

INVITATION  
**PRESS CONFERENCE 13th October 2025**  
ON LINE



*"Uncover the secrets and save the ice memory  
of the iconic glaciers in the Pamir Mountains"*

**Final stages of the Pamir ice coring expedition**

Dushanbe – October 13, 2025

3:00 PM local time | 12:00 PM (noon) CEST | 10:00 AM UTC



University of  
Zurich<sup>uzh</sup>



The scientific community of Tajikistan, Switzerland, and Japan, alongside the Swiss Polar Institute and the Ice Memory Foundation are pleased to invite members of the media to a **press conference** presenting the first overview of the international ice coring expedition on the Pamir Mountains - Kon Chukurbashi ice cap, region of the Karakul basin in Eastern Pamir, Tajikistan.

This historic expedition, conducted in September-October 2025, successfully extracted **the first two deep ice cores ever drilled in the Eastern Pamir region**, offering unprecedented insights into the climate history of Central Asia and the dynamics of glacier evolution in one of the most climate-sensitive regions of the world.

### [Press conference details](#)

#### **ON LINE**

**Date:** Monday, October 13, 2025

**Time:** 3:00 PM local time | 12:00 PM (noon) CEST | 10:00 AM UTC

**Location:** Hotel Hilton, Dushanbe

**Languages:** Tajik, English (simultaneous translation provided)

### [Speakers will include](#)

- Representatives & Experts from the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan
- Swiss Polar Institute, Danièle Rod - Director
- Ice coring expedition leader Evan Miles, Pamir Project, University of Zurich
- Ice Memory Foundation, Prof. Thomas F. Stocker, Chair - Univ. of Bern

#### **Schedule**

**[Opening] 3:00 - 3:15 PM (local time)** *Official ceremony for the donation of ice cores from the Tajikistan to the international scientific community - through the Pamir Research program and the Ice Memory sanctuary in Antarctica.*

### **[Press conference] 3:20 – 4.15 PM (local time)**

- Objectives and achievements of the 2025 Pamir ice coring expedition
- Challenges of a high-altitude drilling operation
- Contribution of the deep ice cores to climate science
- Next steps in international collaborations, particularly around research
- Next steps for passing on the legacy of glacial memory to future generations.

This press conference will address an important milestone in climate research in Central Asia and offer rare access to international experts working at the forefront of glaciology, climate science, and diplomacy.

*Please note that the schedule may change slightly  
depending on logistics and the event.*

To confirm your attendance, please register below

**REGISTER**

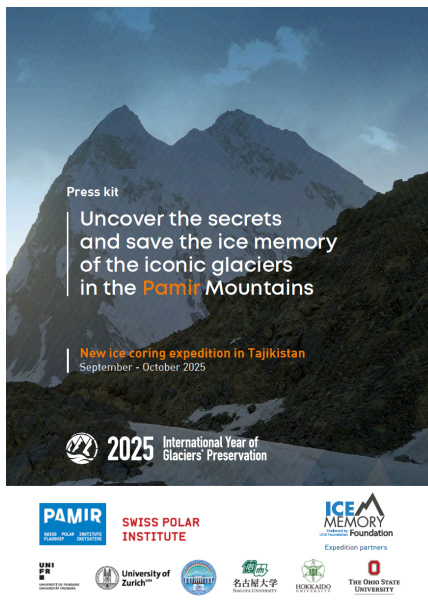
<https://forms.gle/fHc2hwcPZ37wDp699>

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**PRESS KIT**

**PHOTOS & VIDEOS**

## About the drilling operation in the Pamir Region

- Location: Kon Chukurbashi Ice Cap, Tajikistan (5800 m a.s.l.)
- Date: September 2025 to early October (5 weeks)
- Partners: University of Fribourg, Tajikistan Academy of Sciences, University of Zurich, Nagoya University, Hokkaido University, Ohio State University, University of Bern.
- Funding: Swiss Polar Institute, Ice Memory Foundation
- Outputs: Full-depth expected ~105 m - the first ice cores to be analyzed and archived; the second ice core to be sent to the Ice Memory Sanctuary in Antarctica.



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## About Ice Memory Foundation

- The Ice Memory Foundation aims to collect, save, and manage ice cores from selected glaciers currently in danger of degradation or disappearance, with a view to preserving the information they contain for decades and centuries to come.
- The Ice Memory Foundation has been created by 6 major French, Italian, and Swiss scientific institutions: University Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - IRD, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, CNR in Italy, Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland and is sheltered by the University Grenoble Alpes Foundation.
- The Foundation's governance is international, with members from France, Italy, Switzerland, China, and the United States, including two former IPCC Vice Presidents.



Founders of the Ice Memory Initiative



Ca' Foscari  
University  
of Venice



Consiglio Nazionale  
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Primat

## About the PAMIR Project and the Swiss Polar Institute Flagship Initiatives

- Swiss Polar Institute granted CHF 1.5 million to the PAMIR programme.  
The research programme's full title is *PAMIR - From ice to microorganisms*



*and humans: Toward an interdisciplinary understanding of climate change impacts on the Third Pole.*

- The ice coring at the Kon Chukurbashi Glacier will be performed by PAMIR's Climate and Environmental History Research Cluster, during their field campaign, Sept. Oct. 2025.
- The programme research consortium is led by University of Fribourg and comprises 6 research clusters.
- As Swiss Polar Institute's largest funding instrument, the SPI Flagship Initiatives are multi-annual programmes combining science and technology projects from different disciplines and different groups/institutions in Switzerland around a polar or remote high-altitude region.
- The funding is focused on field campaigns (logistics, safety, etc.), data management, outreach, and programme coordination, thus providing temporary infrastructure for a Swiss-led polar research programme.
- The PAMIR programme is one of the first two SPI Flagship Initiatives running from 2022 until 2026. PAMIR is a multi-disciplinary research programme with focus on the current state of the Pamir cryosphere, as well as its impacts on ecosystems, hazards and water resources.



Contact us: [contact@ice-memory.org](mailto:contact@ice-memory.org)

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