

Report from the 1st meeting of 1st year PhD students of Interdisciplinary Polar Studies

Sosnowiec, 21-23 October 2015

From 21 to 23 October 2015 in Sosnowiec was organized the 1st meeting of Interdisciplinary Polar Studies. During this three days 1st year students from University of Silesia and Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences within the Centre for Polar Studies had an opportunity to start the next level of their education by gaining important knowledge for their future challenges and to share their experiences and opinions with themselves and other scientists.

The first meeting started with a lecture given by Prof. Jacek Jania from University of Silesia. The first part of the lecture contained a mission, main aims and opportunities for Centre for Polar Studies. PhD students had also a chance to gain knowledge of Polish polar history and the most famous polar researchers. The second part of the lecture was focused on glaciology, tidewater glaciers and their influence on the global sea level. Moreover, the difficulties with predictions of the global sea level for the future and the estimation of the influence of climate changes for the glaciers and the global sea level was presented by Prof. Jania.

After a lunch break a “Tidewater glaciers” seminar took a place. Dr. Malgorzata Blaszczyk (University of Silesia) presented possibilities of remote sensing for distinguishing different land coverages on satellite imageries. Based on both ASTER and Landsat products students created various compositions of satellite’s bands in BEAM VISAT software. In next step



1st year students during the "Tidewater glaciers" seminar.

Dr. Blaszczyk introduced methods of measurements of calving flux influence for sea level rise based on tidewater glaciers in Hornsund. In addition, sources of free data for Svalbard area were shown to the students.

The second day of the meeting was started by “Databases and publications searching” seminar given by Dr. Wiesława Ewa Krawczyk. Dr. Krawczyk presented various search engines dedicated to the scientists, the most popular editor’s websites and databases. During the seminar PhD students learned how to efficiently look for the publications which can be valuable for their future

work. Participants of the seminar were also informed about the reach database of both Polish and foreign articles based in the Scientific Information Centre and Academic Library and how to register and use this source of information.



Prof. Jon Ove Hagen during the lecture.

The seminar was followed by “Glaciers mass balance” lecture given by Prof. Jon Ove Hagen. At the beginning, the differences among the glaciers according to both their responses to climate changes and the causes of ice melting were shown. The main part of the lecture was dedicated to different techniques of glaciers mass balance measurements and difficulties related to them. Prof. Hagen presented also the latest results for the mass balance measurements for Svalbard area and explained the methodology of the measurements.

The Inauguration of the Second Academic Year of the Interdisciplinary Polar Studies was the main event of the last day of the three-day meeting. Firstly, Prof. Jacek Jania welcomed all guests and officially opened the inauguration. After the opening some of the guests gave their speeches wishing the Centre for Polar Studies every success for the future and congratulating achievements gained during the first year of its activity. Prof. Jania presented achievements of the Centre’s scientists and students, projects in which they participated and the results of a recruitment process for PhD studies in 2015. After this summary of the 1st Academic Year of the Centre the matriculation of the new PhD students took a place. All of them were invited to the stage where they vowed to be respectful students and received official documents given by representatives of University of Silesia and Polish Academy of Sciences. Aleksander Uszczyk – one of the 1st year PhD students – on behalf of all of them thanked for the opportunity of studying in this unique place, which gives a great chance for young scientists to develop their skills and to learn from the best. After matriculation fresh Master students were introduced by Dr. Bogdan Gądek. As a closure Prof. Tymon Zielinski from Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences gave an “Aerosols without limits” lecture.

The first meeting of 1st year PhD students of the Centre for Polar Studies was a very good opportunity for integration and to gain knowledge of the structure of the Centre and possibilities which are given for them. Moreover, students had a chance to participate in extraordinarily interesting lectures and seminars which were found as a very useful for their future work. The meeting gave a hope that next meetings will be at least as fruitful as this one for all participants.