



THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

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1 MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1.1 WHERE LIES THE URGENCY?

Bridging the Science Society Divide

If humanity and civilisation are to resist to the potential catastrophic effects of global climate change and its accompanying disruptions, society must evolve rapidly to put in place the intellectual and technical competences, administrative and cultural practices and management structures necessary to allow a peaceful and equitable transition.

If we fail to act today, needless suffering, serious economic loss and social upheaval will be very likely for large sections of humanity, and not only for those members of the human race who already live in poverty and deprivation throughout the World.

If we can harness human ingenuity, foresight and cooperation, taking as our example scientific collaborative effort, and knowledge-sharing in the Arctic and in the Antarctic, we can give form to an exhilarating new advance in human development which will unleash our collective potential in a new technological revolution, permitting Man to return to a healthier and more respectful relationship with the natural World which is his home, and on which he depends for life.



Alain Hubert
Chairman of the Board
International Polar Foundation

2 INTRODUCTION

The International Polar Foundation (IPF), believes that while the debates surrounding the scientific, technical and economic issues with regard to scientific research policy, climate change and sustainable development may be complex, and highly specialised this does not mean that ordinary citizens cannot participate. The IPF aims not only to bring the principle concepts of these important issues into the public domain, and in an idiom that can be accessed by the general public, but also to bring the public to the debate, by improving the scientific capital of the coming generations.

The IPF communication strategy on Polar Research, the Polar Regions, climate change and sustainable development consists of a number of information and education tools aimed at capturing the imagination, through history, exploration, adventure, science and play. The cornerstone of the IPF activities will be the Polaris Climate change Observatory, an exhibition centre in the heart of Brussels, (and Europe), dedicated to the understanding of Polar research informing the study of climate change.

The IPF is looking to extend this initiative to other selected locations in the Northern hemisphere – in Canada (Toronto) and in Japan (Tokyo, or Kyoto).

3 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The International Polar Foundation (IPF) aims to inform the public on Polar Research and the Polar Regions, to enhance the understanding of the **World as a complex, unified system** and, through its activities, to underline the contribution of Polar research to the improved understanding of climate change, and its causes and consequences. The IPF approach seeks:

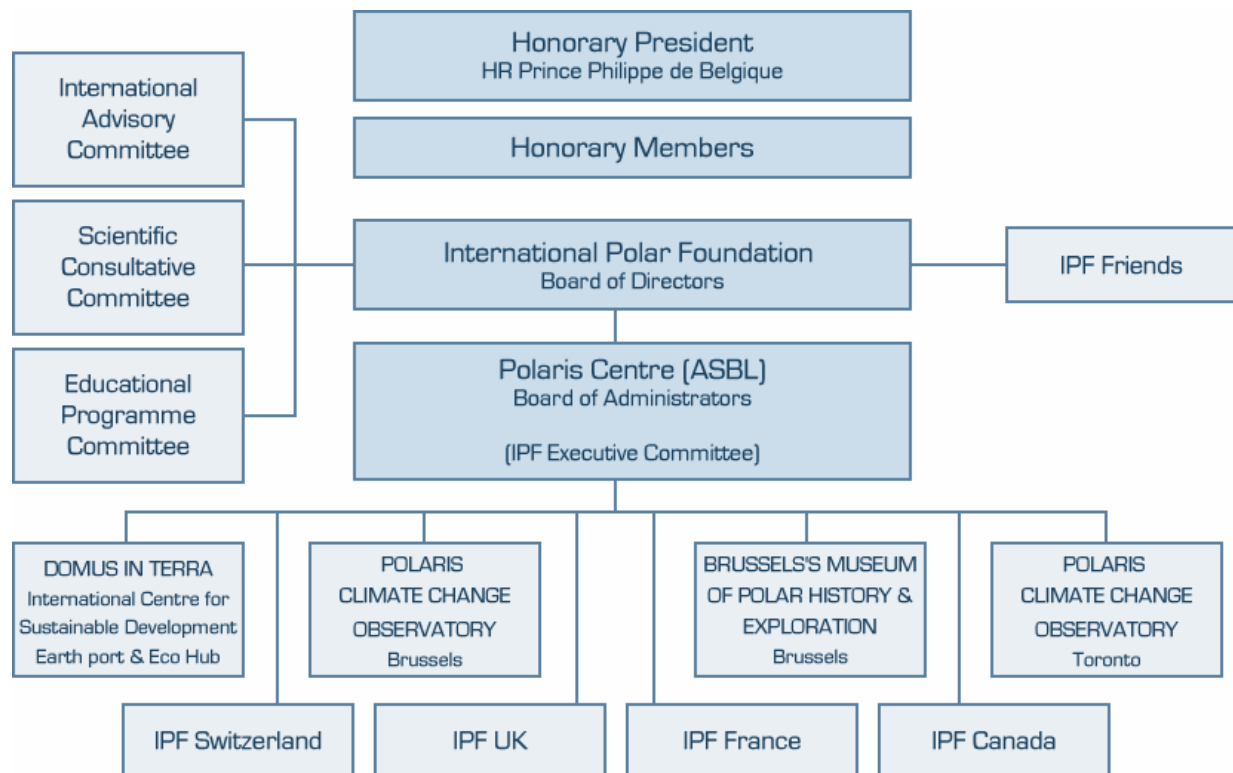
- To stimulate and lend support to the preoccupations and concerns of individuals and society in seeking credible and ethical avenues of **progress** towards the future.
- To rehabilitate the place of **science in society**, as a positive force for human and technological progress necessary for addressing the challenges of the twenty first century.
- To raise public awareness of **the reality of a changing World**, and the role of scientific research in understanding the processes causing the changes.
- To demonstrate, by tangible examples, how human behaviour might be modified in order to **mitigate** the effects of coming changes.
- To address the issues raised with regard to the consequences of a changing planet and **adaptation** to the effects of climate change, underlining the role that science and technology will play in helping to find solutions.
- To stress the importance of **scientific education for all** to allow elementary but vital concepts, affecting the role of every individual in society, to be assimilated so that there is universal agreement and cooperation on the future direction of society,
- To stress the importance of **reviewing educational priorities and strategies** so that the workforce has the skills necessary for the evolving economy.
- To aim for a greater emphasis on **investment in research**, so that the evolving needs of society with regard to cleaner and more efficient technologies can be met, generating a powerful new wave of innovation in industrial products and processes.

4 ADMINISTRATION IN 2004

The International Polar Foundation was created by Royal Statute under Belgian law, in 2002, as an "*Etablissement d'utilité publique*". However, due to a change in the legislation concerning charitable organisations this status was replaced by the status of "*fondation d'utilité publique*". (Private Charitable Foundation)

At a Conseil d'Administration held in February 2004 the IPF modified the statutes (Articles of Association) to take account of the change in the national law governing the activities of Foundations and charitable organisations. At the same time a number of other changes were brought about, including a change of registered address to the current offices at 120a Rue des Deux Gares, B-1070 Brussels.

A number of new administrators were also named, and modifications were brought about to the composition of the Management Committee.



1.2 CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

The modified *Conseil d'Administration* (Board of Directors) is as follows:

- Alain HUBERT (Chairman)
- Hugo DECLEIR
- André BERGER
- Jacques BRASSINNE DE LA BUISSIÈRE
- François Xavier HUBERLAND

1.3 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The modified Management Committee is as follows:

- Alain HUBERT
- Nighat F.D. AMIN
- Gauthier Chapelle
- Henri Tassenoy (Treasurer)

1.4 HONORARY PRESIDENT

In February 2004, HRH Prince Philippe of Belgium became the Honorary President of the IPF.

1.5 HONORARY MEMBERS

In 2004, the number of Honorary Members grew to 8 with the joining of Prof. Bert Bolin (Feb 2004), Prof. Okitsugu Watanabe (July 2004), and Prof. Olav Orheim (July 2004).

The Membership at the end of 2004¹ was as follows:

- Prof. Jörn Thiede, Director of the Alfred Wegener Institute, Bremerhaven
- Prof. Chris Rapley, Director, the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge
- Prof. Claude Lorius, Professor Emeritus, Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Géophysique de L'Environnement, Grenoble.
- Prof. Paul Crutzen, Nobel Prize in Atmospheric Chemistry, Max Planck Institute, Mainz
- Mr Svein Tveitdal, UNEP, Nairobi, Grid Arendal, Norway.
- Prof. Bert Bolin, ex IPCC Chair, Prof. University of Stockholm.
- Prof Okitsugu Watanabe, former Director NIPR, Tokyo
- Prof. Olav Orheim, Norsk Polarinstitutt, Tromsø.

1.6 INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The International Advisory Committee did not meet in 2004, as there is no strategy as yet on its composition. The aim is to invite a wide range of parties who could contribute to the wider ethical, and strategic considerations surrounding the IPF activities.

Present membership is as follows:

- Dr David Walton, British Antarctic Survey
- Prof. Julian Dowdeswell, Scott Polar Research Institute
- Prof. Jean Pascal van Ypersele, University of Louvain
- Prof. Dominique Raynaud, LGGE, Grenoble
- Prof. Roland Souchez, ULB

1.7 SCIENTIFIC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Scientific Consultative Committee remains ad-hoc, and participates when constituted and called upon to participate in defined activities. The Committee may be convened for the various projects of the IPF, such as the scientific content of interactive CD-ROMs, or the AVP of the Polaris, and other educational initiatives. The Liaison between the Management Committee and the Scientific Consultative Committee is Dr. Gauthier Chapelle.

1.8 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The Educational Programme Committee was convened also on an ad-hoc basis, when the need arises. It is managed by Laurent Dubois of IPF Switzerland.

¹ In 2005, there are two new Members from Canada and the USA.

1.9 COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications strategy was put in place, and Mr Philippe Gosseries became the Head of IPF Communications.

In 2004, the European Commission requested the IPF to create a special number of RTD Info, [a scientific magazine with a circulation of 500 000] on Polar Research.

In addition, Mr Philippe Gosseries consulted with AuxiPress for possible areas in which this European information services group could provide services to the IPF, free of charge.

AIR Marketing and Communications provided numerous graphics and design services to the Foundation for publications, and exhibitions.

IPF offices in France and Switzerland are overseeing the production of paper publications, such as children's books, on behalf of the IPF. By prior agreement, all rights and royalties are ceded to the IPF by the production teams.

The IPF Group continues to participate in events, such as science weeks, and exhibitions to inform the wider public on environmental issues.

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FUND-RAISING & SPONSORSHIP

Rolex Europe undertook to support financially the engagement of a fund raising professional for 6 months. At the end of this period, the level of fund-raising should have been at a level to permit this activity to become self financing.

Donations and Sponsors

Donators and Sponsors committing funds or other advantages to the IPF/ Polaris at the end of 2004 were as follows:

- LCF Edmond de Rothschild (www.lcf-rothschild.com)
- Belgacom (www.belgacom.be)
- Glaverbel (www.glaverbel.be)
- Rolex (www.rolex.com)
- AIR (www.aironair.be)
- Roche Diagnostics (www.roche-diagnostics.com)
- Fondation Roi Baudouin (www.kbs-frb.be)
- AuxiPress (www.auxipress.be)

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Les Amis de la Fondation Polaire

The Association to be known as *Les Amis de la Fondation Polaire* (Friends of the Polar Foundation) is in the process of being set up in 2004. Prof. Andre Lejeune will direct this initiative, as a means to oversee the activities of volunteers.

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Tax Deductibility of Donations

The request for the « Défiscalisation » or tax deductibility of donations is still awaiting the official response from the Ministry of Finance at the end of 2004. The *Fondation Roi Baudouin* has therefore extended the service of a « compte projet » or special account for this purpose, for the use of the IPF until 2006.

The *Fondation Roi Baudouin* office in the US (**King Baudouin Foundation US**) has undertaken to channel funds collected in the US for the IPF, which will allow US donations made through the KBF-US to be tax deductible.

1.10 ASSOCIATIONS OF THE IPF GROUP

Brussels Museum of Polar History and Exploration/ Musée Arctique et Antarctique

The BMPHE or *Musée Arctique & Antarctique* (MAA) was set up as a charitable non-profit organization (ASBL) under Belgian law in July 2004. The signing ceremony of the statutes was held at the *Maison Communale* of Anderlecht, in the presence of the Burgomaster, Mr Jacques Simonet, and various local dignitaries. Mr Jacques Brassinne de La Buissière will be the Director of the MAA.

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Polaris Centre ASBL

The Polaris Centre was established as a charitable non-profit- organization or “*association sans but lucrative*” in May 2004. The Director is Alain Hubert. The Polaris became the chief operating arm of the IPF, with most project activities being channelled through it.

The Polaris Centre acquired the East Wing of the *Grande Clinique* of the Cureghem Complex, hereafter referred to as the Polaris Centre, for the Polaris Climate Change Observatory, and the future *Domus in Terra*. An option was taken on the acquisition of the remainder of the building, as soon as a financing structure could be put together. The Polaris Centre asbl financed the purchase with a fixed term loan from the Fortis Bank. The loan comes to term in May 2005, but is to be renewed.

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IPF Switzerland

The IPF Switzerland was in the process of constitution at the end of 2004, and is to be managed by Laurent Dubois.

Committee Members of IPF Switzerland

- Alain Hubert, Member
[alain.hubert@polarfoundation.org]
- Laurent Dubois, President,
[laurent.dubois@polarfoundation.org]
- Didier Raboud, Treasurer IPF Switzerland,
[Didier.Raboud@presse.unige.ch]
- Sophie Touchais, General Secretary, IPF Switzerland,
[touchais@bluewin.ch]
- Alain Vaissade, Physicist, ex-Mayor of Geneva, Committee Member,
[alain.vaissade@bluewin.ch]

Members

- Martin Beniston, climatologist, Professor at the University of Fribourg.
- Christophe Grand, Environmental Education, WWF Suisse romande.
- Suren Erkman, International Consultant - communication on science and technology for international organizations (UNEP, World Bank, UNDP) governmental agencies (State Secretariat for Science, Federal Office for Energy, State of Geneva, etc.) NGOs, companies.
- Pascal Kindler, Professor at the University of Geneva, Earth Sciences, specialising in sedimentology, and stratigraphy (cf climate change).
- Willi Weber, Director of the Centre Universitaire d'Etude des Problèmes de l'Energie (CUEPE), Université de Genève.
- Pierre Dillenbourg, Professor new technologies for education and training, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology - Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL).
- Roland Georg, producer of Territoire 21, TSR – Télévision Suisse Romande.
- François Benedetti, producer of Atlas, RSR – Radio Suisse Romande.
- Sophie Hulo, Chief of Clim@TIC project at the Passerelle Science Cité of the University of Geneva.
- Agathe Weber, Scientific Counsellor,

Activities of the IPF Switzerland

The activities projected for the IPF Switzerland in 2004-2008 are as follows:

Current activities:

IPF Switzerland will continue to develop the educational programme and tools launched under Educapoles.

- ·Renewable energies – production of a CD-ROM with Romande Energie.
- short film (45 sec) on re-newable energy with Television Suisse Romande and Romande Energie
- Comic Book
- Publication of the CD Rom « Polar Regions & Climate Change » 2005 in 6 languages.
- IPF Switzerland Exhibition « Antarctique, Silence et Lumière » [Travelling exhibition – Switzerland, June to November 2005]. The IPF Group activities will be presented in a dedicated stand.
- cooperation with Radio Suisse Romande on six 35 minute programmes on climate change.
- Event « Science Night 2006 ».

The Clim@tic Programme of educational projects:

Didier Raboud, in the context of Clim@tic, is developing contacts with Museums of ethnography, and the Botanical Gardens. Clim@tic will be launched in September 2006. Discussions are under way with the TSR, Lemman Bleu and RSR for the production of films on climate change and sustainable development.

A Clim@TIC-Suisse project is under development, which will focus on melting glaciers and permafrost in the Alps. The effect of local climate changes on tourism and the economy.

IPF Switzerland will address local and national audiences, and will remain objective, and impartial from the political debate. The approach of the IPF is to allow discussion to be based on the best available scientific data.

IPF Switzerland will nurture contacts with international partner organisations present in Switzerland, such as the WWF, the IUCN, the UN, with a view developing common actions.

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IPF France

The IPF France was also under constitution at the end of 2004, (Association 1901 under French law). The Manager is to be Sébastien Acacia of La Cellule/Kitango, the partner company of the IPF in the production of multimedia and other educational products. Contacts between the IPF and Brazil, are also being explored via IPF France in the context of expanding educational activities to the South American Continent.

Members of IPF France

- o Alain Hubert
- o Sébastien Acacia
- o Louis de la Roncière
- o N.F.D. Johnson-Amin
- o Christian de Marliave

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IPF UK

The intention is to set up the IPF Polaris in the United Kingdom, and preliminary discussions were held on the nature of the organization. It was decided to create a Charitable Trust to manage IPF activities in the United Kingdom.

The Scott Polar Research Institute has agreed to house the IPF Polaris UK offices in Cambridge. This will be very useful for the IPF as the British Antarctic Survey, and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research are also based in Cambridge. This proximity will facilitate the task of the IPF.

Proposed Trustees of IPF UK (not yet complete)

- Alain Hubert
- Jean de Pomereu
- Meredith Hooper
- Stephen Cox
- Sir Andrew Burns
- N.F.D. Johnson-Amin

Contact:

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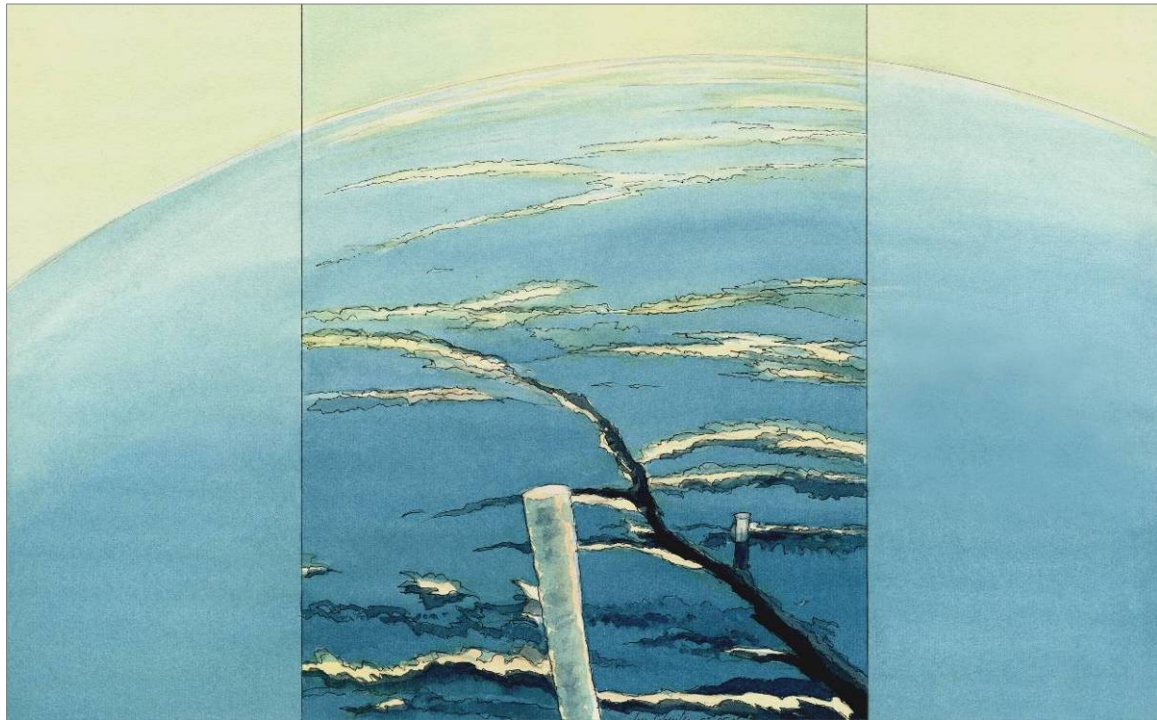
Phone/Fax: +44-20-8874 4824

Mobile: +44-7775-56 00 54

Address: *15 Bective Place, London SW15 2PQ, United Kingdom*

5 ACTIVITIES

1.1 THE “POLARIS CLIMATE CHANGE OBSERVATORY”



The Polaris Europe – Brussels, 2007

The Polaris Climate Change Observatory museographic project received a boost with the completion of the AVP, or *Avant Projet*, by the museum designers, Bleu de Methylène, from Paris. The AVP was submitted to a committee of museologists and educational experts for evaluation. A number of weak points were identified for modification. The final process of validation of each design/museological phase requires the convening of a special committee consisting of the architect, the designers, and the client representatives.

The next phase has begun, and will be completed late in 2005.

The project was launched officially in October 2004, in the presence of HRH Prince Philippe of Belgium. The Baronne Ariane de Rothschild attended, as did the Directors of the European Polar Board, the British Antarctic Survey, the Scott Polar Research Institute, and the Alfred Wegener Institute. The Keynote speaker was Jorn Thiede of the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven.

Contact:

Dr Gauthier Chapelle

[gauthier.chapelle@polarfoundation.org]

The Polaris Canada – Toronto, 2009

The Polaris Toronto Project was launched with the renowned Architects Samyn and Partners. A project manager was employed who, as a native of Toronto, had experience of the Canadian architectural environment, having studied architecture at the University of Toronto. Several potential sites were identified, and visited in September 2004.

The University of Toronto was open to the proposal of the IPF, and agreed to allow the further development of the project for a site on the campus of the University.

Contacts were established with Stephen Bronfman of the Claridge Corporation, and head of the Bronfman family Foundation. Mr Bronfman suggested that the David Suzuki Foundation be asked to partner this initiative, as they had extensive experience with educational projects on environmental themes.

The Polaris Climate Change Observatory in Toronto would also work closely with Canadian scientists to bring to the fore climate change and other Arctic Research, as well as looking at the regional particularities with regard to the Arctic indigenous peoples, and the effect of climate change and pollution on traditional modes of life.

The IPF will, with the assistance of Mr Stephen Bronfman set up a local office in Toronto to manage the project, and future management communication activities around the Polaris Toronto.

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The Polaris Japan – Tokyo, 2010

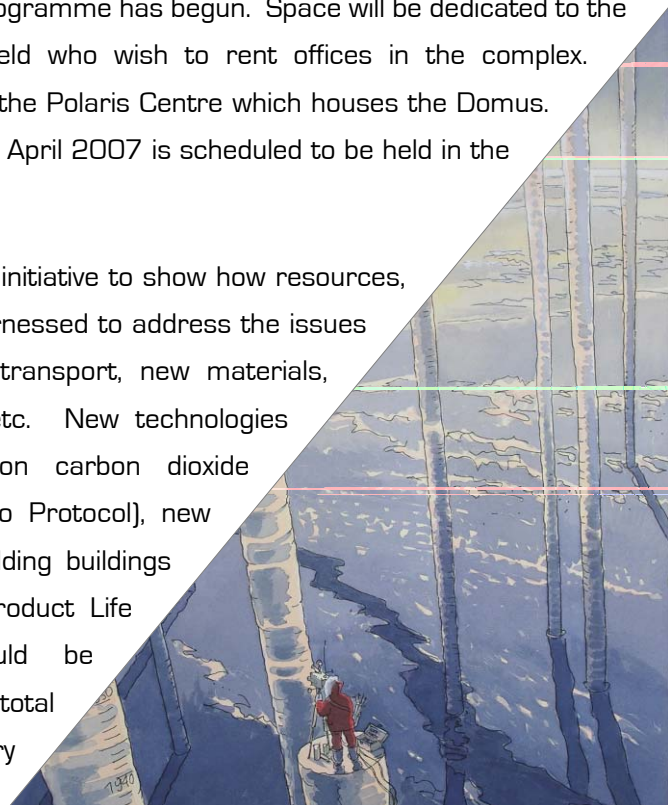
The possibility of opening a further Polaris in Tokyo was broached with Prof Kazuyuki Shiraishi, during the Antarctic Station Site survey, in which he assisted. It appears that the NIPR is looking to build a new office building and are interested in the Polaris concept. This question is to be studied in depth during 2005, for feasibility.

1.2 THE DOMUS IN TERRA

The **Domus in Terra** Project is an innovative new project to bring sustainable development issues into the public arena in a way that is more accessible to the general public. Exhibition space will be dedicated to the discussion of complex international initiatives such as the IPCC, The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and the use of new technologies to face the challenges of the future.

A preliminary exhibition and building programme has begun. Space will be dedicated to the NGOs active in the environmental field who wish to rent offices in the complex. Conference facilities are being built in the Polaris Centre which houses the Domus. The IPCC Working Group 2 meeting of April 2007 is scheduled to be held in the Polaris Centre in Brussels.

Business will be asked to partner this initiative to show how resources, intellectual and financial, are being harnessed to address the issues raised, with regard to energy use, transport, new materials, ecological construction, agriculture etc. New technologies aimed at meeting commitments on carbon dioxide emission reductions (under the Kyoto Protocol), new methods of producing energy, or building buildings will be on display. The complete Product Life Cycle Management concept would be explained as a means of assessing total environmental impacts of ordinary everyday products.

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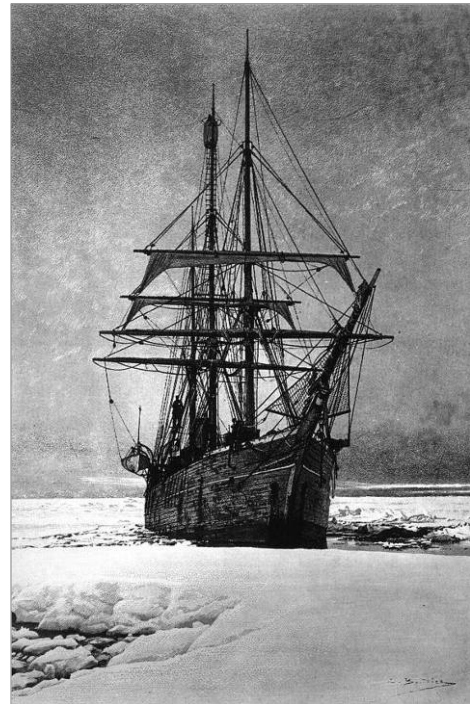
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1.3 THE BRUSSELS MUSEUM OF POLAR HISTORY & EXPLORATION (MUSÉE ARCTIQUE ET ANTARCTIQUE)

A feasibility study was carried out funded by the *Fondation Roi Baudouin* (King Baudouin Foundation). Work has begun on a possible restoration project in cooperation with the Commune of Anderlecht who have proposed the use of the upper two floors of the building giving onto the street (rue des Vétérinaires), to the IPF for the Museum.

Discussions are envisaged for the housing of collections of historical artefacts related to ship expeditions in the Polar Regions, and their scientific importance. The link between historical scientific research and the research carried out today gives a powerful message on humanity's capacity for curiosity and ingenuity in the face of extremes.

Other opportunities are also presented on the possibility of housing various collections of Arctic artefacts, as well as travelling exhibitions, in collaboration with other Polar museums the World over, giving access to the material which normally remains in the archives to a new generation.



The Arctic and Antarctic nature of the collections would greatly enhance the bi-Polar character of the Museum, allowing for the creation of an exceptional international facility, which would work closely with other museums to give them additional international exposure.

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1.4 WEBSITES

In 2004, the IPF web sites were rapidly overwhelmed by the demands on them, and a project was launched to overhaul them in light of the enormous quantity of material to be managed. The success of the site can be attested to by the dramatic rise in the number of visitors over a short space of time.



[www.polarfoundation.org]

A new web site is also planned for the scientific research portal of the IPF – SciencePoles.

The **SciencePoles** portal aims to:

- Collect information from around the globe, on Polar Research initiatives, and climate change research, relating, inter alia, to modeling, simulation and prediction of impacts, adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- promote scientific research in the Polar Regions, by explaining the social context of such activities.



[www.sciencepoles.org]

A web site dedicated to the legislative and financial environment surrounding the issues of climate change and sustainable development (**LexPoles**) is also under development for end 2005.

The objectives of the LexPoles are to:

- collect and analyse information surrounding the expected social and economic impact of national and international Treaties, laws and regulations aiming to address the issue of climate change, and environmental protection globally, and in the Polar Regions.
- promote interdisciplinary research aimed at identifying the optimal application of legislative measures for addressing climate change, (on the basis of evolving scientific knowledge, and predictions stemming from mathematical simulations).

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1.5 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Educapoles

Laurent Dubois continued to develop and expand the activities related to the educational programme in Switzerland, and made many new contacts with international NGOs such as WWF International.



[www.educapoles.org]

Clim@tic

Climatic is an integrated project carried out in collaboration with a number of partners, such as the Passerelle Science Cité, the WWF, etc. Several projects are proposed for the period 2004 to 2008, including the coverage of several of the IPF expeditions into the Arctic and Antarctic to build the new research station for the Belgian Government.

The European Community and UNESCO agreed in 2004 to support projects in the Clim@tic series.

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EONS

The IPF project EONS (or the Earth Observation Network for Schools), involves the construction of an environmental observation station, based on simple scientific principles, using everyday objects, provided in kit form. After calibration, observations are automatically stored on a flash memory card, downloaded onto a computer and transmitted to a central database.

The data collected from participating schools internationally will eventually be linked up, using computer modelling techniques, in a special exhibit of the Polaris Climate Change Observatory in Brussels. In this way, students can identify with the climate monitoring and modelling activities carried out in the Arctic and Antarctic.



In 2004, the EONS project was among the finalists of the ALTRAN Foundation competition. However, as the IPF was not able to increase the level of funding over and above the amount offered by the *Jeunesses Scientifiques*, it was decided to run a feasibility project nationally with a few schools, in the form of a pilot project. Lessons learned from this phase will be applied to the international project phase to be launched in September 2005.

In the second phase, the EONS Project will set up an international network of schools to collect environmental data, using monitoring stations provided in kit form, to be constructed by the students from the participating classes.

The development of the kit will be among the priority actions. A project manager will be engaged as soon as more funds become available. UNESCO is seen as a potential partner.

Partners in EONS are the Observatoire Royale de Belgique, Les Jeunesses Scientifiques Belges, and MILSET.

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CD-ROM – Multimedia flash animations

As part of the development of novel educational tools, the IPF launched in 2004 a six language version of the CD-ROM of flash animations, educating on the Polar Regions and on Climate Change. The animations feature on various web sites including the UNEP, the Cité des Sciences (Paris) and the site of RAI Uno (Italy).

Another multimedia project to launch a CD-ROM with flash animations on energy, had a small setback when the budget allocated by the local government Ministry of Transport was cancelled due to the elections. It is expected that this project will now be executed in 2005, with the ICEDD, the IPF Switzerland and the WWF.



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1.6 POLARIS ARCTIKA

This project will be part of the international scientific activity carried out in the context of the International Polar Year 2007-2008. The International Polar Year will require that an array of high profile activities designed to mark the occasion, be put into place and this initiative combining as it does science, public outreach and adventure has all the components necessary to capture the public imagination.



In 2004, the IPF was invited to join various European and International research projects including CARE (*Climate of the Arctic and its role for Europe*), DAMOCLES, and the iAOOS (*Integrated Arctic Ocean Observation System*) proposal for the IPY. Other scientific groups from the US, and Spain have also indicated an interest in participating in this exciting project, which intends to convert the drifting ship into a research platform, around which will be set up facilities for conducting various types of scientific observations.

Around September 2007, the ship² that will undertake the Arctic Drift Expedition will be beset by ice north of the New Siberian Islands, the same point from which the Fram set off into the ice pack in 1893, and the same point from which Alain Hubert set off in 2002, to attempt the longest crossing of the Arctic Ocean.

The scientists who participate will be aboard for varying lengths of time to carry out observations on the ice pack, the drift, the ocean salinity and flux, the plankton, as well as meteorological observations and atmosphere/ocean experiments.

It is expected that the drift will last for two years, taking into consideration recent data for the drift track of Arctic Bases set up Russian scientists (the most recent Severny Polius 32 being evacuated ahead of schedule, in early March 2004, due to ice conditions).

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² Due to difficulties with the existing partners in the project, beginning in March 2005, the IPF are proposing to **build a new boat** capable of re-enacting the journey of the FRAM, the legendary ship of Fridtjof Nansen.

1.7 ACTIVITIES WITH BELGIAN FEDERAL AUTHORITIES

The International Ice Station Antarctica, Droning Maud Land, Antarctica 2007

The Belgian government, in February 2004, commissioned the IPF to design, finance and construct a new research base in Antarctica, to become operational during the International Polar Year 2007. The project is based on cooperation with other Antarctic Treaty countries, (Japan, Sweden, Germany, Norway and France), who have offered their expertise in various technical areas. The station will house twenty during the summer season, and will be based between the Russian station Novolazarevskaya, and the Japanese Station, Syowa, in the Queen Maud Land Region.

A site survey has been carried out in November 2004. A further reconnaissance mission is planned for 2005.



Materials and technologies testing and selection will follow the principles of eco-construction, aiming to reduce the environmental impact of establishing the new base. Renewable energy sources will be used to supply the most part of the energy needs. Wastewater treatment at other sites will be studied to ascertain the most effective treatment methods to prevent contamination of the environment, and to facilitate removal from the Antarctic continent.

The International Polar Foundation will use the construction process to pursue the objectives of the Foundation: to educate and inform on research in the Polar Regions, and on Climate Change and to demonstrate sustainable development principles by practical solutions. Sponsors will be sought to equip the station with cutting-edge materials and technologies aimed at energy production, and conservation, and the minimization of the environmental impact of station activities.

Contact:

Johan Berte, Antarctic Base Project Manager
johan.berte@polarfoundation.org

Be-Poles« Cluster » with BELSPO

The contract for the project was finally signed in December 2004, with the Federal Government Ministry for Science, and activities in coordination with the Belgian Science Policy Office will begin in 2005.



To recap, this project aims to offer a platform for communication for scientists, educational establishments and students. Several Belgian Universities are partners in this project.

These aims will be carried out by the following IPF actions:

- Communication office to be established
- Web site for the popularisation of scientific content, on the BELSPO server
- Training sessions for primary school teachers with the *Congrès des Sciences* and the *Vlaamse Congres van Leraars Wetenschappen*
- Participation in Science Weeks : *Printemps des Sciences* / *Wetenschapsweek*
- The Pilot Project : *Class@Poles - Mission to Spitsberg*. (organised by Prof Henriët).

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1.8 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International Polar Year – IPY 2007-2008

In the context of the preparation for the International Polar Year, the IPF participated in meetings in St Petersburg in February, in Washington in June, in Bremen in July, and in Paris in September 2004. Offers to host the Education and Outreach Office, made to the Joint Committee were not given any response. However, a number of individual institutes have asked to join the IPF initiatives in this area.

Two projects were to be proposed the IPY Joint Committee in January 2005. These involve the coordination of public outreach and education activities at the international level, and the capacity building project to attract scientists from the developing world into the study of climate change and Polar Research.

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MOU with UNEP

At the ACIA launch in Reykjavik in November 2004, a meeting was held between the IPF and the UNEP, during which the UNEP representative requested the IPF to propose a Memorandum of Understanding. This was duly done in 2005, and a response is awaited.

Further MOUs could be signed with other international organisations on the basis of common aims identified.

E.g. : the IUCN, Green Facts, the WWF (Belgium and International).

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6 FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2004

1.1 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (31 DECEMBER 2004)

ASSETS	Notes	EX 2004	EX 2003
Debtors	[1]	904.172 €	519.300 €
Cash		392.240 €	12.179 €
Other		58.682 €	181.496 €
TOTAL		1.355.094 €	712.975 €

LIABILITIES	Notes	EX 2004	EX 2003
<i>Equity</i>			
Capital & Endowment		25.000 €	25.000 €
Balance ex		237.756 €	319.477 €
Balance carried over		319.477 €	
<i>Debt</i>			
Financing Debt		16 €	25.000 €
Operating funds		181.748 €	47.998 €
Accrued Debt (wrt social costs)		27.873 €	
Accounts payable		313.224 €	95.500 €
Other	[2]	250.000 €	200.000 €
TOTAL		1.355.094 €	712.975 €

INCOMES		EX 2004	EX 2003
Sales		16.532 €	2.393 €
Memberships, donations, legacies, bequests & subsidies	(3)	1.035.343 €	588.380 €
Financial Income		587 €	77 €
Royalties			
Other			
TOTAL		1.052.462 €	590.850 €

EXPENDITURES		EX 2004	EX 2003
Operational Project Costs –Education, awareness	(4)	555.395 €	268.593 €
Remunerations	(5)	204.385 €	
Depreciation		54.142 €	2.057 €
Financing costs		784 €	714 €
Other			9 €
TOTAL		814.706 €	271.373 €

YEAR RESULTS	237.756 €	319.477 €
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Notes	EX 2004
(1) Donations to receive	466.723 €
Advance POLARIS CENTRE (PCCO)	436.184 €
(2) Income carried over	250.000 €
(3) Fondation Edmond de Rothschild	500.000 €
Belgacom	250.000 €
Belgian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs	210.000 €
Subsidies & diverse	75.343 €
(4) POLARIS CENTRE (PCCO)	249.286 €
Educapoles	28.545 €
INFO Centre	41.276 €
Polar Base	215.069 €
General	21.219 €
(5) Personnel	4

CONSULTING

Financial Consultant:

Henri Tassenoy

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RAPPORT DU COMMISSAIRE SUR L'EXERCICE SE CLOTURANT LE 31 DECEMBRE
2004
DE LA FONDATION POLAIRE INTERNATIONALE

Conformément aux dispositions statutaires, nous avons l'honneur de vous faire rapport sur l'exécution de la mission de revision qui nous a été confiée par le conseil d'administration.

Nous avons procédé à la révision des comptes annuels établis et arrêtés en date du 3 mai 2005 sous la responsabilité du conseil d'administration de la fondation, pour l'exercice se clôturant le 31 décembre 2004 dont le bilan s'élève à 1.355.094,41€ et dont le compte de résultats se solde par un boni de l'exercice de 237.755,79 €. Nous avons également procédé aux vérifications spécifiques complémentaires requises par la loi.

ATTESTATION SANS RESERVE DES COMPTES ANNUELS DE L'EXERCICE CLOTURE LE 31 DECEMBRE 2004 - DECLARATION D'ABSTENTION SUR LES COMPTES ANNUELS DE L'EXERCICE PRECEDENT

Nos contrôles ont été réalisés en conformité avec les normes de l'Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises. Ces normes professionnelles requièrent que notre révision soit organisée et exécutée de manière à obtenir une assurance raisonnable que les comptes annuels ne comportent pas d'inexactitudes significatives compte tenu des dispositions légales et réglementaires applicables aux comptes annuels en Belgique.

Conformément à ces normes, nous avons tenu compte de l'organisation de la société en matière administrative et comptable ainsi que de ses dispositifs de contrôle interne. Les responsables de la fondation ont répondu avec clarté à nos demandes d'explications et d'informations. Nous avons examiné par sondage la justification des montants figurant dans les comptes annuels. Nous avons évalué le bien fondé des règles d'évaluation et les estimations comptables significatives faites par la fondation ainsi que la présentation des comptes annuels dans leur ensemble. Nous estimons que ces travaux fournissent une base raisonnable à l'expression de notre opinion.

À notre avis, compte tenu des dispositions légales et réglementaires qui les régissent, les comptes annuels clôturés au 31 décembre 2004 donnent une image fidèle du patrimoine, de la situation financière et des résultats de la fondation. Notre nomination n'étant intervenue que le 3 mai 2005, nous ne sommes pas en mesure d'émettre une

opinion sur les comptes comparatifs de l'exercice précédent tels qu'ils figurent dans les comptes annuels.

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ATTESTATION ET INFORMATIONS COMPLEMENTAIRES

Nous complétons notre rapport par les attestations et informations complémentaires suivantes qui ne sont pas de nature à modifier la portée de l'attestation des comptes annuels.

- Nous ne devons vous signaler aucune opération conclue ou décision prise en violation des statuts ou de la loi du 2 mai 2002 sur les fondations.
- Sans préjudice d'aspects formels d'importance mineure, la comptabilité est tenue et les comptes annuels sont établis conformément aux dispositions légales et réglementaires applicables en Belgique.

Fait à Bruxelles, le 27 juin 2005

SCPRL BOLLEN, MATHAY & C^o - Réviseurs d'entreprises
Représentée par

Chantal BOLLEN
Commissaire