

Ukraine comes to the Party

Professor Vasil Kremen (left) from Ukraine addresses the Antarctic Treaty meeting.



Ukraine achieved recognition as a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty at the 27th Antarctic Treaty meeting in Cape Town in May, bringing the number of Consultative Parties to 28.

Recognition of the achievement of Consultative Party (ATCP) status is done in accordance with the provisions of Article IX.2 of the Antarctic Treaty and is made by a decision of the existing ATCPs. The decision recognises Ukraine's long term commitment to the Antarctic Treaty and the standard of its Antarctic science program.

At the meeting, Professor Vasil Kremen, Minister of Education and Science, responded to concerns about Ukraine's involvement in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the actions of some of its fishing vessels. The Minister noted that Ukraine meets all of the current CCAMLR conservation measures, but apologised for the behaviour of some Ukrainian flagged vessels engaged in fishing for toothfish in the CCAMLR area. He reassured the meeting that the allegations about these vessels would be fully investigated and that the vessels involved would likely lose their licences.

Ukraine operates one permanent station in the Antarctic Treaty area – Vernadsky station – where it conducts studies in atmospheric physics, geophysics, climate, biology and glaciology.

For more information about the Antarctic Treaty visit the AAD web site: <<http://www.aad.gov.au/default.asp?casid=78>>

—ANDREW JACKSON
Manager, Antarctic and International Policy, AAD

Treaty Secretariat open for business



Chris Moraitis (left), Head of the Australian delegation at the 27th ATCM congratulates Jan Huber on his appointment as Executive Secretary.

The Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty has been established following agreement on outstanding organisational issues at the 27th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) last May.

A key step in establishing the Secretariat was the selection of Mr Johannes (Jan) Huber as the inaugural Executive Secretary. His appointment commenced on 1 September 2004, when the Secretariat opened for business in Buenos Aires.

Jan was Chairman of the Netherlands Polar Affairs Committee and has been the Netherlands Representative at the last five Antarctic Treaty meetings. He was largely responsible for the organisation and conduct of the 12th Antarctic Treaty Special Consultative Meeting held in The Hague in 2002, and has played a significant role in negotiating the legal and operational instruments for the Secretariat in his role as Chair of ATCM's Legal and Institutional Working Group.

The operation of the Treaty Secretariat successfully concludes a sustained effort by Australia and other Parties to modernise the Antarctic Treaty system, by establishing a permanent headquarters to provide essential administrative support.

—WARREN PAPWORTH
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