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Special Meeting Discusses AFoPS Next Decade

AFoPS Members convened a special meeting in conjunction with ASSW 2016 on 13 March at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA.

The meeting was attended by 12 participants from all five AFoPS Members and two observers from Thailand.

Meeting participants included Dr. Yeadong Kim (Chair; KOPRI, Korea), Dr. Jianfeng He (PRIC, China), Mr. Yang Yang (CAA, China), Dr. Parmanand Sharma (NCAOR, India), Prof. Kazuyuki Shiraishi (NIPR, Japan), Prof. Yuji Kodama (NIPR, Japan), Dr. Hyoung Chul Shin (Secretary; KOPRI, Korea), Mr. Dongmin Jin (KOPRI, Korea), Prof. Suchana Chavanich (Chulaongkorn Univ., Thailand), Prof. Voranop Viyakarn (Chulaongkorn Univ., Thailand), and Mr. Jihoon Jeong (Secretariat Staff; KOPRI, Korea).

This special meeting marked another fruitful gathering, touching upon important issues. The very first version of AFoPS Task Force report for the roadmap for the next decade was introduced, the final version of which will be reported at the fall AGM for adoption.

Exchange programs of the members, such as NIPR Invitation Program, JARE 58 joint training, and KOPRI Asian Fellowship were presented to attract Members' attention and interest. Status report on the next joint publication (Malaysian-Indian joint effort) was also provided. The Current Science journal was decided as the platform for the third AFoPS joint publication.

The Members agreed to hold another special meeting in conjunction with SCAR OSC in August, to prepare for the AGM and transfer of the secretariat to the next chair. (Secretariat)

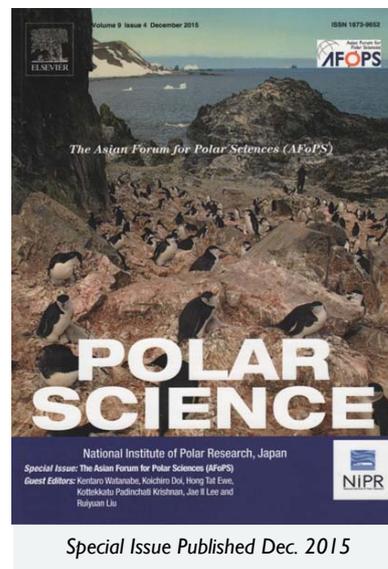


Special Meeting (AFoPS-XVII) Participants (Photo: Secretariat)

Follow-up for AFoPS Special Issue in *Polar Science*

Guest editor-in-chief once again showed their gratitude for contribution of AFoPS members, especially editors, authors of manuscripts, and of those who asked colleagues to submit articles for the AFoPS Special Issue of *Polar Science*. It has not been an easy goal to achieve, from making a call at AFoPS AGM in Port Dickson in 2014, to the publication of the Special Issue. Two copies of the volume have been sent to respective Members in late January this year for their ref-

erence. Two additional articles were accepted and completed editorial process after the Special Issue, thus published in the next issue (10:1) of *Polar Science* in March 2016. The two papers are on sediments from Schirmacher Oasis by Anish Kumar Warriar et al. and on precise gravity-field modeling in the Syowa station area by Yoichi Fukuda et al. With the addition of these papers, the total number of articles for the second AFoPS SI became 12. (Kentaro Watanabe, NIPR)



Advances in Polar Science Launches New Website

The Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC) has officially launched a new website for its scientific journal, *Advances in Polar Science*. Targeted at the international scientific community, the website (<http://www.aps-polar.org>) provides information about the journal, published articles, and instructions for authors who wish to submit papers to the journal. *Advances in Polar Science* is a peer-reviewed English-language journal dedicated to the presentation of multi-disciplinary achievements in

Arctic and Antarctic research. APS is an open-access journal, funded by the PRIC. No publication fees are required and all articles are

ternationally. The journal is managed by an editorial board of both Chinese and international editors of various scientific disciplines. The journal is currently soliciting papers on polar research topics for 2016 and 2017. It accepts four types of contributions: reviews, articles, letters, and trends.

New contributors to future issues, as well as any suggestions are always welcomed to get

in touch with the journal's editorial office (journal@pric.org.cn). (APS Editorial Office)



APS New Website (www.aps-polar.org)

freely accessible on the website as soon as they are released, with an additional 500 printed copies distributed in-

China Successfully Completes 32nd Antarctic Expedition

Chinese scientists have successfully completed the 32nd National Antarctic Research Expedition (2015/16) and tested the first fixed-wing aircraft.

During the 158-day expedition, started on November 7, 2015 and ended on April 13, 2016, the ice-breaker Xue Long (Snow Dragon) sailed for about 30,000 nautical miles, carrying 277 scientists from more than 80 research institutions. China's first fixed-wing aircraft for polar flight (BT-67), named the "Snow Eagle", completed 47 flights covering 264 hours and nearly 80,000 km. The aircraft conducted airborne remote sensing

and transport tasks.

China will develop a fleet of such fixed-wing aircraft, for



CHINARE 32 Members land from Xue Long (Photo: PRIC)

which a professional Antarctic aviation team will be needed, said Dr. Sun Bo from Polar Re-

search Institute of China (PRIC) according to the Xinhua news agency.

According to the report, the expedition team conducted marine environment assessment in waters around the Antarctic Peninsula and confirmed giant "wetland" beneath the Antarctic ice. During the mission the Chinese scientist collected 630 meteorite pieces, making China to have more than 12,000 meteorite pieces, following Japan and the United States in the

number of meteorite sample collection. (Source: Xinhua News)

Winter Training Course for JARE58 Candidates

A winter training course was held in Norikura Highland for JARE58 candidates from 7-11 March, with about 60 participants. Lectures on IGY and JAREs, for example, brief introduction of JARE58 plans, practical survival training over snow field, including one night camping etc., were given during the 5-day course. Candidates for an AFoPS geoscience project were invited from Indonesia and Mongolia to the course. All the candidates are

now having medical examination and the results will be as-



Winter Training for JARE58 Candidates (Photo: NIPR)

sessed for the final decision to nomination. As this is the first fiscal year for the IXth phase

JARE 6-year program, many new projects will start. Among them, the research projects titled, "Searching for Global Changes and Movements on Earth System through Antarctic Observations" is a top-down project of the highest priority. Most of the expedition members will be authorized in June and implementation plan for

JARE58 will be considered in detail by October. (Kentaro Watanabe, NIPR)

Thailand Signs Two MOUs with PRIC and UNIS

On April 6, 2016, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the MOU signing ceremony between Polar Research Institute of China and 5 universities and institutes in Thailand. The ceremony was held in Beijing, China. This MOU will allow China and Thailand to develop collaboration in polar science research under the Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in the areas of marine biology, oceanography, and geophysics.

On November 13, 2015, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn graciously presided over the MOU signing ceremony between University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) and

Chulalongkorn University. The MOU was held in Sra Pratum Palace, Bangkok, Thailand. This MOU will allow both universities to foster academic and scholarly collaboration in research related to Arctic marine biology and oceanography.

(Suchana Apple Chavanich, Chulalongkorn University)



MOU Signing between PRIC and 5 Thai Institutions



MOU Signing between UNIS and Chulalongkorn University

KOPRI Opens Chile-Korea Antarctic Cooperation Center

Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI) opened the Chile-Korea Antarctic Cooperation Center, within the Instituto Antartico Chileno (INACH) in Punta Arenas, southern Chile, on February 26, 2016. The opening ceremony and commemorative workshop took place in the presence of 40 Antarctic scientists and governmental officials of the two countries.

The Cooperation Center will pave the groundwork for co-

operation between the two countries in Antarctic sci-



Opening of Chile-Korea Antarctic Cooperation Center

tific research, while supporting Republic of Korea's Antarctic research station, the

King Sejong Station. KOPRI will use the center as a medium for various meetings and joint research projects with Chile as well as a way to efficiently utilize the two countries' infrastructure in the Antarctic. The Center will also enable KOPRI to build additional cooperative links with other countries conducting similar research based in Punta Arenas.

(Hyoung Chul Shin, KOPRI)