



International Permafrost Association

Opening note

Welcome to 2026, a year that again offers many opportunities for collaboration on permafrost science and engineering and for related meetings!

First of all, we congratulate GTN-P for its new website and data platform, which is the most important access point to permafrost data! Our sincere thanks go to the GTN-P Office, the Steering Committee and to AWI as the hosting institute.

Please take notice of the open call from the IPA Awards Committee regarding open positions in the Executive Committee and the Lifetime Achievement Award (see announcements). In addition, be aware of changed deadlines for the ACOP (see details below).

The new year started already with some important events related to permafrost science and engineering - in our February

newsletter you will hear more about these.

We are looking forward to this year and hope to meet many of you in one or several occasions.

Happy reading and best regards,

Isabelle & Gonalo

32nd Council meeting

The 32nd Council meeting was convened online on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 at 3:00 pm (Zurich time). The Co-Presidents, Isabelle Grtner-Roer and Gonalo Vieira, welcomed the IPA Council and guest colleagues organizing the next ACOP2026, ICOP2028, and EUCOP2032. Before starting the meeting, all the EC and council members did a brief introduction.

The Co-Presidents reported on the votes for two new members (India and the Czech Republic),

the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, the IPA Newsletter, and a meeting with representatives of all Action Groups and Standing Committees. The organizers then provided updates on ACOP2026 (Florence, Italy, 25–30 June 2028), ICOP2028 (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 28 June–2 July 2026), and EUCOP7 (Wrocaw, Poland, 17–22 June 2030).

Furthermore, IPA Secretariat, Lin Chen, presented an overview of the IPA's income

structure and expenditures, including a summary of annual income, expenditures, balances, and the status of IPA membership dues by country. Ed Yarmak also introduced the current status of IPA membership dues and the overall funding situation, and presented a proposal to increase the IPA dues.

In addition, Chris Burn presented that two EC members, Ed Yamak and Fujian Niu, will complete their terms in June 2026, creating two vacancies to

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Dr. Fujun Niu, Ed Yarmak and Joseph Young

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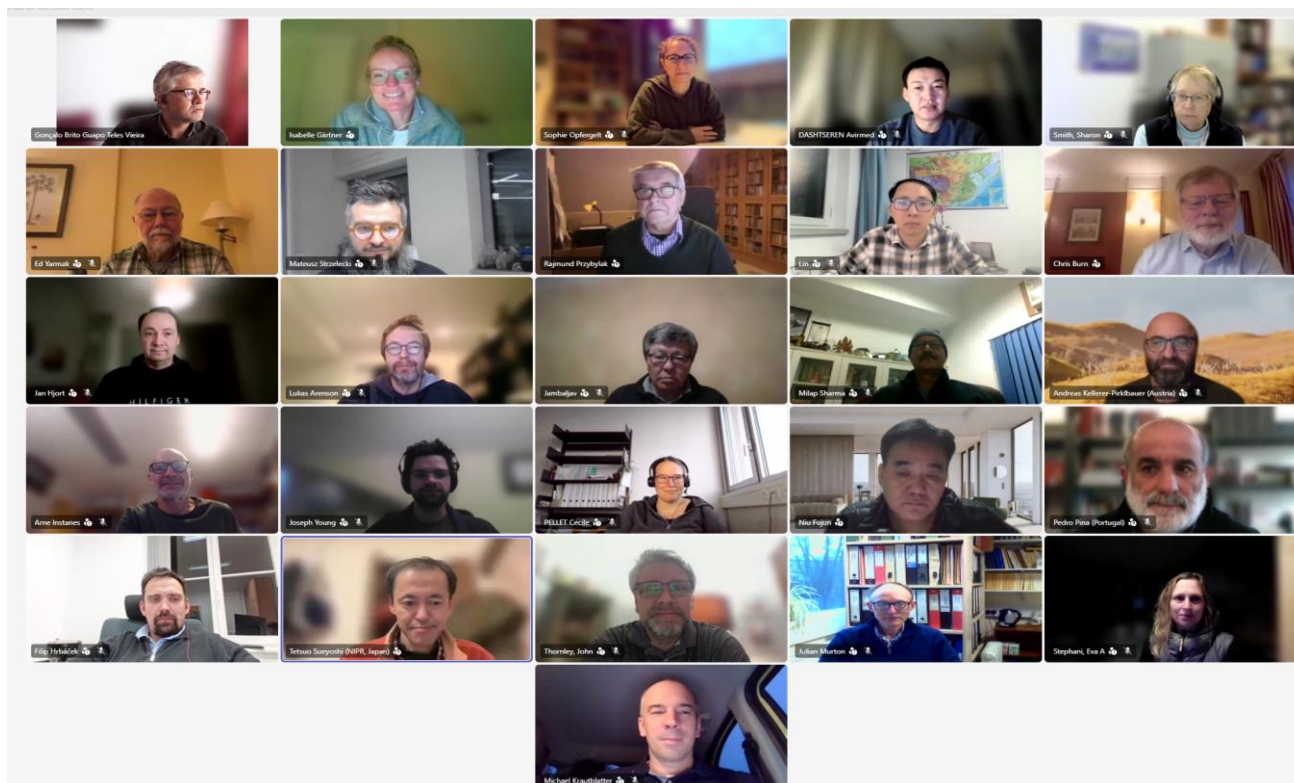
be filled in the upcoming election. Finally, Gonalo Vieira

provided an overview of the Lifetime Achievement Award, noting that the next award is scheduled to be presented at

ACOP in 2026. Please send both your nominations for Executive Committee members and for the Lifetime Achievement Award to the IPA Secretariat at secretariat@permafrost.org (c/o Lin Chen)

before February 15, 2026. Additional details can be found on the IPA website ([link](#)).

Provided by Lin Chen



3rd Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP2026)

The abstract submission process for the Third Asian Permafrost Conference (ACOP 2026), to be held in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, from June 28 to July 2, 2026, has now been completed.

A total of 363 scientists and researchers from 25 countries have submitted their abstracts to participate in the conference.

The organizing committee is currently working on abstract review and classification, the organization of the 18 thematic sessions, and the preparation of the detailed conference program.

Due to the large number of expected participants, ongoing preparatory work, and requests



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from attendees, the deadlines for conference registration and travel grant applications for ACOP 2026 have been extended until February 15.

We sincerely thank all scientists and researchers who have submitted their contributions to the Third Asian Permafrost Conference.

We look forward to welcoming you to Mongolia.

Provided by Avirmed-Dashtseren

Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN)

Looking towards the new year, there are lots of exciting activities on the horizon for the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN). 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 on June 28th, 2026. If you are planning on attending ACOP, we encourage you to also consider attending this pre-conference event. More details are to come with regard to registration and the event program. Funding will also be available for ECRs planning on attending the upcoming conference and details will be distributed

shortly. Make sure to pay attention to the conference website and the PYRN mailing list for more details on applying.

PYRN has also partnered with SEDNA (formerly PermaIntern), a platform being developed with funding from UArctic to connect students with permafrost internships. The platform is always looking for additional hosts and students to take part in internships, whether from academic institutions or industry. More information can be found on the website ([link](#)) and student experiences are highlighted in the following article ([link](#)).



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 the website ([link](#)).

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

Provided by Natalie Arpin

GTN-P Launches State-of-the-Art Data Platform

On January 19, 2026, the Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost (GTN-P) reached a major milestone with the official launch of its new data platform and website. This release is the culmination of three years of intensive reorganization, design, and coding by researchers from the Permafrost Section at the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI)

in Potsdam, where the GTN-P Office is based.

The new GTN-P Data Platform, now permanently hosted at the AWI Computing and Data Center, is designed for long-term reliability and scalability. It features a user-friendly frontend that allows the public and scientific community to explore, filter, visualize, and

download permafrost data. Registered users have access to a dedicated backend for uploading, managing, and updating datasets along with their associated metadata. A well-documented API enables seamless programmatic access to the network's extensive data resources. In addition, an ID Resolver ensures stable,

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persistent links to all measurement sites and datasets, supporting long-term accessibility and interoperability.

GTN-P serves as the leading international program for long-term monitoring, encompassing 1,386 boreholes for temperature measurement and 256 active layer sites across the Arctic, Antarctic, and high mountain regions. These high-quality datasets are essential for regional to global climate projections.

Looking ahead, the platform will continue to expand through the PeTCaT project (2025–



2030). Future developments will focus on standardizing data products, integrating Rock Glacier Velocity data, and strengthening engagement with the GTN-P community.

We invite you to visit the new website at <https://www.gtn-p.org/> and Data Platform at <https://data.gtn-p.org/>.

Provided by GTN-P Office

Frozen Ground 48

Frozen Ground 48 is now available online and can be accessed through the IPA website ([link](#)). We warmly thank all contributors for their valuable efforts in making this issue possible.

Chen, L., Gärtner-Roer I., Vieira G., and Burn, C.R. (eds.) 2025. Frozen Ground 48 (2024). International Permafrost Association (IPA). DOI: [10.52381/IPA.FG482025.1](https://doi.org/10.52381/IPA.FG482025.1).

Frozen Ground became the official News Bulletin of the International Permafrost Association in December 1989. It was preceded by five numbered newsletters between May 1986



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and April 1989 that were prepared and distributed by the IPA Secretary General J. Ross Mackay. The early history and evolution the IPA is recorded in these newsletters. From 1997-

2009 a single, printed annual issue was prepared. Starting in 2010, Frozen Ground was prepared and distributed in electronic format by the IPA Secretariats. Frozen

Ground 48 is now available on the IPA website ([link](#)).

Provided by Lin Chen

Announcements

Open positions in the Executive Committee and the Lifetime Achievement Award:

Please send both your nominations for Executive Committee members and for the Lifetime Achievement Award to the IPA Secretariat at secretariat@permafrost.org (c/o Lin Chen) before February 15, 2026. More information is available at the IPA website ([link](#)).

ACOP2026: The deadlines for Early Bird Registration and Travel Grant applications have been extended to 15 February 2026 ([link](#)).

SCAR Open Science Meeting in Oslo (10-14 August 2026): Abstract submission deadline is 28 February 2026 ([link](#)). More general info can be found on the website ([link](#)).

PermaCOST PhD Training School on "Tools for Tracking Periglacial Change": The application deadline is March 15, 2026. The Notification of Acceptance is March 30, 2026. More information can be found at the website ([link](#)). Please submit your queries and applications to [info\(at\)permacost.eu](mailto:info(at)permacost.eu).

Arctic Observing Summit 2026: The Arctic Observing Summit 2026 will take place in Aarhus, Denmark, from 30 March to 1 April 2026, with poster abstracts due by 6 February 2026.

CliC Open Science Conference: The Climate and Cryosphere Open Science Conference 2026, themed "The Changing Cryosphere: Science, Impacts, and Adaptation," will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 9 to 12 February 2026.

Editorial Board

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PYRN Representative: Joseph Young
Secretariat – Executive Director: Lin Chen

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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