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SGmG Conference Report

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General benefits and achievements

Since I've been working in research for several years but never visited a big conference, one of the greatest benefits was to finally meet a number of people that I'd only known from literature or distant communication. Generally a big benefit, I tried to get in touch with some of the potentially important people for our works or possible future work and to receive and give input on the contents that the researchers presented; because of a highly efficient and thorough organisation (e.g. fingerfood and beverages every day starting from 6 p.m.) and additional evening events (e.g. see "Special events") I had plenty of opportunities to do so.

Oral presentation

After some additional nights of preparation and last-minute-help from colleagues I was ready for my presentation on the large-scale glacier development in the Karakoram, one of today's hotspots of glaciological research (including verbal acknowledgments to SGmG for funding). I kept the talk short and somewhat provocative in order to receive as much feedback and as many questions as possible. This strategy worked well and after ten minutes of discussion the convener prevented further questions, but some from the audience were approaching me after the session to continue discussions.

Poster presentation

Additional to the talk I presented a poster (see below) on the production recommendations and difficulties of modern glacier inventories (large parts of it used for the Randolph Glacier Inventory) with a focus on specific conditions in High Asian glaciers. Even though the poster was placed somewhat unluckily away from the main coffee table and crossing areas, an astonishingly large number of scientists came visiting. I had the chance to talk to some of the potential users as well some "older cracks" and we had some excellent exchange of opinions and views.

Special events

Even though I'm not an official member of the Randolph Glacier Inventory Working Group, I've already in the past contributed substantial amounts of data to the RGI and taken part in e-mail discussions. For this reason I was invited to take part in the regular meeting and workshop of the Working Group under the lead of Graham Cogley. Apart from being highly interesting in itself, being part of the discussion and decision process has given me a deeper understanding of how decisions (that are touching a high share of the global glaciological community) are taken and how one can bring one's ideas into the consideration. I hope I will have the chance to continue following the work of the Working Group or maybe even become a future member, since I'm convinced of the importance of the work this group is doing.

APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientists) organised an event on the steps and strategies young scientists need to start a successful scientific career ("How to become a successful scientist"). The event was organised as a panel discussion with a strong focus on communication and interaction with the audience. Podium guests were Charles Fierz (SLF), Eleanor Frajka-Williams (????), and Daniel Farinotti (WSL/ETH). The discussions were worthwhile and informative and were generally

highlighting the strong efforts each and everyone needs to make together with smart personal marketing and self-confident appearance. “Just being smart doesn’t make you a successful scientist”.