

International Conference

Engaging with Polar Regions: Science, Human Ecology and Geopolitics (EPR 2023)

October 26-28, 2023

Organised by

International Centre for Polar Studies (ICPS)

Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala

About the host institute

The International Centre for Polar Studies (ICPS), a new initiative at the Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, is a Polar Cooperation Centre of both science and social sciences. The Centre was formed as a result of continuous interaction with the National Centre for Polar Sciences, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. ICPS supports a multilevel strategic approach for attaining environmentally and socially responsible development in the polar regions.

Introduction

The rapid changes in polar ecosystem have ecosystemic, socio-political and governance implications. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the melting glaciers, disappearing sea ice, and thawing permafrost in the Arctic have led to predominantly negative impacts, on food security, water resources, water quality, infrastructure, transportation, tourism, and recreation. The socio-cultural and human geographical implications, often with indigenous dimensions, are complex.

With India's interest in the Poles, especially after formulating policy on the Arctic & Antarctica bill in 2022, India's Arctic Policy aims to enhance the country's cooperation with the rapidly transforming Arctic region. The policy also seeks to combat climate change and protect the environment in the region, which is warming three times faster than the rest of the world.

ICPS is hosting a conference that stretches on scientific, social & diplomatic frames in the polar region. The conference aims to highlight the research in alignment with the critical international relationship in the Arctic, Antarctic and the third pole- Himalayan region in the arena of socio-economic, political, anthropologic, ethnographic and traditional knowledge.

ICPS aims to step up its contribution to polar geopolitics and policymaking. The international conference will highlight climate change, cryospheric science, Polar Regions geopolitics, environmental governance and anthropology regarding power and legitimacy, challenging polar technology, blue economy, and environmental pollutants etc. Your active participation is, therefore, imperative.

EPR-2023 also aims to bring eminent researchers and scientists working in the diverse Polar region of the Arctic, Antarctic, Southern Ocean and the Himalayas to a common ground. This event will also

provide a platform for Early Career Researchers to interact and exchange their research ideas, findings and experiences. The EPR 2023 aims to

- create awareness about Polar issues among the research scholars as also the media, bureaucrats and the intelligentsia and discuss the impact of climate change on the polar regions of the Arctic, Antarctica and the Himalayas as well as the Southern Ocean.
- bring together scientists from a broad spectrum, research scholars, academicians and also policy makers.
- discuss sustainability aspects in the Polar region with the rapid warming of the region.
- shape the future adaptation and exploration programmes.

Organizing Committee

Dr C.T Aravindakumar (Chairman)

Dr Mahesh Mohan (Convener)

Dr Mathew A Varghese (Co-convener)

Dr. KM Seethi

Dr. EV Ramasamy

Dr. Lirar Pulikkalakathu

Dr Baiju KR

Dr. C. Vinodan

Advisory Committee-

Dr. Thamban Meloth

Dr. Manish Tiwari

Dr. Rahul Mohan

Dr. AA Mohamed Hatha

Dr. Sunil PS

Dr. Knut Mikjel Rio

Dr. Murat V. Ardelan

Dr. Marten Loonen

Prof. Roland Kallenborn

Target Group

The ICPS aims to develop consensus among the scientists and policymakers towards research and innovations. The physical interactions in 2023 will strive to encourage a higher degree of cooperation and collaboration in cross border scientific programmes among like-minded research groups/institutions for sustaining research in the area of polar science & geopolitics, climate change and sustainability under hostile environment and help resource sharing for the benefit of mankind in general.

Venue and Date

The conference is being hosted by the International Centre for Polar Studies, Kerala, at Mahatma Gandhi University premises during October 26-28, 2023.

Topics:

I. Social Science

1. Geopolitics of the Arctic
2. Big power Forays into the Arctic
3. India's Arctic policy
4. India's Antarctic Law
5. Ukraine war and the Arctic geopoliticsPolar Research in Changing Society
6. Humans in Changing Arctic
7. Polar Resources and Governance: Chances and Risks
8. Polar Ecosystems: State, Changes and Management
9. Understanding traditional knowledge, ecology, and biodiversity conservation of the Arctic ecosystem
10. Environmental economic and Human Development Index of the Arctic ecosystem.
11. Indigenous people and culture of the Arctic regions
12. Socio-cultural impacts on the Arctic environment and cultural ecology.
13. Anthropology, Ethnography, Indigenous Natural Resource Management of the Arctic Region
14. Sustainable tourism in the Polar Regions

II. Science

1. Glaciers, Ice Sheets and Sea-level Rise
2. Tectonics and Geodynamic Processes of Polar Regions
3. Stratigraphy and Evolutionary Dynamics at High Latitudes
4. Facing Polar Climate Change: Insights from the Past
5. Changing Atmosphere-Land-Ocean Systems in the Eurasian Arctic
6. Permafrost in a Warming World: Impacts and Consequences
7. Organisms in the Face of Climate Change: Discoveries and New Approaches

Registration and abstract submission will be updated soon