



Antarctic Treaty Secretariat Newsletter

February 19, 2009

Year 5, Number 1

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From the Executive Secretary

Dear colleagues and friends from the Antarctic community and beyond,

We are now less than two months away from 32nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, which will take place in Baltimore, MD, United States and which will mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty. This will be a very special meeting, starting with a return on April 6 of the Antarctic Treaty Parties to Washington, where it all started in 1959. I hope to see many of you there!

In the meantime, another development is taking place which is of great importance to us at the Secretariat: Measure 1 (2003), the ATCM Measure which established the Secretariat, is about to enter into effect. Only one country has not approved the Measure yet, and we are sure that approval will take place very soon. Of course, the Secretariat is an everyday reality and has become an essential part of the functioning of the ATCM, but it will be a nice anniversary present to know that we have been put onto a firm legal footing.

Johannes Huber



Getting ready for an early meeting

The 32nd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) will take place in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States. The meeting will be hosted at the [Baltimore Convention Center](#), located near the city's inner harbour, from 6 to 17 April 2009. As the ATCM is usually, held between May and October, this will be the earliest ATCM ever.

Signed in Washington in 1959, this year the Antarctic Treaty marks its fiftieth anniversary. Earlier the United States hosted the 10th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in 1979 and a Special Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in 1984.

For further information about the meeting click on the logo (left) or visit <http://www.atcm2009.gov>

Reminder for delegates: Submission of Working and Information Papers

Deadlines are:

- **February 20** for all Working Papers and for Information Papers which Consultative Parties request to be translated;
- **March 6** for other Information Papers.

Papers should be formatted according to the [Manual for the submission of documents](#). This manual provides useful information, including templates and tips on how to handle styles and illustrations.

Specific guidelines for the submission of proposals for protected areas, historic sites and visitor site guidelines are also part of this document.

Once the paper is ready, please send it as email attachment to 32atcm@ats.aq.

Documents are numbered on a first come first served basis. After being processed, they are available from <http://32atcm.ats.aq>

Manual for the Submission of Documents
to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative
Meeting and the Committee for
Environmental Protection

Updated November 2008

An updated version of the manual is
available online

China builds a new base in Antarctica



The convoy en route to Dome A.
Photo courtesy of Xinhua



Kunlun Station under construction.
Photo courtesy of Xinhua



Cross section of the main building



Ice core drilling will be the main activity at the new station.
Photo courtesy of CHINARE



Construction materials arrived to Antarctica on board the R/V [Xuelong](#). Photo courtesy of CHINARE

Kunlun Station, China's first Antarctic inland research base, officially began operations on February 2. The first director of the Kunlun Station is Li Yuansheng, who is also head of the Inland Research Team, while Xia Limin and Li Shiming, deputy heads of the Inland Research Team, are the vice directors of the station.

The construction of China's third Antarctic base, Kunlun Station, started on 9 January at Dome A, 4093 metres above sea level. The Dome A region is located on the summit of the Antarctic ice sheet.

China has already two other stations, [Great Wall](#) in the South Shetland Islands, and [Zhongshan](#) station in East Antarctica. Construction materials were transported from Zhongshan station along 1287km in 20 days. The main structure of the new station was built using special steel that withstands low temperatures. The base has modules for scientific research and climate observation.

The main scientific activity at the new station will be ice core drilling. An ice core is a cylindrical sample from the accumulation of snow and ice over many years that have re-crystallized and have trapped air bubbles from previous time periods. The composition of these ice cores, especially the hydrogen and oxygen isotopes in the air bubbles, provides valuable clues to the climate in prehistoric time.

The Dome A region is an ideal site for deep ice core drilling from the Antarctic ice sheet. Deep ice cores from Dome A will provide data to compare with those of the deep ice core studies, such as those at Vostok Station, Dome C and Dome F.

At Dome A, scientists expect to extract older ice than that drilled at [Dome C](#), where the past climate has been reconstructed back to 800,000 years from an ice core. The ice underneath Dome A is over 3,000 metres thick, which could push the climate record back to 1,5 million years.

Kunlun station will also be used for astronomic studies and the [Gamburtsev](#) geological project, a joint attempt to explore the deep interior of East Antarctica. The Gamburtsev project involves also scientists from Australia, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Water supply and station features

Snow collected by a bulldozer from around the station will be melted using waste heat and solar energy. With a population of 20 people, the station needs 740 litres of water per day for all uses. 440 litres of the daily need will come from melted water; the remaining 300l will be obtained by recycling previously used water.

The station will remain operational for 25 years. At least for the first ten years, it will be open only during the summer. Kunlun has a main building of 216 square metres, with units for sleeping (10 double rooms), eating and working. The station as a whole will have space for up to 25 people, with a total area of 327 square metres. A 1200 metre-long ice runway will be built 2km north of the main facilities.



Internship programme

My name is Ann-Isabelle Guyomard. I am very happy to be part of the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat ([ATS](#)) team during three months in Buenos Aires, from November 2008 to February 2009.

I have a Master II Degree in International Law of the Sea from the [University of Nantes](#), France and I am currently finishing a PhD thesis on the environmental law for Antarctica in international and comparative law systems.

I have attended three Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings ([ATCM](#)) so far, as part of the French delegation in [2005](#) (Stockholm) and [2006](#) (Edinburgh), and as a member of the Secretariat team in [2008](#) (Kiev). This internship at the ATS is a wonderful experience: not only does it enhance my personal researches concerning the PhD, but the tasks here are very interesting and the team is of utmost efficiency and kindness. I am working on the French version of an interactive database project on the [protected areas](#) and the historic sites and monuments of Antarctica.

I am also in charge of compiling the future Measures that might be adopted in the [next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting](#) in Baltimore. Besides, this experience is a real pleasure where I have discovered an unforgettable city and a breathtaking country.

New staff member

Alan Fennell, Accountant

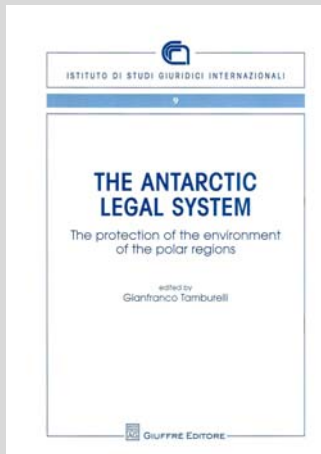


Alan took over the accountant's position in September 2008. The main tasks of this position are keeping the accounts, complying with the Financial Regulations, budget appropriation decisions, maintaining the internal controls, taking care of the Secretariat's financial position and compiling on time the quarterly and annual fund and financial reports.

Alan was born in Argentina from British/Argentine parents and is married with four kids. He is a qualified accountant, graduated from the University of Buenos Aires, on March 1984. He also has done a postgraduate course in finance and economy at the Bs. As. Institute of Certified Public Accountants, is actually working on his thesis.

Prior to coming to ATS, Alan worked for 9 years as auditor at Coopers & Lybrand, in Buenos Aires and Philadelphia (USA), then moved on as assistant controller of International Flavors & Fragrances (I.F.F.) for Latin America, Controller for Crown, Cork & Seal & then Avis Rent A Car, all located in Argentina. Since 2003 he is working on his own attending clients professionally on many different issues: accounting, audits, consulting, taxes, etc.

If he had not become an accountant he would have studied something relating to ecology, loves being and working outdoors and is very keen on sports, practicing cricket, swimming, tennis, etc. His hobbies are stamp collecting and miniature electric trains.



Publications Received

Environmental protection: a legal perspective

Gianfranco Tamburelli collects in this book a series of articles relating to the implementation of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty in France (by A. Choquet), the Russian Federation (A. Shatunovskaya-Burnod) and Ukraine (V. Lytvynov, V. Savchenko and A. Fedchuk).

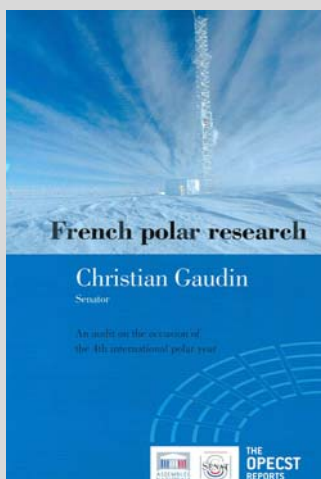
The Antarctic legal system. The protection of the environment of the polar regions. Edited by Gianfranco Tamburelli and published by the Istituto di Studi Giuridici Internazionali. ISBN 88-14-14216-5.



Korea in the Antarctic

Twenty years with the Korean Antarctic King Sejong Station. History of Korean Polar Research. ISBN 978-89-444-1218-9. 302 pages. In Korean, with an extended summary in English. Published by the Korea Polar Research Institute ([KOPRI](#)).

The summary describes the construction of King Sejong Station during the 1987-88 season. It also depicts the first steps of the Korea Polar Research Institute, the establishment of [Dasan Station](#) at Ny-Ålesund, on the high Arctic island of Spitsbergen, and the building of [Aaron](#), the first Korea icebreaker.



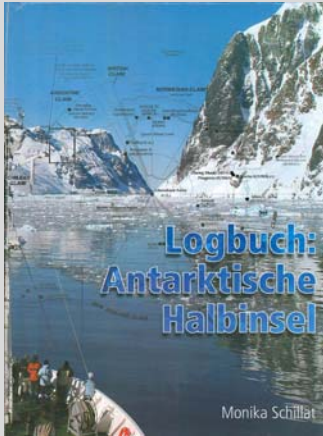
French polar research

French Senator Christian Gaudin analyses France's status in polar research, as well as France's political position in Antarctica and the Arctic.

Antarctica's role in understanding climate change, France's biological research in Antarctica, and, the European Union as a framework for Antarctica cooperation are some of the subjects covered by Senator Gaudin in his report.

The book includes also the proceedings of the seminar "Opening of the International Polar Year in France".

French polar research. An audit on the occasion of the 4th international polar year. ISBN 978-2-11-126055-9. 214 pages. Published by the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technologic Choices ([OPECST](#)).

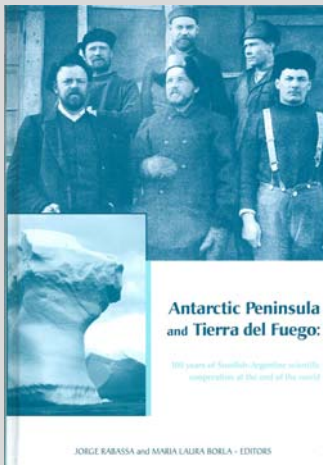


Logbuch: Antarktische Halbinsel

Meant for German readers, this logbook provides useful information for those visiting Antarctica for the first time. The book includes an “ice glossary”, pictures and drawings by the author.

Born in 1960, Monika Schillat studied history and educational research in Hamburg and Seville. She has lived for 20 years in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, where she works as a lecturer at the [University of Patagonia "San Juan Bosco"](#) in Ushuaia. She is the author of travel and history books about Patagonia and the South Atlantic. A few years ago, Schillat also started to illustrate books, such as "[Antarctic Bestiary](#)", published in 2002, with medieval texts and illustrations on the fauna of the white continent.

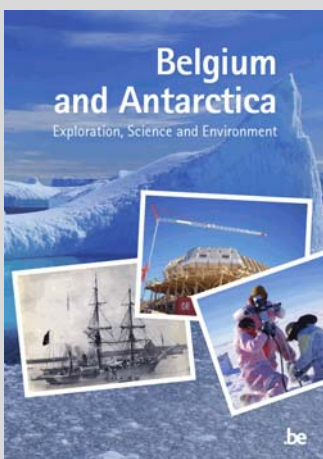
Logbuch: Antarktische Halbinsel [Logbook: Antarctic Peninsula]. Monika Schillat. 2006. Ushuaia: Editorial Fuegia. 111 p. ISBN 987-05-1469-3.



Antarctic Peninsula and Tierra del Fuego

Proceedings of “Otto Nordenskjöld’s Antarctic Expedition of 1901-1903 and Swedish Scientists in Patagonia: A Symposium”, held in Buenos Aires, La Plata and Ushuaia, Argentina, March 2-7, 2003.

Antarctic Peninsula and Tierra del Fuego: 100 years of Swedish-Argentine scientific cooperation at the end of the world. Jorge Rabassa and Maria Laura Borla (editors). 2007. London: Taylor & Francis. 214 p. ISBN 978-0-415-41379-4.



Belgium and Antarctica: Exploration, Science and Environment

The Belgian Federal [Science Policy Office](#) and the Federal Ministry of Environment have joined forces to release a comprehensive and well illustrated publication on all aspects of Belgium’s involvement in Antarctica since the expedition of Baron Adrien de Gerlache in 1897 and the first ever overwintering in the region.

Topics include not only law, exploration, science and environment but also new stations of the white continent, films, books and comic strips on Antarctica, and even a whole series of Antarctic stamps issued by the [Belgian Post Office](#). Four maps highlight the Belgian toponyms given to numerous locations in Antarctica.

The publication is available in English, French and Dutch.

It is also available in electronic format on the following websites:

<http://www.belspo.be/antar>

<http://www.health.fgov.be/antarctica>



Upcoming meetings

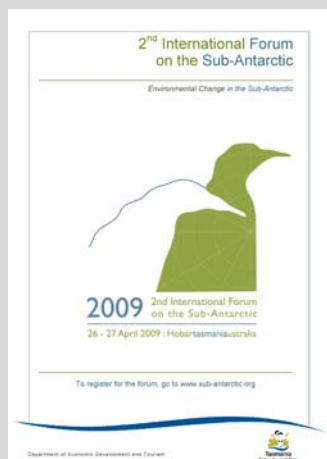
Workshop: Monitoring climate change impacts

A timely interdisciplinary workshop to address important issues in measuring, assessing and providing early-warning detection of climate change impacts on marine ecosystems and biodiversity, by measuring change in the Southern Ocean. A key focus will be to promote national and international collaboration.

Scientists, policy and decision-makers and representatives of NGOs are invited to participate.

Registration must be complete (including payment) by 23 March 2009.

For further information click on the picture (left), email sos@aad.gov.au or visit www.aad.gov.au/sentinel



Forum: "Environmental Change in the Sub-Antarctic"

The 2nd International Forum on the Sub-Antarctic will be held 26 – 27 April 2009 in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. It will feature many local and international speakers presenting on a range of subjects covering:

- change in Sub-Antarctic system during the recent past, circa 1800 – mid 20th Century
- change in the modern era of science and environmental consciousness
- dynamic interactions in the Sub-Antarctic system
- managing and adapting to environmental and ecological changes
- what the future holds for the Sub-Antarctic region

For further information click on the picture (left) or visit:

<http://www.sub-antarctic.org/ifsa2009.html>

Antarctic Sea Ice Workshop

A workshop will be held on 23-24 March 2009 in Lucca, Italy, to review and establish joint data analyses from two late-winter cruises to the Antarctic Sea Ice Zone both made during Sept-Oct 2007.

An extensive satellite remote sensing campaign with designated [IceSAT](#) altimetry, [RadarSAT](#) images, and [EnviSAT](#) ASAR images coincided with the surface measurements. The workshop is open to all and may present opportunities for interaction between expedition participants and members of the remote sensing and modelling communities, and from other cruises to the Antarctic sea ice during the IPY period.

You can view a summary of [SIMBA](#) (Sea Ice Mass Balance in the Antarctic) activities along 90W longitude in the Bellingshausen Sea and [SIPEX](#) (Sea Ice Physics and Ecosystem eXperiment) activities in the 90-135E longitudes off East Antarctica.

Many of the workshop participants will be attending the [Gordon Research Conference on Polar Marine Science](#), held the preceding week (15-20 March 09) at the same location, Il Ciocco. Those interested in attending the workshop should contact Steve Ackley (email: sackley@pol.net) and Klaus Meiners (email: Klaus.meiners@acecrc.org.au).



*Shaping the Future
of Polar Research*

Antarctic Treaty Essay Contest

With the changing climate in the Polar Regions comes an increasing need for better cooperation between scientists and policy makers.

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists ([APECS](#)), together with the organizers of the [Antarctic Treaty Summit](#), are asking all young researchers to share their thoughts and opinions in form of an essay focusing on how to better integrate science and policy, and on the needs for new policy dealing with current issues in the Antarctic as well as the Arctic.

Winners will receive a travel fellowship to represent the new generation of polar researchers at the Antarctic Treaty Summit, which will be held in Washington , DC 30 Nov – 3 Dec, 2009. Deadline for submissions is 15 March 2009.

More information at: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/antarctic-treaty-essay-contest>.

International Polar Field School in Svalbard:

An Interdisciplinary Experience in Polar Studies

Dates: June 15- July 3, 2009

Location: University Centre in Svalbard, Svalbard, Norway

Website: <http://arcticportal.org/apecs/svalbard2009>

Course description and information about UNIS:

http://www.unis.no/10_STUDIES/1020_Courses/IPY_field_school/IPY_field_school_2009.htm

In celebration of the International Polar Year (2007-09), this 3-week course will focus on environmental change in the Arctic and Antarctic through a series of lectures and field excursions in Svalbard, Norway. The course will cover topics on Glaciology, Geology, Meteorology, Oceanography, Marine/Terrestrial Biology, and the Human Dimension in Polar Regions.

Applicants should be undergraduates or Masters students, with a minimum of 1 year in physical/technical and/or natural sciences.

Application deadline: March 27th, 2009



News from SCAR

Updated Antarctic chronology published

Many Antarctic researchers have found the comprehensive compendium published by Bob Headland in 1989 useful as a source of information on the chronology of Antarctic events. Bob has now published a revised version, with the title *A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration: A Synopsis of Events and Activities from the Earliest Times until the International Polar Years 2007-09*. It is a hardbound volume of 722 pages (including 40 plates, 27 maps, and 21 histograms) available at a price of £110 (plus local, sea, or air postage), from Bernard Quaritch Ltd, Lower John Street, Golden Square, London, W1F 9AU, UK; e-mail contact:

<C.Scheybeler@quaritch.com>. The ISBN is 978-0-9550852-8-4. For more information, download the [detailed book description](#).

The response of the Antarctic circumpolar current to recent climate change

Observations show a significant intensification of the Southern Hemisphere westerlies, the prevailing winds between the latitudes of 30° and 60° S, over the past decades. A continuation of this intensification trend is projected by climate scenarios for the twenty-first century. The response of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current and the carbon sink in the Southern Ocean to changes in wind stress and surface buoyancy fluxes is currently under debate.

In a relatively recent paper published in *Nature* (23 November 2008), Böning and co-authors analyse the Argo network of profiling floats and historical oceanographic data. They detect coherent hemispheric-scale warming and freshening trends that extend to depths of more than 1,000 m. The warming and freshening is partly related to changes in the properties of the water masses that make up the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, which are consistent with the anthropogenic changes in heat and freshwater fluxes suggested by climate models. However, their study detects no increase in the tilt of the surfaces of equal density across the Antarctic Circumpolar Current, in contrast to coarse-resolution model studies. Their results imply that the transport in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current and meridional overturning in the Southern Ocean are insensitive to decadal changes in wind stress.

Report on SCAR Science Week 2008

The report on the SCAR Science Week, which took place in St Petersburg, Russia in early July 2008, has now been published as SCAR [Bulletin 169](#). The Science Week was a great success with over 1100 participants representing 44 countries. The report covers all aspects of the planning and organisation of the SCAR Business Meetings and of the Open Science Conference, which was organised jointly with SCAR's Arctic counterpart, IASC.

Unexpected warming across Antarctica

In a very recent breakthrough [article in Nature](#), Eric Steig and colleagues show that overall the Antarctic continent has warmed over the past 50 years. Until now, incomplete records led researchers to believe that the continent's entire interior may be cooling whilst the peninsula region warms. The authors use existing weather station records combined with recent satellite measurements and statistical models to provide a fuller picture of the continent's temperature from 1957 to 2006. They conclude that the eastern region of the continent, which is larger and colder than the western portion, is warming at 0.1C per decade, and the west at 0.17C per decade - faster than the global average.



News from COMNAP

New Antarctic Communications Directory

COMNAP has for many years maintained the voluminous Antarctic Telecommunications Operators Manual (ATOM) from which was extracted a smaller "miniATOM" limited to station and ships contact details.

ATOM is being rejuvenated and expanded as part of its migration to the new COMNAP "InfoX" electronic information exchange system.



As part of this work, a new Antarctic Communications Directory is being developed. It is no longer limited to stations and ships and also includes contact details for National Antarctic Programs and a number of relevant stakeholders, including Search and Rescue authorities.

The first version of this new Directory is available. This and future updates are available to COMNAP members through www.comnap.aq/atom

Improved Search and Rescue (SAR)

COMNAP convened last August in association with the Chilean SAR authorities the very successful workshop Towards Search and Rescue Coordination and Response in the Antarctic. It brought together:

- National delegations of SAR authorities and National Antarctic Programs from Argentina, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, France, the USA and the UK
- COMNAP members from Germany, Japan and Uruguay
- Representatives from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)
- the Chair of the joint IMO and International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) committee on Search and Rescue.

The results of the workshop and a follow-up report will be presented to ATCM XXXII. Relevant recommendations from the workshop participants will be tabled for discussion.

A new SAR section is now available on the COMNAP web site at www.comnap.aq/sar. It should evolve over time into a comprehensive library of SAR-related resources.

COMNAP XXI in Punta Arenas, Chile, 03-06 August 2009

X The 2009 COMNAP Annual General Meeting, COMNAP XXI, will be held in Punta Arenas, Chile, from Monday 03 to Thursday 06 August 2009.

The meeting will follow a new format, consistent with the recent changes in the way COMNAP is working.

The Executive of SCAR will also meet in Punta Arenas the same week, as traditional, and a number of joint sessions are already scheduled.

More information is available at www.comnap.aq/meetings



This newsletter can be downloaded from: [here](#)