season at Ny Alesund
- 2 technicians under contract during the summer seasons (carpenter...) at Ny Alesund

**Scientists**

- 92 French scientists in the Arctic / 2563 man.days on the field

**Budget (staff salaries not included)**

- Running costs: 372 k€ (~ 250 k€ NA)
- Science support: 310 k€ (~ 205 k€ NA)
- Investment : 357 k€ (NA)

Scientific equipment investment

Without contributions of other funding agencies, the part of the IPEV budget for the Arctic activities was about 1,2 M€ in 2010



There is a real pressure in France to develop researches in the Arctic.

In 2008, in the context of the IPY, a senator, Mr Gaudin, wrote a report in which he recommended to develop the concept of Arctic Observatory in France, in order to take part of the crucial need of research in this region submitted to strong environmental changes.

The same year, the Conference held at Monaco in November made the same recommendation.

In February 2009, the President of the CNRS received a formal request from the Minister of Research, Mme Valérie Pécresse. She wrote : *"With a long history of polar research and a very well know research community, France should contribute to the development of international scientific cooperation around the Arctic. So I want the CNRS, with the help of IPEV, contributes to the SAON initiative of the Arctic Council, which aims to establish a scientific observatory International Arctic"*

This initiative took a long time before to be implemented by CNRS, but several meetings with scientists and scientific agencies are organized in 2012 to identify how France can be involved in such arctic observatory (or observatories) in collaboration with scientists and scientific organizations of the Arctic countries.