



Celebrating 60 years of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and three decades of Spanish participation in SCAR

This week the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) marks six decades of successful international collaboration. Since its first meeting in The Hague on 3-5 February 1958, SCAR has grown an international network of thousands of scientists who share a common ambition to carry out Antarctic science for the benefit of society.

With a membership representing the scientific communities of 43 countries, SCAR is instrumental in initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic and the Southern Ocean. As an inter-disciplinary committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU) SCAR provides objective and independent advice to international bodies such as the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Antarctica and the Southern Ocean have a fundamental role in regulating processes such as climate and carbon uptake, and research in the Antarctic is crucial to understanding processes of global significance and to advancing science. Additionally, rapid changes are occurring in parts of Antarctica that could open the continent to a new level of activities in the coming decades. Antarctic governance, administration and environmental protection must be based on scientific data.

Since 1958, SCAR has been central in defining the vision and goals of science in Antarctica and has facilitated the implementation of Antarctic science by promoting international and transdisciplinary collaborations. The provision of scientific advice, identification of opportunities, and the facilitation of collaboration are the core elements of SCAR's essential mission.

Sixty years ago, the International Geophysical Year drew world attention to the importance of continuing international Antarctic collaboration. Today, governments around the world are working together to combat climate change and adapt to its effects. SCAR is very well placed to inform and enable intergovernmental initiatives to chart a new course (in the global climate effort) through its continued ambition for a coordinated international approach to Antarctic science.

SCAR is moving into its seventh decade and has grown substantially in membership – from 12 original members in 1958 to 43 currently. It is now well-established as an internationally recognized and influential organization. This has only been possible through the engagement and support of thousands of researchers from around the world that comprise the SCAR Antarctic scholarly community, together with the support of the SCAR member organizations. SCAR invites everybody to celebrate its 60th birthday!

Spain and SCAR

Spain joined SCAR in January 1987, 31 years ago. This was in the early times of the Spanish Antarctic activities, shortly before the establishment of the first Spanish Antarctic Station, the access to the Consultative Member status of Spain within the Antarctic Treaty, and the establishment of the National Antarctic Research Programme in the Spanish R&D National Plan.

In the last three decades, the Spanish Antarctic research has had an important development. The Spanish scientists have contributed to the efforts of the international community through SCAR and, in the other hand, the participation in SCAR has allowed many Spanish groups to carry out their researches into the frameworks of big international projects, and establish fruitful collaborations.

In 2018 various events will be held in which the SCAR anniversary will be celebrated.

The most important will be at the 35th SCAR Meeting and the Open Science Conference (POLAR2018) at Davos in Switzerland from June 15-26 June 2018.

In Spain the IX Simposio de Estudios Polares, will be held in Madrid from 5 to 7 September 2018 (<http://ixsimposiopolar.igme.es>)

For more information about SCAR consult its website: www.scar.org

and about the Spain National SCAR Committee and the mentioned Symposium on: www.uam.es/cn-scar