



## PYRN Newsletter

January/February 2014

Dear PYRN-members,

We hope you are having a fabulous 2014 (can you believe it is already March!). There are some fantastic permafrost-themed meetings this year including EUCOP4! We hope to see many of you in Evora Portugal (a warm place to study permafrost) in June!

Sincerely,

The PYRN Executive Committee

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### Announcements

#### International Bachelor Permafrost Summer Field School



The University of the Arctic Thematic Network on Permafrost offers an International Bachelor Permafrost Summer Field School in Svalbard, **19 June to 11 July 2014**. We welcome senior bachelor

students, who are interested in obtaining an overall knowledge about permafrost.

The course will offer insights into:

- Permafrost history and its distribution globally.
- Permafrost temperatures in various parts of the World – climatic and other controls.
- Methods of permafrost observations, focusing on drilling, coring and instrumentation.
- Permafrost databases and their use in permafrost analyses.
- How does permafrost affect local community infrastructure and cultural life?
- Interaction between carbon and water in permafrost landscapes.
- How sensitive are permafrost landforms towards climate change?

You can take this course either as a 5 ECTS point course, finishing with an oral graded presentation in the summer school. Or you can do in addition an individual science project based on the course knowledge, to be submitted by the end of the autumn/fall semester following the summer field school, and then graded, and you will obtain 10 ECTS. Students doing 10 ECTS will be given preference to the course.

**Application deadline: 15 April 2014**, using the UNIS online application system ([http://www.unis.no/10\\_STUDIES/1030\\_Admission/how\\_to\\_apply.htm](http://www.unis.no/10_STUDIES/1030_Admission/how_to_apply.htm))

There is no tuition fee for this course. There will be a possibility for non-European students to

apply for a travel stipend to attend this course. Accommodation for students during the course will be in student housing in Longyearbyen, and it will cost app. 3125 NOK corresponding to app. 370 Euro.

Contact for further questions:

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## International student permafrost summer course 2014

Dear PYRN members,

please, consider as well the **International student permafrost Summer course 2014**

(Moscow – Krasnoyarsk – Enisey - Igarka - Dudinka – Norilsk region - Moscow), please find the detailed schedule and further information [here](#).

In case of interest, contact Valeri Grebenets ( [vgreb@inbox.ru](mailto:vgreb@inbox.ru)) **until March 12!**

## Summer Field Course Arctic Alaska Environmental Change

The University of Alaska Fairbanks announces open registrations for a summer field course, entitled "Arctic Alaska Environmental Change." The course is offered to undergraduate and graduate students, will be held **6-21 June 2014, and based in Fairbanks, Alaska.**

During this 16-day field course students will traverse boreal forest, alpine, and Arctic biomes to learn about Arctic vegetation, soils, landforms, permafrost, geology, wildlife, and land-use. Plant species and vegetation will be studied in the context of environmental gradients and methods for vegetation sampling and description will be taught. Students will undertake an independent research project.

Ten days of the course will be spent camping at different locations along the transect from Fairbanks to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. The course will include a stay at Toolik Field Station, an NSF supported Arctic research station. Students are expected to bring all-weather clothing, sleeping bag, and a tent. Costs of meals, lodging, and travel between field sites are included in the course fee. Scholarships are available.

Registration deadline for international students:

**Saturday, 15 March 2014.**

For further information, links to registration, scholarship applications, and international student applications, go to: <http://www.uaf.edu/summer/arcticveg>.

## Reports

### 4th DUE Permafrost User Workshop

From 11 – 13 February 2014 in Frascati, Italy, young permafrost researchers have taken part in 4th DUE Permafrost User Workshop, organized by IPA, CliC, GTN-P and ESA. Workshop located in ESRIN - ESA's Centre for Earth Observation.

The aim of the workshop was to provide the interaction between the scientific user's community and the remote sensing experts: permafrost researchers presented their techniques and findings, listed vital needs; experts described existing products, analyzed the needs in order to satisfy them in future products. Workshop consisted of 3 types of activities: keynotes by IPA/ CliC/ ESA/ DUE Permafrost members, thematic and breakout sessions. It was inspiring dialog!

As Writing Team ( Frank Martin Seifert, Jenny Baeseman, Vladimir Romanovsky, Annett Bartsch, Claude Duguay, Heidi Isaksen, Birgit Heim ) concluded, in the plenary, the four break-out sessions and many discussions updates of user requirements expressed in the IGOS Cryosphere report and follow-up of the DUE permafrost project could be identified:

- The three priority variables for baseline mapping are: LST, snow and land surface. Further priority considerations will be extracted from the survey initiated during the workshop.
- "Special" mapping for cold spots (with intense in-situ) and "hot" spots (high dynamic areas) as well as for mountain permafrost with inventory of rock glaciers and permafrost extent.
- DEM availability in Northern latitudes can enter a new area with TanDEM-X DEM.

report from Anastasiya Radosteva



*Group foto of the participants of the 4th DUE Permafrost User Workshop*

## Meetings



### EUCOP4

The forth European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP4) will take place in Evora Portugal the 18-21st of June. **The deadline for early bird registration is the 15th of March** so don't delay if you are planning on attending. Information at their website.

## Polar Highlights in Africa

The 3rd Young Earth Scientist Congress and 25th Colloquium of African Geology-CAG25 will be conducted in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in August 2014. There will be a session entitled "**Polar Research highlights**". Details at their [website](#).

## Conferences in Russia

Two exciting conferences are coming up this year in Russia:

First, the third **International Conference on "Debris flows: disasters, risk, forecast, protection"** will take place the 22-26 September in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Info at [website](#).

Second, the **5th SPE Russian Oil & Gas Exploration & Production Technical Conference and**

**Exhibition (ROG 2014)** will take place the 14-16 of October in Moscow. Details at their [website](#).

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