

## Introduction

ALTHOUGH THE WILLEM BARENTSZ POLAR INSTITUTE HAD A LONG HISTORY OF PLANNING EARLIER, THE YEAR 2009 CAN BE CONSIDERED AS THE FIRST REAL WBPI YEAR. IN THIS YEAR A CO-ORDINATOR WAS APPOINTED TO ORGANIZE WBPI ACTIVITIES AND TO BUILD A DYNAMIC ORGANIZATION. ANNETTE SCHEEPSTRA STARTED HER JOB AS A CO-ORDINATOR IN JANUARY 2009 FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS. THE BOARD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN MADE THE APPOINTMENT POSSIBLE. THE ARCTIC CENTRE HOSTS THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WBPI IN THE SAME PERIOD IF GRANT OF.

## Organization

### *Co-ordinator*

The first half year, the co-ordinator had introductory talks with members of the WBPI and the other organizations like NWO and KNAW. Furthermore, she organizes most activities described in this report.

The co-ordinator represented the WBPI on the following events:

- 5-7 March 2009, 'Poolbelevens', Middelburg;
- 23-28 March 2009, Arctic Science Summit Week in Bergen, Norway.

### 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, Anne Kooi (all RUG)

## Sub organizations

### *NLPN*

The Netherlands Polar Network (NLPN) is a national association of early career researchers focussing on the polar regions. Their research is diverse: from the Arctic to the Antarctic; across the terrestrial and into the marine; covering the physical sciences as well as the humanities. The aim of the NLPN is multidisciplinary: to look beyond our own field of research and share perspectives of all facets of polar science. NLPN aspires to facilitate education and outreach of polar research and to be a networking facility for early career scientists within the broad field of polar research. The Willem Barentsz Polar Institute assists in the activities of the network. On October 23, the NLPN and the WBPI

organized a symposium session **Polar Science in a political and historical context** and two workshops. For more information, see symposium **Sustainable Use of Resources in Polar Regions**.

### *Imaka*

Imaka is an organization run by (former) students of the Arctic Centre and organizes activities for people interested in polar areas. WBPI supports the organization of activities of Imaka.

### *Imaka lectures in 2009*

23 February: Hidde de Haas, RUG

16 March: Michiel van den Broeke (UU)

20 April: Govert de Groot (Arctic Peoples Alert)

30 November: Hauke Flores (Imares)

## Communication

### *Internal communication*

The WBPI wants to stimulate co-operation between Dutch polar researchers. To achieve this, communication and exchange of information is very important. This is one of the main reasons why the WBPI focuses on a good website and email newsletters for members and others interested in Polar Science.

WBPI Newsletters for members: 9  
Pooljournaal: 2 editions, distributed to 220 people  
Website: 13 pages, 3553 visits from 2074 visitors in 2009; average stay on the site 4 minutes and 34 seconds, average amount of pages they visited: 5

### *Website*

The website is an important means of communication for the WBPI. On the website you can find, for instance, the latest news, information about student projects, (links to) scientific and popular articles, information of the organisation, an overview of (international)

polar education, fieldwork movies and the latest research projects. WBPI members can login to find more information about grants, new projects and reports of polar meetings.

### *Pooljournaal*

In 2008, the WBPI started the Dutch digital newsletter **Pooljournaal**. This journal is made for all who are interested in (Dutch) Polar Research.

So far, 220 subscribers received this year two Pooljournaals.

Besides the latest polar news, in each issue a PhD student is interviewed about his/her research and his motives as a researcher.

## Activities

### *Writing week 7-11 September 2009*

The aim of this week was to help the researchers to write more and better scientific articles. The WBPI writing week was held in NIOZ, Texel. The week started on Monday with a workshop given by Femke Kramer, a specialist in Academic Writing skills.

The workshop's aim was a warming-up for the writing week, in which researchers got the opportunity to concentrate on writing about their

*I think the writing week is a valuable exercise and a great way for the people of the WBPI to meet each other at their various institutions. I would definitely attend the next one.*  
PhD student Frigga Kruse (archaeology)

research projects, to exchange, review and discuss each other's work-in-progress, and, by doing so, improve their own writing skills and learn from each other. During the workshop, the leader gave a

presentation about general features of research writing, the so-called IMRD-format underlying scientific papers (Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion), classic pitfalls and flaws in research writing, and strategies to avoid them. After the workshop, the participants prepared a piece of research writing or used some work-in-progress in order to exchange feedback during a second session at the end of the week.

Not all the researchers involved in this week participated the whole week. WBPI will continue this activity on an annual basis and hopes to provide a program that is interesting for both new and earlier participants.

Participants at the WBPI Writing Week: 12  
Workshop Leader: Femke Kramer

### *Symposium Sustainable Use of Resources in Polar Regions 22-23 October 2009*

This symposium was held in Groningen. During the morning session of October 22, early career polar researchers presented their research.

The Norwegian Embassy was the co-organizer of the afternoon session on the first day. They had invited people from the Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, and Petrol and Energy. WBPI invited representatives from WWF and from Gasterra.

Theme of the afternoon session was "Sustainable use of resources in the Arctic". After this session, the Ambassador of Norway treated the participants with a reception. Almost hundred scientists, students and others interested in polar regions attended this day.

The second day of the symposium was organized

together with NLPN, the Netherlands network of young polar scientists. In the morning sixty people listened to a presentation by Mare Pit (IASC). She told the young researchers what IASC and Apecs could do for them.

*It was inspiring to hear several speakers talk about one coherent topic. And because it wasn't about my expertise, I learned a lot.*  
Professor Anita Buma  
(Marine Biology)

This lecture was followed by lectures of professor Klaus Dodds (University of London), dr. Susan Barr (President of the International Polar Heritage Committee) and dr. Dag Avango (RUG, Arctic Centre).

After the lunch break each of the fourteen young polar researchers choose between an education workshop and an outreach workshop. The last workshop was given by Hakuna Matata, science and media. In this workshop participants learned about popular writing.

In the education workshop, given by science communicator Theo Jurriens and former polar researcher and second school teacher Tim van Oijen, the young researchers learned how to prepare a lesson for primary or secondary school children.

### Symposium 22 October

*Participants:* 91

*Speakers:* Steven van Heuven (RUG), Ellen Dorrepaal (VU), Ricardo Roura (RUG), Jens Greinert (NIOZ), Odd Gunnar Skagestad (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway), Gert Polet (WWF), Espen Hauge (Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, Norway), Geert Greving (Gasterra)

*Participants symposium dinner:* 30

### Symposium 23 October

*Participants:* 64

*Speakers:* Mare Pit (IASC), Klaus Dodds (University of London, UK), Susan Barr (International Polar Heritage Committee, Norway), Dag Avango (RUG)

#### Workshop Education

Theo Jurriens (RUG), Tim van Oijen (former polar researcher and secondary school teacher), Anneke Terpstra (primary school teacher)  
*Participants:* 7

#### Workshop outreach

Hakuna Matata  
*Participants:* 7

### Other events

The WBPI was involved in two other symposia.

On the 11th of December there was a mini symposium, held at the Arctic Centre: **Science, shipping and geopolitics in the Canadian Arctic.**

Peter Hamilton, from the Queens University in Ontario, an expert in Canadian Arctic affairs, was guest at this symposium.

The second guest was Leon Lammers, who wrote his thesis about "The possibilities of container transit shipping via the Northern Sea Route".

December the 16th, there was a symposium at the van Hall Institute in Leeuwarden, called **Rijkdom van de polen.**

Speakers were Louwrens Hacquebord, Maarten Loonen, Ypie Aalders and Hauke Flores.

### Symposium 11 December

*Participants:* 30

*Speakers:* Peter Hamilton (Queen's University, Ontario, Canada) and Leon Lammers (DHV).

### Symposium 16 December, Leeuwarden

*Participants:* 120

*Speakers:* Louwrens Hacquebord (RUG), Maarten Loonen (RUG), Ypie Aalders (RUG), Hauke Flores (Imares, Texel)



*Ambassadeur Eva Bugge nodigt de aanwezigen uit voor de receptie.*

Foto: Govert de Groot, Arctic Peoples Alert.

## Education

### *Minor Arctische and Antarctische Studies*

This minor teaches students about the past and present situation and future developments in the Polar Regions. Different kind of aspects are explained about the geography, history and current topics in relation to the rest of the world and the human activities in the Polar area's. 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 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 for all bachelor students. It is divided in three separate moduls which together make a full-time program for one semester. Next module will start in september 2010.

### Minor Arctische and Antarctische Studies

*Number of students:* 50

*Students came from the following disciplines:*

History, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Medical Biology, Spatial Science, Scandinavian Languages and Culture, International Relations and International Organisations, Beta-master Education and Communication, Finno-Ugric Languages and Cultures

*Teachers involved:* Anita Buma, Louwrens Hacquebord, Wim Klaassen, Maarten Loonen, Jan Willem Veluwenkamp

*Researchers involved as guest teacher or thesis*

*supervisor:* Ypie Aalders, Dag Avango, Kim van Dam, Ulf Gustafsson, Hidde de Haas, Ad Huiskes (NIOO), Frigga Kruse, Ricardo Roura, Frits Steenhuisen, Tekke Terpstra

## International Co-operation

### *SIOS*

WBPI is one of the supporting organizations of SIOS, Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System.

SIOS is one of three new proposals from Norway prepared for the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) updated Roadmap. The proposal is endorsed by the Norwegian Ministry of Research and Education.

The ESFRI Roadmap identifies new Research Infrastructure (RI) of pan-European interest corresponding to the long term needs of the European research communities, covering all scientific areas, regardless of the possible location. Potential new RI (or major upgrade) identified are likely to be realized in the next ten to twenty years.

The goal of the SIOS proposal is to establish an Arctic Earth Observing System in and around Svalbard that integrates the studies of geophysical, chemical and biological processes from all research and monitoring platforms. This will be done through:

1. Organize all infrastructure and all research and monitoring activities into four observation platforms being land-based, sea-based, glacier/ice-based and space/air-based.
2. Assess the present infrastructure and activities to identify gaps and weaknesses in the system. Invest in additional infrastructure and activities to close these gaps.
3. Establish a Knowledge Centre in Longyearbyen for data assessment, storage and delivery, education and outreach, cooperative efforts, and input to Earth System modeling
4. Take actions to coo.rdinate the SIOS initiative with complementary ESFRI efforts as well as other Earth Observation Systems and related modelling efforts .

A proposal to the EU was finished 1 December2009 and we are now waiting for EU adorsement. If positive, the EU will finance during a period of 5 year activities to build the research infrastructure and to develop an investment plan. Maarten Loonen is on behalf of WBPI and NWO representative in SIOS and has taken an active role within terrestrial research.