Académie Royale de Belgique

Comité National Belge
de
GEODESIE et de GEOPHYSIQUE

Président : T. Camelbeeck
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Secrétaire : C. Bruyninx
Secrétaire-adjoint : V. Pierrard

Observatoire royal de Belgique
avenue Circulaire, 3
B-1180 Bruxelles
carine.bruyninx@oma.be

Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België

Belgisch Nationaal Comité
voor
GEODESIE en GEOFYSICA

Voorzitter : T. Camelbeeck
Ondervoorzitter : S. Dewitte
Secretaris : C. Bruyninx
Adjunct-Secretaris : V. Pierrard

Konninklijke Sterrenwacht van België
Ringlaan, 3
B-1180 Brussel
carine.bruyninx@oma.be

http://bncgg.oma.be

Dear colleagues,

We have the pleasure to invite you to the BNCGG meeting that will be held on **Thursday 24 January 2013** at 14:00 in the Meridian meeting room of the Royal Observatory of Belgium (http://www.orb.be/EN/info/praktisch.php).

Prof. Jean-Louis Tison from the Université Libre de Bruxelles will give a talk entitled:

Ice-Ocean interactions under the Roi Baudouin Ice Shelf, East Antarctica: controls on sea level rise

One of the major uncertainties in the context of the surmised Global Climate Change is the future behaviour of the global sea level, with potentially severe impacts on human society, especially in coastal areas. One direct driver of expected future sea level rise is the contribution of melting/calving ice sheets, given the large amounts of frozen water stored in these large natural ice masses.
This talk will present recent results from glaciological and oceanographic measurements in the coastal vicinity (Princess Ragnhild Coast) of the new Belgian Antarctic Base Princess Elisabeth, aiming at quantifying the potential contribution of this part of East-Antarctica to accelerated ice discharges to the Southern Ocean. Indeed, until now, it has been considered that it is mainly some regions of West-Antarctica (e.g. Pine Island Glacier in the Amundsen Sea) that show clear signs of "destabilization" due to the fact that most of its ice-bedrock lies well below present-day sea level. Little is known, however, of its east Antarctic counterpart, generally reported as quite stable (or even in slight growth) in terms of mass balance. We will review the processes at stake, and see how these might be at work (or not) in the vicinity of the old "base Roi Baudouin" location (actually a floating ice shelf).

Best regards and all the best for 2013!

Carine Bruyninx
BNCGG secretary