



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Introduction

THIS YEAR WAS THE POOLNACHT VAN GRONINGEN FESTIVAL YEAR (THE POLAR NIGHT OF GRONINGEN FESTIVAL). THE ORGANISATION OF THIS BIG POLAR FESTIVAL TOOK UP MOST OF THE **WBPI** COORDINATORS' TIME AND TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT SUCCESS. THE EVENT RECEIVED A LOT OF MEDIA ATTENTION AND THE ACTIVITIES WERE WELL ATTENDED. WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE ACHIEVED AND CAN HAPPILY RECALL A GREAT EVENT. IN THIS REPORT WE WILL LOOK BACK AT THE POOLNACHT VAN GRONINGEN WHICH TOOK PLACE FROM THE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER 2010 TILL THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY 2011. ALTHOUGH THE FINAL PART OF THIS FESTIVAL TOOK PLACE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2011, WE HAVE ELECTED TO GIVE A REPORT OF THE WHOLE FESTIVAL HERE. BUT WE WILL BEGIN WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE OTHER ACTIVITIES WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 2010.

Communication

The **WBPI** published two editions of the *Pooljournaal* and sent out several news mails to the Polar researchers. The *Pooljournaal* has 215 subscribers. The website www.wbpolar.nl had 3.393 unique (i.e. different) visitors between 01-01-2010 and 31-12-2010.

Activities

WBPI Writing Week April 2010

The aim of this week was firstly to give researchers an opportunity to work on their own articles in a stimulating environment. Secondly, researchers could reflect on their own and each other's writing skills. The **WBPI** writing week was held at the Arctic Centre in Groningen. The week

Workshop leader: Femke Kramer
Participants: 10

started on Monday with a workshop given by Femke Kramer, a specialist in Academic Writing Skills. The workshop's aim was to provide a warming-up for the writing week, in which researchers were provided with the opportunity to concentrate on writing about their research projects, to exchange, review and discuss each

Organization

Director:
Louwrens Hacquebord (RUG)

Co-ordinator:
Annette Scheepstra (RUG)

Board members:
Hein de Baar (NIOZ),
Anita Buma (RUG),
Jan Andries van Franeker (Imares),
Ad Huiskes (NIOO),
Jelte Rozema (VU),
Peter van Velthoven (KNMI)

Supporting staff:
Maarten Loonen, Nienke Boschman

other's work-in-progress, and by doing so, to improve their own writing skills and learn from each other. During the workshop there were discussions about the process of writing, writing skills and writing strategies. On Wednesday, the participants read each other's work and gave feedback on each other's writing.

Education

Minor Arctic and Antarctic Studies

This Minor teaches students about the past, present situations and future developments in the Polar Regions. Explanations are given of various aspects of their geography, history and current topics in relation to the rest of the world and to the human activities in the Polar areas. Topics that are dealt with are climate and climate change, the periglacial environment, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, history of human civilization in the Arctic, exploration and exploitation, native inhabitants, international organizations and the current international, economic, legal and political situation. Topics are discussed in a multi-disciplinary way, with a historical, biological, geographical, legal and anthropological perspective. The minor is given in Dutch and is open to all bachelor students. It is divided into three separate modules which together make a full-time program for one semester.

Number of Minor students: 32

The students are from the following disciplines

Archaeology, History, Biology, Chemistry, Spatial Science, Scandinavian Languages and Literatures, International Relations and International Organisation.

Teachers involved in this Minor:

Anita Buma, Louwrens Hacquebord, Wim Klaassen and Maarten Loonen.

Researches involved as guest teacher or thesis supervisor:

Ypie Aalders, Kim van Dam, Hidde de Haas, Ad Huiskes (NIOO), Frigga Kruse, Frits Steenhuisen, Tekke Terpstra, Ulf Gustafson.

Master Course Polar Ecosystems

For the first time Anita Buma organised a master course 'Polar Ecosystems' (5 ECTS). The goal of this course is to acquire knowledge of Polar ecosystems (Antarctic, Arctic) and human impacts on Polar ecosystems. Furthermore, training is provided in scientific reading and writing on an individual basis. The course was in October – November and 15 students attended.

International Co-operation

SIOS

As mentioned in last year's report **WBPI** is one of the supporting organizations of SIOS (the Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System), as a result of the presence of the Dutch Arctic Station in Ny Ålesund, Spitsbergen. SIOS is one of the proposals endorsed by the Norwegian Ministry of Research and Education and accepted for the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) updated Roadmap 2008. The initial proposal was submitted by the University Centre in Svalbard, the Norwegian Polar Institute and the Research Council of Norway. After the inclusion of SIOS in the updated ESFRI roadmap, the Norwegian Ministry of Research and Education appointed the Research Council of Norway to lead an EC-funded Preparatory Phase project with the aim to establish the formal and financial framework for the future SIOS Research Infrastructure. After successful contract negotiations, the SIOS Preparatory Phase project officially started on 1 October, 2010. It will last until 30 September, 2013. As an SIOS partner, **WBPI** has a voice in the new research plans of Spitsbergen.

*August 2010: Publishing of the report "Terrestrial Ecosystems - a Program for Ny Ålesund".
WBPI member Maarten Loonen is one of the co-authors.*

Closing of the IPY in Oslo

The IPY Oslo Science conference in Oslo took place from 8 till 12 June 2010.

Around 2300 scientists, policy makers, teachers and students attended one or more of the 1800 or so presentations that were held during the IPY-OSC week, many of which given by **WBPI** scientists.

It was possible for the 750 early career scientists giving oral or poster presentations to win awards. Two of the twelve prizes were won by young **WBPI** scientists.

Hidde de Haas from the Arctic Centre won the Outstanding Presentation Award in the category *Human dimensions of change: Health, society and resources*. NIOZ researcher Maarten Klunder won the Outstanding Poster Award in the category *Past, present and future changes in Polar Regions*.

Poolnacht van Groningen

This winter the city of Groningen was a Polar city. During a lively festival the general public were able to visit several exhibitions, attend public lectures, meet Polar scientists, experience the Polar night, win a trip to Spitsbergen and see lots of Polar movies.

The Polar Night of Groningen was our way of informing the general public about the Polar Regions. The festival was organized to bring the Polar Regions, in all their aspects, closer to the public.

We also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Arctic Centre at the University of Groningen.

The **WBPI** played an important role in the organisation of this event. Together with colleague Polar scientists and organizations such as WWF, Blikveld and KNNV Publishing we organized the *Poolnacht van Groningen* from November 15th 2010 until January 15th 2011.

A full written Poolnacht report is available and can be obtained by sending an email to wbpolarinstitute@gmail.com.

OPENING CEREMONY

During the opening ceremony on November 13, lectures were given by Louwrens Hacquebord and Gertjan Lankhorst (CEO of Gasterra).

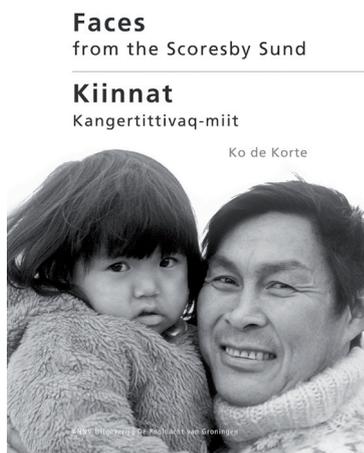
Louwrens Hacquebord's book *Op walvisjacht naar Spitsbergen* was officially handed over to the organisers of the festival, Annette Scheepstra and Femke Rijpma.

The *Gezamenlijk Gastheerschap Groningen* offered a reception.

EXHIBITIONS

Faces of Scoresby Sund

Ko de Korte put together a special exhibition called 'Faces of Scoresby Sund'. He took photos of people from Ittoqqortoormiit/ Scoresby Sund (Eastern Greenland) in the years 1971-1973. Alongside the exhibition a catalogue was published. Everyone who bought this book could win a trip for two persons to Spitsbergen. The exhibition was in the 'Noordelijk Scheepvaart Museum'.



Polar researchers at work

was the title of an exhibition in the University Library of photos of Polar scientists from Groningen at work in the Arctic and Antarctic. The exhibition also contained an exhibition of (old) Polar books and maps.

Photos in shop-windows

During the whole Polar Night of Groningen hundreds of Polar pictures were on display in shops in the city centre of Groningen.

Nomads

The last exhibition *Nomads* by photographer Jeroen Toirkens was in the gallery *Noorderlicht*. This exhibition showed photos of Sami and Neneths from Northern Russia.

Literature in the Poolnacht

During this literary evening journalist and author Joyce Roodnat talked to Dutch and Scandinavian authors about their experiences of the Arctic areas.

Guests were the Greenlander Ole Korneliussen, Bernlef, the Norwegian author Lars Saabye Christensen, Sacha Landkroon, Remco Ekkers and the Sámi Ailo Gaup.

In between the readings of and interviews with the authors short films were shown of Herbjørg Wassmo, Katti Frederiksen, Aqqaluk Lyngé and Hans Anthon Lyngé.

The films were made by the organisers from the Arctic Centre and Scandinavian Studies.

SYMPOSIUM 25 NOVEMBER

Arctic Change: Consequences for Marine Life

The symposium was held in the Gasunie building in Groningen.

The theme *Arctic Change: consequences for Marine Life* was discussed in a multidisciplinary way. The topics varied from history, biology, modelling, geo-engineering, physiology and genetics.

After all the scientific presentations, Greenpeace was invited to present their point of view of the threats to the regions and their plea for an overarching Arctic multi-lateral agreement or treaty in which the Arctic Council could play a leading role.

Participants of the symposium were Polar researchers, students of the Minor Arctic and Antarctic Studies and students of the master course Polar Ecology.

"I was captivated all day, which happens only very occasionally" - participant of the symposium.

Symposium participants: 93

Speakers

Kees Willemse (TU, Delft), Rüdiger Gerdes (AWI, Germany), Harald Loeng (Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway), Per Palsboll (Harvard University, U.S.A., and Stockholm University, Sweden), Frans-Peter Lam (TNO), Maarten Loonen (RUG), Ulf Gustafsson (RUG), Ypie Aalders (RUG), Frits Steenhuisen (RUG), Dr. Iris Menn (Greenpeace, Germany)

Chairman

Ad Huiskes (NIOO, Yrseke)

NOVEMBER 26-27

POLAR MARKET

During the polar market an enthusiastic audience visited the Der A-kerk where polar researchers from the universities of Groningen, Utrecht, Wageningen and Leiden among others presented their research. There were also films, a mobile planetarium, a bookshop and other Polar organisations present.

NOVEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 17 AND 21 - JANUARY 6

PUBLIC LECTURES

In cooperation with the local newspaper *Dagblad van het Noorden* the Poolnacht van Groningen organised four public lectures.

The first lecture was a special lecture for families. Maarten Loonen told about animal adaptation to the cold environment of the Polar Regions. There was also a polar bear quest for the children, both held in the University Museum.

Participants: 86 (booked full).

The second lecture was given by photographer Jeroen Toirkens and journalist and writer Jelle Brandt Corstius in the Bernoulliborg. They gave a lecture about their trips to and experience with different Arctic Nomad peoples.

Participants: 300 (booked full).

On December 21 there was a special Midwinter night experience in the Bernoulliborg. Louwrens Hacquebord told how the first winterings on Spitsbergen took place. Journalist Govert Schilling explained various Polar night phenomena. Beside attending these two lectures people could visit the observatory and a mobile planetarium.

Participants: 200 (booked full).

The last lecture in this series was about Climate change by Harro Meijer, professor in isotope research. He gave his presentation in the Academie Gebouw.

Participants: 180.

DECEMBER 16-19

Film Festival Frozen Images

Together with the art cinema *Images* a Polar film festival was organised. Twenty diverse feature films, documentaries and nature films were shown. Specially invited actors, producers and experts gave introductions to the films.

EXCURSIONS

Several excursions were organised outside the city of Groningen. On November 28 an Ice Age excursion and an Arctic birds excursion were organised. During the Ice Age excursion fifty people researched which remains of the ice age are still visible in the landscape. They travelled by touring car together with two experts.

The Arctic birds excursion was held in the Lauwersmeer national park. Several Arctic birds researchers and experts gave presentations and the 80 visitors saw lots of migratory birds.

The excursion to Schiermonnikoog attracted a great deal of attention and was not organised once (as planned), but four times. People went on a special boat to the island of Schiermonnikoog, where they walked on the beach, which is the darkest place in the Netherlands. On the beach a Polar story was read by a little camp fire

POOLKAMER LECTURES

In the University Museum a special Polar room was created, with huge prints and games for children.

Beside the public lecture by Maarten Loonen (see above) three other lectures were given in the Poolkamer.

The first one was by Gerald de Weerdts about the voyages of Willem Barentsz and his boats. A replica of his jolly was also to be seen outside the museum during the whole Polar night period.

Polar explorer Philip de Roo gave a lecture about his polar voyages and Eppo Steenhuisen about the role of the Dutch cartographer Petrus Plancius in Polar history.

JANUARY 14

CLOSING SEMINAR AND DEBATE

The Poolnacht van Groningen ended with a seminar, a children's debate and an evening debate, all with the theme *Economic interests in the Arctic: conflicting interests?!* During the seminar, with Gerry Wakker (Dean Faculty of Arts) as chairwoman, presentations were given on the topics Indigenous Peoples versus external interests, Gas and oil extraction versus nature conservation and the point of view of the Dutch government on the exploitation of the Arctic.

Speakers were Leo van der Vlist – Netherlands Centre for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
Rikkert Reijnen – International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
Geert Greving – Gasterra – Secretary Project Delta Group
Gert Polet – World Wild Fund
Vincent van Zeijst - Head Polar Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Roel Martens, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation.

Parallel to the seminar there was a children's debate with Princess Laurentien van Oranje . She organized this debate between children from a primary school and Louwrens Hacquebord, Gertjan Lankhorst (CEO Gasterra) and Johan van der Gronden (CEO WWF).

A compilation of this debate - made by the 'Audiovisuele Dienst' from the Faculty of Arts - was shown in the evening during the final debate. This debate was lead by Menno Bentveld. The three men who participated in the children's debate were also debaters during the evening, with in addition the Member of Parliament for D'66 Stientje van Veldhoven) and Hugo von Meijenfheldt, Dutch climate envoy and deputy General Director on climate at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Climate.