

POLAR RESEARCH SESSİON

Raif Kandemir, Alp Ünal, Hakan Yavaşoğlu

Polar regions are natural archives of Earth's past, and they are also where the processes shaping our planet's future can be observed most rapidly. Changes in ice sheets directly affect the future of millions of people, from sea level and global climate to water and natural resources and the safety of coastal communities. For these reasons, polar research is a field to which the Republic of Türkiye attaches strategic importance and which it includes among the priorities of its national policies and plans. With the vision of becoming one of the leading countries in polar sciences through original research, Türkiye established its National Polar Science Program and has carried out Antarctic and Arctic expeditions every year without interruption since 2017. In a short time, these expeditions have produced a significant body of scientific knowledge, particularly in the geosciences. This knowledge strengthens Türkiye's position in the international polar science community and enhances its capacity to contribute to solving global problems.

In line with the main theme of the 79th Geological Congress of Türkiye, "Geosciences in Solving Global Problems: Earth–Society–Future," the Polar Sciences session aims to discuss how geoscientific knowledge of the polar regions can inform decisions about the future of societies. The session welcomes contributions from all disciplines of the geosciences. Main topics include glacial geology and geomorphology, paleoclimate and paleoenvironment, magmatism, tectonics and geodynamic evolution, geochemistry and geochronology, geophysics, sedimentology and marine geology, permafrost, natural hazards and resources, and polar meteorites and planetary science. The presentations will not be limited to the outcomes of the national polar science expeditions; studies conducted in the polar regions by researchers from other countries will also be included. The session thus aims to provide a platform where original research findings on the polar regions can be shared firsthand. On this platform, researchers will be able to meet colleagues from across Türkiye and around the world, as well as others interested in the field, and lay the groundwork for new collaborations.

We invite all geoscientists who are curious to explore the hidden features and most extreme environments of our planet, especially PhD and MSc students and early-career researchers, to the Polar Sciences session of the 79th Geological Congress of Türkiye, to be held on 12–16 April 2027.