

## CHRONICLE

**European Conference on Grand Challenges  
in Ocean and Polar Sciences,  
Bremen, Germany, September 1994**

The European Conference on Grand Challenges in Ocean and Polar Sciences was held in Bremen on 12–16 IX 1994. It was organised by the European Committee on Ocean and Polar Sciences (ECOPS) and Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung (Bremerhaven). Prof. Gotthilf Hempel acted as the Convenor of the Conference.

Representatives of 20 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Island, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) participated. There were also representatives from USA, European Science Foundation (ESF) and international organisations such as IASC (*International Arctic Science Committee*), SCAR (*Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research*) IOC (*International Oceanographic Commission*), UNESCO, and others.

The Polish delegation consisted of representatives of the Committee on Polar Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Prof. K. Birkenmajer, Prof. A. Gaździcki and Prof. S. Rakusa-Suszczewski) and of the Institute of Oceanography, Polish Academy of Sciences (Prof. J. Dera, Prof. C. Druet and Dr J. M. Węśławski).

Five Grand Challenges, which have both Ocean and Polar dimensions, were discussed and approved: (1) Operational Forecasting of the Ocean and Coastal Seas; (2) European Programme on Ice Coring in Antarctica (EPICA); (3) The Arctic Ocean; (4) The Deep Ocean Floor as a Changing Environment; (5) Biodiversity.

The Polish delegation prepared a statement on Polish interest in the above programmes, separately for the Polar Sciences and the Ocean Sciences. The Polish Committee on Polar Research will support three out of the five Grand Challenges, namely:

(1) *Operational Forecasting in the Ocean and Coastal Seas*. This programme may be realised in connection with stationary work at the Polish Arctic Station at Hornsund (Spitsbergen), and the Polish *H. Arctowski* Antarctic Station (King George Island, South Shetland Islands, West Antarctica);

(3) *The Arctic Ocean*. This programme may be realised in connection with stationary work at the *Hornsund* Station, moreover as part of marine North Atlantic/Greenland Sea expeditions organised by the Institute of Oceanography of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Sopot), and through university projects sponsored by the State Committee for Scientific Research (*Komitet Badań Naukowych*);

(5) *Biodiversity*. This programme may be realised at the Polish Arctic and Antarctic stations.

Krzysztof BIRKENMAJER  
Kraków