International Polar Year
Youth Steering Committee

A Proposal for the International Youth Conference on the Poles
From the International Polar Year Youth Steering Committee

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Executive Summary

The International Youth Conference on the Poles (IYCP) will take place for three days in May 2009. Between 200 and 300 youth will attend the conference as participants. IYCP will also attract representatives from polar organizations, teachers, politicians, policy makers, the general public and media. Overall it is expected that approximately 1,000 people will attend some section of IYCP over the three days.

Confirmed keynote speakers include:

- Wade Davis, National Geographic Explorer in Residence
- Shelia Watt-Cloutier, past Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference
- David Carlson, Director of the International Polar Year International Program Office
- Geoff Green, Director of Students on Ice

Goals:
IYCP will bring youth from around the world to focus on the Polar Regions. The conference will encourage young researchers to collaborate more fully across disciplines than they have done traditionally, to get into the practice of presenting their work to non-specialist audiences and the general public and to work more fully with communities. It will further provide an opportunity to update young researchers on the progress of the IPY and other important reports pertaining to the Polar Regions, such as the Fourth Assessment Report of the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change. It will also provide a venue for youth to openly discuss the serious issues facing the Polar Regions and solutions they see to these issues. IYCP will provide an arena for creative works by youth inspired by the Polar Regions. Finally IYCP will provide a forum where youth can learn more about the Polar Regions.

Outcomes:

- Establish a network of young polar researchers, leaders and policy makers who will be able to work together to find creative solutions to the issues facing the Polar Regions.
- Provide an opportunity for youth to present their concerns regarding and solutions to issues facing the Polar Regions to leading politicians and policy and decision makers, both in person and in resulting conference reports.
- Encourage dialogue between young polar researchers in different disciplines, youth living in the Polar Regions and youth working on polar policy.
- Increase general polar knowledge among youth and the general public.
- Increase the profile of youth working in the Polar Regions.
- Encourage youth not currently involved in polar issues to become involved and provide support for youth already working in the Polar Regions.
- Highlight connections between the Polar Regions and the rest of the planet.

Overview:

- **Youth Roundtable Discussions** will bring youth together to discuss issues affecting the Polar Regions and solutions that they would like to see implemented to address these issues.
- **Young Researchers Conference** will provide the opportunity for young researchers working in the Polar Regions to present their work to an interdisciplinary audience.
- **The Polar Fair** will provide an interactive environment for youth to learn about the Polar Regions.

Contact:

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Forward

The International Polar Year (IPY) is an international effort, involving more than 50 countries, to focus research efforts in both the sciences and social sciences on the world's Polar Regions. In order to secure youth involvement in all aspects of the IPY, the Youth Steering Committee (YSC) was formed, aiming specifically to network young polar researchers from all backgrounds to enable collaboration and to involve this group in outreach focused towards other young people. To help fulfill this mandate, the YSC has developed the concept of the International Youth Conference on the Poles (IYCP). Proposed for 2009, this conference will bring together youth from a diverse set of backgrounds and nationalities to discuss the issues affecting the Polar Regions, their effects on a global scale and ways of addressing these issues. The conference will also serve to highlight ongoing IPY research, especially research being undertaken by youth.

The IYCP will focus on interactive events, on youth attendance and participation, interdisciplinary meetings and policy recommendations imagined by youth to provide a perennial framework for youth involvement into polar research and policies.

The IYCP will be of great importance to the IPY because it will serve as the principle venue during the Polar Year where youth from many different disciplines, backgrounds and countries will be able to gather and interact. It will allow IPY to showcase the work of youth to both the media and the general public at large. It will inspire many youth to become more actively involved in polar research and issues, while reinforcing for those currently undertaking these endeavours the importance of their contribution. It will provide the opportunity for a highly motivated group of youth passionate about the Polar Regions to connect, forming a network that they will be able to draw upon in the future.

The IYCP will plant the seeds of a new style of research for the Polar Regions. Participants will see the value of research in fields very different from their own and how this work may be applicable to their own studies. Young researchers will have the opportunity to talk to youth living in the Circumpolar North and learn from them the best approaches to working in communities. Young people working in research and policy will have the opportunity to interact, allowing policy workers to emphasize the need for policy relevant documents coming from the research community. Ultimately these interactions will contribute to the next generation of polar researchers, policy makers and leaders being better equipped and more willing to work together and across disciplines than has been the case in the past. This will hopefully allow them to better address some of the issues faced by the Polar Regions.

Youth and the Polar Regions:

The Polar Regions are among some of the most magical places on Earth. These areas have inspired generations of explorers, scientists and artists. The Antarctic stands as a symbol to the world of peace and cooperation through the Antarctic Treaty. The Arctic houses some of the world's most amazing people and cultures. Both are places of extreme beauty and offer one of the best places on the planet to truly experience nature, as well as providing unique locations for high-end scientific research that cannot be conducted anywhere else on the planet. These areas also stand as warnings. Climate change, heavy metal contamination, tourism, resource development, loss of traditional language, whaling and fishing are often mentioned in the same breath as the Polar Regions. The lessons learned from dealing with these issues in the poles will affect how we will address those same issues in other regions of the globe.

Youth have a strong part to play in this work. As many of these issues will come to fruition during our lifetimes, we deserve the right to begin to address them. We know that ultimately everything that happens in the Polar Regions affects the rest of the world and vice versa, therefore we realise that actions we take in our daily lives affect the poles.

Youth today are informed, talented and creative and allowing them the opportunity to network and share ideas will result in creative solutions to many issues affecting the poles today.

The International Polar Year Youth Steering Committee (IPY YSC):

The International Polar Year (IPY) Youth Steering Committee (YSC) was founded in July of 2005 to ensure that the goal set out by IPY for the involvement of youth in all aspects of the IPY was met. Since that time the membership at the national committee level has grown to include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, RAIPON, Russia, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, and Alaska. Individual YSC members represent additional countries. These include Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Latvia, Malaysia, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Turkey, and Venezuela. To increase infiltration at a national level, each country involved with YSC has founded their own national level youth steering committee to plan more country-specific activities. At the international level the YSC has planned a series of activities of which the IYCP is one. Others include an educational website, the Students on Ice-IPY Expeditions, the Polar Contests, a project bringing together youth and past polar explorers ultimately resulting in a book and documentary, a project documenting youth opinions on what the legacies and outcomes of IPY should be and Tales of the Wonder Zone (a science fiction compilation based on a international polar year occurring 50 years in the future).

Conference Dates:

The IYCP is proposed for May 2009. This places it at the close of IPY, allowing young researchers to have progressed far enough into research projects to be able to present their work during the conference and for it to capitalize on the public energy and enthusiasm surrounding the Polar Regions that IPY is sure to generate. May is an ideal time to host this event as this time period does not fall within either polar research season and is appropriate for involving high school and younger students. The conference will be three days in duration.

Participants:

The IYCP will attract youth from around the world, including young researchers in science and social science, youth from Arctic Indigenous groups, youth not pursuing university education, youth from polar and non-polar nations, youth working in public policy and high school and younger students wishing to learn more about the Polar Regions.

We are aiming to provide some of these participants with support to attend IYCP. Specifically the winners of the national "Polar Contests" will win trips to the conference and we also intend to provide scholarships for young researchers coming to present their work. The YSC will designate a position on the IYCP organizing committee to aid potential participants in securing funding from national, regional and local organizations to allow them to attend the conference. The YSC will further encourage IPY researchers to support their students to attend IYCP. We will also work with our contacts and partner organizations to try and secure additional participant funding.

The YSC expects IYCP to attract between 200 and 300 youth participants. Representatives from polar organizations, politicians, aboriginal leaders, representatives of the IPY, keynote speakers, policy and decision makers, media and the general public, will augment this number. Over the course of the three days it is reasonable to assume that as many as 1,000 people may attend IYCP in some capacity.

Target Audience:

Young Researchers
This group will mainly be involved in the Young Researchers Conference portion of IYCP but some will also participate in the roundtable discussions.

Youth from Arctic Indigenous Group
This group will mainly be involved in the roundtable discussions but will also participate in the Young Researchers conference. Some may also act as keynote speakers throughout the event.

Youth Interested in Polar Policy
This group will mainly be involved in the roundtable discussions but will also participate in the Young Researchers conference.

Artists
This group will spend most of their time in the polar fair, although they will also participate in the roundtable discussions and in some instances, for example a documentary filmmaker, in the Young Researchers Conference.

High School Students
This group will spend most of their time in the Polar Fair although some will also chose to participate in both the Roundtable discussions and the Young Researchers Conference. Members of this group will also represent the winners of the Polar Contests.

Youth Interested in the Polar Regions
This group will spend most of their time in the Polar Fair although some will also chose to participate in both the roundtable discussions and the Young Researchers Conference.

Teachers
Many members of this group will accompany high school aged students throughout the conference. Others will concentrate their time in the polar fair to gain new teaching resources or ideas. Some may attend the roundtable discussions or Young Researchers Conference for similar reasons.

Mentors/Keynotes
These participants will be involved in all areas of IYCP and should be available for participants to approach throughout the event.

Politicians/Policy and Decision Makers
This group will focus most of their time on the roundtable discussions and the Polar Fair Finale, although some may attend other sections of the conference as well.

General Public
This group will attend the Polar Fair, and depending on location, possibly the poster sessions for the Young Researchers Conference.

Media
This group will attend all aspects of IYCP but will probably focus their attention on the Polar Fair Finale.

Conference Structure:

Young Researcher's Conference:

This section of the IYCP will take the form of a traditional science or social science conference. It will involve poster sessions and talks from young researchers working in the Polar Regions, especially those involved in the IPY.

Due to the diversity of projects that will be presented in this part of the conference and the fact that it will be open to all IYCP participants, the young researchers will be given the challenge to present their material in an accessible manner for all conference participants. Instead of dividing posters and talks by subject area, it is proposed to merge subject areas (including sciences and social sciences) to help encourage interdisciplinary collaboration. The YSC hopes to encourage young researchers to collaborate more fully across disciplines than has been traditionally done, to get into the practice of presenting their work to non-specialist audiences and the general public and to work more fully with communities. It is hoped that this style of conference format will encourage young researchers to develop this style of research in the future.

Youth Roundtables:

This section of the IYCP will encompass the polar policy issue component of the conference. These youth roundtable discussions will allow youth from around the world to sit down together and discuss current issues affecting the poles and suggest what policies they feel should be implemented to address these issues. In order to ensure that these discussions are noticed, politicians and policy and decision makers will be invited to sit in on these discussions and hear what the youth have to say. The results of these discussions will be presented in a report format after the close of IYCP and be publicly available on the YSC website (www.ipyyouth.org).

In order to prepare for these discussions and to give the youth a starting point for their discussions, a series of working groups will be convened (through internet web forums) prior to the meetings to produce documents presenting various youth opinions surrounding the given polar issues, similar to the process employed by the Second International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II). These starting point documents will be available for comment on the YSC website. These documents will also help youth prepare for the roundtable discussions before arriving at IYCP. These documents will also enable the reporting of roundtable results to be expedited, since they can form the beginning of the final report. This final report will serve as the medium for YSC to communicate the results of the roundtable discussions to politicians, policy and decision makers, IPY researchers, the general public and youth from around the world. It will also serve as a framework document for youth groups around the world working on

polar issues. It will provide this community of highly motivated youth with a set of common goals to work towards and lobby for within the political arena.

A graduate or post-graduate student working in the area will lead the working group and then youth from around the world with interest in the topic will form the rest of the group. They will be recruited through the YSC website and our national level YSC's.

Polar Fair:

The third section of the IYCP will be the Polar Fair, an interactive fair where youth can explore and learn more about the Polar Regions through a vast array of media.

Polar organizations from around the world will be invited to set up booths featuring youth friendly displays about their work. Highly interactive displays will be encouraged. Games and hands-on activities will also feature highly in the polar fair, possibly including mock Arctic Council and Antarctic Treaty meetings enacted by youth. The art section of the conference will also be housed in the polar fair area. Artworks and photography will be exhibited in the Polar Fair and a space will be available for performance art.

The Polar Fair will also feature student work. Classrooms who are preparing work for IPY will be able to display their work in the Polar Fair. Several IPY projects are already developing programs like this for high school aged youth. Similarly polar science fair projects that have done well at their respective national level competitions may be displayed at the polar fair.

The winners of the "Polar Contests" will also get to display their projects in the Polar Fair. The Polar Contests are another YSC project, which involves having young polar researchers develop educational materials for use in high schools, based on their research projects. These materials will be available through the YSC website to teachers. Teachers will use these materials in classrooms, having students use what they have learned from them to develop projects in the sciences, arts and humanities. They will enter these projects in school-wide polar contests. The winners of the school-wide contests will compete at the national level for the chance to win a trip to IYCP to be able to display their work at the Polar Fair.

Key Note Speakers:

IYCP will feature a series of keynote speakers throughout the conference. Currently there are four confirmed keynote speakers: National Geographic Explorer-In-Residence, Wade Davis, Inuit Circumpolar Conference Chair, Shelia Watt-Cloutier, David Carlson, Director of the IPY International Program Office and Executive Director of Students on Ice, Geoff Green. More speakers are currently being sought on the basis of their expertise in communicating polar themes to a youth audience. The YSC is actively searching for speakers from regions outside North America and languages other than English as the current list is biased in that regard.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers	**Organization or Affiliation**
Wade Davis	National Geographic – Explorer-in-Residence
Shelia Watt-Cloutier	Inuit Circumpolar Conference – Chair
Geoff Green	Students on Ice – Director
David Carlson	International Polar Year International Program Office – Director
Potential Keynote Speakers	
Sir Edmund Hillary	Mountaineer, Explorer, Rolex Spokesperson
Al Gore	Former US Vice President, Climate Change Spokesman
Luc Jacquet	Director of March of the Penguins
Donal Manahan	Biological Sciences, University of Southern California
Chris Hendy	Department of Chemistry, University of Waikato
Jean-Louis Etienne	Adventurer
Fred Roots	Environment Canada – Science Advisor Emeritus
Miali Elise-Coley	Inuit Circumpolar Youth Conference – President
Severn Cullis-Suzuki	UN Secretary General's Special Advisory Panel – Member
Karsten Hueur	Filmmaker, Writer, Activist for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Yellowstone to Yukon Wildlife Corridor
George Butler	IMAX Director of Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure
Eric Proissier	Adventurer
Andrew Clarke	Marine Ecologist, British Antarctic Survey
Chris McKay	Astrobiologist, Space Science Division of NASA Ames Research Center
Paul Crutzen	Recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1995
David Douglas	IMAX Director of Survival Island
Richard Alley	Glaciologist, Penn State University
Paul Nicklin	National Geographic Photographer
John Weiley	IMAX Director of Antarctica

Pre-IYCP Conferences:

With the increased attention that the IPY is bringing to the Polar Regions, many conferences dealing with polar issues are being planned for the next few years. Many of these conferences will also involve a youth component. In order to extend the reach of IYCP to youth who may not be able to attend IYCP, the YSC proposes to incorporate IYCP-themed events into these youth forums (for example facilitating discussions about the working group documents at these events). The YSC would also like to ensure that at least one representative from these various youth events is present at IYCP and provided with the opportunity to share their experiences with the other participants through talks or the presentation of results from these meetings.

Conference Framework:

Day 1:

Roundtable discussions take place. The Polar Fair opens. These events run simultaneously throughout the day, allowing young researchers and the general public not involved in roundtable discussions a chance to browse the Polar Fair. Video links of the progress of the roundtable discussions will be available to be viewed in the Polar Fair area.

Day 2:

The Polar Fair continues. The young researchers conference begins. These would be grouped into themed sessions paralleling the roundtable discussions of the day before (examples include: climate change, tourism, conservation and biodiversity and resource development). This would encourage young researchers to fit their research into a decision-making or policy framework, ensuring that they attempt to translate their results into the bigger picture of the polar issues featured in the roundtable discussions. These sessions will be augmented by presentations from the chairs of the roundtable discussions to report on the results of the previous day and keynote speakers, including, but not limited to, tourism operators, natural history film makers, scientists, policy makers and indigenous leaders.

Day 3:

The Polar Fair continues. Young researchers conference concludes at mid-day. The afternoon and evening will feature the Polar Fair Finale. The finale will feature talks by keynote speakers and performances and talks by artists. This will serve as the section of the conference that unites all of the participants. It will also serve as the key media event with many public figures as invited guests.

DAY 1	DAY 2		DAY 3	
	POLAR	FAIR		POLAR FAIR FINALE
	KEYNOTE	SPEAKERS		
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS				
	YOUNG RESEARCHER CONFERENCE			

Budget:

Administration		40,000.00
Committee	35,000.00	
Office Supplies	5,000.00	
On-Site Staff		10,000.00
Venue		25,000.00
Translation Services		10,000.00
Catering		18,000.00
Speakers		25,000.00
Polar Contest Winners		10,000.00
Participant Scholarships		40,000.00
Participant Travel Expenses		250,000.00
Communications		27,000.00
Website	2,500.00	
Printing	5,000.00	
Material development	2,500.00	
Post-Conference Reporting	7,000.00	
Video Production and Web Posting	10,000.00	
Workshop Logistics		10,000.00
Advertising		10,000.00
Carbon Offsetting		15,000.00
Contingency		10,000.00
Total:		500,000.00

Based on figures provided by David Carlson, Director of IPY International Program Office based on similar events. The above budget is based on 300 participants with all travel included. Values are in Euros.

Conference Requirements:

IYCP will require two main spaces. The first will house the youth roundtables on day one and the young researchers conference on day two. The second much larger space (preferably with a stage) will house the Polar Fair. If possible a third space to display the poster presentations from the young researchers conference separate from the presentation room would be ideal, as this would allow posters to be displayed for all three days of the event, would require less set-up on Day 2 and cause less space restrictions for the young researcher presentations.

IYCP Committee:

IYCP Conference Director
Supervises the overall conference organization.

Manager for Youth Roundtables
Supervises youth roundtable organization.

Manager for Young Researcher Conference
Supervises young researcher conference organization.

Manager for Polar Fair
Supervises polar fair organization.

Manager of Public Relations
Answers emails sent to the conference email, redistributes and replies.

Manager of Outreach
Initiates and manages contacts with the media and the general public.

Media Contact
Maintains day-to-day contact with the press.

Webmaster
Manages the conference website and technical aspects related to email.

Video Production
Manages filming of event for later production and posting to the web.

Manager of Ground Operations
Supervises the logistical aspects of the conference.

Venue Logistics
Manages the practical aspects of the conference.

Technical and AV Support
Helps presenters with technical aspects of their presentations.

Participant Housing
Manages housing of participants and guests.

Manager of Finances
Supervises the conference budget.

Manager of Sponsorship
Initiates and manages contacts with sponsors.

Manager of Participant Funding
Assists participants in securing funding for their own participation in IYCP.

Sponsorship:

Category I: Gold Sponsor
50,000 or more
Support at this level entitles the Gold Sponsor to:

- Placement of organization name and logo on cover and page 1 of the event program and final IYCP reports.
- Sponsor will be identified as "Gold Sponsor of the 2008 International Youth Conference on the Poles".
- Placement of organization logo and name on all event banners and websites.
- Recognition of organization as sole sponsor of a specific activity or workshop, as negotiated.
- Sign of acknowledgment posted at event venues.
- Opportunity for a senior executive to address delegates and speakers at the opening ceremonies of the conference.
- Special mention of organization as a Gold Sponsor in all conference press releases regarding the event.
- Participation in discussions on event branding.
- Opportunity to distribute appropriate organization promotional materials to all delegates as negotiated.
- Public presentation of International Youth Conference on the Poles Certificate of Appreciation at Sponsor's Appreciation Reception during conference.
- Four tickets to opening ceremonies of conference.
- Other arrangements as negotiated.

Category II: Silver Sponsor
25,000 or more
Support at this level entitles the Silver Sponsor to:

- Placement of organization name and logo on inside cover of the event program and final reports of the Conference.
- Recognition of organization as sole sponsor of specific activities and workshops as negotiated.
- Placement of organization logo and name on all event banners and websites.
- Sign of acknowledgement posted at event venues.
- Acknowledgement of sponsor at opening ceremonies.
- Special mention of company as Silver Sponsor in all Conference press releases regarding the event.
- Opportunity to distribute appropriate organization promotional materials to all delegates as negotiated.
- Public presentation of International Youth Conference on the Poles Certificate of Appreciation at Sponsor's Appreciation Reception during conference.
- Three tickets to opening ceremonies of conference.
- Other arrangements as negotiated.

Category III: Bronze Sponsor
10,000 or more
Support at this level entitles the Bronze Sponsor to:

- Placement of organization name and logo on inside cover of the event program and final reports of the Conference.
- Recognition of organization as sole sponsor of specific activity or workshop as negotiated.
- Acknowledgement of Sponsor at Opening Ceremonies.
- Special mention of company as Bronze Sponsor in all Conference press releases regarding the event.
- Sign of acknowledgement posted at sponsored event venue.
- Public presentation of International Youth Conference on the Poles Certificate of Appreciation at Sponsor's Appreciation Reception during conference.
- Two tickets to the opening ceremonies of the Conference.
- Other arrangements as negotiated.

Category IV: Partner
5,000 or more
Support at this level entitles the Partner to:

- Placement of organization name and logo on back cover of the event program and final reports of the Conference.
- Sign of acknowledgement posted at event.
- Mention of company as Partner in selected Conference press releases on the event.
- International Youth Conference on the Poles Certificate of Appreciation at Sponsor's Appreciation Reception during conference.
- Two tickets to the opening ceremonies of the Conference.
- Other arrangements as negotiated.

Category V: Supporter
1,000 or more
Support at this level entitles the Supporter to:

- Placement of organization name and logo on back cover of the event program and final reports of the Conference.
- Recognition of company as Supporter in selected Conference press releases regarding the event.
- Sign of acknowledgement posted at event (if applicable).
- International Youth Conference on the Poles Certificate of Appreciation at Sponsor's Appreciation Reception during conference.
- Two tickets to the opening ceremonies of the Conference.
- Other arrangements as negotiated.