

SESSION: Antarctic and sub-Antarctic earth science

MARS Themes:

Cross Discipline - Capacity development

Title:

SEAmester - 6 voyages later

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Abstract:

The UN's Decade of Ocean Science calls for programmes that improve scientific knowledge, develop research capacities and transfer marine technological information and expertise across generations. In South Africa, the Department of Science and Innovation's (DSI) has already taken a significant step forward in such training measures. The current DSI Global Change Grand Challenge programme calls for platforms that "attract young researchers and retain them by exciting their interest in aspects of global change, while developing their capacity and professional skills in the relevant fields of investigation". To meet these challenges in the Ocean Sciences head-on, SEAmester – South Africa's Floating University and a joint initiative between Government and Universities was started in 2016. The strength of SEAmester is that South African postgraduate students combine theoretical classroom learning with the application of this knowledge through ship-based, and more importantly, hands-on research through the Agulhas System Climate Array (ASCA) programme. Now into its 8th year and with 241 students from 26 universities all over South Africa having participated in these cruises, this presentation takes a look at how successful this programme has been, the challenges we have faced and more importantly what has become of some of the SEAmester students.

Format:

Oral presentation

Keywords: (add ; between keywords)

Capacity Development, SEAmester, Oceanography