

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

1. The Parties

The Parties to this MoU are the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).

1.1 Association of Polar Early Career Scientists

The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) is an international and interdisciplinary organization for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, early faculty members, educators and others with interests in Polar and Alpine Regions and the wider Cryosphere. It was formally established in 2007, and is a legacy of the International Polar Year (IPY). APECS aims to:

- Create a network of polar researchers across disciplines and national boundaries to meet, share ideas and experiences, and develop new research directions and collaborations;
- Provide the opportunity for career development for both traditional and alternative polar and cryosphere professions
- Promote education and outreach as an integral component of polar research and to stimulate future generations of polar researchers

In order to develop effective leaders in education and outreach, stimulate interdisciplinary and international research collaborations, and raise the profile of polar research, APECS builds on extensive national and disciplinary networks. APECS decisions are made by an open Council, and an elected Executive Committee. An Advisory Committee of senior polar researchers provides guidance to APECS. Day to day operations of APECS are currently supported through an international directorate lead by the Executive Director.

1.2 Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is an Interdisciplinary Body of the International Science Council (ICS). It was established in 1958 to continue the international coordination of Antarctic scientific activities that had begun during the ICSU-led International Geophysical Year of 1957-58. Its mission is to initiate, develop, and coordinate high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. In addition, it provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica. The decision-making organs of SCAR are the Meeting of Delegates and the

Executive Committee. The day-to-day operations of SCAR are supported by its Secretariat headed by the Executive Director. SCAR's remit covers Antarctica and the surrounding Southern Ocean including the Antarctic Circumpolar Current south of the Subantarctic Front.

1.3 International Arctic Science Committee

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is an International Scientific Associate of ICS, and was established in 1990. IASC's mission is to initiate, develop, and co-ordinate leading edge scientific research in the Arctic region and on the role of the Arctic region in the Earth system. It also provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Arctic Council and other organizations on issues of science affecting the management of the Arctic region. The decision-making bodies of IASC are the Council and the Executive Committee. The scientific bodies of IASC are its five Working Groups. The day-to-day operations of IASC are supported by its Secretariat headed by the Executive Secretary. IASC's geographical remit covers the Arctic Ocean and the surrounding landmasses.

2. Rationale for the MoU

The Parties share common goals of working internationally and across disciplines to increase our understanding of Earth's polar regions and their connections to the global system. The Parties recognize the importance of fostering the next generation of researchers, a cohort that will be faced with increasingly critical challenges due to the impacts of climate change on these regions and their global significance. At the closing ceremony of the International Polar Year (IPY) Montreal Conference in 2012 APECS, SCAR, and IASC received the IPY torch (a Norwegian "budstikke"), indicating that these three organizations are now assuming responsibility for securing the IPY legacy. The importance of the relationship between the three organisations was highlighted again at the joint POLAR2018 meeting in Davos (June 2018). This agreement recognizes APECS as the preeminent organization for young researchers working in the Arctic, Antarctic, and cryospheric regions that strives to provide a continuum of leadership in polar research. This agreement is between APECS, IASC, and SCAR. It does not preclude the Parties agreeing to other MoUs with other programs and organizations, or bilaterally between the Parties.

3. Terms of Agreement

This MoU identifies a joint commitment to the professional development of early career polar researchers* and the need for a continuum of leadership in polar research as important mutual aims of all Parties. Examples of activities through which this joint commitment may be pursued include, but are not limited to:

- Working together to ensure representation of early career researchers in the Parties respective bodies and their meetings, including but not limited to: participating in Standing Committee/Working Groups, Delegates/Council Meetings, and other meetings and activities;
- Promoting the inclusion of early career researchers on conference organising committees and when convening panel sessions;
- Communicating to each Parties members updates, newsletters, and other communications of interest, as well as working together on education, outreach, and polar science communication activities;
- Agreeing to representatives of IASC and SCAR being available as members of the APECS Advisory Committee to offer assistance and guidance; and representatives of APECS being available to IASC and SCAR for early career perspectives;
- Continuing to support the development of early career researchers through schemes such as the IASC Fellowship scheme, SCAR Fellowship programme, and other possible new programmes;
- Providing support throughout the application review process when opportunities are offered to early career researchers, such as the APECS committee that helps review IASC Fellowship applications;
- Provide recommendations and feedback on best practices, covering (but not limited to) accommodating the needs of early career researchers, and the latest (communication) technology to enable SCAR & IASC to keep the best young researchers in polar research.
- Running joint training sessions in conjunction with opportunities (for example on how to write funding applications for Fellowships);
- Exploring mentorship opportunities serving APECS members and supported by SCAR and IASC;
- Actively encouraging reporting on how groups and committees (e.g., SCAR Standing Groups and IASC Working Groups) are supporting early career researchers, and sharing resources that help to foster best practices in this area.

** The IASC/SCAR definition for early career scientists eligible to receive travel support is up to 5 years after completion of a terminal degree (e.g., PhD)*

4. Financial implications of the Agreement

Parties to this Agreement will continue to be responsible for the costs of their own activities, but this does not preclude one party meeting or contributing to the occasional or ongoing costs of another if they so wish. Actual financial contributions to the activities and other implications of this MoU will be considered and agreed to by representatives of the Parties as they arise, and may be changed in accordance with the Parties requirements without any effect on the substance of this Agreement.

5. Duration, Revision and Termination of this MoU

This MoU remains in force for 5 years, at which time it will be reviewed for possible extension. No action by any of the parties will result in the cancellation of this MoU. The MoU may be revised at any time by mutual agreement between the Parties. Any of the parties may propose alterations to the MoU. Parties wishing to withdraw from this agreement should do so by a formal letter signed by the President and head organizational manager (i.e., Executive Secretary or Director) of their respective organization.

Date of last signature: 12 April 2019

Signed



President, APECS
Date



President, IASC
Date



President, SCAR
Date



Executive Director, APECS
Date



Executive Secretary, IASC
Date



Executive Director, SCAR
Date