

National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research

(Department of Ocean Development, Government of India)

Headland Sada, Vasco da Gama, Goa 403 804

Advt No. NCAOR/06/06

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Subject: Call for Research Proposals for 26th Indian Scientific Expeditions to Antarctica

1. The National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (Department of Ocean Development) sends scientific expedition to Antarctica every year. Currently the Indian Antarctic Programme is celebrating the Silver Jubilee year. The Twenty-sixth Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica will be launched in December 2006 and will consist of summer team which will return to India in March 2007 and a winter team which will return to India in March 2008. Subsequent expeditions shall be launched accordingly.
- 2a. In addition to all ongoing programmes of various institutions like GSI, NGRI, IMD, IIG, NPL, SASE, BU, the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) has chalked out following ambitious new scientific programmes in various contemporary fields directly contributing to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) scientific campaign
 - Evolution and Biodiversity in Antarctica and Southern Ocean
 - Antarctica and the surrounding Ocean and the Global climate System
 - Antarctic Climate Evolution
 - Inter-hemispheric Conjugacy effects in Solar–Terrestrial and Aeronomy Research
 - Biological/Geological/Chemical/other studies in the Southern Ocean.
- 2b. Similarly separate proposals are invited to be implemented in and around Larsemann Hills region in eastern Antarctica which is the proposed site for new Indian research base in Antarctica, in the related fields of Automatic Weather Station (AWS), limnology, atmospheric and ocean sciences, geology and glaciology and polar remote sensing.
3. To become a partner in the above-mentioned programmes of NCAOR/DOD (Govt of India), detailed research proposals with long-term planning and strategy (in enclosed PRESCRIBED FORMAT) are invited from Scientists/Researchers/Engineers having relevant expertise for undertaking front ranking scientific experiments and contributing towards the above programmes in Antarctica for 26th (2006–2007), 27th (2007–2008) and 28th (2008–2009) Indian Antarctic expeditions. Certain studies in Southern Ocean may only be taken up subject to the availability of logistic supports in the chartered expedition vessel.
4. The R&D institutions, having their own long-term continuous research programme need not submit their detailed proposals (if already submitted to NCAOR). However, if any new research proposal which can contribute to the above-mentioned research programmes can be submitted afresh in details with long-term projection of activities. All such institutions are requested to submit just a brief account of the accomplishment of their ongoing activities and scientific activities to be undertaken during 26th IAE in the prescribed format.
5. Research proposals submitted towards the above-mentioned programmes shall be coordinated by a Research programme Advisory Committee. All data, results and reports shall be put up to the said Committee as soon as the data acquisition and analyses is over on return from Antarctica and/or as and when asked from NCAOR/DOD.
6. The participating Institute/organization/department can join the above programme only when their own officials/employees intend to participate in the Indian Antarctic Expedition/s. Scientific collaborations among the organizations will be highly appreciated and encouraged. All those who wish to participate in Indian Antarctic Expedition/s have to submit their own proposal/s independently directly to NCAOR/DOD through proper channel and in no circumstances under any collaboration through some other institute/s.

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7. As a part of SILVER JUBILEE Celebrations of Indian Antarctic Programme and true to the spirit of International Polar Year (2007) Campaign, NCAOR/DOD (Govt of India) is also inviting students who have Post-graduate degree in science/Professional graduates (like B.E./B.Tech.) to submit their research plan for summer period only under the guidance/supervision of a permanent Scientist of any institute/department/university under **STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION SCHEME** of NCAOR/DOD. Such proposal has to be submitted strictly through supervisor using his proper channel. The designated guide/supervisor shall be fully responsible for the participation of his/her student/s in Indian Antarctic Expedition. A copy of all data generated by the student/s shall be provided to NCAOR/DOD by his/her guide/supervisor.
8. Besides above programmes, the scientifically sound proposal in any other scientific field/topic may also be submitted for consideration.
9. All these organizations/PIs/students (under said scheme) have to present their proposal before the Group of Experts as and when invited. All those who intend to participate in any Antarctic expedition have to provide a Declaration (in enclosed PRESCRIBED FORMAT) duly endorsed by the Head of their respective Organization for depositing a copy of all data, samples (as far as practicable), information collected/generated during or after the expedition is over to NCAOR/DOD for the data archival at National Antarctic Data Centre of NCAOR, Goa as and when asked by NCAOR/DOD.
10. While framing the proposals, repetition of scientific work already carried out from the Indian station 'Maitri' in Antarctica should be avoided. Due consideration has to be given to the fact that the experiments have to be carried out within the logistic infrastructure available at 'Maitri' and should be limited to around 150 km radius of the station. The proposal should be succinct and in the prescribed format.
11. The PI should be a permanent employee and must have sufficient experience in the relevant field. Proposed official/s and/or employee/s for the participation in Indian Antarctic Expedition/s should be from PIs institute/department.
12. There should be a long-term research programme (2–4 years) to be undertaken by concerned PI/Organization/Institute with institutional commitment. However, year wise (expedition wise) proposed activities should be properly spelled out. The new proposal with the commitment of their respective institutes for long-term research programme to be undertaken in Antarctica shall be given preference.
13. Participation in Indian Antarctic Expedition is subject to medical/psychological fitness and all approved proposals shall be implementable as per the guidelines/instructions/rules/regulations of Department of Ocean Development/NCAOR.
14. NCAOR/DOD makes arrangements for travel to Antarctica from Goa and back, accommodation in the ship and in Antarctica, food, special polar clothing requirements and personal insurance cover. All other expenses including those related to procurement of scientific equipments, attending pre-Antarctic trainings and briefings, Hard Duty Allowance (presently @Rs 450 and Rs 300 per day for Winter and Summer team members respectively as per NCAOR/DOD terms and conditions), etc. will have to be borne by the participating organizations. This may be taken into account while forwarding the nominations.
15. NCAOR/DOD is also looking for the promising candidates having sufficient Antarctic stay experience and the qualities of leadership, team building and human resource management to be considered as the LEADER of the ensuing 26th Indian Antarctic Expedition. Such candidates need to be nominated by their respective organization. Detailed bio-data and professional experience of nominated candidate may kindly be sent to Director, NCAOR along with nomination.
16. Deadline for receiving proposals: **Three copies of the proposals along with all essential endorsement and certificates in the prescribed formats (available on our website) are to be forwarded through proper channel** and must reach the Director, National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Headland Sada, Vasco da Gama, Goa 403 804 by **30 May 2006**. Nominations received after this date will not be entertained. For details and formats please contact us on website: www.ncaor.org.