



Antarctic Treaty Secretariat Newsletter

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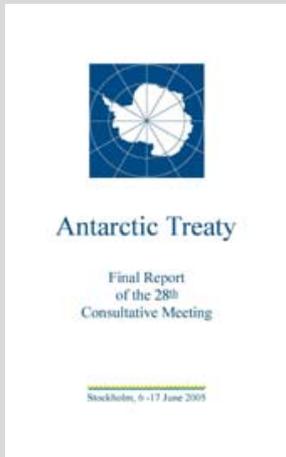


From the Executive Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends from the Antarctic community and beyond,

The main item this quarter is of course that, after we had announced its imminent arrival one or two times before!, the Final Report of the 28th ATCM was finally published in February and has in the mean time been distributed to the Consultative Parties and other participants of the ATCM. We clearly underestimated the amount of work it took to produce it, and it is a great relief that the 700 page tome is now on our and your desks, at least in English. The French, Russian and Spanish versions are following soon. In the meantime, the first papers for the 29th ATCM (Edinburgh, June 12 to 23) have started to arrive ... never a dull moment at the Secretariat!

Johannes Huber



XXVIII ATCM Final Report

The English version of the Final Report of the XXVIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) was printed at the end of February. The [Antarctic Treaty Secretariat](#) has distributed a print run of 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 Stockholm between the 6th and the 17th of June 2005.

This year, the book has 700 pages (almost 18 times more than the Final Report of ATCM I!) and for the first time includes coloured maps and illustrations to make the information more accessible. Additional copies can be ordered [here](#).

The Spanish, Russian and French versions will be available soon. However, all the documents included in the book are available, in the four languages of the Treaty, at [this web address](#).



Ewan McIvor, Senior Environmental Officer of the Australian Antarctic Division

Cooperation with other Antarctic organisations - Ewan McIvor's visit

Ewan McIvor, Senior Environmental Officer of the Australian Antarctic Division worked at the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat between 22 February and 3 March.

The issues he worked on with us included the transfer of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) website to the Secretariat site, issues arising from the 8th CEP meeting in Stockholm and organizational details regarding the next meeting.

Before leaving town, Ewan summarized his days at the Secretariat thus: "The past week working with Tito [Acero] and the other staff face-to-face has been productive and enjoyable. We have thoroughly discussed the broad range of CEP-related tasks and functions for which the Secretariat to the Antarctic Treaty will be responsible after Tony Press (Australia, Australian Antarctic Division) serves his last meeting as CEP Chair in Edinburgh later this year. I'm grateful for the kind reception given to me by my Buenos Aires hosts and am very confident that CEP secretariat matters will be in excellent hands here."



Ed Kremzer

Cooperation continued - Ed Kremzer's visit

Ed Kremzer, Administrative and Financial Officer of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) visited the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS) from 14 to 24 March 2006. During this period, Mr. Kremzer advised Jan Huber on financial and administrative issues. The assistance was focused on the setting up of a sound administrative system and the Secretariat and the implementation of the Staff Regulations and Financial Regulations.

In his short time with us, Ed not only had thorough discussions with all staff members and the Secretariat's accountant and auditor, but he also accompanied the Executive Secretary in discussions with the ATS' legal advisors and the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The visit will be of great help in establishing a responsible and stable administrative and financial system at the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat.



Arturo Prat station – Picture: Patricio Barraza

A new era for Arturo Prat station

The Arturo Prat station has been handed over by the Chilean "Ministerio de Bienes Nacionales" (National Government) to the "Consejo Regional de Magallanes y Antártica Chilena" (Regional Government). This organization will be in charge of the base's operations until 2056. The transfer took place on February 28 2006 and is part of a major project aiming to promote the region of Punta Arenas as an important gateway to Antarctica for science and tourism.

The Regional Government will carry out its activities in Arturo Prat station together with private institutions and the [Instituto Antártico Chileno](#) (INACH). It is intended that this change will simplify the management of scientific, touristic, logistical and educational activities performed by Chile in Antarctica.

Today, 16 scientific Antarctic programs are managed from Punta Arenas, home of the INACH since 2003.

Arturo Prat was the first station built by Chile in Antarctica. Located on Greenwich Island at 62 ° 30' S and 59 ° 41' W, this base started its operations on February 6, 1947 as a meteorological and radio-telegraphic center operating during the summer season. Its initial name was "Base Soberanía" and it was managed by the Chilean Army, which on February 23 2004 shut the station down affecting considerably Chilean activities in the South Shetland Islands.

The station consists of a main house of more than 900 m², an emergency hut with room for 15 people, a laboratory, a garage, a larder and an incinerator room.



News from SCAR

Fellowships

SCAR Announces new Fellowships available for 2006-2007. Three to five fellowships for doctoral and postdoctoral students will be available. Apply before May 31st, using the form available at <http://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/>.

Unexpected warming in Antarctica

The work of John Turner, using SCAR data shows dramatic increases in air temperature well above the ground over Antarctica. The paper, recently published in Science, questions the reliability of climate models to predict the future. See <http://www.scar.org/researchgroups/physicalscience/>.

Cryosat is back

The Cryosat mission, lost in the Arctic Ocean last year minutes after launch from northern Russia, will fly again. The European Space Agency (ESA) has agreed to build a copy of the original £95m (140m-euro) craft. Early estimates suggest Cryosat-2 could be ready to launch in three years. The mission will study how the Earth's ice sheets are responding to climate change amid mounting evidence that some areas are thinning. For more information see:

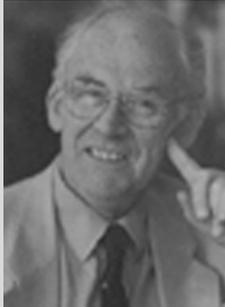
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4745168.stm>
http://www.esa.int/SPECIALS/Cryosat/SEM7WFMVGJE_0.html

Use Google Earth

Google Earth data can be used to examine the daily development of the ice cover on Antarctica and in the surrounding Southern Ocean at: <http://www.seaice.dk/polarview/google.s/> This tool has been already tested on board of the Norwegian research vessel "Lance" in early December 2005 en route from Cape Town in South Africa to the coast of Dronning Maud Land in Antarctica. It proved invaluable in route planning as the ice conditions were changing rapidly. Daily updates of the information on the sea ice concentration were essential to spare time and fuel on the way to the loading site in the Antarctic.

Successful completion of deep ice coring in the Antarctic

On January 17, 2006 an international team of scientists and technical staff under the leadership of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research has successfully completed the deep ice coring at the Alfred Wegener Institute's Kohnen Station in Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica. Reaching a depth of 2774 metres, first on-site examinations of the ice core indicate that the ice cored at the deepest 200 metres is very old. The investigations, carried out as part of the EPICA program (European Program for Ice Coring in Antarctica), were designed to gain detailed information about historic climate. Scientists are expecting the data to enhance the understanding of global climate events significantly. A detailed analysis in home laboratories will generate climate data with a very high temporal resolution in the core's upper 2400 metres, covering the last glacial cycle. The cores retrieved from greater depths are presumably up to 900,000 years old. Such insights into the distant climate history of the Antarctic facilitate a deeper understanding of the significance of polar regions for global climate events, both in the past and at present.



John Heap Picture:International Glaciological Society

Dr John Heap 1932-2006

John Heap, who died on 8 March 2006 aged 74, exercised a powerful influence on government policy in Antarctica and, later, the direction of both Arctic and Antarctic research.

As head of the Polar Regions section of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1975 to 1992, Heap played a leading role in the adoption of the conventions on the conservation of seals, marine living resources and the regulation of mineral resources, as well as the protocol for environmental protection.

He edited successive editions of the Handbook of the Antarctic Treaty System, and also published his Cambridge PhD thesis, *Sea Ice in the Antarctic* (1962). He described this as a record `worstseller` : it sold 11 copies. Although the book provided a valuable record of sea-ice distribution with implications for climate, it was overtaken as a practical aid to navigation by air reconnaissance.

John Arnfield Heap was born in Manchester on February 5 1932. He was educated at Leighton Park School, Reading, and Edinburgh University. In the summer of 1953, he organised and led an undergraduate expedition to the Lyngen Peninsula, east of Tromsø in the Norwegian Arctic.

On graduating in 1955 he joined the Falkland Island Dependencies Survey (now the British Antarctic Survey) as a research student at Clare College, Cambridge, to work at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI). For the next seven years, Heap conducted sea-ice research in the Antarctic waters, and between 1992 and 1997 was director of the SPRI.

Source: [The Telegraph](#)

Australia-Romania cooperation in the Larsemann Hills

By [Tom Maggs](#)

Representatives of the Romanian Antarctic programme arrived at the Larsemann Hills, Princess Elizabeth Land, in January to commence their first season at Law-Racovita Base. A ceremony was conducted at the site to officially welcome Romania and commission their joint occupancy of the base, which was established by Australia in 1986. The ceremony was attended by members of the nearby Chinese and Russian stations Zhong Shan and Progress, and Australians from Davis station located 100km to the North. A draft management plan for a Larsemann Hills Antarctic Specially Managed Area was tabled at CEP VIII, and is in the final stages of consultation and development before being submitted to CEP IX/ATCM XXIX for endorsement and approval.



Davis Station Leader, John Rich (Australia) and Teodor Negoita, Director of the Romanian Polar Research Institute. Picture by Michael Stoddart



Upcoming Meetings

SALE Workshop: Advanced Science and Technology Planning

There will be a two day workshop in Grenoble (April 24-26, 2006) on Subglacial Antarctic Lake Environments, to discuss SALE activities during the International Polar Year. Further information:

<http://salepo.tamu.edu/saleworkshop2006> or send an inquiry to Chuck Kennicutt at: m-kennicutt@tamu.edu

SCAR Open Science Conference

It's not too late to register for the SCAR Open Science Conference, which takes place in Hobart, Tasmania, from 12-14 July, 2006. For details go to www.scarcomnap2006.org. Over 700 abstracts have been received, so there will be a comprehensive set of oral and poster presentations on a wide variety of topics. A second circular is expected soon, once the programme has been finalised.

COMNAP Workshop: Waste Management in Antarctica

By [Antoine Guichard](#) & [Rolo Sánchez](#)

In line with COMNAP's objectives, its Antarctic Environmental Officers Network (AEON) is organising an Information Sharing Workshop with the aim of exchanging information of practical use to Antarctic National Programs. The workshop is intended simply as an information sharing exercise between people who are practically required to manage waste for their Nations in Antarctica, and has no policy intent. It is hoped through effective sharing of information on waste management individual participants can learn information to improve their own waste management efforts.

The workshop is to be held on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 July, 2006. Day 1 is to focus on current waste management practices and Day 2 on efforts to clean up old waste from previous landfill practices.

It is expected that about 30 environmental representatives will be in attendance from National Antarctic Programs. Presentations to and conclusions from the workshop will be published both in hard copy and electronic form.

For further information, please contact the COMNAP Secretariat at sec@comnap.aq or AEON Coordinator Rodolfo Sánchez at rsanchez@dna.gov.ar

COMNAP Workshop: Training Officers Network

Hobart Tasmania, Australia, Sunday 9 July 2006. Part of the 18th meeting of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP)

The COMNAP Training Officers Network, TRAINET, under the guidance of its Coordinating Group on Education and Training (CEDAT) is organising a Workshop with the aim of developing a clear view of the current status of Joint Training Initiatives among National Antarctic Programs; and discussing priority areas for training on Oil Spill, Ship and Air Operations, and Safety management in the Antarctic.

For further information, please contact: Patricio Eberhard: peberhard@inach.cl

The ATS Newsletter can be downloaded from: www.ats.ag