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October 14, 2008

To: Liz Murphy, Squizmix

Cc: David Carlson, Director, IPY International Programme Office Nicola  
Munro, Education Liaison, IPY International Programme Office

Dear Liz,

All of us at the International Polar Year International Programme Office (IPY IPO) would like to extend our sincere thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for your support, collaboration, and enthusiasm during the last two years. The international outreach programme for IPY has been substantially shaped through our work together, and the novel ideas you regularly suggest and help to realise.

We started working together in early 2007, in the formative stages of IPY Education and Outreach. These discussions led to our first live IPY IPO events, connecting students at a science school in Sydney, Australia, to researchers in the Arctic and Antarctica, as well as to the first audio recordings and videos of IPY scientists in action on [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org).

What a long way we have come since then! From those initial experiments, we now have a strong programme of quarterly International Polar Days that connect classrooms as geographically diverse as Brazil, Zambia, Russia, Alaska, and China, to IPY researchers around the world. We have also connected to teachers' workshops in N. America and Australia, and to a UNEP Children's Conference in Norway.

You have also helped us to capture on film a historical meeting of members of the IPY Joint Committee, International Programme Office, and Canadian National Committee held in Quebec City, and guided us through the process of documenting the formation of the IPY Association of Early Career Polar Scientists (APECS) in Sweden. These videos are regularly watched from our own websites, and also You Tube.

In addition to outreach events, you appreciate the importance of planning meetings and preparation, and to this end have helped us to bring together



colleagues from around the world to discuss important developments of our programme. This includes meetings of the IPY Education and Outreach Sub-Committee, and also enabling the first ever APECS Council meeting, bringing together young scientists from around the world who lack funds to meet physically.

In addition to live events, conference organisation, and video and audio documentaries, you are now also central to the development of a polar educational resource book,-a vision by young scientists and teachers that can only be brought to fruition with the professional ideas and technology that you have contributed. You listen carefully to the dreams and wishes of our volunteer team, and help them become a reality to be proud of.

It really has been an honour and joy to work with you, Liz. The path of exploration is always exciting, fresh, and rewarding, and the outcomes of our outreach efforts always far exceed our initial hopes.

Thank you for your continued support, energy, enthusiasm, and ideas... at all hours of night and day!

Best wishes,



Dr Rhian A Salmon

Education and Outreach Coordinator  
IPY International Programme Office