

POLISH POLAR RESEARCH	15	1-2	92	1994
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CHRONICLE

XXIII SCAR Meeting, Rome, Italy August – September 1994

The XXIIIrd Meeting of SCAR (*Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research*) was held in Rome (Italy), from 29 August to 9 September, 1994, in the Department of Engineering, University of Rome. Prof. Renato Funicello was the Chairman of the Italian Organising Committee who did their best to create a nice milieu in the ancient city and had shown extreme care and hospitality to the participants.

The Polish delegation consisted of Prof. K. Birkenmajer (National Delegate to SCAR, W. G. Geology member, SCAR Secretary), Prof. S. Rakusa-Suszczewski (Alternate Delegate to SCAR, W.G. Biology member, COMNAP member) and Dr J. Cisak (W.G. Geodesy and Geographic Information member).

The first week (29.VIII – 2.IX) was devoted to SCAR Working Groups meetings. The formal meeting of COMNAP (*Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes*) was held simultaneously. The Polish delegates participated in the proceedings of their respective W.G.s, Geology, Joint Geology and Solid Earth Geophysics, Biology, Geodesy and Geographic Information, and COMNAP, respectively. Moreover, Prof. K. Birkenmajer participated in the SCAR Executive meetings.

The meetings of the national delegates to XXIII SCAR took place in the second week (5 – 9.IX). Canada, Ukraine and Bulgaria were admitted as Associate Members, the latter one effective from 5 March, 1995.

Dr R. M. Laws completed his term of office and Prof. A. C. Rocha-Campos (Brazil) was elected President, Prof. C. R. Bentley and Dr C. A. Rinaldi completed their terms of office and Prof. O. Orheim (Norway) and Prof. P. Quilty (Australia) were elected Vice-Presidents, for the term 1994 – 1998.

In the GOSC (*SCAR Group of Specialists on Cenozoic Palaeoenvironments of Southern High Latitudes*), Prof. K. Birkenmajer has been replaced by Prof. A. Gaździcki (Poland).

The programme and budget of the GLOCHANT (*SCAR Group of Specialists on Global Change in the Antarctic*) were modified, and it was agreed that the Special fund would not be required at the present time. The Global Change Project Office will be hosted at the Cooperative Research Centre in the University of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

The role of GOSEAC (*SCAR Group of Specialists on Antarctic Environment and Conservation*) and SCAR strategy in the transition period until the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty comes into force, was evaluated. Besides its main tasks in initiation, promotion and coordination of scientific research in the Antarctic, SCAR foresees its important role in providing scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties (ATCPs) in matters of its competence, and in protecting scientific research. The concept and value of the Antarctic as a laboratory for the monitoring and understanding of global change and global processes were highlighted. SCAR will continue its close cooperation with the ATCPs and COMNAP for the benefit of Antarctica.

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