



Antarctic Treaty Secretariat Newsletter

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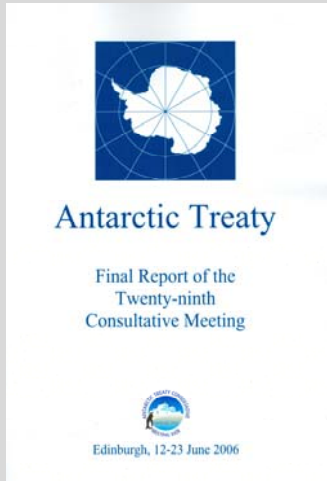
From the Executive Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends from the Antarctic community and beyond,

As usual during this time of the year, we are occupied with the production of the Final Report of the ATCM, in this case the 29th ATCM which was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from June 12-23. I am happy to report that this year the work is going according to schedule. The English edition has now been printed and is being distributed; the French, Russian and Spanish editions are being prepared and will be available within the next two months.

As you have been able to read in our newsletter, we regularly have trainees from all over the world working with us at the Secretariat. If you are a student or recent graduate with an interest in Antarctica and you are available for a period of up to three months, please contact us. We can't pay your travel costs to Argentina, but we do offer you a modest wage to live on in Buenos Aires, and a chance to share in the work of maintaining and strengthening the Antarctic Treaty System!

Johannes Huber



Pepe Agraz and students at Lincoln School

Secretariat News

ATCM XXIX final report

The English version of the Final Report of the XXIX Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting was printed in October. The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat has distributed almost 200 copies to more than 50 ATCM Parties, Observers and Experts throughout the world. The report includes all the measures adopted by the ATCM in Edinburgh between 12 and 23 June 2006.

With 563 pages and more than 15 coloured maps, the book is organised in four main parts: the report of the meeting; the Measures, Decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Parties to the Treaty; a series of additional reports, and supplementary documents such as lists of participants and national contact points.

An online version of the book is available free of charge in the Documents section of the Secretariat's website www.ats.aq, under Final Report. Extra printed copies will be soon available for purchasing at the Secretariat's website www.ats.aq. Stay informed by checking the News section of the site.

The Spanish, Russian and French versions will be printed and distributed presently.

Future Antarctic scientists?

The ATS Information Officer Pepe Agraz visited Lincoln School's Antarctic Studies course, an especial course offered to high school students at the Lincoln High School in Buenos Aires.

During his visit, Pepe gave an audio-visual presentation and distributed some printed material, informing and discussing with the students different topics related to the Antarctic Treaty System and its role in protecting Antarctica.

"It was a great and pleasant surprise for me to discover the involvement of the students with topics related to environmental legislation in the Antarctic. Their high level of preparation was also outstanding, to be judged by the interesting questions and remarks they posed", Pepe remarked.

The course instructor Russell Menard and his students were very excited with the talk. Boys and girls were also eager to start with their following and important step: the public Antarctica Lecture Series, essential to pass the course.



Next ATCM

In the Silver Jubilee year of India joining the Antarctic Treaty, New Delhi will host an Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting for the first time. The ATCM will take place from 30 April to 11 May 2007.

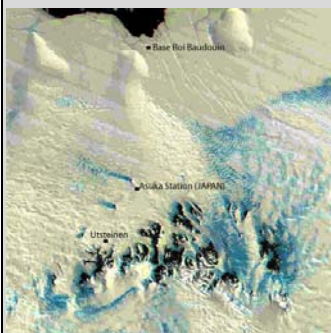
Local organisers have already set up a webpage www.atcm2007.gov.in, which will be used for sharing information with the delegates and for providing information and links to other relevant websites to the general public.



The *Ivan Papanin*.
Picture: [IPF](#)



Close-up view of the Utsteinen Ridge and Utsteinen Nunatak in the back. Picture is looking to the South.



MODIS image displaying the Sør Rondane Mountains and Breid Bay. Situation of the former Belgian Baudouin Base, the former Japanese Asuka station and the proposed Belgian Utsteinen site. The area cover by the image is approximately 250 by 250 km.

A new Belgian station

The Russian cargo ship *Ivan Papanin* has left Oslo, Norway, on October 28 with material and equipment needed to build the new Belgian station in Antarctica. According to plan, the vessel will unload in Breid Bay (70°15' S 24°15' E) on January 10, 2007.

The shipment includes logistics equipment and vehicles, garage building material, fuel supplies, tools and spare parts, shelters for the construction team, wind turbines, etc.

Once ashore, the shipment will be transported to the construction site using the route recognised during the latest [BELARE expedition](#) in November 2005. Along the way to the construction site, 5 fuel depots and emergency shelters will be built. One of the wind turbines will be installed on site in order to test and qualify its functionalities and anchoring.

The station will be set up at 71°57'S 23°20'E on a relatively flat granite ridge, approximately 1 km north of Utsteinen Nunatak. The spot is 173 km inland from the former Roi Baudouin base and 55 km from the former Japanese Asuka station (see map).

Facilities

The station is designed for optimal use by 12 people with a surface area (living, technical, research, storage) of 800 m². The use of a station "extension" will make it possible to accommodate another 8 to 18 people. This extension consists of heated shelters used for sleeping only. The station's facilities (kitchen, sanitary installations and offices) are designed to cope with the largest occupation.

The station has a hybrid design, with the main building above ground-level and anchored onto snow-free rock area. The adjacent garage/storage building is located nearby and is mainly constructed under the surrounding snow surface. Both buildings are inter-connected by a weather protected corridor. The design and layout of the facilities will minimise snow management.

Back to the twenties

With the closing of Asuka station in 1992, the 20-degrees east sector of Antarctica became again a vast territory witnessing systematic investigation only during certain periods. The new station will thus reoccupy and research the 1072 km empty stretch between the Japanese Syowa station (684 km) and the Russian Novolazarevskaya station (431 km).

The new Belgian research station will replace the former Belgian Roi Baudouin base, built in 1958 at Breid Bay in Dronning Maud Land, closed in 1967 and buried under meters of snow.

Sources: [International Polar Foundation](#) and draft Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation for the construction of the new Belgian station.



News from SCAR

Antarctica and climate change

The Southern Ocean is getting warmer. The Journal Geophysical Research Letters is about to publish a paper by John Fyfe (Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis) on "Southern Ocean Warming due to Human Influence". It shows that the Southern Ocean has warmed about twice as fast as the world ocean, that the warming cannot be explained by factors other than increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and that this warming has been suppressed to a large extent by the incidence of volcanic dust and industrial aerosols in the atmosphere.

Sea level is rising faster. In June 2006, 163 scientists from 29 countries attended a workshop on "Understanding sea-level rise and variability". The workshop, hosted by UNESCO and co-sponsored by [SCAR](#), concluded that since 1990 sea-level has been rising at a rate of 3.2 +/- 0.4 mm/year, compared with a rate of 1.7 +/- 0.3 mm/year over the previous 90 years. About half of the recent rise is due to the thermal expansion of ocean water; other contributions represent the effects of melting glaciers and ice sheets.

Why should we study Antarctic climate? In July 2006 the [British Antarctic Survey](#) (BAS) published a "[Climate Change Position Statement](#)" examining such questions as "how has Antarctic climate varied over the past 50 years?"; "how has recent change impacted on the Antarctic environment?" and "what further changes can we expect over the next 100 years?"

2005 ozone hole one of the largest

World Climate News No.29, for June 2006, reports that although the meteorological conditions of the Antarctic stratosphere during the austral spring of 2005 were close to the average of the past decade, in early September minimum temperatures inside the polar vortex were nearly the coldest recorded since 1979, and the "ozone hole" area was larger than ever before in August and September. This ranks as the third largest ozone hole on record. The increase is attributed to changes in stratospheric meteorological conditions. These dynamical changes make it difficult to forecast the precise nature of the hole from one year to the next.

A tour of the cryosphere animation

NASA Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS) has released the animation, 'A Tour of the Cryosphere the Earth's Frozen Assets'. The eight-minute presentation takes the viewer on a tour of the cryosphere as it exists around the world. From shrinking arctic sea ice to retreating glaciers and collapsing Antarctic ice shelves, this unique global view of cryospheric research is shown with state-of-the-art Earth observing satellite data animations. The animation is available in multiple resolutions formats from the NASA SVS website <http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/search/Series/NarratedMovies.html>.



News from COMNAP

COMNAP Antarctic Facilities Map

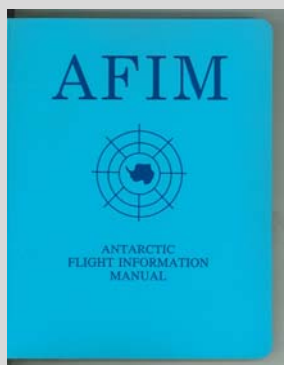
COMNAP now publishes on a regular basis a map showing the location and main characteristics of national facilities operated in the Antarctic Treaty area. Two versions are available:

a wall map suitable for printing at A0 size (0.8x1.2m) and a double-sided A2 map folded in 4 down to A4.

The wall map is provided in electronic form as a large PDF file suitable for high quality printing on a standard plotter or large format printer. The A2 folded map is available both electronically and, while stocks last, in hard-copy paper form. Copies were distributed at the last ATCM in Edinburgh.

Use and reuse of this map by others is open and encouraged, in the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty - the map is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.5 licence.

See www.comnap.aq/publications/maps for more details.



Antarctic Flight Information Manual (AFIM)

The AFIM is published as a tool for safe air operations in Antarctica as per ATCM Recommendation XV-20. It includes details on landing facilities operated in Antarctica and other information useful to pilots, and is updated regularly.

Two revisions were issued on 22-Sep-2006 (Rev 2-2006) and 06-Oct-2006 (Rev 3-2006), which all current subscribers should have already received. To assist in checking that manuals are up-to-date and complete, a detailed log of current pages of the AFIM is now available online.

See www.comnap.aq/publications/afim for more details.



COMNAP Activity Report 2005-2006 in 4 Treaty languages

The COMNAP Activity Report 2005-2006, which had been provided to XXIX ATCM and CEP IX, provides an overview of COMNAP's recent and current activities. It covers a range of topics with an emphasis on environmental monitoring, environmental protection, safety, cooperation and exchange of information.

The report is now available online in the four Antarctic Treaty languages at <http://www.comnap.aq/publications/annual-reports>

Upcoming meetings

International Workshop of Antarctic Competent Authorities

The Environmental Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty requires the establishment of procedures to oversee compliance with the international obligations, and of activities according to Art. 6 and 7 and Annex I of the Protocol in particular. Many countries have entrusted this to competent authorities and have established specific national legislation.

Experience in the different national systems as well as the issues discussed within the framework of the ATCMs and the CEPs show that a common approach taken by the competent authorities in many cases is still missing but would be extremely helpful to achieve the goal of international comparable standards. To this end, an open exchange of experiences and views is the main aim of the workshop. Besides, personal contacts of representatives of the competent national authorities will make future cooperation much easier.

The workshop will be hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany, and convened by the Federal Environmental Agency (the Antarctic competent authority in Germany). Working language will be English.

It will take place November 27 and 28, 2006 at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Alexanderstraße 3, 10178 Berlin, Germany.

The workshop will deal mainly with the following topics:

National procedures for assessing and / or authorizing activities in Antarctica,

Implementation of ATCM measures, resolutions and decisions, e.g. site-specific guidelines, etc., at the national level,

Co-ordination of the assessment and / or authorizing process in the case of multilateral activities, e.g. in the case of Article 8 (4) of the Environmental Protocol, etc,

Assessment of hydroacoustic and seismic activities / categorization according to the provisions of the Environmental Protocol.

Further information: Heike Herata (heike.herata@uba.de).

International Penguin Conference 2007

The 6th International Penguin Conference will be held Monday 3 - Friday 7 September 2007 at the University of Tasmania, Hobart (Australia). There will be oral and poster presentations.

An International Steering Committee will select and group presentations to produce themed sessions. Offers for any and all aspects of penguin biology, physiology and conservation are welcome.

Further information: Eric Woehler (penguins2007@iprimus.com.au)

