

## CHRONICLE

XXII SCAR Meeting  
Bariloche, Argentina, June 1992

The XXII<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of SCAR (*Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research*) was held at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, from 8 to 19 June, 1992. It was preceded by the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Experts on the Antarctic Environment held in Buenos Aires from 1 to 4 June.

As the Polish delegate to SCAR, member of COMNAP (*Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes*), of SCAR Working Group on Geology, and of SCAR Group of Specialists on Cenozoic Palaeoenvironments of Southern High Latitudes (GOSC), I attended those meetings which were directly my responsibility. They are highlighted below. Unfortunately, being the only Polish participant to the XXII SCAR, I was unable to attend meetings of other working groups (Biology; Geodesy and Geographic Information; Glaciology, *etc.*), whose work is therefore not covered by this personal report.

**SCAR Delegates Meeting.** The meeting of the national delegates to XXII SCAR took place in the second week (15–19 June). Ecuador was admitted as a Full Member, and Pakistan and Estonia as Associate Members of SCAR. Prof. Z. Dong (China) was elected Vice-President and Prof. K. Birkenmajer (Poland) was elected Secretary of SCAR for the term 1992–96.

The SCAR strategy was discussed at length, particularly with respect to SCAR's role in environmental protection of Antarctica, when the Committee on Environmental Protection (as established by the Madrid Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty) is eventually formed.

The Meeting approved the final report of BIOMASS (*Biological Investigations of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks*), highly praised its excellent results, and warmly thanked Prof. Sayed el Sayed, the Convenor of the project.

A SCAR Group of Specialists on Global Change and the Antarctic was formed with Prof. Ch. R. Bentley (USA) as its Convenor. The need for voluntary fund to support research in this field was discussed.

Six Recommendations were adopted: (1) On Protection of Geological Specimens; (2) On Scientific Cooperation in the South Shetland Islands; (3) On SSSI No 2 Arrival Heights (new management plan); (4) On Re-introduction of Indigenous Species; (5) On Hydrographic Charting; and (6) On Management Plans for Protected Areas.

**Geology and Geophysics.** As a result of the Working Group on Geology, and Joint WGs on Geology and Solid Earth Geophysics meetings, the Principles of nomenclature of formal lithostratigraphic units in magmatic and metamorphic rocks in Antarctica were adopted. A part of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme – Global Change related to Antarctic Earth-Sciences received its final version. The VII<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences will be held in Siena (Italy), with two colloquia, the first one on Recent volcanism of Bransfield Strait, and the other on Cretaceous and Tertiary palaeobotany and palaeoecology of Antarctica. A Workshop on Structure and Evolution of the West Antarctic Lithosphere (Convenor Prof. A. Guterch) in Warsaw, scheduled for 19–25 October, 1992, was approved. The final text for Recommendation on Protection of Geological Specimens was prepared (it was accepted with some modification as Recommendation SCAR XXII–1).

The COGS (*Collaborative Geoscience in the South Shetland Islands*) Meeting discussed the need of preparing a catalogue of geochemical data and geochemical maps for the South Shetland Islands and northern Antarctic Peninsula. A number of co-operative projects in geology of the South Shetland Islands were presented.

A GOSC (*Group of Specialists on Cenozoic Palaeoenvironments of Southern High Latitudes*) Symposium was held on 11 and 12 June. Further results of the ANTOSTRAT project (Convenor Dr A. Cooper, USA), with seismoacoustic profiles obtained from around the Antarctic continent, and their geological interpretation, were presented in posters and lectures.

**European co-operation in Antarctica.** A new incentive launched by Dr D. Drewry, Director of the British Antarctic Survey, was towards a closer co-operation in Antarctica of European countries, 13 of which are presently active in that area. In an informal meeting held during the XXII SCAR, there was an exchange of information on existing and planned national and multinational Antarctic Research projects. Problems of future co-ordination of these activities, and sources of financing, including funds already available from the Commission for the European Community (CEC) and the European Science Foundation (ESF), were discussed. A closer co-operation of those European nations which are members of both SCAR and IASC (*International Arctic Science Committee*) would be desirable, and many Antarctic and Arctic Projects would certainly benefit from it.

The XXII SCAR Meeting was very well organized by the Argentine Committee headed by Mr L. R. Fontana, in the magnificent venue of San Carlos de Bariloche, in the heart of the Andes. The Argentine Government represented by Gen. de Brig. (R) J. E. Leal, Dr C. A. Rinaldi, the Director of Instituto Antártico Argentino and SCAR Vice-President, and their staff, did their best to create a nice and productive atmosphere during the meetings.

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