



International Permafrost Association

Opening note

Dear colleagues,

The EC is currently busy preparing for this year's Council meeting (which will take place online at the end of May) and we are looking forward to active participation of the IPA national representatives. Before the Council meeting, we will hold another meeting with the representatives of the Action Groups and Standing Committees, and this is open to the public!

So please feel invited and join us on the 29 April and get the latest news on recent and future activities (meeting link in article below).

Further, you will read that GTN-P is now recognized as a GCOS affiliated network, which is a great honor and emphasizes the importance of permafrost data and the responsibility of the permafrost community. Please also enjoy the other reports and take note

of the announcements. Happy reading!

We will report on the Council meeting later in May or June; stay tuned for the new EC members, the future IPA logo, and the winner of the logo prize!

Best regards,

Isabelle and Gonçalo

2nd online meeting of IPA Action Groups and Standing Committees

IPA will organize the second online meeting with all the representatives of the Action Groups (AGs) and Standing Committees (SCs) on April 29th, 2026, 4PM (CET). The meeting will provide an opportunity to share recent activities,

exchange ideas, and gather suggestions on how the IPA can better support ongoing and future initiatives. IPA warmly invites you to join the meeting and participate in the discussions.

- **Time:** April 29th, 2026, 4PM (CET)
- **Join us:** [link](#)

Provided by: Lin Chen

3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP) 2026

The 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP) 2026, hosted by Institute of Geography and Geocology of Mongolian Academy of

Sciences and Mongolian Permafrost Association, will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from June 28 to July 2, 2026.

- **Deadline of regular registration** is due April 30, 2026
- **IPA Travel Grants to ACOP – Registration still**

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open! The early-career permafrost researchers are encouraged to apply for the GTN-P – IPA Grant covering the registration fee for ACOP 2026. This support is open to ECR presenters of accepted talks or posters who are engaged in, or interested in joining, the GTN-P network, and includes participation in a pre-conference workshop (Sunday, June 28, 2026). The grant covers the reimbursement of the conference registration fee. For more information, please visit our new GTN-P website ([link](#)).

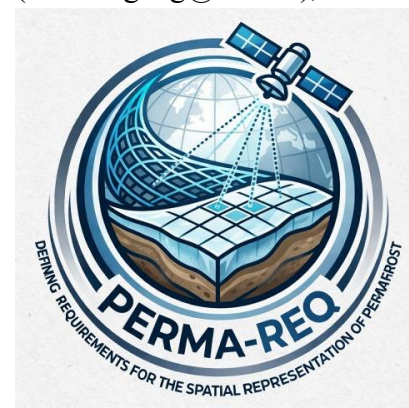
Application deadline is 1 May 2026.

More information about early career researcher activities at ACOP 2026 is available through the [link](#).

ring that resulting products are both scientifically robust and practically useful for a wide range of applications. With this, PERMA-REQ will contribute to ongoing international efforts to strengthen and expand Permafrost as an Essential Climate Variable. By fostering collaboration and aligning methodological approaches, it

will support improved consistency, interoperability, and usability of permafrost data products for research, policy, and decision-making.

Provided by: Anna Irrgang (anna.irrgang@awi.de), AWI



GTN-P recognized as GCOS affiliated network!

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has announced that three global terrestrial observing networks have been officially accredited by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost (GTN-P) being one of them. GTN-P provides data on the Permafrost Essential Climate Variable, which is essential to understand changes in the terrestrial system and

interactions between the hydrosphere and cryosphere. This accreditation recognizes GTN-P's scientific value, data quality, global significance, open data sharing, and long-term sustainability. It highlights GTN-P's crucial role in monitoring permafrost temperature and active layer dynamics as indicators of climate change, while also strengthening its visibility, support, and long-term stability

within the global climate observing system.



Provided by: GTN-P Office (gtnp-office@awi.de)

ERC-CZ grant for Antarctic permafrost research

Filip Hrbáček from the Department of Geography at Masaryk University, Czechia, has received a two-year ERC-CZ grant for the SEAL project (Soil Moisture Effects on Active Layer and Permafrost Dynamics in the Antarctic Peninsula),

which investigates the role of soil moisture in Antarctica. The research focuses on how changing moisture conditions influence permafrost stability and ecosystems on the rapidly warming Antarctic Peninsula, where temperatures have risen

by up to 3.5°C since the mid-20th century. The project highlights soil moisture as a key but often overlooked factor in climate change impacts, challenging the assumption that higher temperatures alone benefit vegetation. Even under

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warmer conditions, limited water availability may restrict plant growth and ecosystem development. Understanding this relationship is crucial for predicting how Antarctic Peninsula landscapes will respond to ongoing climate change.

With the support of the Czech Antarctic Research Programme and international collaborations,

particularly with teams from Spain, Portugal and Ukraine, the researchers are building a soil moisture monitoring network across more than 25 sites in the region, namely James Ross Island and the South Shetland Islands. The project team has already completed its first expedition, during which it collected essential data, including long-term measurements as well as multispectral and

thermal UAV imagery, which will help assess the spatial variability of soil moisture. These new datasets will improve understanding of environmental changes and support more accurate modelling of future permafrost dynamics and ecosystem development in Antarctic regions.

Provided by Filip Hrbáček



8th China National Young Scholars Forum on Cold-Regions Geotechnical Mechanics and Engineering Successfully Held in Wuhan, China

The 8th China National Young Scholars Forum on Cold-Regions Geotechnical Mechanics and Engineering was successfully convened in Wuhan, Hubei Province, from April 10 to 12, 2026.

The forum widely exchanges the basic theories of rock and soil mechanics and engineering in cold regions, as well as their technological frontiers and latest achievements in engineering practice. The forum was

organized by the Youth Committee and the Professional Committee of Polar Geotechnical Mechanics and Engineering of the Chinese Society for Rock Mechanics and Engineering, and hosted by

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Wuhan University. It brought together over 300 young scholars, researchers, engineers and graduate students across the country to share cutting-edge progress in cold-region geotechnics. The forum' topics covers mechanical properties of rock and soil in cold regions, multi-field coupling theory for rock and soil in cold regions, interaction between infrastructure and environment in cold regions, changes in permafrost and disasters in cold regions, new theory and technology of artificial freezing, multi-source monitoring of projects in cold regions, and so on. The topic

“change of research paradigms for frozen soils” was discussed in the roundtable discussion section, enabling more early-career researchers to exchange ideas with industry experts and senior scholars.

The forum highlighted interdisciplinary collaboration and youth innovation, with dedicated sessions for graduate students including the AI Visualization for Frozen Ground creative contest and academic presentation competitions. Participants exchanged insights on theoretical advances, numerical methods, field monitoring and

engineering applications in cold regions, promoting knowledge sharing and cooperative research for transportation, energy, water conservancy and ecological protection projects in cold and plateau areas. By fostering academic dialogue and talent cultivation, the forum strengthened the innovation network of young researchers and provided a valuable platform to boost the sustainable development of geotechnical engineering in cold regions nationwide.

Provided by Yong Liu & Lin Chen

the 8th China National Young Scholars Forum on Cold-Regions Geotechnical Mechanics and Engineering, Wuhan, April 10-12, 2026



Announcements

- **The 6th Chinese Conference on Frozen Soil Engineering and Cold Regions Environments:** this conference will be held in Chongqing, China from May 8-10, 2026. ([link](#))
- **The 2nd International Symposium on Cold-Region Engineering and Environment in Northeast Asia:** this conference will be held in Harbin China from May 22-24, 2026. The early-bird registration deadline is April 30, 2026.
- **Permafrost Discovery Gateway Webinar:** Integrating Building Volume and Occupancy Type into Circumpolar Arctic Infrastructure Damage Projections. The speaker is Elias Manos, University of Connecticut. The time is Thursday April 30, 2026 at 9:00 am AKT. ([link](#))
- **Call for Cryosphere Sessions – IGC 2028:** The 2028 International Geological Congress to be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We are especially interested in seeing session proposals focused on the cryosphere, with topics relating to

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cryospheric hazards, mass wasting hazards and risk, climate change impacts on mountains and permafrost,

and related topics. We are also interested in seeing proposals for short-courses, workshops and field

excursions within the Americas. ([link](#))

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

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