

**ACTUARIS S.A.**

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FRANCE

**The Global Compact Office**

United Nations

Room S-1881

New York, N.Y. 10017

USA

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*Objet : Communication sur le progrès 2007*

Madame, Monsieur,

Conscient de la responsabilité et du rôle que jouent les entreprises dans l'amélioration des conditions de vie et de travail dans le monde, le cabinet ACTUARIS est fier d'adhérer au Global Compact des Nations Unies et de promouvoir ses 10 principes directeurs.

Cette initiative des Nations Unies correspondant tout à fait à notre culture d'entreprise et aux valeurs soutenues par l'équipe dirigeante, l'ensemble des collaborateurs d'ACTUARIS aspire à perpétuer et développer les actions visant à sensibiliser et responsabiliser les sociétés de notre secteur d'activité.

C'est donc avec grand plaisir que nous adressons au bureau du Global Compact notre “Communication sur le Progrès” 2007, reprenant les grandes lignes des initiatives menées à bien ou soutenues par ACTUARIS.

Vous renouvelant l'assurance de notre engagement, nous vous prions d'agréer, Madame, Monsieur, l'expression de nos salutations respectueuses et dévouées.



Pierre ARNAL  
Actuaire Associé  
Directeur Général



## **GLOBAL COMPACT – COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS**



“Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.”

## ACTIONS

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*Because actuaries are key players in environmental issues such as climate change and global warming, ACTUARIS tries to heighten insurance actors to the problem of climate change by sponsoring and attending expeditions to the Deep North.*

### ACTUARIS' Svalbard Expedition 2007

In 2007, in order to promote public information and awareness about global warming, Pierre ARNAL, CEO of ACTUARIS and Yves COUTURIER, Director of CNP (French leading insurance company) departed for the Svalbard archipelago, north of Norway and last inhabited land before the North Pole.

Svalbard is defined as a land area situated between 74 and 81 degrees north, between 10 and 35 degrees east. The archipelago consists of islands of various sizes, the largest of which are Spitzbergen, Nordaustlandet, Edgeøya, Barentsøya and Prins Karls Forland. The summit Newtontoppen, on the north-eastern part of Spitzbergen, towers 1713 metres above sea level and is the highest. Svalbard has an area of about 61 000 square kilometres, more than half of which are covered by snow and ice.

The Governor of Svalbard, currently Mr. Per Seifland, is the Norwegian government's supreme representative in the archipelago. The institution is quite unique in Norway in that it heads a department of environment conservation and a police unit.

Privileged scientific study field, Svalbard is often used as an observation base for meteorological and biological studies on the consequences of global warming. The archipelago has also been chosen to shelter the “Doomsday vault”, a unique gene bank designed to preserve our vegetal biodiversity from climate changes and natural catastrophes.

ACTUARIS' 2007 expedition had three main objectives:

#### **1- The Doomsday vault**

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, or the Doomsday Vault as the media have nicknamed it, will be the ultimate safety net for the world's most important natural resource.

Gene banks are vulnerable to a wide range of threats - war, natural catastrophes, lack of adequate funding, and equipment failures. Unique varieties of our most important vegetal species are lost whenever any such disaster strikes, and therefore securing duplicates of all collections in a global facility provides an insurance policy for the world's food supply.

The seed vault is an answer to a call from the international community to provide the best possible assurance of safety for the world's crop diversity, and in fact the idea for such a facility dates back to the 1980s. However, it was only with the coming into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, and an agreed international legal framework for conserving and accessing crop diversity, that the seed vault became a practical possibility.

The vault is currently being dug into a mountainside near the village of Longyearbyen, Svalbard. Construction is due to be completed in September 2007. Permafrost and thick rock will ensure that even without electricity, the samples will remain frozen. The vault's construction is funded and managed by the Norwegian government as a service to the world community. Pierre ARNAL and Yves COUTURIER met Arne Kristofferson, local contact for the seed vault, who brought them to the future facility, currently a building site. They also had the privilege to visit the temporary seed vault located in a closed down coal mine.

## **2- The *Vagabond* polar yacht**

The *Vagabond* is an expedition yacht designed to sail in icy waters. Since 2000, she is a unique support of this type, a real floating base camp for scientists in polar regions. *Vagabond* is currently a dedicated base camp for DAMOCLES, which main objective is to study Arctic Ocean sea ice and its future. France PINCZON du SEL and Eric BROSSIER bring their polar yacht and their experience to work with scientists for 4 years, on the East Coast of Spitsbergen (2004-2008). In July 2007, in the heart of the International Polar Year, *Vagabond* achieved her third wintering at polar bear land. Beginning of the fourth wintering in October 2007, still in collaboration with the French Polar Institute IPEV.

DAMOCLES: the European-Russian program (Developing Arctic Modelling Capabilities for Long-term Environmental Studies) is an integrated ice-atmosphere-ocean monitoring and forecasting system designed for observing, understanding and quantifying climate changes in the Arctic. This innovative and ambitious project will use hi-tech instruments from space as well as in situ. DAMOCLES is specifically concerned with the potential for a significantly reduced sea ice cover, and the impacts this might have on the environment and on human activities, both regionally and globally.

Pierre ARNAL and Yves COUTURIER went on board the *Vagabond* and met France, Eric and the scientific crew of the yacht. They also had the chance to participate to several reading with polar specialists, working on the ice of the fjord where *Vagabond* is wintering.

## **3- Interviews of scientists**

The third major goal of this expedition was to meet with scientists and more globally people acting against global warming and building public awareness on the climate change impacts on the Polar Regions. Pierre ARNAL and Yves COUTURIER interviewed Rune BERGSTRÖM, advisor for the Governor of Svalbard about environmental issues, and Sébastien BARRAULT, Swiss researcher from the University of Longyearbyen who both enthusiastically shared their work and opinions.

ACTUARIS strives to build awareness among its clients, partners and providers, actors of the insurance industry and therefore directly concerned by the risks of economic losses due the global warming and exceptional climatic episodes. We started two years ago to draw up a communication emphasizing on insurance sector's contribution to climate change mitigation and this third ACTUARIS expedition is to pursue this awareness building.

ACTUARIS also communicates widely about this expedition to the media, specifically to two newspapers with a large audience in the insurance, reinsurance and financial sectors: *La Tribune de l'assurance* and *L'Argus de l'assurance*. These two newspapers published articles about the expedition and its environmental goal.

ACTUARIS also communicated before and after the expedition about the goals, the people met and the action undertaken. CNP, who participated to the expedition through Yves COUTURIER, chose to communicate to its associates about the global seed vault and to show the documentary broadcasted during the expedition to its board of Directors and all the employees.

**COUNTRY:** France

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