6th Third Pole Environment (TPE) Workshop

First Circular

Columbus, Ohio, USA
May 16-18, 2016

Organized by:
Third Pole Environment (TPE)

Jointly Supported by:
Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, The Ohio State University (BPCRC - OSU)
Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (ITPCAS)
The Ohio State University (OSU)
CAS Center for Excellence in Tibetan Plateau Earth Sciences (CETES)
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United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)
ANNOUNCEMENT!
The 6th Third Pole Environment (TPE) Program Workshop will be held May 16th to 18th, 2016 at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

THEME
The Third Pole, home to over a billion people, is a unique geographic region centered on the Tibetan Plateau that includes the Himalayas and other surrounding mountain ranges. Here the complex physical and ecological systems are intricately linked which makes the region very sensitive to environmental changes from both natural processes and anthropogenic activities. The impacts may extend into Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Due to its large size and high elevation, the Third Pole plays a significant role in both regional and global atmospheric circulation and is regarded by the international academic community as the mid-latitude complement to the Arctic and Antarctica.

TPE values international, interdisciplinary cooperation and approaches and uses TPE workshops as a platform to bring together leading scientists from different disciplines who share an interest in the Third Pole region and wish to communicate their latest research results. The last five TPE workshops (2009 in Beijing, 2010 in Kathmandu, 2011 in Reykjavik, 2013 in Dehradun, and 2014 in Berlin) led to great progress in the development of the TPE Program with many exciting prospects for Third Pole research on the horizon.

The 6th TPE Workshop will be held in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., May 16-18, 2016. The workshop will be organized jointly through the TPE Program office in Beijing and the TPE Program’s satellite office in the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University.

Overarching themes of the 6th TPE workshop include but are not limited to:
- Climate and environmental variations and scientific questions that can only be addressed through TPE research
- How does TPE research fit into the larger global picture?
- Future challenges to Asian societies, and consequences to the global economy, arising from changes in the climate and environmental systems on the Third Pole

We invite talks covering topics such as:
- Climate and environmental variations on the Third Pole on the short term (decades to centuries)
- Climate and environmental variations on the long-term (millennial time scales to millions of years)
• Elevation-dependent warming on the Third Pole: Implications for water resources
• The impact of tropical amplification of temperature on Third Pole glaciers and stresses on water resources
• Modeling and future predictions of climate, environment and water resources
• The integration of ice cores, lake cores, tree rings and other paleoclimate proxy records across the Third Pole that are essential to determine local, regional and global signals
• Past variations in the timing and extent of glacier fluctuations on the Third Pole and their relationship to changing lake levels
• Impacts of past/future climate change on the people in Asia
• The changing ecology of the Third Pole and the impact of modernization

ORGANIZATION
Co-Chairs:
Prof. Tandong Yao, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS
Prof. Lonnie G. Thompson, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center and the School of Earth Sciences, The Ohio State University
Prof. Volker Mosbrugger, Senckenberg Nature Research Society

Organizing Committee:
Prof. Lonnie G. Thompson, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, OSU
Prof. Ellen-Mosley Thompson, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, OSU
Prof. Fan Zhang, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS
Dr. Xiaoxin Yang, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS and visiting scholar at Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, OSU
Mrs. Michele Cook, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, OSU
Dr. Daniel R. Joswiak, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS
Dr. Weicai Wang, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS
Ms. Fan Ping, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Further information including the workshop agenda, local accommodations and transportation, will be announced in the second circular. More information about TPE, including the recent newsletters may be found on the TPE homepage (www.tpe.ac.cn). Specific questions related to the 6th TPE Workshop may be emailed to xxy@itpcas.ac.cn.

THIRD POLE ENVIRONMENT (TPE)
No16 Lincui Road, Chaoyang District
Beijing100101, P. R. China
Tel: +86-10-84097124
Web: www.tpe.ac.cn

TPE SATELLITE OFFICE IN THE U.S.
Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, OSU
Room 111, 1090 Carmack Rd., Columbus, OH 43210, USA
Tel: +1-614-6883365