

NEEM - SITREP no. 11, Sunday 4 July 2010

This SITREP covers the period June 28- July 4, 2010 (inclusive).

Movement of personnel:

- June 27** Olivier Alemany (F), Jérôme Chapellaz (F), Ilka Weikusat (D), Peter Abbott (UK) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.
- June 28** Dorthe Dahl-Jensen (DK), Martin Skrydstrup (DK), Elizabeth Elliott (AUS), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Timothy Burton (UK), Fernando Delgado (D), Corentin Reutenauer (F), Gerko van der Wel (CH), Kenji Kawamura (J), David Balslev-Clausen (DK) from CPH to SFJ by Air Greenland.
- June 30** Dorthe Dahl-Jensen (DK), Martin Skrydstrup (DK), Elizabeth Elliott (AUS), Steffen Bo Hansen (DK), Timothy Burton (UK), Fernando Delgado (D), Corentin Reutenauer (F), Gerko van der Wel (CH), Kenji Kawamura (J), David Balslev-Clausen (DK), Olivier Alemany (F), Jérôme Chapellaz (F), Ilka Weikusat (D), Peter Abbott (UK) from SFJ to NEEM by 109'th.
- June 30** Lars Berg Larsen (DK) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.
- June 30** Sverrir Hilmarsson (IS), Sarah Harvey (US), Louise Albershart (US), Trevor Popp (US), Sepp Kipfstuhl (CH), Jocelyne Bourgeois (CAN), Louise Wolff Ravnebjerg (DK), Simon Uhl-Jensen (DK), Carina van den Veen (NL), Jun Uetake (J), Heejin Hwang (COR), Denis Samyn (B), Liz Thomas (UK), Sonia Falourd (F), Romain Duphil (F), H.C. Steen-Larsen (DK), Christoffer Stowasser (CH), Torben Andersen (DK), Gertie Skaarup (DK) from NEEM to SFJ by 109'th.
- July 1** Sarah Harvey (US), Louise Albershart (US), Jocelyne Bourgeois (CAN) from SFJ to Schenectady by 109'th.
- July 1** Sverrir Hilmarsson (IS), Trevor Popp (US), Sepp Kipfstuhl (CH), Louise Wolff Ravnebjerg (DK), Simon Uhl-Jensen (DK), Carina van den Veen (NL), Heejin Hwang (COR), Liz Thomas (UK), H.C. Steen-Larsen (DK), Christopher Stowasser (CH), Torben Andersen (DK), Gertie Skaarup (DK) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.
- July 2** Sonia Falourd (F), Denis Samyn (B), Romain Duphil (F) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.
- July 3** Jun Uetake (J) from SFJ to CPH by Air Greenland.

Movement of cargo:

- June 30** 4433 kg (9765 lbs) shallow drill, luggage, 16 drums of drill liquid and 6000 lbs of fuel from SFJ to NEEM by 109'th.

June 30 1842 kg (4057 lbs) frozen ice core and 1400 kg (3083 lbs) pallets, nets and garbage from NEEM to SFJ by 109'th.

Deposition of environmentally hazardous items with the municipal authority in Kangerlussuaq:

June 28 50 kg metal scrap, 200 litres waste oil, 1400 kg household garbage from NEEM.

Activities: The scheduled flight SFJ-NEEM-SFJ June 29 was postponed until June 30 due to bad weather and suboptimal skiway condition at NEEM. On June 30, skier 92 did take-off from SFJ 09:57 in rain and low clouds. Landed NEEM at 12:12. Due to bad weather at the coast airports the skier shut off all four engines. Remained on ground until 16:07 when it took off unaided and using only 1/3 of the skiway. Headed for Summit ice camp where it fuelled and waited for flyable weather in Kangerlussuaq. Arrived SFJ at 21:10. The flight took 14 new Neemians to camp and brought 19 old Neemians out. The change of camp crew meant some briefing and adjustment time at camp.

Skiway: Wind and new snow during the first half of the week required frequent repair and grooming on the skiway with both tiller and the beam. During the skier 92 visit June 30, the skiway was in prime condition.

Drill trench: Drilling rather stable delivering around 3 m long cores. We do 6 to 7 runs a day under normal conditions. The chips recovery is less than 100%. Moving the upper ring 60 cm higher on the shaft is not solving the problem. Liquid density seems to be close to the density of the warm, -8 deg C ice, leaving lost chips close to bottom. A few runs have been disturbed by ice under the shoes and by leaving the core at bottom in first attempt. The drilling is highly affected by shifts in the ice physical properties. The ice is getting softer and frequently the core catchers produce long grooves in the ice cores.

This week production: 95.24 m

Driller's depth: 2342.36 m

Logging depth: 2365.95 m

Science trench:

The science trench had a small exchange of people and it only took a day to get into full speed again. All instruments are working well and the science results are being followed with excitement. The discrete water isotope Picarro is online again and we are slowly producing O¹⁸, D and excess climate curves of the deep ice. During the next week we hope to be able to inform the NEEM society on the findings in the deep ice. The temperatures in the drill trench and science trench are slowly increasing and effort has been made to cool the trenches. In the drill trench the cooling tunnel has been switched on and an additional funnel has been installed near the roof to push the top warm air up and out of the surface tent where the staircase entrance is. In the science trench the cooling tunnels in the core storage and the ice box storage areas have been switched on.

CFA production this week: 118.8 m

CFA depth: 1951.95 m

Processing production this week (ECM, DEP, Cutting): 122.1 m
Processing depth: 2336.95 m

Drill trench: -18C
Connecting tunnel: -19C
Core buffer: -24C
Science trench: -17C
Ice cave: -24C

Associated programs:

The surface snow sampling program continues.

NEEM iridium numbers:

Primary no.: +8816 224 34860
Secondary no.: +8816 414 39 863

Weather at NEEM:

A relative warm week at NEEM with temperatures between -17 and -2 C, calm to 15 knots, mostly scattered clouds and sunny.

NEEM camp population: 32

Kangerlussuaq activities:

All 14 NEEM-bound pax got out of Kangerlussuaq one day delayed. Home-bound 19 pax got out of Kangerlussuaq on various flights within three days. 39 incoming ice core boxes from NEEM got into deep freezer within one hour of arrival. FOM Lars Berg Larsen left for CPH and FOM Henning Thing took over. Cleaned and reorganized warehouse and immediate surroundings. Handed environmentally hazardous goods over to municipal authorities.

Weather in Kangerlussuaq/SFJ:

Mixed weather most of week with frequent rain showers, thick fog and low clouds. Fairly reasonable numbers of mosquitoes.

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