

AFoPS VI Delegates Meeting, Tokyo 2007

Final Report

15-16 February 2007, National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan

1. Opening

- AFoPS-VI meeting was opened officially by the welcome remark of Dr. Yoshiyuki Fujii, Director-general of NIPR and the chairman of AFoPS. Dr. Fujii gave the heartiest welcome to delegates from India and Malaysia, participating AFoPS delegate meeting for the first time.

2. Summary of AFoPS-related Meetings.

- Dr. YD Kim (former chairman of AFoPS) briefly reviewed/introduced the summary of the AFoPS-V, held in Shanghai, China, on 28 April 2006.
- Dr. SM Hong briefly introduced the summary of the first workshop for Glaciology Working Group of AFoPS, held at KOPRI in Incheon, Korea, on 5 and 6 September 2006.
- Dr. Z Zang briefly summarized AFoPS Engineering & Logistics Working Group meeting, held in Incheon, Korea, on 5 September 2006.

3. Alteration of AFoPS Committee Members

- A draft list of the AFoPS Committee Members was distributed for confirmation.

4. National Presentations on Polar Research Activities and Plans, including IPY Programs

4.1. China

- Dr. Zang presented 'IPY 2007-2008 Chinese program'. The overview of PANDA (The Prydz Bay, Amery Ice Shelf and Dome A observatories), ARCTIML (Arctic Change and its Tele-impact on Mid-latitude) programs were introduced.

4.2. Korea

- Dr. DM Jin presented 'Korea Research Activities in Polar Regions' that introduced activities at Arctic Dasan Station and Antarctic King Sejong Station. A meteorites expedition at Patriot Hills and outreach activities were also briefly introduced.

4.3. Malaysia

- Dr. Samah presented 'A report on Malaysian Antarctic Program' that introduced the development of the Antarctic program, current scientific activities and future programs relating

to IPY 2007-2008.

- Discussion was made on future possible collaboration of Malaysia with AFoPS countries in Arctic research.

4.4. India

- Dr. Khare presented 'Indian Antarctic Programme – an overview' that introduced the current scientific activities and future programs relating to IPY 2007-2008. A future plan to build a third Antarctic Station near Larsman Hills, East Antarctica, was also presented.

4.5. Japan

- Dr. Fukuchi presented 'Japanese National Presentation for the AFoPS' that introduced organization, history, and recent highlights of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE) as well as the Japanese program on Arctic research.
- Possibilities of the JARE to provide opportunity to visit Syowa Station for AFoPS member scientists, especially after the launch of the Japanese new icebreaker, were discussed.

5. Collaborations among AFoPS Countries

5.1. Scientific Exchange

- Dr. Kim summarized Korea-related collaborations with AFoPS countries, and expressed his gratitude to Japan for inviting a Korean scientist to Dome Fuji station.
- Dr. Takahashi briefly introduced the Japan-Korea collaborative work on penguin ecology at King Sejong Station during 2006/07 season.
- Dr. Fujii introduced the Japanese Dome Fuji deep ice core drilling project that succeeded to obtain ice core down to 3035.22m deep.
- Dr. Sun introduced/reviewed Dome A inland traverse project 2004/05 and IPY 2007-2008 China program.
- Dr. Yan reviewed Chinese-Japanese collaboration research at Zhongshan Station, and introduced scientific activities during CHINARE 22.
- After a lunch break, delegates are invited to an excursion tour of NIPR facilities, including world's largest meteorites collection, a gas analysis laboratory for ice core and atmospheric samples etc.
- Dr. Kadokura introduced IPY program planned by the UAP group at NIPR.
- Dr. Watanabe introduced the workshop on Antarctic medical research and medicine, held on 26 August, 2006 in Tokyo.

5.2. Future Collaborations including Polar Research Programs

- Dr. Kim briefly introduced ‘Korea IPY Launching Conference with PAG’ to be held in Incheon, Korea, on 20-23 April 2007. He also introduced ‘ the 14th Seoul International Symposium on Polar Sciences’ (focused on physical and geo-sciences) to be held in Incheon, Korea, on 15-17 May 2007.
- Dr. Sato briefly introduced an IPY kick-off symposium “Asian Collaboration in IPY 2007-2008” to be held in Tokyo, on 1 March 2007.
- Dr. Yamanouchi presented ‘A new application of project “AFoPS Cooperative Research Network for Polar Climate Change Study”’. The project proposal will be submitted for the JSPS A3 Foresight Program for building and developing a cooperative research network among three Asian countries, Japan, China and Korea.
- Dr. Kim noted a project like this is a good example of AFoPS activities and praised Japan for the effort to take the initiative.
- Dr. Watanabe briefly introduced a time table for the five annual symposia sponsored by the NIPR, Japan, that can be a good opportunity for scientific discussion.
- Dr. Shibuya (the editor-in-chief, *Polar Science*) introduced ‘*Polar Science*’, a new scientific journal to be published by the National Institute of Polar Research and Elsevier Publishing, from 2007. The detailed information about the journal can be found on Elsevier Publishing website. He stressed that the journal welcomes submission by polar scientists especially from Asia and Southern Hemisphere.
- Discussion was made on ‘AFoPS scientific journal’.
- Dr. Nogi introduced a special session ‘Frontier of Polar Science’ at the fourth annual AOGS meeting to be held in 30th July – 4th August 2007, and welcomed submissions from AFoPS scientists.
- Dr. Fujii announced a NIPR’s ‘AFoPS invitation fellowship program’, which is to invite young scientists from AFoPS countries to study at NIPR within three month up to three scientists a year. Dr. Kim expressed strong support for this initiative. He also noted that Korea would like to create a program of this sort to enhance exchanges of young scientists among AFoPS countries. Dr. Samah asked Dr. Fujii, whether this initiative can be open to Asian countries not involving in the AFoPS. Dr. Fujii replied that this initiative is open to other Asian countries too, not restricted to AFoPS countries.

5.3. Outreach Programs

- Dr. Zang proposed to have an AFoPS newsletter, and each member country agreed. The newsletter will cover topics of national Arctic and Antarctic activities and other topics. It is

agreed that the country that has chairmanship will have responsibilities for producing newsletters regularly.

6. Other Topics

- Dr. Zang introduced a plan of new building for Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC).
- Dr. Saxena introduced a document of a plan to renew the Indian Antarctic Station, which can be downloaded for comments and suggestions from other countries.
- Dr. Jin introduced 'new KOPRI' in Incheon. He also introduced a new organization chart of KOPRI.
- Mr. Ishizawa introduced the new icebreaker for the Japanese Antarctic program.
- Dr. Fukuchi briefly introduced relocation plan of the NIPR from Itabashi to Tachikawa, western Tokyo, in 2009. He also introduced a series of special events and ceremonies, including a TV conference connecting Syowa Station, Australia, Thailand and Tokyo, to commemorate 50th anniversary of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition from 1957 to 2007.

7. Future Meetings

- The opportunity for the next AFoPS meeting was discussed and will be determined among national representatives in due course

8. Closing

- Dr. Fujii gave a closing remark, and AFoPS dinner was held at a Japanese restaurant.