

Interview - International Polar Foundation, Brussel, 5 september 2007

## INTERVIEWS

The following people are available for interviews.

### Alain Hubert

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Alain Hubert is a Belgian Explorer, civil engineer, entrepreneur, carpenter, mountain guide, public speaker, good-will Ambassador for UNICEF and Co-founder of the International Polar Foundation. Mr. Hubert has been going on major polar expeditions since 1994, and has organised and participated in all three of the BELARE expeditions in preparation for the Princess Elisabeth Station. Just recently Alain, along with fellow Belgian explorer Dixie Dansercoer, traversed the Arctic sea ice from Siberia to Greenland via the North Pole, taking snow thickness measurements to help the European Space Agency calibrate saPhonelite measurements it takes to monitor Arctic sea ice thickness.

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### Nighat Amin

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Ms. Amin is the Programme Administrator of the Princess Elisabeth Station project. She manages the International Polar Foundation's external relations with scientists, universities, and international organisations related to the Polar Regions (in particular scientific research) from all over the world. She has also participated in all three of the BELARE expeditions to the Antarctic.

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### Thierry Touchais

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Mr. Touchais is the Executive Director of the International Polar Foundation. Mr. Touchais has an engineering background and a broad international culture acquired through multiple foreign residences in Europe, North America and Latin America. Before joining IPF in 2005, Mr. Touchais has held various functions in technology, sales and marketing, business development, fund raising and general management within multinational corporations as well as in capital venture financed technology start-ups.

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### Johan Berte

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Johan Berte is the Project Manager of the Princess Elisabeth Station Project responsible for overseeing the design and construction of the station. He has a track record as a conceptual designer, system engineer and project manager in innovation projects ranging from industrial automation, application of new technologies and space instrumentation. Mr. Berte is a guest teacher and advisor on design methodology in various institutes. His passion for technology, his organisation of

and participation in the BELARE expeditions and most of all his experience in designing and building the Antarctic station has made him one of the few Polar building experts around.

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## Dr. Maaïke Vancauwenberghe

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As Manager of the Antarctic Programme for BELSPO, Ms. Vancauwenberghe will be responsible for the scientific research programmes carried out at the Princess Elisabeth Station. She has participated in BELARE 2004-05 and 2005-06, and is Belgium's representative to the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (CONMAP).

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## Dr. Hugo Declerck

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Dr. Declerck is a glaciologist and an Emeritus professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Free University of Brussels, Flemish-speaking) and Chairman of the Belgian Antarctic Committee. He is also a Co-founder of the International Polar Foundation and has gone many times to the Antarctic continent as a researcher.

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## Dr. Frank Pattyn

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Glaciologist, ice-sheet modeller and a specialist in subglacial lakes from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Free University of Brussels, French-speaking), Dr. Pattyn conducted field studies of Antarctic glaciers during the BELARE 2004-05 and 2005-06 expeditions, and will be the first scientist to carry out research at the Princess Elisabeth Station in November 2008.

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## Dr. Gauthier Chapelle

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Dr. Gauthier Chapelle has been the scientific officer of the IPF since its creation in 2002, responsible for the scientific validation of the educational material produced by the Foundation. As a biologist, he took part in a handful of Antarctic research expeditions on coastal stations or at sea. During the last austral summer, he was the media officer on board the German ice-breaker "Polarstern" for an expedition in the Antarctic Peninsula looking at the impacts of climate change on the bottom fauna.

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## Dr. André Berger\*

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André Berger is a climatologist and professor and former head of the Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics Georges Lemaître (1978-2001) at the Catholic University of Louvain at Louvain-la-neuve, where he currently lectures on meteorology and climate dynamics. Dr. Berger is also a Co-founder of the International Polar Foundation.

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*\* Unable to attend the inauguration on September 5th but is willing to be contacted for interviews or commentary at later date.*