



APECS COUNCIL CALL MINUTES:

Thursday 21 January 2010, 18 GMT

Chair: Daniela Liggett

Note taker: José Xavier

Present: Daniela Liggett, Kate Sinclair, Gerlis Fugmann, Allen Pope, Tao Li, Angelika Renner, Gifford Wong, Jason Davis, Jennifer Rhemann, Alex Taylor, Jose Xavier, Kim Jochum, Kristin Timm, Loic Jullion, Nathalie Morota, Ruth Guy, Tosca Ballerini and Yi-

Apologies: Jenny Baeseman and Francisco Fernandoy, Joscelyn Bailey, Jennifer Hall, Bego Vendrell.

Hosting: Call was hosted via Adobe Connect at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Notes: This was the first call of the year 2010. Discussion on agenda items began after a round of introductions.

ITEM 1. NATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

APECS ITALY! (Tosca Ballerini)

APECS Italy is taking off. Two more people joined the APECS ITALY National Committee (Maja Radiojevic and Antonio Zeoli) and a simple, but very informative, website for APECS ITALY has been developed. In addition Matteo Cattadori:

- Involved 2 teachers in a PolarTEACHER project – they will be participating in the Oslo IPY meeting.
- Is organizing a summer school for 15 teachers, one of whom will go to Antarctica. This will likely be sponsored by the Italian Antarctic Research Program.
- Participated in a book titled “Polar Science and Global Climate” (<http://www.ipy.org/hidden/item/2297-promotional-material-for-the-polar-resource-book>).

APECS UKPN (Allen Pope)

Allen mentioned their successful AGM that took place in London. Efforts have been put to obtain funding to organize more workshops, and young scientists have been submitting numerous abstracts for IPY OSLO Conference. Graduate field schools are planned for Canada and Svalbard next summer (2011).

APECS PORTUGAL (José Xavier)

APECS Portugal has been very active during the last year. Major events include:

- Live interviews with members from Brazil, Malaysia and Norway (for the APECS Svalbard Field school 2009) and for UK and Portuguese science conferences.

- José Xavier was elected for the Scientific Steering Committee of Life Sciences of SCAR (representing APECS).
- José Xavier published a research book (Cephalopod guide for the Southern Ocean), under IPY projects ICED and CAML, endorsed by APECS.
- Contribution to the Resource IPY Book (written by E & O IPY working group).
- Talk and press conference on polar research (Dec. 2009) with huge media attention for APECS (with interviews to TV station, radio, newspapers...)
- Two Portuguese students went on the Antarctic expedition organized by "Students on Ice."
- E & O activity: "Spending Christmas with Penguins" (with the Science Museum, University of Coimbra) for 7-12 year olds, which included hands-on and talks by José Xavier for 8 days between 22-31 Dec. 2009
- Contribution to APECS website by submitting news, posters to the Virtual Poster Sessions and jobs

Currently, efforts are being made to submit abstracts to the OSLO IPY conference, particularly from young researchers (José counted more than 15 abstracts), and they are planning a national APECS workshop in April 2010.

APECS POLAND (Kate Sinclair)

Matt Strzelecki and colleagues are continuing to work hard to establish APECS Poland and are actively recruiting new members.

APECS SWEDEN (Alex Taylor)

Alex emphasized the success of Careers day (20 Jan. 2010) with 60 participants. The new head of Swedish Polar Research Development was present and highly enthusiastic about supporting APECS. There will potentially be an April/May APECS workshop, and they have submitted an abstract to Oslo about their activities.

APECS BRAZIL

José Xavier mentioned briefly the excellent work that APECS Brazil has been doing in the last few months, with Miriam Almeida (E & O, through talks and interviews to schools and local radios) and the Polar week (a huge activity that covered many events in various parts of Brazil). Erli Costa is also playing a key role in the organization.

APECS CHILE (Daniela Liggett)

Francisco Fernandoy is doing well in keeping APECS Chile active, with more new young scientists joining. Francisco is currently working hard in APECS field school at Bellinghousen Station.

APECS SPAIN (contributed later via email from Bego)

There is not a lot of news from Spain. Bego has been encouraging Spanish members to contribute to the Oslo IPY conference. Bego also met with Pedro Echeveste from the E&O committee in Barcelona. They are working on recruiting more members for the Spanish APECS chapter. Bego also contributed to an exhibition about polar science at the Natural Sciences Museum of Barcelona.

ITEM 2. Update from APECS Executive Committee

Daniela asked the council to sign up for a jobs listserv (see spreadsheet on google docs: <http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AnW-hnuxHF9BdGVmMGhjcxjFXOGltTDIBZkISMmRfQVE&hl=en>)

We hope that each Council member can update jobs and news on a regular basis. There has been a lack of new postings to the website from some Council members and this is a really important activity. Please try to avoid double-postings though.

Natalie asked for more information on what the APECS Council does and how we can contribute to APECS activities. Daniela explained that APECS is establishing working groups to plan and executive projects by breaking the work down into manageable areas. A new working group proposal document was written in Victoria and more info will follow soon...

Daniela and Kate Sinclair explained the Membership initiative. This will be launched on Valentines day this year, and we will be developing a database of mentors on the APECS web site. This will be an invaluable resource for APECS members who want to interact with more experienced polar professionals. More information will be sent to the Council within the next couple of weeks.

ITEM 3. Update on the Virtual Poster Session (VPS)

Loic asked for people to join the VPS working group, as there are not enough people involved at present.

Angelika mentioned that a test call for the VPS online is planned for February. They are trying to solve a technical problem on ADOBE connect to make posters easily available at the moment.

ITEM 4. Reminder E & O working group meeting, 28 January 0700 (GMT).

ITEM 5. Antarctic Treaty Summit (ATS), Washington DC (Jason)

APECS was represented at the ATS: Essay contest winners presented their work and did an amazing job! Jason is producing a film for youtube on this work.

ITEM 6. Antarctic Treaty Summit (ATS), Washington DC (Jason)

Discussion on Oslo attendance: Jennifer Rhemann proposes an APECS Oslo blog