International Symposium on
SEASONAL SNOW AND ICE
Lahti, Finland, 28 May–1 June 2012

The International Symposium on Seasonal Snow and Ice was organized by the International Glaciological Society, in collaboration with the Department of Physics, University of Helsinki and the Micro-Dynamics of Ice (Micro-DICE) network of the European Science Foundation. The symposium was held in Lahti, Finland, during 28 May -1 June 2012. The Scientific Committee was formed by Leppäranta Matti Lauri Arvola, Nikolai Filatov, Peter Jansson, Yuji Kodama, Zhijun Li, Lasse Makkonen, Martin Schneebeli.

There were 148 participants from 21 countries present at the event. The various topics dedicated to snow and ice included: observations of temporal changes of seasonal snow and ice cover, snow and ice phenomenology, in situ observations and mathematical modelling techniques; physical, chemical and biological processes of seasonal snow and ice, snow metamorphosis, snow structure models and the effect of snow quality on the biosphere; micro-dynamics of ice, analysis, modelling and interpretation of ice and snow microstructures and linking microstructures to geophysical signals; seasonal sea-ice dynamics and the impact of seasonal sea ice on the ocean, scaling of ice dynamics, mathematical models, ice ridges, and the oceanic boundary layer under sea ice; frozen ground and permafrost, focussing on observations, theoretical advances and modelling; lake and river ice - ecology of frozen lakes, river ice models, estuaries; ecological impact of snow cover and snow quality; remote sensing techniques applied to seasonal snow and ice, sea and lake ice and snow-mapping technology; theoretical and numerical advances in modelling seasonal snow and ice, coupling of cryosphere models with regional climate models and intercomparison of models; projections and forecasts of seasonal snow and ice in a changing climate, downscaling methods and evaluations.

The presentations and posters exposed covered various mountainous, subpolar or polar areas from the Alps, Storglaciären (Northern Sweden), Western Himalaya (India), the Khibiny Mountains (Russia), the Japanese central mountains, the Tibetan Plateau, the Hardangervidda Mountain Plateau, the Carpathians Mountains, Svalbard, Weddell Sea, the Lena River basin (Siberia), Tarim River Basin, the Laptev Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Kara Sea, the Barents Seas, the Greenland Sea, Western Arctic Ocean, the Lake Ladoga, the Lake Pääjärvi, the Lake Baikal, Norway, Finnish Lapland, northern Sweden, Fairbanks (Alaska), Eastern Fennoscandia, Eastern Antarctica, Türkiye, Xinjiang (China), the Siberian Arctic, the Canadian coastal waters, the Eurasian boreal forests and tundra, etc.

The program was varied and rich in activities, including field trips to the vast spaces shaped by glaciers near Lahti, on Vesijärvi glacial lakes, Lake Päijänne at Lehmonkärki, where specific Finnish cultural, sport and traditional activities were held.

The high-level scientific manifestation was a good opportunity of better understanding the world-wide and Polish cryokarst, it offered an exchange of experiences to those present and an opportunity to facilitate the connections between different generations of researchers. Special thanks to Magnus Már Magnússon, Michael Lehning.

Anca MUNTEANU