

## **Get to know APECS Finland**

In 2012, after several people had expressed their interest in the formation of an APECS national committee in Finland, words were quickly followed by action: our small but diverse group got together for the first APECS Finland meeting. Our aim is to build a continuum of expertise and leadership in Finnish polar research and provide opportunities and support for early career scientists passionate with Polar Regions in Finland. We don't have official structure, but have 5-10 people in the core group who share the responsibility in organizing events and informing our members, and more than 50 members in total. To keep contact, we mainly use [finland@apecs.is](mailto:finland@apecs.is) emailing list as well as our Facebook page and to inform wider audience about our events etc. we use multiple listserves and student organizations. Our main challenge lies upon getting people engaged due to the large geographical range of Finland together with limited (funding) resources.

### **Examples of the main APECS Finland activities in the past:**

#### APECS Seminar: Future of Polar Research in Finland 2012

APECS Finland held a multidisciplinary seminar with scientific talks and a career development workshop in Helsinki, Finland. The day started with talks on strategies of polar research in Finland and in different institutes together with funding possibilities from Academy of Finland. Talks by different groups doing Arctic and Antarctic science were interesting and inspirational, and opened up new research collaborations for many. In the afternoon, we held a career development session on communication and a mentor panel. The major topics covered during the workshop and mentor panel were: How to communicate with media both from researchers and media's perspective? How to make successful scientific presentation? How to communicate within research group? And How valuable communication with the research community is to PhD students?

#### Arctic Science Summit Week in April 2014

APECS Finland members were deeply involved in the Arctic Science Summit Week 2014 in Helsinki, Finland. We had 'our people' in the organizing team and a very strong representation in the business meetings. In a traditional Finnish way, ASSW 2014 APECS get-together was held with a theme Arctic Science Summit Sauna, where our members taught the secrets of Sauna to our international guests. About 50 participants from the conference enjoyed this very Finnish way of spending the evening with friends and colleagues.

#### Stories from the field 2015 (Recruiting new members event)

In late February 2015 we set up a small event to recruit more people. About 30-35 students were listening to talks about working in the field, what to take care of and what might go wrong. Afterwards some gathered for a couple of drinks near the venue.

### **Planned activities in 2015**

To keep regular contact and recruit more members we are planning to have an online call and to meet in person every other month for some drinks with everyone interested. Also we are planning to organize one more workshop, though we haven't yet decided upon a topic or a date.