Geophysical Research Abstracts
Vol. 13, EGU2011-13101, 2011
EGU General Assembly 2011

The Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost (GTN-P): Where do we go from there?

Hugues Lantuit (1,2), Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten (1,2), Hanne Christiansen (3,2)

(1) Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Potsdam, Germany (Hugues.Lantuit@awi.de), (2) International Permafrost Association, Potsdam, Germany, (3) University Centre in Svalbard, Longyearbyen, Svalbard

The fourth International Polar Year has prompted a tremendous level of activity in permafrost research and a dramatic increase in the monitoring capability of permafrost. These include new temperature boreholes both in the Arctic, in the Antarctic, and in alpine regions, but also new observation sites for active layer, coastal erosion, and carbon fluxes monitoring.
The International Permafrost Association has been coordinating these new observations as part of its IPY projects Thermal State of Permafrost (TSP), Antarctic Permafrost and Soils (ANTPAS), Arctic Circumpolar Coastal observatory Network (ACCONet) and Carbon Pools in Permafrost Regions (CAPP). These programmes are tightly connected to global observing programmes such as the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) through the Global Terrestrial Network on Permafrost (GTN-P).
The current level of activity justifies an upgrade of the overall observation strategy for permafrost, which should aim to integrate much of the outputs from the IPY projects and provide a new framework for permafrost observation.
This presentation will present an overview of the data stemming from the GTN-P networks, including the most recent data on permafrost temperature and active layer dynamics and outline the recent undertakings of the International Permafrost Association to adapt GTN-P to these structural changes. It will also show the links between the new GTN-P strategy and the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) and Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON).