



## Minutes of

### Joint Interims Meeting of the BALTEX Science Steering Group (BSSG 29) and the BALTEX Working Group on PostBALTEX

22 January 2013

Park Inn Copenhagen Airport, Copenhagen, Denmark,

#### 1. Introduction and Rationale

BALTEX Phase II will come to an end at the 7<sup>th</sup> Study Conference on BALTEX on Öland, 10-14 June 2013. The process to collect views and suggestions among the BALTEX community for a potential follow-up programme has been going on since June 2010 (BSSG 25). A Working Group on PostBALTEX was installed in September 2011 (BSSG 27), to draft suggestions for a possible "PostBALTEX" programme. The Working Group presented their suggestions to the BSSG in Tallinn, September 2012 (BSSG 28). This joint interims meeting of BSSG and WG on PostBALTEX was initiated to prepare a smooth transition from BALTEX to the new programme, to be settled at the Öland Conference. The meeting was chaired by BSSG co-chair Anders Omstedt.

#### 2. Round table: What does BALTEX mean to you?

Meeting participants were asked to briefly formulate what BALTEX meant to them. Aspects which were mentioned often were the network idea with interdisciplinary and international collaboration and international friendships. Content-related aspects mentioned were the development of modelling capabilities and coupled models, and the inclusion of biogeochemical processes and the Earth system at large. The importance of observations and data inventories was also acknowledged. The BACC book was mentioned as outstanding single achievement. The infrastructure of BALTEX was especially acknowledged: the secretariat, the study conferences and summer schools, the value for education (some now leading BALTEX scientists started as PhD students in the BALTEX orbit) and the fact that the network had no central funding which also provided a degree of freedom. Members from former Soviet Union countries stressed the support by BALTEX for these countries, especially in the first few years.

#### 3. Open discussion

Anna Rutgersson provided a summary of the report which had been compiled by the WG on PostBALTEX for BSSG 28, followed by an open discussion on the future directions of the new programme.

There was an agreement that specific positive aspects of BALTEX should be continued (infrastructure like secretariat, publication series, newsletter, conferences, summer schools, BACC-type assessments, GEWEX embedment). A scientific network was suggested, based on a voluntary collaboration of engaged scientists from different disciplines including the human dimensions, but with an emphasis on the natural sciences. In general, the new programme should take a holistic view on the Earth system of the Baltic Sea region, encompassing processes in the atmosphere, on land and in the sea and also in the anthroposphere.

A desirable aspect of the new programme was described as providing a service to society in the respect that thematic assessments provide an overview over knowledge gaps which need to be filled (e.g. by funded

projects). A broad support from institutions all around the Baltic Sea region would be desirable, both in terms of engaged scientists which contribute to the network with their working time, but also as occasional sponsors of special events like workshops, summer schools or conferences. Educational aspects like PhD or summer schools were deemed to be important parts of the new programme. Working groups (a new one on challenges for the southern Baltic Sea coasts was proposed) would be important centres of the scientific work. It was generally suggested that the new programme should remain in the GEWEX/WCRP framework, as far as possible. The Secretariat at Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht was considered as crucial for the success of the new programme.

The presentation of the new programme at the Öland conference should be prepared by a dedicated core group of dedicated BALTEX scientists (see section 5).

#### **4. Wrapping up BALTEX at Öland**

An award should be dedicated to people related to outstanding achievements in the course of BALTEX (both phases). This award could be a diploma together with free registration and conference dinner at the first conference of the new programme. Former and current BSSG members will be asked for outstanding achievements and related people in the course of both BALTEX phases.

The 30<sup>th</sup> and final BSSG meeting will take place on Sunday 9 June 2013 at 16:00.

It will be necessary to prepare a good overview presentation on the 20 years of BALTEX research and its background for the opening ceremony. There is a possibility that the Swedish Crown Princess Victoria may open the conference on Öland.

#### **5. Interim Science Steering Group**

Present members of the WG on PostBALTEX gathered at a breakout meeting to discuss options towards the establishment of a future new steering group and actions concerning the start of the new programme. An interim science steering group was formed and given the mandate to prepare the launch of the new programme at the 7<sup>th</sup> Study Conference on BALTEX on Öland and lead the first year of the new programme, in which new terms of references and the structure of the new working groups and the new steering committee shall be elaborated. This group has a mandate until one year after the Öland conference, i.e. 30 June 2014. Markus Meier was elected as chair of the interim steering group, Anna Rutgersson as vice-chair. The new programme will be presented by this group at the Öland conference (see further details in Annex 2).

#### **6. Name and logo**

It will be up to the Interim Science Steering Group to decide on a new name and logo. One suggestion was to have the logo similar to the current BALTEX logo to express the BALTEX heritage.

#### **7. Decisions**

1. BSSG # 30 meeting to be held at Hotell Strand, Borgholm, Öland on Sunday 9 June 2013 at 16:00
2. Award to be presented to people related to outstanding achievements throughout the BALTEX programme.
3. A comprehensive overview lecture on BALTEX to be prepared for the opening ceremony of the Öland conference.
4. PostBALTEX Interims SSG was formed (details see Annex 2)

#### **8. Actions**

1. E-Mail to former and current BSSG members to identify outstanding BALTEX achievements and related individuals (MR)
2. Prepare lecture on 20 years of BALTEX research for Öland conference (BSSG chairs, MR)
3. Prepare time slot for Interims SSG meeting at Öland conference (MM, MR).

## **Minutes by Marcus Reckermann, 31 January 2013**

Annex 1

### **Participant List**

Franz Berger, BSSG

Meteorologisches Observatorium Lindenberg - Richard-Aßmann-Observatorium, Deutscher Wetterdienst, Tauche, Germany

Jüri Elken, BSSG

Tallinn University of Technology, Marine Systems Institute, Tallinn, Estonia

Sven-Erik Gryning, BSSG

Risø DTU, National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy, Risø, Denmark

Jari Haapala, WG-PB

Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland

Sirje Keevallik, BSSG

Marine Systems Institute at Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia

Karol Kulinski, WG-PB

Institute of Oceanology PAN, Sopot, Poland

Andreas Lehmann, BSSG and WG-PB

Leibniz Institute for Marine Sciences, Kiel, Germany

Markus Meier, WG-PB

Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Norrköping, Sweden

Carin Nilsson, WG-PB

Lund University, Sweden

Kai Myrberg, BSSG

SYKE Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, Finland

Anders Omstedt, BSSG

Göteborg University, Earth Sciences Centre – Oceanography, Göteborg, Sweden

Piia Post, WG-PB

University of Tartu, Estonia

Marcus Reckermann

International BALTEX Secretariat at Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany

Anna Rugersson, WG-PB

University of Uppsala, Sweden

Benjamin Smith, WG-PB

Lund University, Geography and Ecosystems Analysis, Lund, Sweden

Martin Stendel, BSSG

Danish Climate Centre, Danish Meteorological Institute

Hans von Storch, BSSG

Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany

Valery Vuglinsky, BSSG

State Hydrological Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia

Eduardo Zorita, WG-PB

Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Geesthacht, Germany

## Annex 2

### **Summary of the breakout group discussion (Markus Meier)**

A new group was formed as an Interim Science Steering Group until June 30, 2014:

Markus Meier (chair)  
Anna Rutgersson (co-chair)  
Carin Nilsson  
Ben Smith  
Jari Haapala  
Piia Post  
Karol Kulinski  
Andreas Lehmann  
Eduardo Zorita  
Frank Beyrich (represented by Franz Berger in Copenhagen)  
Anders Omstedt  
Sirje Keevalik  
Hans von Storch

### **Tasks for the new Interim Science Steering Group prior to the Öland conference**

1. Decide about the name and logo to be presented at Öland
2. Improve the science plan (if necessary) to be presented at Öland
3. How do we want to present PostBALTEX on Öland?

### **Tasks for Markus Meier (chair)**

1. Set up a Doodle for a meeting to decide about the name, logo and other urgent matters for the Öland conference
2. Organize a meeting of the new Interim SSG on Öland
3. Contact Marcus (secretariat) about Öland time schedule
4. Write two pages summarizing the new science plan, discuss within the group and distribute to stakeholders before the Öland conference, e.g. in March/April

### **Tasks for the Interim Science Steering Group after the Öland conference (perhaps 2. should be decided during the meeting in March):**

1. Formulate terms of references for the final PostBALTEX SSG (criteria: gender, geographic and institutional balance, members from all countries but not necessary), active leading group (everybody will get a task)
2. Go through the list of working groups and decide which ones will continue like BACC and the upcoming Polish-German collaboration about sandy beaches, erosion, etc. (Hans von Storch)
3. Go through a list of activities (workshops, meetings etc.) which had been decided on before January 2013 and which will extend or take place after the Öland conference
4. Set up a working plan for the Interim SSG for the period June 2013 - June 2014.