

Permafrost Young Researchers Network Newsletter November 2012

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New website

PYRN has a shiny new website <http://pyrn.arcticportal.org/>! The transfer is still ongoing but this is the place to go for all job postings, conference news, and PYRN updates. If you have any ideas or suggestions about the new website, let us know at contact@pyrn.org. Thanks to [Arctic Portal](#) for hosting the site. There are also [PYRN facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages, [PYRN Russia](#) [Вконтакте](#).

Memorandum of Understanding (PYRN-APECS-IPA)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PYRN, the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the International Permafrost Association (IPA) was signed by Alexandre Nieuwendam (PYRN President), Alexey Pavlov (APECS Director) and Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten (IPA President) on 17th of August 2012 in Salekhard/Russia. PYRN, APECS and IPA share focus in understanding cold regions and permafrost related topics. The signed MoU strengthens collaboration and cooperation between the three organizations in order to grow as a cryosphere research community.

PYRN Council

If you are interested in participating in PYRN, join the PYRN Council. Consisting of the Executive Committee and National Representatives it's a great chance to contribute your expertise, build your resume, and meet future collaborators. Send us an email if you're interested at contact@pyrn.org.

International University-level Courses on Permafrost

Please participate in our [survey](#) about International University-level Courses on Permafrost (IUCP) [catalogue](#) at IPA. The courses are now linked to Google Earth. We are making a short video about this catalogue and would love to have your help. Let us know if you want to be involved: contact@pyrn.org.

Report of PYRN Activities at TICOP

A summary of activities during PYRN workshop, awards and summer field school at TICOP as well as a report to the Yamal Government (in English) will soon be published on the sparkly new [website](#). Here is a direct link to the [report](#). Furthermore, a contribution to IPA's news bulletin Frozen Ground (number 36) is in preparation.

PYRN Executive Committee

In June 2012 at TICOP a new ExCom was formed consisting of 13 enthusiastic early stage permafrost researchers from all over the world. Here's an introduction of who they are and what they are doing:

Alexandre Nieuwendam is PhD student in Physical Geography at the Institute of Geography and Land Management, working on the analysis of relict slope deposits in Serra da Estrela Mountain, Portugal and a researcher at the Centre of Geographical Studies at the University of Lisbon. Has a MS in Physical Geography on the thermal regime of the active layer and permafrost in the Hurd Peninsula (Livingston Island, Antarctica). His research interests focus on geomorphodynamics of polar and mountain environments. He participated in five Antarctic campaigns between 2006 and 2012 with the Bulgarian, Brazilian and North-American Antarctic Expeditions and one in the Arctic in Adventdalen and Sassendalen, Svalbard. Alexandre is the one of the co-founders of the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) and the new PYRN president.



Benjamin Abbott is a PhD student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks investigating thermokarst on the North Slope of Alaska. His research interests include carbon and nitrogen release from degrading permafrost and conveying the significance of science to the general public through community involvement, writing, and song. Ben is a PYRN national representative for the U.S., and joined the ExCom in June of 2012 at TICOP after promising to “keep PYRN fun.”



Nataliya Belova studied geocryology and glaciology at Faculty of Geography, MSU. She works in the Russian Arctic, primarily West Siberia. She is interested in ground ice, paleogeographical reconstructions of the Late Quaternary period, and arctic coastal dynamics. Her favorite topic is the origin of massive ground ice beds (a source of recent controversy!). Her PhD dissertation, *Massive ice beds of south-eastern coast of Kara Sea* (defended in 2012), examines both origin of ice and its influence on coastal dynamics.



Altug Ekici is a PhD student at the Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Jena/ Germany. He is working on simulating physical and biogeochemical permafrost processes and investigating the possible feedbacks between permafrost and the climate by numerical modeling. He has a master's degree in Earth System Sciences from Istanbul Technical University and his research interests are numerical modeling of natural processes, soil heat flow and soil carbon allocation in high latitudes. He joined the ExCom at TICOP, to bring a modeler's perspective to the super-cool Arctic research!



Michael Fritz is a permafrost scientist at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Potsdam, Germany. He is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher in the Helmholtz Society Young Investigator Group on coastal permafrost. Michael has a diploma in Geography from the University Greifswald, Germany and a PhD in Geosciences from the University of Potsdam in Germany. He is interested in evolution of arctic permafrost landscapes and coasts, their reaction to climate change and possible implications for the earth climate system. Michael is leading the German group of PYRN since 2009 and is one of the new PYRN ExCom members.



Denis Frolov is a research fellow in the laboratory of avalanches and mudflows at Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University. He has participated in expeditions to Caucasus, New Siberian islands, and other parts of Russian Arctic. He is the webmaster of the new PYRN website and the newest ExCom member.



Julia Khalilova (Stanilovskaya) is a permafrost researcher in the laboratory of geocryology at Sergeev Institute of Environmental Geoscience Russian Academy of Sciences (IEG RAS). She graduated in geocryology and glaciology, Faculty Lomonosov Moscow State University in 2007. Her work focused on geotechnical monitoring of geological processes and adverse geological conditions along linear structures in permafrost of Eastern Siberia (mostly pipelines). Julia has served on the PYRN ExCom since 2011, to keep PYRN progressing. Julia coordinates PYRN activity in Russia for the bright future of Russian PYRs.



Julie Lepage is currently a master student at the Department of Civil and Water Engineering at Laval University in Québec, Canada. Her research tests mitigation techniques to reduce effects of permafrost degradation on transportation infrastructure on the Alaska Highway in the Yukon Territory. Julie has a diploma in Geological engineering from Laval University. She will start her PhD in 2013 on the management of surface water and groundwater flow for transportation infrastructures in permafrost environment. Julie joined the ExCom at TICOP.



Yingzhao Ma is a PhD student at the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research focuses on hydrothermal regimes of the active layer in permafrost and frozen regions. He participated in six expeditions to the Tibetan Plateau since 2011. Yingzhao Ma joined the ExCom at TICOP.



Anne Morgenstern is a postdoctoral researcher at the Periglacial Research Section of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Potsdam, Germany. She has a diploma in Geoecology and a PhD in Geosciences from the University of Potsdam, Germany. She is interested in the degradation of ice-rich arctic permafrost and investigates thermokarst and thermal erosion in Siberian lowlands based on remote sensing, GIS, and field investigations. Anne has been a PYRN ExCom member since the beginning of 2012.



Marc Oliva is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning at the University of Lisbon. He finished his PhD in 2009 at the University of Barcelona with a dissertation about present and past periglacial processes in Sierra Nevada (Southern Spain). Since 2010, in the Center of Geographical Studies of the University of Lisbon, his research is focused on the Holocene palaeoenvironmental evolution in permafrost environments (Antarctica and Svalbard). He is now coordinating the HOLOANTAR project.



Andrea Schneider is a master student at the Department of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology, Stockholm University, Sweden. She has a bachelor in Geography and Biology from Humboldt University in Berlin/Germany. During her studies she participated in two expeditions of the Alfred Wegener Institute of Polar and Marine Research to arctic Siberia. Andrea is currently working on her master thesis focusing on dynamics of polygonal ponds. Beside patterned ground and polygon development, she is interested in wildfires in permafrost areas, palaeoglaciology of the Arctic, coastal erosion and subsea permafrost. Andrea became an ExCom member at TICOP.



Sonia Tomaskovicova: Description forthcoming.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

1. EGU 2013 permafrost session and EGU

The session organizers would like to announce their session (BG2.12) at European Geophysical Union Conference (EGU 2013) about “effects of arctic warming on permafrost degradation and permafrost carbon dynamics”.

We are looking forward to receiving your abstracts! Best regards, Hanna Lee (hannal@ucar.edu), Christina Schädel (cschaedel@ufl.edu), Jens Strauss (jestraus@awi.de)

Application for support deadline: 30 Nov 2012

Abstract submission deadline: 09 Jan 2013

<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2013/session/12695>

2. Arctic Science Summit Week 2013

The ASSW is the annual meeting of international organizations engaged in supporting and facilitating Arctic research and will be held in Krakow, Poland from April 13 – 19 2013. Its purpose is to provide opportunities for international coordination, collaboration and cooperation in all fields of Arctic science and to combine science and management meetings. The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) will offer a one-day career development workshop during the ASSW 2013. The ASSW in 2013 will include a three-day Science Symposium entitled “The Arctic Hub – Regional and Global Perspectives”.

Abstract submission deadline: 6 January 2013

Registration deadline: 15 February 2013

<http://www.assw2013.us.edu.pl/index>

3. World Snow Forum 2013

World Snow Forum 2013 will be hosted by Novosibirsk from 17 to 20 January. The main objective of the forum is to discuss the issues of creating comfortable conditions for livable winter cities in northern regions. The associated congress “Ecology of Northern Territories” will raise the issues of northern regions conservation, Arctic shelf development, snow cover pollution, permafrost degradation and its influence on infrastructure.

There is a **discount for PYRN members!** Free if you are presenting a poster or talk and for students and PhD’s not making a presentation it is only 35\$. Accommodation will be provided free of charge and transportation to Novosibirsk will be discounted by 30%. Please register (and indicate the title of your report) [here](#).

Early registration deadline: 14 Dec 2012

<http://www.worldsnowforum.org/>

4. EUCOP IV and 11th ICOP

Venues for two major upcoming conferences were decided: The Fourth European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP IV) will be hosted by the University of Évora in collaboration with the University of Lisbon in Évora, Portugal from 18.06 - 21.06.2014

The 11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP) is planned for 2016 in Potsdam, Germany.