



POLAR SYMPOSIUM FROM ARCTIC TO ANTARCTIC

Enabling the Legacy: Translating Polar Research into Action

25|27 FEBRUARY 2026
OCEANOGRAPHIC MUSEUM • MONACO

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www.thepolarinitiative.org

WEDNESDAY
25
FEBRUARY

PROVISIONAL
PROGRAMME

OCEANOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

08:30 Welcome coffee

09:00 Pre Event
Antarctic Academic Cooperation

- Co-organized by
- The University of the Arctic
 - The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
 - The Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation

12:00 Lunch

14:00 **Opening Session of the Monaco Polar Symposium 2026**

Introduction by Master of Ceremony, **Genie Godula**

14:05 **Welcome remarks**

- **Cyril Gomez**, Chief Operating Officer, Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation
- **Romain Ciarlet**, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- **Henry Burgess**, President, International Arctic Science Committee
- **Prof. Gary Wilson**, President, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

14:25 **Kick-off fireside chat**

- **Dr. Olav Orheim**, Member, Scientific and Technical Committee, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Former Director, Norwegian Polar Institute (1993–2005)
- **Prof. Dalee Sambo Dorough**, Adviser, University of Alaska Anchorage; Co-Chair, ICARP IV
- **Dr. Salvatore Aricò**, Chief Executive Officer, International Science Council; Member, IPY-5 Executive Committee
- **Moderator: Salomé Mormentyn**, Polar Initiative Manager, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

14:45

PANEL 1
International Collaboration in Time of Uncertainties

- **H.E. David Balton**, Senior Fellow, Arctic Initiative, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government
- **Dr. Sara Olsvig**, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council
- **Dr. Antje Boetius**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
- **Prof. Burcu Ozsoy**, Director, TÜBİTAK Polar Research Institute; Vice-President, Capacity Building, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
- **Dr. Anil Mishra**, Chief, Hydrological Systems, Climate Change and Adaptation Section, UNESCO
- **Moderator: Pam Pearson**, Director and Founder, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative

15:30 Coffee Break

WEDNESDAY

25

FEBRUARY

PROVISIONAL
PROGRAMME

15:55

PANEL 2

Funding Innovation, Equity & New Models

- **Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin**, Water Sector Lead, Green Climate Fund
- **Dr. David Hik**, Chief Scientist and Vice-President, Research, Polar Knowledge Canada; Chair, Arctic Science Funders Forum
- **Aviaaja Karlshøj Knudsen**, Chair, Arctic Economic Council
- **Ryan Dolan**, Managing Director, Blue Nature Alliance, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- **Per-Henning Mathisen**, Advisor, Arctic and Environmental Unit, Saami Council / Sámiráđđi
- **Sigi Gruber**, Active Senior Advisor, European Commission, DG RTD
- **Moderator: Dr. Maria Grigoratou**, Executive Secretary, European Polar Board

16:40

Peace Through Science: A Conversation on Antarctica

John Weller, Senior Fellow, Only One

16:50

PANEL 3

Research to Action: Flagship Initiatives & Implementation

- **Dr. Matthew L. Druckenmiller**, Vice President and U.S. Delegate, International Arctic Science Committee
- **Prof. Jefferson Cardia Simões**, Director, Centro Polar e Climatico, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul
- **Dr. Anita Lafferty**, Research Associate, Aurora College
- **Prof. Robert DeConto**, Principal Investigator and Host Scientist, Climate and Cryosphere (CliC), World Climate Research Programme
- **Dr. Cassandra Brooks**, Professor, University of Colorado Boulder; Chief Officer, SCAR Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System
- **Moderator: Prof. Michael Meredith**, Joint Director, UK National Climate Science Partnership, British Antarctic Survey; Member, Scientific and Technical Committee, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

17:35

Signing Ceremony and Day Wrap-up

17:45

Break

YACHT CLUB OF MONACO

19:30

Joint Gala Dinner Pre-Event & Polar Symposium

hosted by **Dr. Frederik Paulsen**, Chair, UArctic
Ballroom
Business Formal

THURSDAY
26
FEBRUARY

PROVISIONAL
PROGRAMME

OCEANOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

09:00 | Welcome coffee

09:30 | **Introduction of the Day**

Dr. Rachel Clausing, Head of Initiatives Department and Special Advisor, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation; Master of Ceremony

09:40 | **WORKSHOP SESSION 1**

International Collaboration in Time of Uncertainties

[Incl. Coffee break: 11:00 – 11:20]

Chair & Co-Chairs:

- Dr. Jennifer Spence, Director, Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School
- Mads Qvist Frederiksen, Executive Director, Arctic Economic Council
- Eirik Larsen (Lásse-Ivvár Erke), Head, Human Rights Unit, Saami Council
- Dr. Monika Szkarłat, Assistant Professor and Researcher, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin, Poland); Member, Polish Polar Consortium; Committee on Polar Research, Polish Academy of Sciences

12:30 | Lunch

14:30 | **Keynote Address**

by Ashok Adicéam, Executive Director, Mission Neptune; Deputy Special Envoy for the Ocean, France

14:40 | **Report Back from Workshop Session 1**

15:00 | **WORKSHOP SESSION 2**

Funding Innovation, Equity & New Models

[Incl. Coffee break: 16:20 – 16:40]

Chair & Co-Chairs:

- Henry Burgess, President, International Arctic Science Committee
- Dr. Narelle van der Wel, Head, Cryosphere Monitoring, Predictions and Services Unit, World Meteorological Organization
- Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Water Sector Lead, Green Climate Fund

18:00 | **Live Performance by Elle Maija Klefstad Bær**

18:15 | **Day Wrap-Up and Group Photo**

18:30 | **Self-Guided Visit of the Oceanographic Museum**

19:00 | **Dining Cocktail Reception**
Oceanographic Museum - 1st floor

FRIDAY
27
 FEBRUARY

PROVISIONAL
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09:00	Welcome coffee
09:30	Introduction of the Day Genie Godula, Master of Ceremony
09:35	Report Back from Workshop Session 2
09:55	WORKSHOP SESSION 3 Research to Action: Flagship Initiatives & Implementation [Incl. Coffee break: 11:20 - 11:40] Chair & Co-Chairs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Gary Wilson, President, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research • Dr. Renuka Badhe, Secretary General, EuroGOOS • Dr. Cassandra Brooks, Professor, University of Colorado Boulder; Chief Officer, SCAR Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System • Prof. Michael Meredith, Joint Director, UK National Climate Science Partnership, British Antarctic Survey; Member, Scientific and Technical Committee, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation • Dr. Olav Orheim, Member, Scientific and Technical Committee, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation; Former Director, Norwegian Polar Institute (1993–2005)
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Report Back from Workshop Session 3
14:50	Tara Polar Station: A Conversation on the Central Arctic Ocean with Pierre Mienville, Advocacy Officer, Tara Ocean Foundation, and Becca Robbins Gisclair, Sr. Director, Arctic & Northern Waters, Ocean Conservancy
15:00	Closing Panel – Vision for the Future: Research for Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Renuka Badhe, Secretary General, EuroGOOS • Dr. Jennifer Spence, Director, Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School • Dr. Narelle van der Wel, Head, Cryosphere Monitoring, Prediction and Services Unit, World Meteorological Organization • Moderator: Dr. Alice Guzzi, Vice-President, Association of Polar Early Career Scientists
15:25	Live Performance by OSCAAL
15:40	Coffee Break
16:00	Official Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Remarks by Henry Burgess, President, International Arctic Science Committee • Closing Remarks by Dr. Cassandra Brooks, Professor, University of Colorado Boulder; Chief Officer, SCAR Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System • Keynote Address by H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Chairman, Arctic Circle
16:10	Official Closing Address by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco Livestream

EXPERT COMMITTEE

- **Dr. Eda Ayaydin**, Lecturer, University of London Institute in Paris; Researcher, Malaurie Institute of Arctic Research; Polar Initiative Fellow, IASC–Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- **Dr. Cassandra Brooks**, Professor, University of Colorado Boulder; Chief Officer, SCAR Standing Committee on the Antarctic Treaty System
- **Dr. Céline Dubreuil-Degortes**, Senior Project Manager, Ocean Policy Department, Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation
- **Mads Qvist Frederiksen**, Executive Director, Arctic Economic Council
- **Dr. Anita Lafferty**, Research Associate, Aurora College
- **Eirik Larsen** (Lásse-Ivvár Erke), Head, Human Rights Department, Saami Council
- **Dr. Amanda Lynch**, Chair, Research Board, World Meteorological Organization; Sloan and George Lindemann Jr Professor, Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences, Brown University
- **Prof. Michael Meredith**, Joint Director, UK National Climate Science Partnership, British Antarctic Survey; Member, Scientific and Technical Committee, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- **Dr. Olav Orheim**, Member, Scientific and Technical Committee, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation; Former Director, Norwegian Polar Institute (1993–2005)
- **Prof. Peder Roberts**, Co-Chief Officer, SCAR Standing Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences
- **Dr. Jennifer Spence**, Director, Arctic Initiative, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School
- **Dr. Monika Szkarłat**, Assistant Professor and Researcher, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin, Poland); Member, Polish Polar Consortium; Committee on Polar Research, Polish Academy of Sciences
- **Dr. Dieter Tetzner**, Ice Core Scientist, British Antarctic Survey; Polar Initiative Fellow, IASC–Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- **Salomé Mormentyn**, Polar Initiative Manager, Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
- **Dr. Eoghan Griffin**, Executive Officer, Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
- **Federica Scarpa**, Project Officer, International Arctic Science Committee

JOHN WELLER

PEACE THROUGH SCIENCE

The Organising Committee is proud to present Peace Through Science, an exhibition created by John Weller, based on his touring exhibit in defense of Antarctica, our climate, and our oceans.

Peace Through Science is an immersive, informative, empowering, and ultimately inspiring story of Antarctica and the Polar regions. The exhibition was co-developed with leading Antarctic scientists and draws upon John Weller's 21 years of experience in Antarctic science communication.



THE PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION

Founded by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco in 2006, the Foundation is a global non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing planetary health for current and future generations. It co-creates initiatives and supports hundreds of projects in three priority areas : the Mediterranean Basin, the Polar Regions, and the Least Developed Countries (as classified by the United Nations). Its key missions include preserving endangered species, protecting freshwater ecosystems, developing a sustainable blue economy, and supporting the younger generations.



THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE

The International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) is a non-governmental, international scientific organization. IASC is committed to a mission of encouraging and facilitating cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. Overall, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge interdisciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system. Rather than defining human and environmental boundaries, IASC tries to bridge those boundaries. IASC is also committed to recognizing that Traditional Knowledge, Indigenous Knowledge, and "Western" scientific knowledge are coequal and complementary knowledge systems, all of which can and should inform the work of IASC.



THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is a thematic organisation of the International Science Council (ISC), and was created in 1958. SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region (including the Southern Ocean), and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. SCAR provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations such as the UNFCCC and IPCC on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system.



THE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE, PRINCE ALBERT I OF MONACO FOUNDATION

The Oceanographic Institute, Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation, was founded in 1906 by prince Albert I, a passionate and visionary sailor. Recognised as a public interest organisation, the Foundation has been working to protect the Ocean for over a century. It brings together political, scientific, economic and non-profit stakeholders, as well as the general public, «to promote knowledge, love and protection of the Ocean». Supported by its two establishments, the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco and the Maison de l'Océan in Paris, the Oceanographic Institute is the driving force behind numerous national and international projects (symposia, exhibitions, educational programmes, etc.) aimed at promoting sustainable management of the Ocean.