

Ms. Runa Antony



Ms. Runa Antony has been associated with the National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR), as a Scientist since 2008 and has been instrumental in initiating new research in the field of polar microbiology and biogeochemistry at the Centre. She has been greatly involved in the study of microbial diversity in Antarctic snow and ice, impact of biological and photochemical processes on snow and ice chemistry, origin and nature

of dissolved organic matter in Antarctic snow as well as development of sensitive techniques for the study of specific microbial communities in Polar ice. Her research has led to several new ideas and research papers on the ecology of microbes in Antarctic snow and ice as well as the origin, nature and sources of dissolved organic matter in snow and on snow biogeochemical processes. She has published several high-quality research papers in reputed international journals and presented her ideas at several national and international conferences.

Ms. Antony participated in the 33rd Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica when she carried out innovative photo-biochemical and microbiological studies of Antarctic snow packs. She also played an active role in setting up of laboratory facilities for biological and environmental studies at the Bharati station in Antarctica. Ms. Antony was a recipient of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) fellowship for carrying out research on 'Role of microbial processes in modifying gas records in Polar ice cores' at Louisiana State University, USA. During the course of this work, Ms. Antony contributed to the development of a novel method for selectively capturing and retrieving methanogen -specific DNA sequences from ice cores. She has also developed expertise and worked with diverse polar samples such as surface snow, shallow ice cores, basal-ice samples, as well as ice cores and subglacial ice from both Antarctica and Greenland.

Ms. Runa Antony is awarded Certificate of Merit for her outstanding contributions in the field of Polar Microbiology and Biogeochemistry.