



International Permafrost Association

Opening note

Dear friends and colleagues,

In May, we met so many people—unfortunately only online—who play an active role in the IPA; whether as leaders or participants in one of our Action Groups or Standing Committees, or as representatives of our member states. It

was so great to hear from all the ongoing activities and future plans and also to get feedback on the current IPA business! We are striving to support the projects to the best of our ability, and we sincerely thank you all for your hard work.

Please also read the other news reporting from international (IPY-5), regional (Antarctica) and national (China) activities and take notice of the announcements.

Enjoy reading. Best regards,

Isabelle and Gonçalo

Meeting of the IPA Action Groups and Standing Committees

On April 29, 2026, the IPA successfully convened the 2nd online meeting of the Action Groups (AGs, [link](#)) and Standing Committees (SCs, [link](#)). The meeting was chaired by IPA Co-Presidents Isabelle Gärtner-Roer and Gonçalo Vieira, who welcomed AG and SC leaders as well as members of the broader permafrost community.

The IPA organized this meeting to facilitate communication, activity updates, and discussions among the AGs and SCs. Invitations were distributed to the wider community through the IPA newsletter, and approximately 40 participants attended the online meeting.

The AG ([link](#)) session featured updates from several IPA Action Groups, including PermHg, Permafrost-Associated Gas Hydrates (PAGH), InICE, Spatial Representation of Permafrost (PERMA-REQ), and Frozen Facts and Stories. While PERMA-REQ and Frozen Facts and Stories just started a few months ago, the other AGs reported significant progress, including PermHg database, PAGH field surveys, and a new ground ice map (InICE). In addition, the Frozen Facts and Stories announced a workshop in Spetses, Greece. The groups also discussed current scientific and organizational challenges facing their activities and future development.

The SC ([link](#)) session included updates from GTN-P, GAPHAZ, PYRN, RGIK, ANTPAS, and the International Advisory Committee. Representatives shared recent progress in scientific activities, international collaborations, workshops, datasets, outreach initiatives, and future plans related to permafrost research. The new GTN-P Data Platform ([link](#)), together with the redesigned website ([link](#)), has been officially launched. In addition, PYRN and GTN-P will organize workshops during ACOP 2026.

The IPA thanks the AGs for their important contribution to scientific and engineering topics, as well as to permafrost monitoring and outreach

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activities. Sincere thanks go to the SCs and their leaders for

their continuous commitment and support to the IPA.

Provided by: Isabelle Gärtner, Gonçalo Vieira, Lin Chen

IPY-5 Planning Group meeting

The Fifth International Polar Year (IPY-5) Planning Group successfully held a productive series of meetings in April, bringing together members and representatives involved in planning future IPY-5 activities. During the meetings, participants discussed key strategic priorities, future coordination mechanisms, and the development of the Vision and Priorities document, as well as the draft Endorsement Process.

The IPA actively participated in the discussions, contributing perspectives from the international permafrost research community and emphasizing the importance of strengthening collaboration on cryosphere, permafrost, and cold regions research within the future IPY framework. The executive

director of the IPA, Lin Chen, is representing the IPA in the IPY-5 Planning Group.

The discussions highlighted the importance of international collaboration, interdisciplinary polar research, and community engagement in shaping the future direction of the IPY-5 initiative.

In the upcoming months, national IPY-5 committees will be established, and the IPA would be very grateful to see colleagues actively involved in these activities and contributing to the planning and coordination of future IPY-5 initiatives.

Note: IPY-5 in 2032-33 aims to address urgent global challenges by advancing polar research, focusing on the impacts of climate change in the



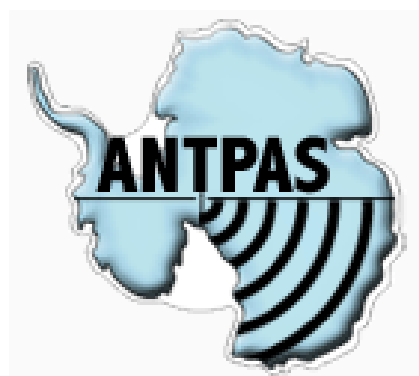
Arctic and Antarctic. This coordinated effort will bring together scientists, Indigenous knowledge holders, and global stakeholders to produce actionable insights for mitigating and adapting to environmental changes, while promoting international collaboration and inclusivity ([link](#)).

Provided by: Lin Chen

IPA Standing Committee: ANTPAS updates

The ANTPAS (Antarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments, [link](#)) Expert Group of SCAR prepared a questionnaire ([link](#)) for all the researchers active in Antarctica, as well as for those interested in starting Antarctic research activities. The questionnaire aims to improve the coordination and stimulation of activities within the ANTPAS community. In addition, the 2nd International

ANTPAS workshop will be held on 6 and 7 October at Insubria University in Varese. Researchers interested in completing the questionnaire and joining the ANTPAS mailing list are invited to contact (mauro.guglielmin@uninsubria.it). Those wishing to attend the workshop either in person or remotely are also encouraged to send an email before June 15, 2026.



Provided by: Mauro Guglielmin

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6th Chinese Conference on Frozen Soil Engineering and Cold Region Environments in Chongqing

The 6th Chinese Conference on Frozen Soil Engineering and Cold Region Environments was successfully held in Chongqing from May 8 to 10, 2026, under the theme “Engineering Resilience and Human Health in Extreme Environments.” Jointly hosted by the Committee of the China Society of Cryospheric Science and the Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the conference was co-organized by Chongqing Jiaotong University, the State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Science and Frozen Soil Engineering, the Permafrost and Cold Regions Engineering Committee of the Geographical Society of China, and several collaborating institutions. The conference attracted more than

600 participants, including experts, scholars, engineers, and graduate students from universities, research institutes, and engineering enterprises across China.

The scientific program featured 18 plenary keynote presentations and 198 technical session reports, including 40 invited talks. Discussions focused on frontier topics such as multi-physics modeling, intelligent construction and resilience enhancement of cold regions engineering, and life health protection in extreme environments. The conference highlighted recent advances in frozen soil mechanics, cold regions engineering, environmental protection, and disaster prevention technologies, while promoting

interdisciplinary integration and supporting major national strategies related to transportation infrastructure, ecological protection, polar exploration, and extreme environment engineering. Furthermore, a graduate student forum was held one day prior to the conference, featuring a total of 139 presentations.

Throughout the conference, researchers and engineers actively exchanged academic ideas and shared innovative research achievements, demonstrating the strong vitality and interdisciplinary potential of frozen soil engineering and cold regions environmental research.

Provided by: Wenbing Yu, Lin Chen, Guo Li



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Announcements

- **Applications for the IPA International Conference on Permafrost 2032 (ICOP2032):** The application process for hosting ICOP2032 is open until March 31, 2027. If any countries are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact reach out to the IPA Secretariat at secretariat@permafrost.org (c/o Lin Chen).
- **3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP) 2026:** ACOP2026, 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. More information is available at the ACOP website ([link](#)).
- **PYRN Workshop at ACOP2026:** PYRN Early Career Researcher (PYRN) workshop, will take place on June 28, 2026 (one day prior to the start of ACOP 2026). All Early Career

Researchers are welcome to join for an exciting lineup of speakers and the chance to connect with other ECRs at the conference. Registration is now open at the following [link](#).

- **GTN-P Workshop at ACOP 2026:** The Workshop will bring together researchers and regional experts to strengthen collaboration on permafrost monitoring across Asia. Presentations on Mongolian, Siberian, Tibetan, and Hindu Kush Himalayan permafrost will highlight current monitoring activities, key challenges, and opportunities for improved data sharing. Interactive breakout sessions will focus on harmonizing monitoring approaches, enhancing access to observations through the GTN-P Data Platform, and identifying priorities for future collaboration. The workshop aims to strengthen regional networks and support the

development of an integrated and openly accessible permafrost monitoring community in Asia. Visit the GTN-P webpage ([link](#)) for the agenda and workshop registration.

- **Antarctica InSync Implementation and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) Webinar:** The next webinar will take place on 30 June and 1 July 2026 ([link](#)). The same webinar will be offered on two different dates and times. This webinar will provide an overview of the Antarctica InSync implementation process and the development of SOPs to support coordinated international Antarctic observations. The programme combines short thematic presentations with interactive breakout discussions to encourage exchange between scientific communities, working groups, national programmes, logistics coordinators, and other interested participants.

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- **Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) Special Issue of Advances in Atmospheric Sciences (AAS):** WCRP's Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) is pleased to share an open call for contributions to the CliC Special Issue of AAS. Submissions

are open now! Visit cryosphere.info/AAS-26 for full details, including publication options and the grad student support form.

- **AI in Glaciology:** The International Glaciological Society (IGS) will prepare

a special collection of the Annals of Glaciology with the theme Artificial Intelligence in Glaciology. Information available at <https://www.igsoc.org/call-for-papers-ai-in-glaciology>

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PYRN Representative: Joseph Young

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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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