

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TARA: Observations at drifting ice station "Tara" - insight to changing Arctic Ocean

Wednesday 24.3.2010 17.30-19.30

**Jari HAAPALA, Senior Research Scientist
Finnish Meteorological Institute**

The Arctic is undergoing significant environmental changes. The most evident signal of the climate warming is the shrinking and thinning of the ice cover of the Arctic Ocean. If the warming continues, as the global climate models predict, the Arctic Ocean will change from a perennially ice-covered body to a seasonally ice-free ocean. When this will happen is an open question, estimates vary from 2030's to the end of the century. One reason for this huge uncertainty is the lack of systematic observation describing the state, variability and change of the Arctic Ocean.

During the International Polar Year, the French polar schooner "Tara" drifted within the Arctic pack ice for 500 days. During her transpolar voyage she served as a base for the Damocles scientific observation programme. Jari Haapala will present a broad overview of the "Tara" measurements campaign and explain how these measurements have increased our understanding of the processes behind the observed changes in the Arctic Ocean.



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Senior Research Scientist
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Café Scientifique is a forum where anyone can come to explore and debate (in English) the latest ideas in science and technology.

The seminar is organised by the Scientific Service of the French Embassy. After the seminar the debate continues with a glass of wine. Entrance is free.

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