

# 2020 Editorial Board Meeting Minutes

Time: 16:00—17:30 (China, +8 UTC), 17 December 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting

## 1 **Welcome and Introductions (Yang Huigen)**

Huigen Yang	Co-Editor-In-Chief
Ian Allison	Co-Editor-In-Chief
Beichen Zhang	Standing Vice-Editor-In-Chief, Editorial Board Member
Michael Ashley	Editorial Board Member
Sheeba N. Chenoli	Editorial Board Member
Steve Coulson	Editorial Board Member
Jon-Ove Hagen	Editorial Board Member
Kim Holmén	Editorial Board Member
Chaolun Li	Editorial Board Member
José Retamales	Editorial Board Member
Zhouqing Xie	Editorial Board Member
Duncan Young	Editorial Board Member
Jian Yang	Editorial Board Member
Yi Zhang	Editorial Board Member
Yue Zhao	Editorial Board Member
Meng Zhou	Editorial Board Member
Yong Yu	Division Chief, Technology Development Division of Polar Research Institute of China
Xiaoliang Ling	Officer, Editorial Office of <i>Advances in Polar Science</i>
Jing Huang	Officer, Editorial Office
Weiquan Zhao	Officer, Editorial Office
Wanchen Duan	Officer, Editorial Office

## 2 **Overview of current status, publication schedule and achievements with *Advances in Polar Science* (Huang Jing)**

Four issues of volume 30 plus three issues of Volume 31 have now been published on time in 2019 and 2020, respectively. In 2019, two were special issues, 30(1) “Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS)”, and 30(3) “Geology and paleontology of the James Ross Basin, Antarctic Peninsula”. Volume 30 included 32 papers (11 Reviews, 1 Trend, 15 Articles, 3 Letters, 2

Opinion Editorials) with a total of 411 pages. In 2020, two were also special issues, 31(1) “Sea ice observations and modeling in China and Norway”, and 31(2) “Emerging polar science and its global links”. Volume 31 has so far included 24 papers (1 Review, 1 Trend, 20 Articles, 2 Opinion Editorials) with a total of 236 pages. Issues 31(4) will be published a little late.

In 2015, the new editorial board was organized. From that time on, the rejection rate is increasing year by year, from 5% in 2015, 15% in 2016, 24% in 2017, 8% in 2018, 20% in 2019 to 24% in 2020.

In 2020 the international content in APS improved considerably. In 2015 the percentage of published papers with a non-Chinese submitting author was 24% (from 4 countries); in 2016, it was 33% (from 12 countries); in 2017, it decreased to 15% (from 7 countries) because of the 28(2) special issue on 30-years of CHINARE with all Chinese authors; in 2018, it was 39% (from 12 countries); in 2019, it was 54% (from 15 countries); and in 2020, it was 63% (from 14 countries).

The publication plans for the volumes 31 and 32 are:

31(4) General Issue. 4 papers complete, 4 revised manuscripts in review. Aim for publication by 30 January 2021.

32(3) Special Issue on “Marine Ecosystem and Climate Change in the Southern Ocean”. Aim for publication by 30 September 2021. The main purpose of this volume is on understanding the changes of basic marine environment (including paleo-environment) in the Southern Ocean, diversity of marine populations at different trophic levels and its control factors, the material and energy flows in the ecosystem, and the potential response of populations and ecosystem to the climate and environment change. This issue was originally proposed by EIC, Huigen Yang, and the lead Guest editor, Prof. Jianfeng He from PRIC, is very efficient and positive in promoting this special issue.

32(4) Since the year 2020 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Finland, we organized a Special Issue on “Sino-Finnish cooperation on cryosphere and climatology in polar and sub-polar regions”. Aim for publication by 31 December 2021. The topics of the Special Issue include, but are not limited to: (1) Review of Sino-Finnish cryosphere and climate cooperation; (2) Physical and ecological processes of sea ice and lake ice in polar and sub-polar regions; (3) Climate change and atmospheric processes in polar and sub-polar regions; (4) Glaciers and ice sheets; (5) Sea ice engineering in cold regions; (6) Shipping in ice-covered waters. The Guest Editors are Prof. Matti Leppäranta from University of Helsinki, Prof. Timo Vihma from Finnish Meteorological Institute, Prof. Bin Cheng from Finnish Meteorological Institute and Prof. RuiBo Lei from PRIC.

This year, APS has been accepted for inclusion in the Scopus abstract and citation database (Elsevier). The assessment comments were that: (1) The journal consistently includes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic or professional audience in this field. (2) This title addresses a subject area not properly covered by an existing journal.

This year, the Editorial Office has also been active in promoting APS and soliciting manuscripts in many ways: (1) posting APS development and information on special issues on the SCAR website and newsletters, the Arctic Portal website, IASC, APECS and CAA (Chinese Antarctic and Arctic Administration), (2) posting APS's latest contents or recommending new category/ good papers on the Cryolist and Climlist mailing lists, (3) sending emails to leaders of most Antarctic stations, to scientists participating in the 35<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> CHINARE, and in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> CHINARE(-Arctic), plus to authors who have published in APS in recent years.

### **3      *Introductory remarks by Editors-in-Chief (Ian Allison)***

Ian Allison emphasised the improvements in the Journal over the last few years:

- **Publication schedule.** The publication schedule is back on target. There are presently 8 new manuscripts in process in the ScholarOne System, so it should be possible to publish the general issue 32(1) close to schedule.
- **Included in Scopus.** This year, APS was accepted for inclusion in Scopus.

IA thanked all Editors, and particularly the staff of the Editorial Office (EO), for their contributions to improvement of the Journal.

**Editorial Board Member changes.** In the last year, two new associate editors joined. They are Prof. Lassi Heininen and Prof. Jian Yang, both experts on social science. Prof. Natsuo Sato retired after many years of work as an Associate Editor. He was greatly thanked for his dedicated commitment.

**Application to ESCI.** As IA suggested at the last editorial board meeting, we meet all the requirements for inclusion on the Clarivate Analysis, Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). We have a strong international editorial team of scientists who are expert in their fields; we have good international content; we are published on schedule and we have an improving quality of papers. Thus, we applied for ESCI in 2019. The journal evaluation process is conducted according to the needs and priorities of the Web of Science. We still wait for the decision.

### **4      *Proposed changes to Editorial procedures and support (Ian Allison)***

Prof. Kim Holmén will join us as an Associate Editor of APS. IA will retire as EiC in early 2021, but continue as an AE if so invited. Discussions with the potential next Editor-in-Chief are underway. If these are successful, IA will retire as EiC in March 2021.

## **5      *Plans for Future Development (AEs)***

The AEs give some suggestions on future plans.

- **Increase the categories of papers.** AEs suggested that the journal might publish data articles or short articles focusing on the major ideas of relevant polar projects.
- **Young scientists as Guest Editors.** It was suggested that special issues could include GEs from developing countries or who are young scientists.

## **6      *Future development towards attracting higher quality submissions (Ian Allison)***

A number of suggestions came from open discussion at the meeting, including:

- **Target developing polar nations for submissions.** For example, Russia, South Africa, South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and smaller and newer polar research nations in South America), Thailand, India, etc. The EO will send email alerts to universities and institutes of those countries that are cooperating with China.
- **Increase initial rejection rate, but support resubmission.** Reject those papers that are assessed on review as needing very major revision, but strongly encourage resubmission of a new version of the paper taking into account the review comments. At present, Editors and reviewers are striving to help authors improve the quality of their papers, with some manuscripts going through many revisions. But this is slowing the publication process, and making the overall rejection rate look somewhat low.

## **7      *Summary (Ian Allison)***

The Journal is steadily and consistently improving. There is a good outlook for Vol. 32 to be completed on time within 2021. Many suggestions were received on promoting the Journal. Challenges remain in attracting manuscripts and maintaining and improving the progress we have made.