

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TAWANI 2008 INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE TEAM ESTABLISHES CAMP AT LAKE UNTERSEE**  
*Science Team Begins Ambitious Science in Remote Region of Antarctica*

**LAKE UNTERSEE, ANTARCTICA** – The 2008 Tawani International Antarctic Expedition Science Team has established a base camp at the Untersee Oasis in Antarctica. The team will be on the ice through late December studying soil and glacier ecosystems of the region. The fifteen-member team of scientists and educators from the United States, Russia, Austria, and New Zealand are specialists in the study of life in extreme environments. The expedition team will be studying how the physics and chemistry of the lake and the desert soils constrain life, and how life itself modifies the region during times of global climate change.

The advance team arrived at NOVO Station on November 6, 2008 and was joined by the rest of the team on November 12. Scheduled departure for Lake Untersee was delayed, but did not impact the scheduled activities in the Schirmacher Oasis region. The advance team arrived at Lake Untersee on November 18 and established the base camp. The entire science team is now on site at the base camp. Dramatic pictures of the extreme conditions of the region and live audio updates from the science team are available on-line at: <http://expedition.tawanifoundation.org/>

An additional objective of the mission is an internet-based educational program to foster and promote interest in science, research, education and exploration. An educator's guide and lesson plans have been developed for teachers and students in the US and around the world to participate in daily team reports, view photographs and video, and to track various science projects to be conducted during the course of the expedition. Visitors to the website, sponsored by the Tawani Foundation, can receive an official 2008 Tawani Antarctic Expedition Mission patch as part of the educational outreach program.

Students interested in receiving the Official Mission Patch by mail should visit the website and send a 100-word essay one of the essay topics for the 2008 Tawani Expedition. Include name, address, city, state and school to:

2008 Tawani International Antarctic Expedition  
Tawani Foundation  
104 S. Michigan Ave Suite 600  
Chicago, IL 60611

ATTN: 2008 Expedition Essay

To learn more on the science of the expedition, the education plan and team members, visit the Tawani 2000 International Antarctic Expedition website at: [expedition.tawanifoundation.org](http://expedition.tawanifoundation.org).

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**About the Tawani Expedition Patch**

Students from Innsbruck, Austria and Galena, Illinois spearheaded the design of the expedition patches. To view the Expedition patch and learn how it was created, visit: <http://expedition.tawanifoundation.org>.

**More Information**

For more information on the Tawani 2008 International Antarctic Expedition, visit: <http://expedition.tawanifoundation.org>.