International Permafrost Association

Opening note

Dear colleagues,

October is almost finished and yet another newsletter with interesting IPA activities is online! Our Standing Committees have been very active in the last weeks and it is excellent to be able to share with you news from the "Rock Glacier Inventories & Kinematics" SC (RGIK), from the "Education and Outreach" SC and, from the "Antarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments" SC (ANTPAS). In addition, the Action Group on "Frozen Facts and Stories" presents its report and highlights a new product that is being prepared and that will be presented this Boreal Winter. You may also read about the JRC Frost-Quake Workshop held in Ispra, Italy, bringing together scientists and policy makers from Europe to discuss "Critical infrastructure resilience and security in the Arctic" and exploring synergies with projects and initiatives.

We thank you for your continued engagement with the IPA and remind you that we are continuously open to receiving member contributions for the newsletter.

Best wishes,

Isabelle and Gonçalo

Rock Glacier Inventories and Kinematics (RGIK)

The RGIK IPA Standing Committee had an active summer, highlighted by our presence at the 3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP 2026) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. On 28 June 2026, RGIK hosted an open side-meeting with ~20 international attendees to discuss Rock Glacier Velocity (RGV) data integration with GTN-P, plans for a dedicated RGV workshop in Summer/Autumn 2027, and strategies to broaden Asian representation through regional correspondents. RGIK Executive Committee members also chaired the conference session 'Mountain Cryosphere Landforms in a Warming Climate: Rock Glaciers and Beyond',featuring diverse regional research on rock glaciers as well as other mountain permafrost landforms. In parallel, technical and organisational development continues across our working groups. The Rock Glacier Inventory (RoGI) Working Group is finishing the work on compiling new RoGI exercises in diverse environments around the globe. It also develops practical appendices illustrating activity categorisation, data quality

Co-Presidents:
Dr. Isabelle Gärtner-Roer and Dr. Gonçalo Vieira
Members:
Dr. Lukas Arenson, Dr. Kjersti Gisnås
Dr. Fujun Niu, Dr. John Thornley, and Saskia Eppinger

Executive Director:
Dr. Lin Chen
State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Science and Frozen Soil Engineering
Northwest Institute of Eco-Environment and Resources
Chinese Academy of Sciences
secretariat@permafrost.org
www.permafrost.org

variations, and landform differentiation, as well as hands-on training exercises for applying RGIK guidelines to low resolution data. Concurrently, the RGV Working Group is finalising technical recommendations for three methodological subgroups (in-situ, optical, and radar) to supplement the RGV practical guidelines. A centralised RGIK database prototype from our Data Management Working Group is targeting a Spring/Summer 2027 launch, while our EDI Working Group is advancing accessible format materials, early-career training resources, and equity-focused initiatives. Looking ahead, RGIK will host a session, 'Open Session on Rock Glaciers: Bridging Regional Data Gaps through Equitable Monitoring and Collaborative Science', and a full-day, in-person workshop, 'Multi-Sensor Kinematics for Alpine Hazards: A Comprehensive Workflow for Global Rock Glacier and Alpine Slope Monitoring', at the AGU Fall Meeting 2026 in San Francisco, USA. To stay up to date with our latest developments, events, and guidelines, visit the RGIK Website!

Provied by Mishelle Wehbe

Education and Outreach

Permafrost was featured for the first time at the annual Forskar Fredag (Researchers Night) in Stockholm last September. About 2,500 high school students attended the interactive science fair, participatory workshops, and live science shows. Stockholm University organized two activities. At the Vetenskapens Hus (House of Science) PhD student Larissa Frey and Master's student and student ambassador Joshua Hellmann led the hands-on permafrost workshop. A class of 17–18-year-old high-school students divided into groups to build "permafrost columns" from crushed ice, soil, and sand, placing vegetation on top to simulate a natural surface. Each group was assigned a different mix—reflecting a series of permafrost soil conditions across the Arctic—and added miniature 3D-printed houses. These tiny settlements demonstrated how thawing ground can destabilize ecosystems, jeopardize critical infrastructure, and affect livelihoods of indigenous communities. Then these students attended a seminar by Prof. Gustaf Hugelius. He shared stories from the field, touched on climate policy, and answered student questions ranging from wildlife encounters to the pace of warming. At the end, it was revealed where each group's model "community" would be located on a map, connecting their classroom experiments to the Arctic.



Meanwhile, at the science fair at the AlbaNova University Centre, PhD student Saskia Laübli and Master's student ambassadors Greta Tödtmann, Julia Wenhuda, and Niccoló Mattiotti welcomed visitors to a permafrost exhibit. Alongside a clear soil-ice-sand column and a "real" permafrost sample, the team presented an interactive carbon stock display—

illustrating how vast permafrost carbon reserves are locked in frozen ground and why their thaw matters for global climate. Images from Arctic field campaigns completed the exhibit, prompting conversations about how scientists study permafrost and monitor change. Through these activities, scientists highlighted the importance of permafrost in a warming world—bringing the Arctic into students' hands and generating dialogue about our Earth.

The IPA Standing Committee on Education and Outreach coordinates and promotes permafrost edution and outreach to all generations across the globe. Links and materials to host similar classroom activities, as well as to additional resources for individuals and communities can be found at https://ipa.arcticportal.org/about-the-ipa/standing-committees/education-outreach.

Provided by Anna E. Klene



Antarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments (ANTPAS)

The SCAR ANTPAS (Antarctic Permafrost, Soils and Periglacial Environments) meeting, recently held in Varese (Italy, October 6–7), saw the participation from international researchers, as well as early-career scientists. The two-day event featured oral presentations and dedicated discussions on strategies to enhance the group's visibility and networking.



Both in-person and online participants agreed to relaunch ANTPAS within SCAR with refreshed objectives. Specifically, focus will be placed on:
- Engaging early-career researchers
- Ensuring a strong presence at upcoming international conferences (such as ICOP 2028 and SCAR 2028)
- Promoting activities via social media and webinars
- Strengthening connections among future scientific publications

To drive this renewal, Dr. Stefano Ponti (Italy), Dr.

Paula Matos (Portugal), and Prof. Carlos Schaefer (Brazil) have stepped forward to co-lead the group. Their goal is to relaunch ANTPAS both within SCAR (as an Expert Group) and within the International Permafrost Association (IPA, as a Standing Committee). They will be supported by a renewed Steering Committee composed of early-career researchers and senior experts, each assigned to specific tasks. The diverse backgrounds of the three co-leaders will foster a truly multidisciplinary approach to Antarctic systems across periglacial environments (including ecosystems, soils, vegetation, microbiota, and more).

Do you work in Antarctica or Sub-Antarctica? Join our network!

contact reference: stefano.ponti@uninsubria.it

Provided by Gonçalo Vieira, Ponti Stefano, Carlos Schaefer & Paula Sofia Antunes Matos

Frozen Facts and Stories

Frozen Facts and Stories aims at developing visually engaging and impactful communication products, including fact sheets, infographics, presentation toolkits, and educational materials. These outputs are designed to make permafrost research more accessible, highlighting its societal relevance and supporting informed responses to rapid environmental change.

A first in-person workshop took place on 18 May on the island of Spetses, Greece. We have been working on developing factsheets together with three other projects, which are the EU-funded ILLUQ project, the Google.org-funded Permafrost Discovery Gateway and the PeTCaT project funded by Schmidt Sciences. During the workshop, we collected inputs on the drafts from community members, early career researchers and scientific advisory boards to ensure factual accuracy and relevance to our target audiences. By working together, we have been able to leverage existing capacities,expertise, and partnerships to accelerate the new initiative and to maximize impact. Back at our home institutions, we are currently







translating the outcomes of our discussions into finalized fact sheets and infographics, which will be the first tangible outputs of the IPA Action Group "Frozen Facts and Stories". Stay tuned for their release in Winter 2026/27.

Provided by Josefine Lenz & Michael Fritz

JCR FROST-QUAKE workshop

On September 24-25, 2026, a workshop was held in Ispra, Italy, bringing together scientists and policy makers from Europe to discuss **"Critical infrastructure resilience and security in the Arctic"** and exploring synergies with projects and initiatives. It was the closing event of the FROST-QUAKE project (Climate change impact on critical infrastructure in the northern hemisphere: thawing permafrost in earthquake-prone areas), established at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and organized in view of the EU's actions towards a more climate-resilient Arctic. The session topics span from "climate change and geological hazards", over "novel technologies and machine learning methods" to "science for policy developments", with a focus on industrial infrastructures, energy security and societal resilience. The presentations and discussions demonstrated the importance of

-availability of environmental data,

-profound assessments of risks and resilience of Arctic infrastructure, and

-international cooperation (scientists and decision makers).

There are clear opportunities for continued and future collaboration with the permafrost community.

Provided by Isabelle Gärtner-Roer

Announcements

Call for Papers: Eco-Environment & Engineering is a new international academic journal. The journal advances harmonious human-nature coexistence through interdisciplinary research in ecology, environmental science, and engineering. It welcomes restoration-oriented studies spanning ecological design and monitoring, cold- and arid-region ecology, saline-alkaline ecosystems, glaciology, permafrost, conservation, bioengineering, river and mine rehabilitation, and AI-assisted remote sensing. Submit your manuscript through the link below.

Call for THAW proposal workshop in Yellowknife: Applications are open for the ICDP-sponsored THAW Workshop titled "Thawing of permafrost and cryosphere-associated gas hydrates by Arctic warming," scheduled for February 24–27, 2027, in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada. The deadline for mini proposals for attendance is due on October 31st. More information can be found through the 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. For further information, please visit the ICIMOD Call for Abstracts page (link).

"AI + High-Performance Computing + Atmospheric Sciences" Training Opportunity: University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) is conducting a new research training initiative in AI applied to atmospheric sciences and using high-performance computing as a vital tool in Spring 2027. Open to graduate students, postdocs & junior faculty at U.S. institutions. The application deadline is Monday, 01/04/2027. More information can be found through the link. For further information or inquiries, please contact cybertraining@umbc.edu.

International Physics Competition 2026: The International Physics Competition (IPhC) 2026 invites students from around the world to challenge themselves with engaging physics problems, strengthen their analytical thinking, and deepen their understanding of fundamental physical concepts. This year's prizes include special prizes for top performers worth upwards of 1500 USD. The submission deadline for this year's Qualification Round is already Sunday, 1 November 2026. Resources such as problem sets, flyers, and posters can be accessed on our website: https://iphyc.org. Don't miss the opportunity to take part in this international physics challenge! If you have any questions or need additional information, reach out to us at outreach@iphyc.org.

Editorial Board

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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)**.