



International Permafrost Association

Opening note

Dear colleagues,

Time flies, and the 3rd ACOP, kindly hosted by the Institute of Geography and Geoecology of Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the Mongolian Permafrost Association, is already behind us. It was a truly fantastic event, perfectly organized to foster dynamic and successful exchanges among scientists and engineers from Asia and across the globe. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who shared their latest findings through presentations or posters. Early-career researchers, in particular, demonstrated the fantastic research they are conducting.

This newsletter is fully dedicated to celebrating the success of the conference. You will find comprehensive reports from the conference organizers, insights from attendees, and updates from representatives of key IPA standing committees—including GTN-P, PYRN, and RGIK—who hosted separate, highly engaging workshops.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation once again to the conference organizers.

We are deeply grateful to Jambaljav Yamkhin for his initiative to bring this prestigious event to Mongolia, as well as to our colleagues from Norway for their valuable support during the early stages of planning. Most notably, we express our profound gratitude to Avirmed Dashtseren and his dedicated team for the successful execution of the conference, including all integrated side events and excursions!

With deep gratitude to all who contributed to this success,

Isabelle and Gonçalo

3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP 2026)

The 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP 2026) was successfully held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 29 June to 2 July 2026, under the theme “Challenges Posed by Asian Permafrost Thaw to the Global Community.” Hosted by the Institute of Geography and Geoecology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the

Mongolian Permafrost Association under the auspices of the International Permafrost Association (IPA), ACOP 2026 brought together approximately 350 scientists, engineers, students, and practitioners from 23 countries to exchange the latest scientific knowledge and strengthen international collaboration in permafrost research.

The scientific programme featured 17 thematic sessions covering climate change and permafrost dynamics, cryohydrology, ecosystem responses, carbon cycling, geohazards, engineering in permafrost regions, remote sensing, numerical modelling, monitoring networks, and interactions between frozen ground and society. Participants delivered

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approximately 250 oral and poster presentations, highlighting new observations, methodological advances, and innovative approaches to understanding and managing rapidly changing permafrost environments.

Several side events enriched the scientific programme. On 28 June, the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) Workshop, the Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost (GTN-P) Workshop, and the Rock Glacier Inventories and Kinematics (RGIK) side meeting brought together early-career researchers and international experts to discuss monitoring strategies, data sharing, scientific networking, and future collaborative initiatives. These events provided valuable opportunities for capacity building and strengthened connections among the next generation of permafrost scientists.

One of the distinguishing features of ACOP 2026 was its strong support for early-career researchers. The Local Organizing Committee, together with the IPA, PYRN, and conference partners, provided travel and registration support to numerous young scientists. The Mongolian organizers awarded travel grants to 22 undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral researchers, while PYRN, together with the IPA, supported 22 additional early-career researchers from universities and research institutes across Asia, Europe, and North

America, enabling broader participation and international scientific exchange.

A significant scientific outcome of the conference was the agreement to publish selected contributions in a Special Issue of Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. This special issue will showcase high-quality research presented at ACOP 2026 and further disseminate recent advances in Asian and global permafrost science to the international research community.





Scientific field excursions formed an important component of the conference. More than 180 international participants joined excursions to the Khentii, Khangai, Khuvsgul, and Altai Mountains, where they observed Mongolia's diverse mountain permafrost environments, long-term monitoring sites, glaciers, cryogenic landforms, and the environmental impacts of permafrost degradation.

The conference also celebrated outstanding scientific achievements. During the closing ceremony, Professor Sebastian Westermann (University of Oslo, Norway) and Professor Tonghua Wu (Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China) were awarded the title of Honorary Doctor of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences in recognition of their internationally recognized scientific contributions and their long-standing collaboration with Mongolian researchers.

ACOP 2026 further strengthened international cooperation by providing a platform for discussions on expanding collaborative research projects, establishing joint laboratories, enhancing long-term monitoring programmes, and promoting capacity building in both fundamental and engineering permafrost science.

The successful organization of ACOP 2026 was the result of

more than a year of dedicated preparation by the Organizing Committee in close cooperation with the IPA. The conference was supported by session conveners, reviewers, numerous volunteers, partner institutions, sponsors, and members of the International Advisory Committee, whose collective efforts ensured the successful delivery of the largest Asian Conference on Permafrost held to date.

experience Mongolia's unique landscapes, nomadic culture, and rich natural heritage, fostering new friendships and strengthening international scientific networks.

The Organizing Committee sincerely thanks the IPA, the International Advisory Committee, all participating institutions, sponsors, volunteers, and every participant whose enthusiasm, expertise,



Participants expressed overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the high scientific quality of the programme, the excellent organization, and the warm hospitality of the Mongolian hosts. Beyond the scientific sessions, the conference provided opportunities to

and scientific contributions made ACOP 2026 a memorable and highly successful event.

With our sincere appreciation and warmest regards,

Provided by Dashtseren Avirmed

PYRN Workshop and Activities at the 3rd ACOP

The PYRN Executive Committee was honoured to host a wide range of activities for early career researchers (ECRs) at the 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost, held from June 28 to July 2, 2026, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The activities began with a pre-conference workshop attended by more than 50 ECRs. The workshop featured eight engaging presentations by permafrost scientists covering a diverse range of topics, including permafrost research in Mongolia, permafrost modelling, and

balancing Arctic fieldwork with parenthood.

We sincerely thank all the speakers who generously shared their time, knowledge, and experiences with the next generation of permafrost researchers:

- Dr. Dong Wang (Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Institute for Space-Earth Environmental Research, Nagoya University)
- Dr. Anna Irrgang (Alfred

Wegener Institute)

- Dr. Temuujin Khurelbaatar (Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences)
- Prof. Jocelyn Hayley (University of Calgary)
- Dr. Isabelle Gärtner-Roer (University of Zurich and IPA Co-President)
- Prof. Lin Chen (Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources, Chinese Academy of Sciences)
- Prof. Sebastian Westermann (University of Oslo)
- Dr. Helena Bergstedt (b.geos GmbH)



Figure 1: Early Career Researchers gathered for the PYRN workshop at ACOP 2026

Throughout the conference, PYRN also organized presentation, poster, and FrostByte competitions that were open to ECRs from all IPA member countries. The competitions showcased the

excellent and diverse research being conducted by emerging permafrost researchers. PYRN is pleased to recognize the winners and runners-up in each category.

Best Presentation:

Winner: Yan Hu, University of Fribourg
Seasonal Kinematic Behaviour of Alpine Rock Glaciers

Runner-Up: Samuel Lee,
University of Toronto
Investigating Surface and
Ground Water Flow During
the Winter at Kuparuk River,
Arctic Alaska, Combining
Near-surface Geophysics
and Cryo-hydrological Mod-
eling

Best Poster:

Winner: Kathrin Habegger,
University of Zurich
Intra-Seasonal Variation in
Water Temperature, Electrical
Conductivity, and
Isotopic Composition across
Two Periglacial Catchments
in the Swiss Alps

Runner-Up: Tom Larrue,
Université Savoie Mont-
Blanc and Alpes Ingé
Development of a Diagnostic
Method of Alpine Perma-
frost for Operational

Purposes: A Numerical
Modelling Approach

Best FastByte:

Winner: Maybrit Goldau,
Lund University and Agri-
cultural University of
Iceland
Palsa Mines in the Icelandic
Highlands

Runner-Up: Simone Marie
Stuenzi, Humboldt-Univer-
sität zu Berlin
Canopy Mediated Perma-
frost Carbon Vulnerability

Congratulations to all the
winners, runners-up, and
participants, and thank you
to everyone who contributed
to making the PYRN activi-
ties at ACOP 2026 a success.
Additional thanks are due to
the International Permafrost
Association for its financial
support of the workshop and

for its support of Early Car-
eer Researchers through
PYRN's broader mandate.
Thank you to the ACOP or-
ganizing committee for your
support in organizing the
early career activities
throughout the conference.
The Permafrost Young Re-
searchers Network is a
volunteer-led organization,
and its activities are made
possible due to the contribu-
tions of its executive
committee. Many thanks for
to the current executive com-
mittee for your efforts
supporting the activities of
the network.

Provided by Natalie Arpin

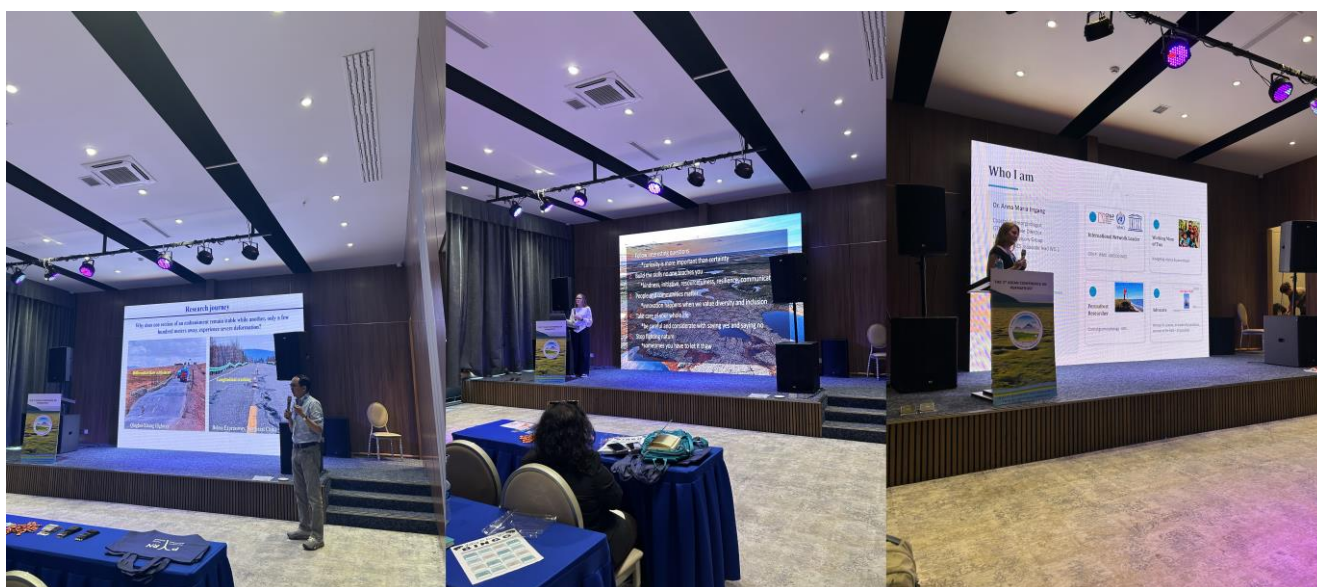


Figure 2: Speakers at the PYRN Workshop. From left to right: Prof. Lin Chen, Prof. Jocelyn Hayley, and Dr. Anna Irrgang



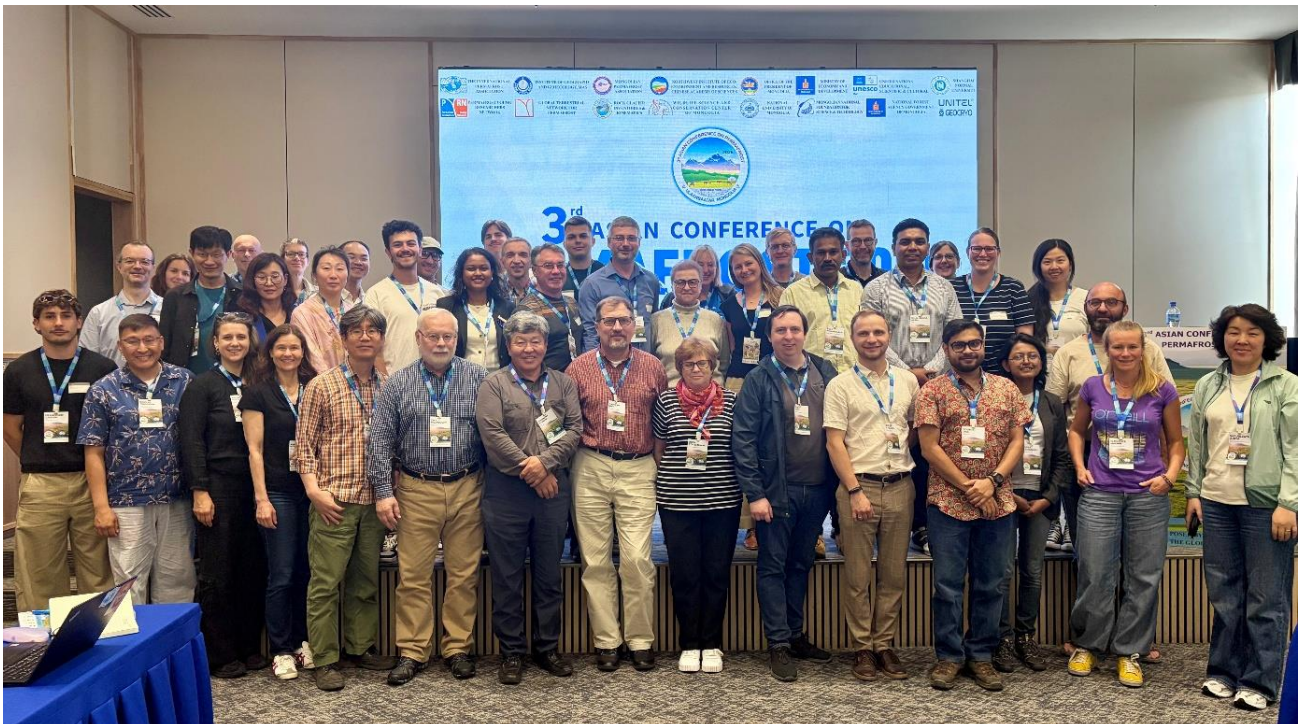
GTN-P Workshop at ACOP2026

The Third Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, was a highly productive week for the Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost (GTN-P). In addition to organizing a well-attended community workshop with **42 participants representing 18 countries**, GTN-P convened a scientific conference session, delivered an oral presentation, and was invited to contribute to the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) workshop. The workshop featured updates on GTN-P's international activities, regional presentations on

permafrost monitoring in Asia, demonstrations of the new GTN-P Data Platform, and discussions on strengthening regional data sharing and scientific collaboration. During the PYRN workshop, GTN-P Executive Director Anna Irrgang combined an introduction to GTN-P with personal reflections on balancing scientific career development and parenthood, fostering an open discussion on the opportunities and challenges of both. The strong participation in GTN-P's activities throughout the week

reflected the network's growing visibility within the international permafrost community and provided valuable opportunities to engage with both long-standing collaborators and the next generation of permafrost scientists. A full report on the GTN-P workshop is available on the GTN-P website ([link](#)).

Provided by Anna Irrgang





RGIK Workshop at ACOP2026

On Sunday 28th of June, the Rock Glacier Inventories and Kinematics (RGIK) IPA Standing Committee organised a side-meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in synergy with the 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP). The event was open to anyone interested to learn about the RGIK initiative. About 20 people from Asia, Europe and North America attended the two-hours session. After an introduction on RGIK objectives, past activities and upcoming

events, Dr. Avirmed Dashtseren, chair of the ACOP conference, gave a presentation on his ongoing research on rock glaciers in Mongolia. The remaining time was dedicated to an open discussion on the RGIK future priorities. We talked about the strategy to enhance the Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV) data production and compilation, in collaboration with GTN-P, and the plan to organise an RGV-dedicated workshop in summer-fall 2027. We also took

the opportunity of the participation of several people from the Asian community to discuss ways to further develop RGIK activities in this region and strengthen the global representativity of the community. We rose the idea of creating a group of national correspondents to coordinate the activities and enhance the user uptake at the regional level.

Provided by Line Rouyet

Announcements

• **IPA in the ICARP IV:** The Fourth International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP IV) is a community-driven process coordinated by IASC to identify priorities for Arctic research over the coming decade. IPA has been involved in the steering committee. The final results of the ICARP IV process is now published; the **ICARP IV Final Outcomes Report** and the seven **ICARP IV Research Priority Teams Reports** (download reports [here](#)). The next phase is now beginning with the establishment of an ICARP IV Implementation Committee, which will oversee implementation from autumn 2026 until

spring 2031, and the IPA has been invited to be part of the committee. If you are interested in the IPA's engagement in ICARP IV and would like to contribute ideas etc, please contact the IPA the IPA Secretariat, [secretariat\(at\)permafrost.org](mailto:secretariat(at)permafrost.org).

• **III International Scientific and Practical Conference on Geotechnical Engineering in Cold Regions** will be held in Moscow, Russia, from 10–12 February 2027. Further information, including details on registration, abstract submission, and the conference program, will be available on the conference website ([link](#)).

• **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** has opened the call for abstracts for the international conference: Advancing Science, Policy, and Regional Cooperation in the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025–2034). The conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 25–27 November 2026. Abstract submission deadline: 30 July 2026. For further information and to submit your abstract, please visit the ICIMOD Call for Abstracts page ([link](#)).

• **2nd International Workshop on Antarctic permafrost, periglacial**



processes and soils • (ANTPAS): The workshop will be held in Varese, Italy, on 6–7 October 2026, under the theme "Relaunching Antarctic Research on Permafrost and Soils." For all the attendants (including also the pre-registered people), please submit the abstract according the template to mauro.guglielmin@uninsubria.it before 1st September 2026, and provide the payment according the specifications reported below.

A new book, **Secrets from the Antarctic Dry Valleys**, has recently been published. After decades of scientific research in Antarctica, through stunning photography and scientific insight, soil scientist Dr Iain Campbell outlines in his recently published book, **Secrets from the Antarctic Dry Valleys**, some of the unique features found in the extreme cold, arid and timeless landscapes of this part of Antarctica. Features of

the three main valley systems, landscape age which in places date to more than 15 million years, rock weathering and soil evolution, patterned ground and the effect of wind in shaping rocks and land surfaces are among the topics that are illustrated with more than 220 pictures in this book. Copies of this book can be obtained through: realnzbooks.co.nz or through the author, ibcinnz@gmail.com.

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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)**.