



# International Permafrost Association

## Opening note

Looking back to this busy year 2025, a few highlights come to our minds.

In January, we started with the IPA newsletter serving the community with up to date reports and announcements. While this keeps us busy, it is wonderful to see how active our community is on national and international levels. Please continue sharing your news and wishes!

Later this year, we held an online meeting with all representatives of IPA Standing Committees and Action Groups. It was very interesting and motivating to see all the ongoing scientific projects, group activities and education & outreach

projects. We decided to repeat this event in 2026 and open it to the wider community.

Besides the activities of the action groups, which are central to the IPA dynamics, the preparation of the 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost is another key highlight. The conference, which is IPA's Regional Conference for 2026, will be held in Mongolia in June, jointly organized by Mongolia and China. This event will be an excellent opportunity to develop and consolidate permafrost research and engineering in an amazing setting with a thriving community.

Finally, this month, the IPA Council meeting was held with a review of activities and planning of the activities for the forthcoming years.

With this and many other impressions in mind, we once again thank you for all your commitment and support to the IPA and we hope to extend and intensify our collaboration in 2026 and the coming years. For now, we wish you some relaxing days with family and friends and a good start into 2026.

With very best wishes,  
Isabelle & Gonçalo

## Nominations for two Executive Committee members and for the Lifetime Achievement Award

As we discussed recently in the 32nd IPA Council meeting, there are two important items of IPA business that we must all consider in the next few months. Please inform your country's members about them and be prepared to develop or support opportunities and suggestions

as you think best. The related information will also go out on social media.

First, we will need to elect two new members to the IPA Executive Committee in June 2026. Although the full EC turns over every four years, elections are held every two years so that

only 40–60% of members change at any given time. Mid-term elections are normally conducted during RCOP. Two EC members, Ed Yamak and Fujian Niu, will complete their terms in June 2026, creating two vacancies that must be filled in the upcoming election.

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#### Co-Presidents:

Dr. Isabelle Gärtner-Roer and Prof. Gonçalo Vieira

#### Past-President:

Prof. Christopher Burn

#### Members:

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Dr. Fujun Niu, Ed Yarmak and Joseph Young

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We have a Nominations and Awards Committee ([NAC](#)) in place and they need nominations from Council members.

Second, the IPA will make a Lifetime Achievement Award in June 2026 during the 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. We invite nominations until the **15th of February 2026**. Nominations for this award should also be forwarded to the NAC. The nomination process for the award has to be supported by a citation and letters of support. The nominations are made

directly by the IPA member countries and need to be supported by at least three individuals from three different countries. This award is the highest recognition of the IPA. Service to the IPA is one criterion that may be cited. Contributions to the disciplines of permafrost science and/or engineering are critical for a nomination. The nomination form is available on the website ([link](#)).

If you are interested in nominating an individual, please contact the relevant county representative and use the attached

form to prepare your nomination. The list of IPA Council Members in charge of the nominations is available on the IPA website ([link](#)).

Please send both your nominations for Executive Committee members and for the Lifetime Achievement Award to the IPA Secretariat at [secretariat@permafrost.org](mailto:secretariat@permafrost.org) (c/o Lin Chen) before February 15, 2026.

Warm regards,

Provided by Hanne Christiansen & Lin Chen

## IPA Action Group 2026-2027 call

**IPA Action Groups** ([link](#)) are meant to fund targeted groups working on permafrost towards the production of well-defined products. Action Groups are funded on a competitive basis at up to **€3000 per year (maximum of €6000 over two years)**. These groups have limited terms and focus on clearly

defined research outputs, such as maps, scientific publications, or databases, that can be supported through the organization of workshops, management support, technical support, etc. To apply, please download the instruction document and submit your application as a **PDF** to the IPA Secretariat at

[secretariat@permafrost.org](mailto:secretariat@permafrost.org) (c/o Lin Chen). Receipt of your application will be confirmed in an email from the IPA Secretariat. **Application deadline is December 31, 2025** ([link](#)).

Provided by Lin Chen

## IPA Action Group: Saline Permafrost responds to growing global attention

A recent Science news feature brought unprecedented visibility to saline permafrost, highlighting how buried salt layers across Arctic coastlines are thawing at subzero temperatures, deepening lakes, destabilizing coasts, and undermining infrastructure. These

findings underscore a central challenge: saline permafrost behaves fundamentally differently from typical permafrost due to freezing-point depression, yet remains poorly mapped and inconsistently defined.



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The newly established IPA Saline Permafrost Action Group is uniquely positioned to address these gaps. Led by Benjamin Jones, Roger Creel, Denis Lacelle, Tonghua Wu, and Avirmed Dashtseren, the group brings together >50 international researchers spanning geophysics, geochemistry, geology, geography, engineering, and hydrology. Their work directly responds to the scientific

questions elevated in the Science article—including the need to quantify where saline permafrost occurs, how deeply it extends, and how rapidly it is thawing.

The Action Group hopes to unify definitions, standardize measurement protocols, and synthesize global datasets into an open-access geospatial database. Early efforts include

compiling core data, coordinating international workshops, and developing a mapping database. As public awareness grows, the Action Group provides the timely, coordinated leadership needed to transform scattered observations into a coherent global understanding of saline permafrost and its role in a rapidly changing Arctic.

Provided by Benjamin M. Jones

## IPA Action Group: International Database for Geoelectrical Surveys on Permafrost (IDGSP)

The second phase of the IDGSP IPA Action Group will end in December 2025. Throughout its two phases, the Action Group has been able to build a network connecting the communities of geophysicists and permafrost researchers.

The IDGSP Action Group (2021-2025) has addressed the lack of a systematic compilation and public availability of existing geoelectrical surveys on permafrost. The Group's main output is *Resibase* database and its public web map ([www.resibase.unifr.ch](http://www.resibase.unifr.ch)).

The Action Group has been able to:

- Get together to define and agree on the metadata to be collected, the data storage format, and the data policy.
- Build and populate a structured PostgreSQL database.
- Attract many research groups to contribute with their metadata and data: ~30 individual contributors based in about 15 different countries
- Collect many metadata and data and make it available on a web map: **650 different profiles**, i.e. different geographic lines.
- Develop an automatic filtering and inversion script to enable a fair comparability of all data.

The **call for electrical resistivity data is still open**. Feel free to reach out to [ertdb@unifr.ch](mailto:ertdb@unifr.ch) for more information.

Another great achievement of the Action Group was securing further funding through a COST Action: PermaCOST ([link](#)). Although PermaCOST's scope is broader, it aims to continue the work of the IDGSP database. Anyone interested in ERT monitoring or other methods and parameters for permafrost monitoring is welcome to join the PermaCOST Action.

IDGSP main links can be found on the IPA webpage ([link](#)).

Provided by Coline Mollaret

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## EU-funded networking project on permafrost monitoring PermaCOST launched

The European permafrost monitoring COST Network, named **PermaCOST** (standing for **CO**ordinated and **ST**andardized **M**onitoring of **P**ermafrost **R**esponse to **C**limate **C**hange), was launched in October 2025. The official kickoff meeting of the Management Committee was hosted by the COST Association in Brussels, Belgium. This Action will last 4 years (2025-2029). The Management Committee of PermaCOST currently consists of nearly 40 members representing 25 countries. In October and November, the newly elected Core Group leading the PermaCOST Action began working together to plan the first activities.

The PermaCOST Action aims to gather a network of permafrost researchers, stakeholders, and practitioners to jointly work towards a coordinated and standardized monitoring of permafrost response to climate change. Join the PermaCOST Action to contribute to the comprehensive assessment of permafrost state and evolution in Europe and the standardisation and implementation of novel permafrost monitoring techniques. A close collaboration with GTN-P is also foreseen. You can find the full proposal and the aims of the PermaCOST Action in the [Memorandum of Understanding](#).

Following COST's philosophy of openness and transparency, anyone can apply to join PermaCOST at any time during the Action's lifetime. Currently, PermaCOST has about 130 members from 35 countries. Networking activities funded by PermaCOST will include meetings, research visits grants, conference grants, and training schools.

PermaCOST is structured into 5 Working groups:

- **WG1: Identify the key complementary methods** to permafrost temperature and ALT for a comprehensive assessment of permafrost state and evolution



*Management Committee members of PermaCOST were hosted by the COST Association in Brussels in early October 2025 to launch the Action*

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- WG2: Compile and homogenize **data acquisition standards** for the identified methods
- WG3: Compile and homogenize **data processing standards** for the identified methods
- WG4: Compile a **European-wide assessment of permafrost state and evolution** based on the identified methods
- WG5: Promote and support the development of new

**operational monitoring networks.**

PermaCOST WG1 kick-off meeting took place online on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 and gathered 50 members of the network. The draft of the planned Community Survey on permafrost research in Europe was extensively discussed.

The next planned events and activities are:

- A Community Survey to assess the permafrost research activities will be launched around mid-January 2026

- **PermaCOST first hybrid General Meeting in Potsdam (19-20 January 2026)** hosted by AWI, Potsdam, Germany.

You can find more info on PermaCOST and how to join on its COST page: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA24157>. Feel free to reach us out to join these planned activities ([perma-cost@unifr.ch](mailto:perma-cost@unifr.ch)).

Provided by Coline Mollaret

## IPA Secretariat the AGU2025 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, USA

Lin Chen, IPA Secretariat & Executive Director, participated in the AGU 2025 Annual Meeting held in New Orleans, USA. The conference provided an important platform for the International Permafrost Association (IPA) to engage with the broader geophysical science community and to strengthen

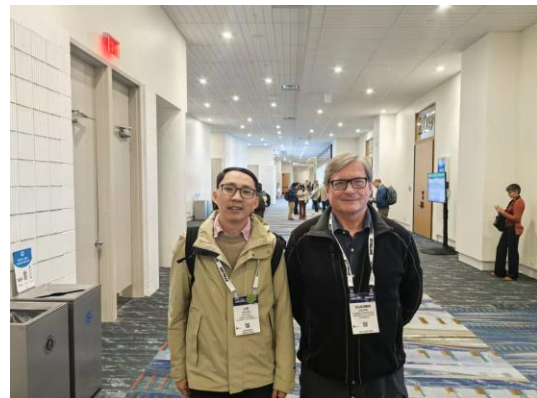
connections between permafrost research and related disciplines. During the meeting, Lin Chen served as chair for two oral sessions and one poster session on permafrost, and met with former IPA Vice-President, the IPY Vice-President, IPA Executive Committee members, Action Group leaders, and

representatives from PYRN, GTN-P, and USPA, as well as many international colleagues. These exchanges provided valuable opportunities to discuss ongoing and future IPA activities.

Provided by Lin Chen



Larry Hinzman, IPY Vice-President (left) and Edward Yarmak, IPA EC member (middle)



Vladimir E. Romanovsky, former IPA Vice-President (right)

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## Announcements

- **3rd ACOP 2026:** The 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP) 2026 will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from June 28 to July 2, 2026. **Abstract Deadline is December 31, 2025** ([link](#)).
- **Special Collection for ASCE Journal of Cold Engineering:** Advances in Field Investigation, Preservation, and Ground Improvement Technologies for Transportation Infrastructure in Permafrost Regions. Last date of submission of manuscripts is **December 31, 2025**. More information is available through the Journal of Cold Regions Engineering Editorial Manager website ([link](#)). Special Collection for Geotechnical Engineering in Cold Regions and Artificial Ground Freezing is available on the ASCE website ([link](#)).
- **CliC Open Science Conference:** The Climate and Cryosphere Open Science Conference 2026, themed “The Changing Cryosphere: Science, Impacts, and Adaptation,” will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 9 to 12 February 2026.
- **IAG ICG 2026:** The 11th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG) will take place in Christchurch, New Zealand, 2-6 February 2026. More information about the conference including plenary speakers, fieldtrips, workshops, conference sessions, and registration details can be found on the conference website ([link](#)).

## Editorial Board

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Committee Members: Edward Yarmak & Kjersti Gisnås  
PYRN Representative: Joseph Young  
Secretariat – Executive Director: Lin Chen

For future newsletters, contributions or input are always welcome. Please feel free to contact the **IPA Secretariat at [secretariat@permafrost.org](mailto:secretariat@permafrost.org) (c/o Lin Chen)**.

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