



International Permafrost Association

Opening note

Dear colleagues,

Following March equinox and seasons shifting, the end of the summer Antarctic research campaigns, and with light starting to illuminate the Arctic, it is time for the March Newsletter. As you will read, our Association has been very active. The new Action Group PERMAREQ has just initiated its activities, aiming to contribute to bridge gaps between remote sensing, modeling and permafrost field data, a very needed contribution, to better link good

quality science to policy and decision making. PYRN continues to consolidate and to bring essential contribution to permafrost conferences, as shown by their participation in the 16th DACH Permafrost conference, with 45 participants. The IPA is also consolidating its involvement in key international activities and organizations. In February, the IPA has co-sponsored and organized sessions at the CliC meeting in New Zealand, and in March it was represented at the launch event of the Decade of

Action for Cryospheric Sciences (2025-2034) in Paris. It is a pleasure and a honour to serve the lively IPA community and to count with your involvement to the success of our association. Thanks to all!

We look forward for disseminating further news on IPA's international and national activities.

Best regards,

Isabelle and Gonçalo

PYRN Update

The Permafrost Young Researcher Network (PYRN) branch of Germany (D), Austria (A) and Switzerland (CH) was very happy to welcome more than 45 participants for a PYRN workshop at 16th DACH Permafrost Conference in Seddiner See near Potsdam, Germany. Over 100 participants gathered for a series of excellent talks and poster presentations in addition to workshop

presentations from Dr. Josefine Lenz (Alfred Wegener Institute Potsdam, AWI), Volker Rachold (German Arctic Office) and Dr. Mathias Ulrich (German Environment Agency – Umweltbundesamt). Thanks also to Geo.X network and the Förderverein Alfred Wegener Institute for financial support. Congratulations to the winner of the Best Presentation Award Mehriban Aliyeva (AWI) and

the runner up Lars Ebel (AWI) as well as the winner for the Best Poster Award Maïke Offer (Technical University of Munich) and the two runner ups Suzanna Ohl (AWI) and Joshua Hellmann (Stockholm University). Thank you to Jens Straus (AWI Potsdam) as representative for the conference organizing team for their great work and their support for ECRs.

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Figure 1 Participants and Speaker of the PYRN workshop at the 16th DACH permafrost conference (Photo Credit: Jens Strauss)

Looking forward, the committee is currently planning the early career researcher activities at the upcoming ACOP and is excited to announce that there will be a full-day workshop taking place. If you are planning on attending ACOP, we encourage you to also consider

attending this preconference event. More details are to come regarding registration and the event program.

Stay in the loop on upcoming events from PYRN by following us on social media (@PYRN_official on Instagram

and X) and by becoming a PYRN member at: <https://pyrn.arcticportal.org/>.

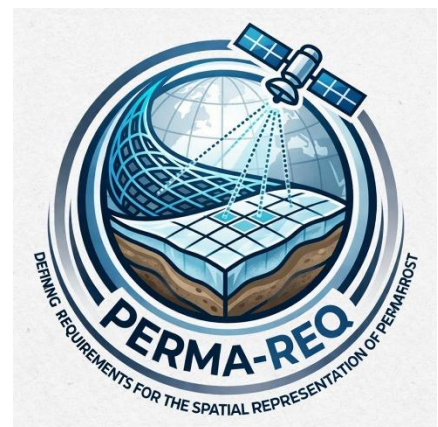
We have upcoming workshops and more to be announced. Find more information on PYRN's social media channels.

Provided by: Natalie Arpin

IPA Action Group: Spatial Representation of Permafrost

In our changing climate, robust information on the spatial distribution of permafrost becomes increasingly critical for understanding impacts such as ground instability and carbon release. Our Action Group "PERMA-REQ - Defining requirements for the spatial representation of permafrost" focuses on addressing current gaps in how permafrost extent is defined, represented, and integrated into global observation and modelling frameworks.

Bringing together expertise from in situ monitoring, remote sensing, and modelling communities, the initiative will review and refine existing concepts of gridded permafrost representation. Particular attention will be given to developing clear, scale-independent definitions of permafrost extent and establishing requirements that are compatible with diverse data sources, including satellite observations and Earth system models. In addition, we will



work on approaches to better characterize and communicate uncertainties, ensuring that

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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

Launching the Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences 2025-2034 (DACS)

In 2024, United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim the period 2025 to 2034 as the **Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences (DACS)** to address the challenges associated with changes to the cryosphere by advancing related research and monitoring. DACS started with the **International Year of Glaciers' Preservation (2025)** and will end with the **International Polar Year 2032/33**. UNESCO is leading the implementation of the DACS in collaboration with other relevant organizations and organized a meeting at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on March 18/19 launching the decade with dedicated sessions and side events.

The **motivation** to launch this action relates to the observed rapid changes of the global cryosphere and the connected environmental, social and economic impacts of the loss of cryospheric elements and its impacts on freshwater and oceans. These observations call



for an integrated cryospheric monitoring and modelling, as overarching **challenges** are global cryosphere monitoring, actionable cryosphere prediction, cryospheric risk management solutions, and adaptation strategies to cryosphere loss. The **synergies of DACS and IPY-5** are clearly stated:

- Shared scientific mission
- Full cryosphere perspective linking polar and high-mountain regions
- Coordinated international framework for cryosphere research
- Coordinated cryosphere observations
- Respectful integration of scientific, indigenous and local knowledge systems

- Capacity building and long-term scientific legacy

This framework is a good reason and occasion to become involved, and support coordinated research and outreach on permafrost and beyond, e.g. by coordinating and linking meetings and initiatives across the cryosphere community. The IPA would like to see individual IPA members as well as IPA communities (PYRN, GTN-P, etc.) actively involved in the **ACTIONS** and supports related activities. The call for expressions of interest in the DACS governing structures is still open until March 31 ([link](#)).

Provided by: Isabelle Gärtner-Roer, IPA Co-president

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Climate and the Cryosphere Open Science Conference, Wellington, New Zealand

Climate and the Cryosphere (CliC) is a scientific steering group of the World Meteorological Organization's World Climate Research Program. Last month, CliC held an Open Science Conference (OSC) in Wellington, attended by over 400 people from 37 countries. The conference was a pan-cryospheric gathering focused on "The Changing Cryosphere: Science, Impacts, and Adaptation". The primary emphasis of CliC's work in the last decade has been on the ice sheets of Antarctica and sea ice. The societal consequence of greatest concern has been sea level rise. In the last two years, especially, the CliC committee has recognized that change in the cryosphere is directly affecting communities in high mountains and in permafrost environments. The IPA co-sponsored the OSC. We provided one of the opening plenary speakers, a special session, contributions to the poster sessions, and held two special meetings.

Our most prominent contribution was the opening talk presented by Douglas Esagok of the Inuvialuit Game Council, *Perspectives on climate change effects in Canada's western Arctic*. Doug is well known to the permafrost community working in the western Arctic. He is a hunter, trapper, and

reindeer herder, whose personal observations of changes to the permafrost landscape due to climate change in the last 30 years were presented from the perspective of a person who is on the land daily. He described and presented data from four aspects of work in which he has been a key participant: monitoring permafrost conditions; observing development of disturbances; reporting incidences of landslides; and studying the death of vegetation, all in the Mackenzie delta area, and all associated with the changing cryosphere. It was an outstanding example of co-production of scientific knowledge resonating across the theme of the opening session of the conference. Doug's attendance was enabled by the conference and co-sponsors Polar Knowledge Canada and the CPA.

The IPA's special session was balanced to represent our capacity in science and engineering and the diverse geographical and societal nature of our community. The invited speakers gave precise and detailed talks that stimulated many questions. The presentations were by Sunil Kumar De (India), President of our partner the International Association for Geomorphology, Elizaveta Sharaborova (ECR, Switzerland), Ed Yarmak (USA), Ryley



Beddoe (Canada), Nitin Chaudhary (Sweden), and Annett Bartsch (Austria). Earl de Guzman (Canada) spoke in the Special Session on Hazards and Infrastructure. Together, these presentations covered the sustainability of community and transportation infrastructure (Ed, Ryley, Earl), including in high mountains (Sunil), permafrost thermal regimes, again in high mountains (Elizaveta), carbon dynamics (Nitin), and teleconnections in Northern Hemisphere climate affecting permafrost (Annett).

The IPA also sponsored two early evening workshops, at the first we heard synopses of posters from Sunil Kumar De (India), Robyn Starycki (Canada), Piotr Owczarek (Poland), Hristo Popov (Bulgaria), Astrid Schetselaar (Canada), Kai Yang (China), and Chris Burn (Canada). This workshop, held the night before the poster session, acted as a permafrost ice breaker for us to meet each other outside the formal sessions. The second workshop

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featured a very interesting, invited presentation by Jon Tunnicliffe, the senior permafrost scientist of New Zealand, on the impact of thaw slump development on sediment budgets in NW Canada.

CliC is conscious that permafrost issues have been under-

represented in its recent activities, notwithstanding its support for the Permafrost Carbon Network. The CliC committee will support an activity tied to community sustainability from 2027, and this year we must develop plans that may be contained within the budget constraints faced throughout

the WMO. More details on this initiative will be published as they become available.

Provided by: Chris Burn & Ed Yarmak

IPA EC

Announcements

- **Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences 2025-2034 (DACS):** The call for expressions of interest in the DACS governing structures is still open until March 31 ([link](#)).
- **IPA Travel Grants to ACOP – Registration now open!** We invite early-career permafrost researchers 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. Contact: GTN-P Office (gtnp-office@awi.de)
- **Polar Climate Space:** A hackathon to advance polar science with earth observation and climate models. Participation is free and some support for travel and accommodation is available for those who need it. Registration is open via the following links for Early Career Researchers ([link](#)) and Senior Researchers ([link](#)).
- **AGU26 Session Proposals Now Open:** This December, AGU26 returns to San Francisco, California (December 7 -11) with the theme: Where Science Connects. The proposal deadline is April 22, 2026.
- **IACS support requests for workshops and events:** The International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) co-sponsors cryosphere-related workshop, educational or other events that further the IACS Objectives and align with the remits of IACS divisions, up to a maximum of 3,000 Euros per event. The deadline is April 1, 2026. The guidelines and application form are available at the [link](#).
- **Arctic Data Center Science Advisory Board:** The NSF Arctic Data Center is seeking three new members to serve three-year terms on our Science Advisory Board. The Science Advisory Board provides advice and leadership regarding the goals and strategic priorities of the Center and evaluates the progress and quality of Center deliverables and services. We seek nominations and self-nominations from any community members that are supported by and impacted by Arctic Data Center operations. For more information and to nominate yourself or others, please see the nomination form here ([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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