

The Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) is getting older: The past, present, and future of our evolving community

George Tanski, Helena Bergstedt, Alexandre Bevington, Philip Bonnaventure, Frédéric Bouchard, Caroline Coch, Simon Dumais, Alevtina Evgrafova, Oliver Frauenfeld, Jennifer Frederick, et al.

▶ To cite this version:

George Tanski, Helena Bergstedt, Alexandre Bevington, Philip Bonnaventure, Frédéric Bouchard, et al.. The Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) is getting older: The past, present, and future of our evolving community. Polar Record, 2019, 55 (4), pp.216-219. 10.1017/S0032247418000645. hal-02479929

HAL Id: hal-02479929

https://hal.science/hal-02479929

Submitted on 2 Dec 2020

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

1 The Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) is getting

2 older – the past, present, and future of our evolving community

- 3 George Tanski^{1,2,3,*}, Helena Bergstedt⁴, Alexandre Bevington⁵, Philip Bonnaventure⁶, Frédéric
- 4 Bouchard⁷, Caroline Coch^{1,3}, Simon Dumais⁸, Alevtina Evgrafova^{9,10}, Oliver W. Frauenfeld¹¹,
- 5 Jennifer Frederick¹², Michael Fritz¹, Denis Frolov¹³, Silvie Harder¹⁴, Ingo Hartmeyer¹⁵, Joanne
- 6 Heslop^{16,17}, Elin Högström^{18,19}, Margareta Johansson²⁰, Gleb Kraev²¹, Elena Kuznetsova²²,
- 7 Josefine Lenz^{1,23}, Alexey Lupachev²¹, Florence Magnin²⁴, Jannik Martens^{25,26}, Alexey
- 8 Maslakov¹³, Anne Morgenstern¹, Alexandre Nieuwendam²⁷, Marc Oliva²⁸, Boris
- 9 Radosavljevic²⁹, Justine Ramage^{1,3}, Andrea Schneider³⁰, Julia Stanilovskaya³¹, Jens Strauss¹,
- 10 Erin Trochim³², Daniel Vecellio³³, Samuel Weber³⁴, Hugues Lantuit^{1,3}
- *Corresponding author: George Tanski (<u>George.Tanski@awi.de</u>)
- 12 ¹ Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Periglacial
- 13 Research Unit, Telegrafenberg A43, Potsdam, Germany.
- ² GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, Section 1.4:
- 15 Remote Sensing, Telegrafenberg, Potsdam, Germany.
- ³ Potsdam University, Institute of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 24/25,
- 17 14476 Potsdam, Germany.
- ⁴ University Salzburg, Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics Z_GIS, Schillerstr. 30, 5020
- 19 Salzburg, Austria.

- ⁵ Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Government
- of British Columbia, 499 George Street, Prince George, British Columbia V2L 1R5, Canada.
- ⁶ Geography Department, University of Lethbridge, 4401 University Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta
- 23 T1K 3M4, Canada.
- ⁷Centre Eau Terre Environnement, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS-ETE),
- 25 490 rue de la Couronne, Québec G1K 9A9, Canada.
- ⁸ Université Laval, Department of civil and water engineering, 1065 av. de la Médecine, G1V
- 27 0A6 Québec, Canada.
- ⁹ Geography Institution, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 12, 3012 Bern, Switzerland.
- 29 ¹⁰ Geography Department, University of Koblenz-Landau, Universitätsstr. 1, 56070 Koblenz,
- 30 Germany.
- 31 ¹¹ Texas A&M University, Department of Geography, MS 3147 College Station, TX 77843,
- 32 USA.
- 33 ¹² Sandia National Laboratories, Applied Systems Analysis and Research, 1515 Eubank Blvd SE,
- 34 Albuquerque, NM 87123, USA.
- 35 ¹³ Lomonosov Moscow State University, Department of Geography, GSP-1 Leninskie gory,
- 36 119991 Moscow, Russia.
- 37 ¹⁴ Department of Geography, McGill University, 805 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec
- 38 H3A 0B9, Canada.
- 39 ¹⁵ GEORESEARCH, Hölzlstraße 5, 5071 Wals, Austria.

- 40 ¹⁶ Water and Environmental Research Center, University of Alaska, 760 Tanana Loop, 75 5860
- 41 Fairbanks, AK 99775-5860, USA.
- 42 ¹⁷ Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University, 68 University Ave, Kingston,
- 43 Ontario K7L 3N9, Canada.
- 44 ¹⁸ Vienna University of Technology (TUW), Department of Geodesy and Geoinformation
- 45 (GEO), Gußhausstraße 27-29, 1040 Vienna, Austria
- 46 ¹⁹ Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI) c/o Universität Wien, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010
- 47 Vienna, Austria.
- 48 ²⁰ Department of Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science, Lund University, 22100 Lund,
- 49 Sweden.
- 50 ²¹ Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Physico-Chemical and Biological Problems in Soil
- 51 Science, Institutskaya st. 2, 142290 Pushchino, Russia.
- 52 ²² Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Civil and Environmental
- Engineering, Høgskoleringen 7a, 7491 Trondheim, Norway.
- 54 ²³ Institute of Northern Engineering, University of Alaska Fairbanks, 1760 Tanana Loop,
- 55 Fairbanks 99775-5910, USA.
- 56 ²⁴ Department of Geosciences, University of Oslo, 1047 Blindern, 0316 Oslo, Norway.
- 57 ²⁵ Stockholm University, Department of Environmental Science and Analytical Chemistry
- 58 (ACES), Svante Arrhenius väg 8, 11418 Stockholm, Sweden
- 59 ²⁶ Bolin Centre for Climate Research, Svante Arrhenius väg 8, 11418 Stockholm, Sweden.

- 60 ²⁷ Centre of Geographical Studies IGOT, Universidade de Lisboa, R. Branca Edmée Marques,
- 61 1600-276 Lisboa, Portugal.
- 62 ²⁸ University of Barcelona, Department of Geography, Montalegre 6-8, 08001- Barcelona,
- 63 Catalonia.
- 64 ²⁹ GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Helmholtz Centre Potsdam, Library and
- 65 Information Services, Potsdam, Germany.
- 66 Centre for Arctic Gas Hydrate, Environment and Climate, UiT The Arctic University of
- Norway, Dramsvegen 201, 9019 Tromsø, Norway.
- 68 ³¹ Sergeev Institute of Environmental Geoscience, Permafrost laboratory, Ulansky per. 13-2,
- 69 101000 Moscow, Russia.
- 70 ³² Alaska Climate Adaption Science Center, University of Alaska, 2160 Koyukuk Drive,
- 71 Fairbanks, AK 99775-7340, USA.
- 72 ³³ Climate Science Lab, Department of Geography, Texas A&M University, 810 Eller, 3147
- 73 TAMU College Station, TX 77843, USA.
- 74 ³⁴ Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zurich,
- 75 Switzerland.

Abstract

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

One of the lasting legacies of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 was the formation of the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN), initially an IPY outreach and education activity by the International Permafrost Association (IPA). With the momentum of IPY, PYRN developed into a thriving network that still connects young permafrost scientists, engineers, and researchers from other disciplines. This research note summarizes (i) the development of PYRN since 2005 and the role of IPY, (ii) the results of the first PYRN census and survey in 2015, and (iii) PYRN's resulting future plans to improve international and interdisciplinary exchange between young researchers. The review concludes that PYRN is an established network within the polar research community that has continually expanded and developed since 2005. PYRN's successful activities led by enthusiastic "early-career" scientists were largely fostered by IPY and its outreach efforts. PYRN and its alumni today continue to bring together and promote the next generation of young researchers. With more than 200 of the 1,200 registered members active and engaged, PYRN is capitalizing on the availability of social media tools, and increasing environmental challenges to maintain its role as self-organized, visible, and successful network in the legacy of IPY.

1. Introduction

The imminence of the International Polar Year (IPY) prompted the need for visible representation of the young permafrost community (Krupnik et al., 2011). From the onset, the IPY emphasized the development of 'the next generation of polar scientists'. This translated into a record involvement of young scientists in IPY projects. A rough estimation by IPY organizers showed that the entire IPY endeavor involved a greater number of young researchers than

'senior' ones (Baeseman et al., 2011). In anticipation of the IPY, the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) was established in November 2005 at the 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning as an IPY education and outreach activity of the International Permafrost Association (IPA) and to represent permafrost young researchers within the Youth Steering Committee of the IPY. At the time, the Youth Steering Committee was the overarching program for youth and "early-career" activities in the IPY framework. PYRN was focused on young permafrost researchers (i.e., scientists and engineers), but was integrated into the overall IPY "early-career" networking effort from the beginning. PYRN is an "early-career" network that fosters innovative collaboration and seeks to recruit, retain, and promote future generations of permafrost researchers. From the beginning, PYRN disseminated permafrost science and engineering information to the public and especially to schools. Since PYRN's initiation in 2005, its membership, visibility, and activities steadily increased to 1,200 members at the time of its 10th anniversary in 2015. PYRN reports regularly to the IPA, its members and interested researchers on a regular basis at geoscientific conferences, through a news bulletin, website (https://pyrn.arcticportal.org/), and social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram). The strength of PYRN is based on its interdisciplinarity and its presence in virtually all regions of the world. PYRN members are interested in the frozen ground regions of the Earth, including alpine, submarine and polar latitudes. In the Northern Hemisphere alone, 23 million km² of the landmass is characterized by permafrost occurrence (Romanovsky et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2008); a vast region with an area almost twice the size of Antarctica. This large area is impacted by climate change, which fundamentally affects environmental and socio-economic systems

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

(Hope & Schaefer, 2016; IPCC, 2013). With its global presence, PYRN has the ability to

mobilize its members beyond borders and disciplines to tackle these issues in a progressive and innovative manner.

PYRN represents permafrost science and engineering within broader international and regional young researcher assemblies, such as the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS). Both networks were developed during IPY and have a memorandum of understanding to coordinate efforts. Further strong bonds exist with the Arctic Portal, which hosts PYRN's website and database, the ArcticNet Student Association, the United States Permafrost Association, Polar Educators International, Climate and Cryosphere, the Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost, the working group 'Permafrost' of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Polarforschung*, the Bolin Centre for Climate Research, and various large research projects such as the Horizon 2020 project Nunataryuk.

The main aim of this research note is to illustrate that the momentum of IPY has promoted and sustained this young researcher network for a decade, which in turn facilitates intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange, reflecting the original charge of IPY. More specifically, the objectives are (i) to review the development of PYRN since IPY, (ii) to present the first membership survey conducted since the IPY, and (iii) to set a vision for PYRN as crucial part of the polar research community.

2. The development of PYRN

PYRN has continuously evolved since its establishment at the 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning 2005 and IPY 2007-2008. At its 1st anniversary in 2006, it already had 250 members from 20 countries (Lantuit, 2006). During IPY, registrations rapidly increased, with 620 members by the end of IPY in 2008 (Lantuit, 2007). PYRN largely benefited from the

momentum of IPY with its members expanding to 1,200 at its 10th anniversary in 2015 (Tanski et al., 2015). Since 2005 there have been seven executive committees with each coordinating PYRN for two years, except of the initial committee that governed the network from 2005-2009. In the following section, the evolution of PYRN and its main activities are summarized and its milestones synthesized in Table 1. All major activities and events since 2005 are listed in the Supporting material Table S1.

2.1 PYRN activities from 2005 to 2010

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

151

152

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

After the launch at the 2nd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning in 2005, PYRN focused on developing the network. It organized its internal structure consisting of an executive committee and national representatives. It also established an online presence, a monthly newsletter, a thesis bibliography (Grosse & Lantuit, 2006), and an annual PYRN award for permafrost conferences. During PYRN's kick-off meeting in Abisko, Sweden (February 2007), the first PYRN mandate was drafted, progress of ongoing initiatives was reviewed, and future activities were planned (Fig. S1). PYRN's first meeting during IPY was the 2nd national representatives meeting at the Otto Schmidt Laboratory in St. Petersburg, Russia (November/December 2007). The meeting set the stage for numerous 'IPA-IPY-PYRN' activities that took place until 2009 (Lantuit, 2007), with one of the major initiatives being the PYRN Thermal State of Permafrost project (Christiansen et al., 2007) and the establishment of PYRN Thermal State of Permafrost boreholes in Scandinavia (Christiansen et al., 2010). PYRN's IPY activities were endorsed and supported from the beginning by both IPY and IPA (Baeseman et al., 2011), with PYRN officially representing the IPA during the IPY opening in Paris, France (March 2007) (Lantuit, 2007). In addition to PYRN's IPY activities, new efforts

were initiated such as the creation of a list of senior scientist mentors (Bonnaventure et al., 2009), as well as the organization of young researcher activities at the 9th International Conference on Permafrost (NICOP 2008) in Fairbanks, Alaska (June/July 2008).

2.2 PYRN activities from 2010 to 2012

166

167

168

169

170

171

172

173

174

175

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184

185

186

The period from 2010 to 2012 was characterized by a refocusing of the PYRN mission and objectives and an internal restructuring process, following on the initial successful IPY years. This meant adapting the network to create the conditions of sustainability and move on from the "one-off" momentum provided by the IPY. Early in 2011, PYRN identified its major priorities, which included an update of the PYRN bylaws, organizing a young researchers' workshop at the 10th International Conference on Permafrost (TICOP 2010) in Salekhard, Russia (June 2012), and strengthening its ties with IPA and APECS. A major event was the PYRN workshop at TICOP 2010, which kicked-off the tradition of holding workshops before major biennial gatherings of young permafrost scientists. It also acted as the new transition point for the incoming executive committee to meet in person and identify their priorities for the coming twoyear term. Emphasis was placed on creating a more inclusive and team orientated approach to governing the PYRN network and the new executive committee had triple the number of members as the departing one. The large gathering of PYRN and polar researchers at TICOP was leveraged to support the implementation of a memorandum of understanding between PYRN and its official host IPA and APECS. The memorandum of understanding clearly established PYRN as the primary organization for the coordination of permafrost young researchers for committees and events surrounding IPA and APECS activities.

2.3 PYRN activities from 2012 to 2014

187

188

189

190

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

In 2012 PYRN's activities intensified. This invigoration was fostered by the new motivation and energy gained from the activities at 10th International Conference on Permafrost (TICOP 2010), executing the memorandum of understanding with APECS that fostered and multiplied information exchange, and the forthcoming 4th European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP4 2014) in Évora, Portugal (June 2014). The executive period 2012-2014 culminated in the Permafrost Young Researchers Workshop at EUCOP4, co-organized with APECS, Changing Permafrost in the Arctic and its Global Effects in the 21st Century, and Arctic Development and Adaptation to Permafrost in Transition. Aside from bringing young researchers together, the workshop aimed at determining future avenues of permafrost research from a young researcher's perspective. This part of the workshop was mentored by the International Arctic Science Committee, which was leading the implementation towards the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning in 2015. A major outcome of the workshop was a strategy paper about future avenues for permafrost science from the perspective of "early-career" researchers led by PYRN members (Fritz et al., 2015). This strategy paper has been formulated in collaboration with the IPA as a contribution to the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning 2015.

2.4 PYRN activities from 2014 to 2016

The 2014-2016 period was characterized by a professionalization of the network. A 4-year agenda and long-term strategy were developed to enhance the network's visibility, transparency, and cooperation with IPA. In turn, the IPA granted PYRN an annual and independent budget to support its activities and achieve its long-term objectives. Various strategic initiatives were

achieved, including a major update of the member list because there had been no mechanisms to 'remove' young researchers that became 'senior'. This membership overhaul uncovered that east Asian colleagues were strongly underrepresented within PYRN. To tackle this issue, outreach activities were specifically designed to better engage permafrost research institutes in Korea, Japan, and China, and the network advertised at the Arctic Science Summit Week in Toyama, Japan (April 2015).

PYRN also improved its overall online outreach by better utilizing its website and social networks, in particular its Facebook following, which rose from almost zero in June 2014 to more than 600 in June 2016. Furthermore, PYRN expanded its partners by establishing an information exchange program with the Global Terrestrial Network for Permafrost. The executive term ended and a new executive committee was introduced (see Supporting material Fig. S2) at the 11th International Conference on Permafrost (ICOP 2016) in Potsdam, Germany (June 2016; Fig. S2). During ICOP 2016 PYRN organized a 2-day young researcher workshop as well as a soccer tournament. ICOP 2016 has been the largest gathering of PYRN members so far (see Supporting material Fig. S3).

2.5 PYRN activities from 2016 to 2018

Following the great success of the 11th International Conference on Permafrost and with the increasing importance of young researchers within the research community, recent activities have focused on strengthening the national representation of PYRN, establishing an improved presence on social media as well as preparing the PYRN workshop at the 5th European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP5 2018) in Chamonix, France (June/July 2018). The Facebook following further increased during this period to more than 800 people. Many

workshops, events, and meetings were convened thanks to the continuous efforts of the executive committee and national representatives (see Supporting Table S1). To better promote the participation of PYRN members on a national scale, a coordinator position of the national representatives was created and national representatives are encouraged to apply for funding and to organize local, national, and regional events. To strengthen the social media presence, the PYRN Facebook page (facebook.com/PYRNofficial), Twitter (@pyrn_official) and Instagram (@pyrn_official) were improved. A major improvement was the update and launch of the fully redesigned PYRN website. The increased social media and web presence throughout 2016-2018 helped to strengthen PYRN's role as a key promoter of international collaboration in permafrost research. In addition to these media improvements and to better engage our members and society, a major outreach and educational effort was devised – the 'Frozen-Ground Cartoons' project (see Bouchard et al., this special issue). This project was officially launched in early 2016 as an IPA-funded Action Group, and later received financial support from many organizations, including PYRN. Most of the contributors to the project are indeed PYRN (and APECS) members. This international and interdisciplinary scientific outreach initiative aims at making permafrost science accessible and fun for children, youth, their parents, and teachers through the creation of cartoons and illustrated products (Nääs et al., 2017).

231

232

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

3. PYRN's structure and the first census in 2015

3.1 PYRN's international structure

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

257

258

259

260

261

262

263

264

265

266

267

268

269

Since being founded in 2005, PYRN has undergone many changes in its executive structure to become more dynamic and to more rapidly adapt to the evolving needs of its members. Whereas the first executive committees (2005 until 2012) consisted of only two to three members that had multifold tasks, the executive committees since 2012 consisted of 12 members that had more specified tasks. Currently PYRN is led by an executive committee, supported by a Council and several national representatives (Fig. 1). The executive committee directs PYRN's activities and consists of 12 positions, including president, vice-president, secretary, newsletter-editor, treasurer, web manager, representative for regional and international permafrost conferences, and ordinary members. The Council is an advisory panel responsible for providing feedback from PYRN members to the executive committee. National representatives are regular PYRN members representing a specific country and are part of the Council. PYRN has implemented a Constitution and Bylaws in 2012 to structure and organize itself, which have been first formulated in 2007 and reviewed with every new executive period since the IPY. PYRN also hosts independently operating national branches with the most active ones being PYRN Russia, PYRN D-A-CH (Germany, Austria and Switzerland), and PYRN NA (North America, i.e., USA and Canada).

3.2 PYRN's regional branches

PYRN Russia is the oldest branch within PYRN. PYRN Russia's goal is to improve the qualifications of young permafrost researchers in Russia (Kraev et al., 2013). The network

maintains an independent web portal (http://vk.com/pyrn_russia) for Russian-speaking researchers and engineers, raises funding, and provides solutions to overcome language-barrier problems. PYRN D-A-CH is a conglomerate of German-speaking countries and is the successor of PYRN Germany that existed until 2013. PYRN D-A-CH's main aim is to bring the polar and the alpine permafrost community closer together. It has gathered annually since 2009, at the meetings of the 'Permafrost' working group of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Polarforschung* – German Polar Society. PYRN North America (PYRN NA) is the latest established branch and was launched simultaneously in Canada (at Arctic Change 2017) and the USA (at AGU 2017). Its main objective is to improve networking of young permafrost researchers based in Canada and the US, which was lacking so far.

3.3 PYRN census and member survey

270

271

272

273

274

275

276

277

278

279

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289

290

291

The PYRN constitution and bylaws state that 'a young researcher is defined as early in their career and is any individual currently enrolled as a post-secondary student or having completed their most recent post-secondary degree within the last six years' (https://pyrn.arcticportal.org/about-us/constitution-bylaws). Since the establishment of PYRN, memberships cumulated without formerly young 'seniors' members bailing out. Thus, the first membership survey (in English) since PYRN's establishment was carried out. The purpose of the census was to review the PYRN membership and to improve the performance and networking capabilities of PYRN. The objectives were to obtain a better sense of how many PYRN members are currently active (i.e, receiving information and responding), where they are located, and what research topics they study. The census identified areas where PYRN has been successful, and likewise areas that need improvement. In addition to disseminating it to its registered members, it was sent through to various media channels (e.g., Cryolist and Facebook) to promote the network and gain new members. The survey was conducted with support from the United States Permafrost Association, and survey questions were revised through several internal and external reviews and feedback from APECS and IPA.

In total, 200 members completed the survey (via Google online Forms) between June and November 2015, of which 79 were female and 121 male, representing 26 countries across the world (see Supporting material Fig. S4 and S5). The majority of participants was young (mean = 30 years old; Fig. 2). Most of the members were from the academic sector and had a master's degree, followed by PhDs and undergraduates (Fig. 2). Of the 1,200 officially registered members, we assume that a large portion does not meet the requirement of 'young researcher' anymore, and another large portion is inactive. However, the survey gives a representative sample of the active and enthusiastic PYRN members on which the network relies, and this number roughly matches the ~280 young researchers that gathered at the 11th International Conference on Permafrost (see Supporting material Fig. S3). In the survey, several questions were asked about potential improvements to the network, which have been considered and implemented in PYRN's plans and strategies for the future (see following section). A summary of all questions can be found in Table S2 in the Supporting material.

4. Future plans and visions in the legacy of IPY

PYRN continuously improved its visibility, outreach, and impact during the years by constantly exchanging with its own members and partners. The use of social media and Facebook in particular improved the visibility of the network with more than 800 followers in 2018. The PYRN membership survey helped to consolidate its own members and thus made the network

also more visible for its own members. This survey was part of a long-term strategy supported by the IPA with a first independent annual budget in PYRN's history. This money, in return, was used to support further outreach activities such as PYRN marketing for new members in general and East Asian members in particular. Apart from that PYRN activities started to have a direct impact on scientific decision making. With joint efforts of APECS and PYRN, which both had one of its members as liaison on the other ones executive committee, it was possible to establish PYRN members as session co-chairs at conferences and to develop its own priorities for the future of permafrost research, which fed directly into research planning exercises such as the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III, 2015).

The outcomes of the membership survey served as a guideline for PYRN's future developments. The survey revealed that to PYRN members, information on funding as well as workshops and meetings is most important. Less important are activities from social media, access to literature, pictures and videos, or education and outreach. In the future PYRN is planning to establish further branches such as PYRN Europe or PYRN Northern Europe (Scandinavia and Fennoscandia) to facilitate efforts and promote regional gatherings, which was one of the recommendations of the survey. As improved interactions with Asian members are an ongoing priority, PYRN also seeks to capitalize on the upcoming 12th International Conference on Permafrost in Lanzhou, China to establish a PYRN Asia or East Asia branch for its Asian members (i.e., China, Japan, and South Korea). Recent PYRN activities during the Arctic Science Summit Week 2015 in Toyama and the 2nd Asian conference on permafrost 2017 in Sapporo, Japan certainly reiterated the interest for an Asian regional branch.

One of the main legacies of PYRN is the creation of a community of practice, a strong networked group of individuals committed to permafrost research who remain connected to PYRN and its activities after their departure from the organization. This is visible through the mentoring from former members taking place during workshops, through the informal commenting and involvement in social media activities or through the involvement of many of these individuals in large research projects. This community of practice has been very efficient at articulating a strong vision for permafrost research (Fritz et al., 2015) and at proposing future avenues for collaboration between early career and senior scientists. Ultimately, a PYRN Alumni network would give a forum for PYRN members from all generations, many of whom connected as 'young' researchers during the IPY 2007-2009. However, this project remains in its infancy.

In response to the survey results, PYRN will enhance its online media presence through various

channels (e.g., YouTube, Instagram, Facebook) that have been under development since 2014. Although PYRN members indicated that social media is not necessarily a development priority for PYRN and that the dissemination of information on funding and positions should be the focus of the network, social media is nonetheless an effective mechanism to disseminate this information, and offers opportunities to reach out beyond PYRN membership. It is clearly an important tool for outreach to society and promotes permafrost as popular science. A good example is the 'Frozen-Ground Cartoons' project (https://frozengroundcartoon.com/home/), led by PYRN members.

Conclusions

This research note demonstrates that PYRN has successfully grown and evolved since its establishment in 2005, and has become a strong and effective network within the polar research

community today. This development was catalyzed by the original IPY project, which helped its membership grow and promoted exchange of PYRN and other polar research network members. An important legacy of the IPY 2007-2009 is that it successfully united a young emerging international community of researchers into PYRN, a network that promotes permafrost young researchers in their "early-career" stages. PYRN today (data from 2015), as a self-governing body supported by the IPA, relies on approximately 200 active members, which are mostly responsible for the success of the network. Many of the first generation PYRN members that became 'senior' researchers are still affiliated with PYRN and pass on the legacy of IPY to the new young generation. In the future, PYRN will strive to maintain its role within the polar research community. Regional PYRN branches will foster stronger and independent support of young researchers 'on site'. PYRN will promote the establishment of a PYRN Asia branch to further thrive, and to complement its international diversity of members. Finally, new technological developments and media tools will help PYRN improve its outreach and education projects to promote the important role of permafrost that it deserves in the Earth system and for society.

Acknowledgements

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

376

377

378

We would like to thank all the encouraged and motivated PYRN members that contributed to the success of the network and all national representatives that spread the word to local PYRN communities. We also thank members that have run the executive committees since 2005 for their outstanding contributions to the networks success. PYRN is grateful for the enduring support of the IPA. We thank the Arctic Portal for hosting and maintaining the PYRN website and support with the data management. We further thank APECS for fruitful cooperation as well

as our partners – the ArcticNet Student Association, United States Permafrost Association,
International Arctic Science Committee, Climate and Cryosphere, Horizon 2020 project
Nunataryuk, Arctic Development and Adaptation to Permafrost in Transition, Changing
Permafrost in the Arctic and its Global Effects in the 21st Century, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für*Polarforschung, Université franco-allemande - Deutsch-Französische Hochschule, and Petzl
Foundation. Last but not least we thank senior researchers and organizers of the IPY to promote young researchers during their early stages of their career.

386 **References**

- Baeseman, J., Xavier, J., Lantuit, H., Taylor, A. (2011). Early Career Researchers Activities
- during IPY. In: Krupnik, I., Allison, I., Bell, R., Cutler, P., Hik, D., López-Martínez, J., Rachold,
- V., Sarukhanian, E., Summerhayes, C. (eds.). *Understanding Earth's Polar Challenges:*
- 390 International Polar Year 2007-2008. Summary by the IPY Joint Committee. Rovaniemi:
- 391 University of the Arctic and ICSU/WMO Joint Committee for International Polar Year 2007-
- 392 2008.
- 393 Bonnaventure, P. P., Gaertner-Roer, I., Liljedahl, A., Hachem, S., Abramov, A. (2009). Report
- 394 from the International Permafrost Association: The Permafrost Young Researchers Network
- 395 (PYRN). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 20, 417-419. doi: 10.1002/ppp.668.
- Bouchard, F., Sansoulet, J., Fritz, M., Malenfant-Lepage, J., Nieuwendam, A., Paquette, M.,
- Rudy, A. C. A., Siewert, M. B., Sjöberg, Y., Tanski, G., Habeck, J. O., Harbor, J. (under review).
- 398 "Frozen-Ground Cartoons": Permafrost comics as a powerful tool for polar outreach, education,
- and engagement. *Polar Record*, special issue on education, outreach, and engagement ("10 years
- 400 of Polar Education, Outreach and Communication initiatives").
- 401 Christiansen, H. H., Prick, A., Lantuit, H. (2007). Report from the International Permafrost
- 402 Association: Education and outreach for the International Polar Year. *Permafrost and Periglacial*
- 403 *Processes*, 18, 209-213. doi: 10.1002/ppp.590.
- 404 Christiansen, H. H., Etzelmüller, B., Isaksen, K., Juliussen, H., Farbrot, H., Humlum, O.,
- Johansson, M., Ingeman-Nielsen, T., Kristensen, L., Hjort, J., Holmlund, P., Sannel, A. B. K.,
- 406 Sigsgaard, C., Åkerman, H. J., Foged, N., Blikra, N. H., Pernosky, M. A., Ødegård, R. (2010).

- The thermal state of permafrost in the nordic area during the international polar year 2007–2009.
- 408 Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 21, 156-181. doi: 10.1002/ppp.687.
- 409 Fritz, M., Deshpande, B., Bouchard, F., Högström, E., Lepage, J., Morgenstern, A.,
- Nieuwendam, A., Oliva, M., Paquette, M., Rudy, A. C. A., Siewert, M. B., Sjöberg, Y., Weege,
- S. (2015): Brief Communication: Future avenues for permafrost science from the perspective of
- 412 early career researchers. *The Cryosphere*, 9, 1715-1720. doi: 10.5194/tc-9-1715-2015.
- 413 Grosse, G., Lantuit, H. (2008). PYRN-Bib 3.1: The Permafrost Young Researchers Network
- 414 Bibliography of Permafrost-Related Theses. hdl:10013/epic.31101.
- Hope, C., Schaefer, K. (2016). Economic impacts of carbon dioxide and methane released from
- 416 thawing permafrost. *Nature Climate Change*, 6, 56-59. doi: 10.1038/nclimate2807.
- 417 IPCC (2013). Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working
- 418 Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- 419 Cambridge (UK) and New York (USA): Cambridge University Press.
- 420 Kraev G. N., Stanilovskaya Y. V., Belova N. G., Lupachev A. V., Shmelev D. G., Maslakov A.
- 421 A., Radosteva A. V., Gorbachev P. A., Frolov D. M. (2013). Permafrost young researchers
- 422 network of Russia. Earth's Cryosphere, 17 (3), 108-112.
- 423 https://sciencernr.wordpress.com/2017/04/19/ (in Russian).
- 424 Krupnik, I., Allison, I., Bell, R., Cutler, P., Hik, D., López-Martínez, J., Rachold, V.,
- 425 Sarukhanian, E., Summerhayes, C. (eds.) (2011). *Understanding Earth's Polar Challenges:*
- 426 International Polar Year 2007-2008. Summary by the IPY Joint Committee. Rovaniemi:
- 427 University of the Arctic and ICSU/WMO Joint Committee for International Polar Year 2007-
- 428 2008.

- 429 Lantuit, H. (2006). The Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN). In: Frozen Ground -
- 430 The news bulletin of the International Permafrost Association (IPA), 30.
- 431 https://ipa.arcticportal.org/publications/frozen-ground.
- 432 Lantuit, H. (2007): PYRN news. In: Frozen Ground The news bulletin of the International
- 433 *Permafrost Association (IPA)*, 31. https://ipa.arcticportal.org/publications/frozen-ground.
- Nääs, H., Ross, N., Bouchard, F., Deshpande, B., Fritz, M., Malenfant-Lepage, J., Nieuwendam,
- 435 A., Paquette, M., Rudy, A. C. A., Siewert, M. B., Sjöberg, Y., Veillette, A., Weege, S., Harbor,
- 436 J., Habeck, J. O. (2017). Frozen-Ground Cartoons: An international collaboration between artists
- and permafrost scientists. Potsdam: Bibliothek Wissenschaftspark Albert Einstein, 27 p. doi:
- 438 10.2312/GFZ.LIS.2017.001.
- Romanovsky, V. E., Smith, S. L., Christiansen, H. H. (2010). Permafrost thermal state in the
- polar Northern Hemisphere during the international polar year 2007-2009: a synthesis.
- 441 *Permafrost and Periglacial Processes*, 21, 106-116. doi: 10.1002/ppp.689.
- 442 Tanski, G., Lenz, J., Radosavljevic, B., Strauss, J. (2015). PYRN Report. In: Frozen Ground –
- The news bulletin of the International Permafrost Association (IPA), 39.
- https://ipa.arcticportal.org/publications/frozen-ground.
- Zhang, T., Barry, R. G., Knowles, K., Heginbottom, J. A., Brown, J. (1999). Statistics and
- characteristics of permafrost and ground-ice distribution in the Northern Hemisphere. *Polar*
- 447 *Geography*, 23, 132–154. doi:10.1080/10889379909377670.

Tables

Table 1. PYRN milestones since its establishment in 2005. PYRN assemblies mostly included workshops and awards (see Supporting material Table S1).

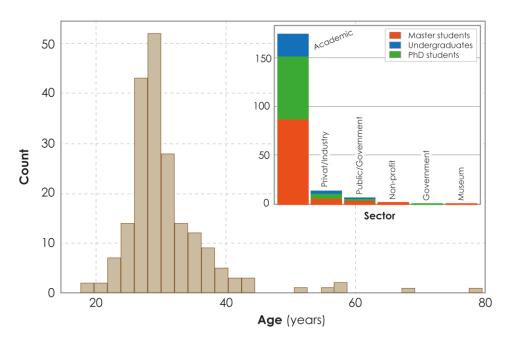
Milestone	Year
Establishment of PYRN at ICARP II in Copenhagen, Denmark	2005
1st anniversary with 250 registered members	2006
PYRN assembly at ACOP 2006 in Lanzhou, China	2006
PYRN officially represents the IPA at the IPY opening in Paris, France	2007
Kick-off meeting in Abisko, Sweden	2007
PYRN assembly at NICOP 2008 in Fairbanks, USA	2008
Establishment of PYRN TSP boreholes in Scandinavia	2009
$5^{ ext{th}}$ anniversary with > 600 registered members	2010
PYRN assembly and workshop at TICOP 2012 in Salekhard, Russia	2012
MoU between PYRN, APECS, and the IPA	2012
PYRN assembly and workshop at EUCOP4 2014 in Évora, Portugal	2014
Permafrost research priorities from a young-researcher's perspective report	2015
Long-term strategy submission and independent IPA budget	2015
10th anniversary with 1,200 registered members	2015
First PYRN census and membership survey	2015
PYRN assembly and workshop at ICOP 2016 in Potsdam, Germany	2016
Update and launch of new website	2016
PYRN assembly at ACOP 2017 in Sapporo, Japan	2017
PYRN assembly at EUCOP5 in Chamonix, France	2018

Figure 1. Organigram displaying the latest organizational structure of PYRN (2016 to 2018).

Figure 2. Bar-chart (A) showing the distribution of PYRN members by age and stacked bar-chart (B) showing the distribution of PYRN members by work sector and highest degree completed (n = 200). The charts only show PYRN members that participated in the online survey.



Figure 1



464 Figure 2