



Arctic Council SAO plenary meeting (eDocs code: ACSAOUS201)
21-22 October 2015, Anchorage, Alaska, U.S.A.

Document Title

Arctic Science Summit Week 2015 Conference Statement with Cover
Letter from IASC/IASSA/UArctic

Agenda item number

Due to fact that the agenda has not yet been finalized, an agenda item number is not yet available for all documents. This section will be revised as information becomes available.

Info Doc 2

Submitted by

IASC

Document filename

EDOCS-2659-v1-

ACSAOUS201_Anchorage_2015_Info_doc_2_ASSW_Conference_Statement_and_Co
ver_Letter

Number of pages, not including this cover sheet

3

Status (e.g. draft, final if approved, etc.)

For information



TOYAMA CONFERENCE STATEMENT

INTEGRATING ARCTIC RESEARCH: A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

Arctic Science Summit Week 2015 in Toyama, Japan (23–30 April) brought together nearly 700 international scientists, students, policy makers, research managers, Indigenous Peoples and others interested in developing, prioritizing and coordinating plans for future Arctic research. The Conference was organized by the International Arctic Science Committee and the Science Council of Japan, with the support of many other international partners (www.assw2015.org).

Several overarching messages emerged during the Conference:

- Changes in the Arctic are challenging our understanding of their consequences and our ability to provide knowledge for decision-makers.
- There needs to be a greater sense of urgency among decision-makers and awareness by the general public regarding the global importance of changes taking place in the Arctic.
- It is critical to anticipate changes in the Arctic rather than respond to them, but to do this requires sustained observations and improved understanding of local, regional and global processes. These research challenges must be addressed in a coordinated and timely manner to ensure sustainable development and resilient Arctic communities and ecosystems.
- The rapidly changing Arctic initiates changes that cascade through the global system impacting weather, commerce and ecosystems in the more temperate regions. Linkages across disciplines, scales, and diverse knowledge systems must be addressed in future research activities.
- Understanding the vulnerability and resilience of Arctic environments and societies requires increased international scientific cooperation, including contributions from non-Arctic states.
- More effective use must be made of local and traditional knowledge by engaging northern and Indigenous communities in setting priorities, the co-design and co-production of research, and the dissemination of this knowledge by ensuring appropriate access to research data and results.
- It is essential to build long-term human capacity to support relevant observations and research among scientists, decision-makers and Arctic residents, including Indigenous Peoples, through education and effective public engagement, and by adopting shared principles to guide research activities.
- New markets for Arctic resources and associated activities, including trade, tourism and transportation, will likely emerge faster than the necessary infrastructures on land and sea. Sustainable infrastructure development and innovation to strengthen the resilience of Arctic communities requires a collaborative approach involving scientists, communities, governments, and industry.

The Toyama Conference was a critical step in an international Arctic research planning process involving hundreds of scientists from 27 countries working to improve our understanding of the consequences of changes taking place in the Arctic region, and their connection to global environmental, economic and social processes. These rapid transformations occurring in the Arctic are affecting the entire Earth system, including its climate and weather extremes, through increased temperatures and the continuing loss of ice, glaciers, snow and permafrost. New economic interests in the Arctic have established the region as a larger player in the global economy, but also with very significant local effects. In spite of rapid environmental and social change, the Arctic remains a region of geopolitical stability which is a pre-condition for sustaining Arctic research.

The Final Report from the Conference, guided by discussions and contributions from many partner organizations, will be completed later in 2015. This Report will catalyze and inform the implementation of critical, cooperative, international Arctic research programs over the next decade.

Quotes from Opening Session of Arctic Science Summit Week 2015

“I hope that this international summit for advancement of Arctic science will be a great success.”
Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

“How should we face the Arctic in the midst of this great change in the Arctic environment and the social and economic conditions surrounding the Arctic? This is a vital question that not only the Arctic countries but all global citizens, including those from non-Arctic countries like Japan, must address.”
Motoyuki Fujii, State Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

“The very change that the Arctic is currently undergoing is opening up both new opportunities and new challenges for those who live in the Arctic and others who wish to engage in the Arctic in various ways.”
Susan Barr, President of the International Arctic Science Committee

“For the sustainable development of the Arctic, scientific knowledge is indispensable.”
Takashi Onishi, President of the Science Council of Japan

“Japan is well-suited to develop a national strategy for the Arctic region based on a global perspective that calls on nations worldwide to make concerted and united efforts for protecting the Arctic area.”
Tadahiko Ito, Japanese Parliamentary League of Arctic Frontier Study



The **Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW)** is the annual gathering of the international organizations, scientists, students, policy makers and other professions engaged in supporting and facilitating Arctic research. Convened annually by the International Arctic Science Committee, it provides opportunities for coordination, collaboration and cooperation in all areas of Arctic science.

ISAR-4

The **Fourth International Symposium on the Arctic Research (ISAR-4)**, hosted by the National Institute of Polar Research, on “Rapid change of the Arctic climate system and its global influence”, aims to facilitate scientific discussions and to promote further national and international cooperation and collaboration, in particular between Arctic and non-Arctic countries.



The **Third International Conference on the Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)**, organized by the International Arctic Science Committee (www.iasc.info), provides a framework to (i) identify Arctic science priorities for the next decade; (ii) coordinate various Arctic research agendas; (iii) inform policy makers, people who live in or near the Arctic and the global community; and (iv) build constructive relationships between producers and users of knowledge. For more details: icarp.iasc.info

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Senior Arctic Officials
of the Arctic Council

September 16, 2015

Dear Ambassadors,

The International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP) is the Arctic research community's main instrument for advancing international and interdisciplinary Arctic research cooperation and applications of Arctic knowledge. Ten years after ICARP II and 20 years after ICARP I, the 25th Anniversary of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) in 2015 presented a timely opportunity for an ICARP III to further the development of cross-cutting, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary initiatives, and engage all partners in future collaborative activities building on past experiences. Over the past year the ICARP III partner organizations have held numerous planning activities and discussions at meetings, workshops and Conferences across the North.

ICARP III held a final conference in conjunction with the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) 2015 in Toyama (Japan) on 23-30 April 2015. The conference involved about 700 scientists, students, policy makers, research managers and Indigenous participants from 27 countries working to improve our understanding of the consequences of changes taking place in the Arctic region, and their connection to global environmental, economic and social processes. The overarching messages that emerged during the conference were presented in the TOYAMA CONFERENCE STATEMENT "INTEGRATING ARCTIC RESEARCH: A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE".

The development of ICARP III is a specific area of cooperation in the agreement between IASC and the International Arctic Social Science Association (IASSA) and University of the Arctic (UARctic). Being the three science-related observer organizations of the Arctic Council, we are jointly presenting you the enclosed TOYAMA CONFERENCE STATEMENT to be included in the background documents of your upcoming meeting in October 2015.

The final ICARP III report will be launched later this year and presented to the Arctic Council at the Common Day of the ASSW 2016 and SAO meeting in Fairbanks. ICARP is a decadal effort of the Arctic research community including indigenous representation and we consider the outcome to be important and relevant information for the Senior Arctic Officials in terms of highlighting the most important directions and knowledge gaps in Arctic research with linkages to policymaking.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Sköld
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IASSA

Susan Barr
President,
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Lars Kullerud
President
UARctic