Editorial: Future PAGES

The winds of change have been blowing through PAGES. They have brought about changes in the International Project Office (IPO) team and the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), and will continue to blow towards new scientific endeavors. As with general trends in global change research, the key word for the future orientation of PAGES is "integration".

PAGES already has a strong record of creating synergy between groups within its community and will now turn its integrative capacities towards building bridges across timescales, that is, integrating paleoenvironmental with present-day research. Some of the partners we need for this can be found on our doorstep, for example, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (see page 6). Present-past integration obviously carries with it huge potential for genuine symbiosis. Present-day science benefits from the temporal extent of paleo-records and their wealth of different scenarios (glacials, greenhouse periods, sea level rises, volcanic events, etc.). Detailed present-day observations of Earth System processes provide a sound basis for paleo-proxies, and for solid and relevant interpretations of the paleo-record. An example of such a "joint venture" is the recent relaunch of the PAGES/CLIVAR intersection (see page 7). As a welcome side-effect, present-past scientific interaction will help to increase the visibility of paleoscience beyond the already famous Greenland and Antarctica ice-core records, with ultimate positive feedbacks on research funding and scientific output. An obvious next level of integration will be to better include the human component in the Earth System. To meet this task, PAGES should be prepared to further open up towards social scientists, archeologists and historians (see page 23). Another logical consequence of highly integrated research across spheres, methods and timescales is the concentration of efforts on regions of particular interest, in order to distribute the huge homework among focused groups. Furthermore, regionalization of research efforts will bring the predictions of global change directly to people's doors (see page 19).

The outlined trends are not inherent to PAGES but rather of general character. The community-driven design of PAGES requires that ideas be passed from you as researchers to the service hubs (IPO and SSC). With free capacity for novel activities and directions, PAGES is at present particularly reliant on your input to fill empty spaces. The perfect occasion for you as a member of the PAGES community to articulate your ideas, and to actively support and shape the future PAGES, is the Open Science Meeting in Beijing in August (see last page). You should definitely not miss this event!

Thorsten Kiefer
PAGES Executive Director
kiefer@pages.unibe.ch

Polar Regions and Quaternary Climate

ESF EuroConference toward an Integrative View of Climate in Antarctica and Circum-Antarctic Regions

24-29 September 2005, Acquafredda di Maratea, Italy

Chair: Jérôme Chappellaz (LGGE CNRS-UJF, Grenoble, France)
Vice Chair: Carlo Barbante (Venice University, Italy)

One of the big unknowns regarding the climate dynamics in the course of glacial-interglacial cycles and of abrupt events is the role of the Antarctic and the Southern Ocean. The European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica (EPICA) has provided the climate community with two new ice cores covering more than 200,000 years at Dronning Maud Land (facing the South Atlantic) and about 900,000 years at Dome C (Antarctic Plateau). The new data can now be synthesized but it will be of much higher value if it is viewed in the context of other climate proxy records, current observations, and climate and ice-sheet models. The main goal of the conference will thus be the comparison of the two EPICA ice-core records with records from other climatic archives from Antarctica and circum-Antarctic regions. In addition, reviews of present-day studies in Antarctica and interactions between climate and ice-sheet modeling will stimulate discussions about the most urgent open questions regarding climate and environmental changes in and around Antarctica, leading to a joint strategy for future ice-core investigations.

Further Information: - www.pages-igbp.org/calendar/calendar05.html
- Science: Jérôme Chappellaz (jerome@lgge.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr)
- Organization: Anne-Sophie Gablin (asgablin@esf.org)