**Co-recipients for the COMNAP Chairman’s Medal 2017 Announced**

Public Announcement from the COMNAP Secretariat, 29 July 2017

The Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) is delighted to announce, that the inaugural COMNAP Chairman’s Medal will be presented to two recipients. Patrice Godon, formerly of France’s Institut Polaire Français Paul Emile Victor (IPEV) and Henry Valentine, formerly of South Africa’s South African National Antarctic Program (SANAP) are the co-recipients of the 2017 Medal.

The COMNAP Medal is an award that was approved by COMNAP Members in 2016. The COMNAP Chair, upon successful completion of his/her term chooses the awardee, who can be an individual, group of individuals or a National Antarctic Program, to receive the Medal.

Professor Kazuyuki Shiraishi, COMNAP Chairman, will complete his three-year term at the close of COMNAP AGM XXIX (2017), to be held on 31 July – 2 August, in Brno, Czech Republic. In choosing the candidate, Professor Shiraishi gave consideration to the terms of reference for the award, which are:

* *Length and range of service to COMNAP as an organisation;*
* *Length and range of service to a National Antarctic Program or programs;*
* *Contribution to the management of Antarctic activities;*
* *Contribution to development and exchange of best practice, information, technical and practical advice;*
* *Contribution to understanding, protecting, or advancing Antarctic matters;*
* *Contribution to international co‐operation.”*

Patrice Godon, who has had a remarkable 37-year polar career with France’s IPEV, receives the award for his contributions to COMNAP related to energy, engineering & technology. In particular, for contributions of his expertise related to logistics traverse capabilities. Patrice has personally traversed 75,000 kms across isolated areas of the Antarctic continent, where autonomy & safety are essential, in support of science and operations and logistics. His technical knowledge was previously recognized by France at a National level with an award of Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite National (1997) and the Cristal du CNRS (1999).

Henry Valentine receives the award after a 35-year history of service within the South African National Antarctic Program as an academic, researcher, administrator and manager. His contributions to COMNAP were many and include: Delegate, including Head of Delegation, to 14 COMNAP AGMs; Executive Committee Officer; Member of the International Polar Year Co-ordination Group; and Convener of the COMNAP Icebreaker Workshop. In addition to the many COMNAP contributions Henry made over the years, he also contributed to our scientific knowledge of the Antarctic by the authoring or co-authoring of more than two dozen scientific papers, by leading the South African Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) delegation for ten years, and by managing significant projects related to his National Antarctic Program, including the construction of the new base on Marion Island and the construction of the impressive research and supply vessel *SA Agulhas II*.

The awards will be made on 31 July 2017 at the COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXIX (2017) in Brno, Czech Republic.