



## **Arctic Palaeoclimate and its EXtremes (APEX)**

**K. H. Kjær** (1) and APEX Steering Committee

(1) Natural History Museum of Denmark, Denmark (kurtk@snm.ku.dk)

The research programme APEX - the Arctic Palaeoclimate and its Extremes - was initiated in 2005 and builds on the outstanding research legacy of the two previous European Science Foundation (ESF) programs PONAM (POLar North Atlantic Margins) and QUEEN (QUaternary Environments of the Eurasian North). APEX has been endorsed by the IPY Committee and identified as a one of the lead coordinating programmes for palaeoclimate research during the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007/2008. To date, our programme has attracted scientists from 15 European countries, Canada and USA and 30 individual research projects individually endorsed by the IPY Committee has expressed their interest to be included in our research network. The First APEX Conference in March 28-29, 2007, at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences serves as an official IPY kickoff meeting for APEX field programmes. APEX research is focused on understanding the magnitude and frequency of past Arctic climate variability and, in particular, the “extremes” versus the “normal” conditions of the climate system. A key objective of the programme is to improve our understanding of the Arctic’s role in the global climate system, knowledge that is particularly important due to the present rapid environmental changes attributed to enhanced global warming. Only by integrating results from terrestrial and marine studies as well as across disciplines will it be possible to achieve the APEX research objective.