

● Collaborations and partnerships - Working together for geography

As featured in the Summer 2011 Bulletin

Whether publishing new studies about climate change or educating young people about the polar regions, the Society is active in developing successful partnerships with a number of like-minded organisations.

Starting in 2006, the Society has worked in partnership with the Geographical Association to boost the teaching and learning of geography in English schools through the Action Plan for Geography. Key elements of this work will be continued by the Society following the end of the programme, originally funded by the Department for Education and Skills, in April 2011.

Since 2009, the Society has collaborated with the Royal Meteorological Society to produce WIREs – a journal, published by Wiley-Blackwell, whose content is at the heart of the discussion on climate change. From the latest models of future climate change to the strategies adopted by policymakers, the papers and discussions from researchers across a multitude of academic fields are read by an international audience.

Professor Paul Hardaker, Chief Executive of the Royal Meteorological Society says: "Working with the RGS-IBG has been a real joy and our two organisations are natural partners for such a journal. We are both well-regarded for the importance we place on high quality journal publications and share very similar views on how we would like to see the journal develop. We have already begun to see the benefits we had hoped for in bringing together the science and social science communities – something that is necessary when tackling global problems. It has also been great to see this work recognised with three excellence awards at the recent American Publishers Awards."

www.rgs.org/Journals

The Society and Royal Meteorological Society have recently extended this partnership with the British



© Andy M Smith, British Antarctic Survey

Council, to provide young people with access to authoritative and up-to-date scientific information about climate change through the new website www.climate4classrooms.org which has been developed initially for use by schools in England, China, Indonesia and Mexico. Our educational partnerships also include ongoing work with the British Antarctic Survey to create and develop, with funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, a pair of award winning educational websites www.discoveringantarctica.org.uk and www.discoveringthearctic.org.uk. The resources provide a wealth of activities and information that explore the science, environment, biodiversity and human activities at the Poles.

Professor Nick Owens, Director of the British Antarctic Survey, says he is delighted with the success of both online projects: "The websites were developed to enthuse young people about scientific research and to give teachers access to authoritative and up-to-date resources on the polar regions. We could not have produced these excellent websites without working with the Society who knew exactly how to tailor our material for this audience."