

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Republic of Singapore

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Observer's website, if appropriate:

<http://www.mfa.gov.sg>

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Is your state or organization still interested in continuing as an Observer of the Arctic Council?

Yes No

Observer Report

Please describe in no more than 2 pages your state or organization's contributions to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years. Please highlight contributions to specific projects, such as through proposals, concept development, in-kind and financial support, and hosting of meetings. If applicable, please include mention of collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

1 Pursuant to Singapore's previous report submitted in March 2015, this report seeks to update the Arctic Council (AC) on Singapore's contributions from April 2015 to December 2016.

Participation in AC Working Groups and Task Forces

2 In line with the Nuuk Criteria, Singapore has participated in various AC Working Groups and Task Forces to demonstrate our interest and expertise, as well as support the work of the AC. A list of the meetings we have participated in are outlined below.

3 **Emergency Preparedness, Prevention and Response (EPPR).** The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has participated in the EPPR and shared our experiences and expertise with the working group. For example, MPA shared its expertise on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) during the Unmanned Aerial Systems workshop that was held in conjunction with 14th EPPR Working Group meeting in Seattle, USA. MPA also participated actively in the various discussions for Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response (MOSPA). Notably, MPA attended the MOSPA Exercise Planning Workshop in September 2015 and subsequently the MOSPA table top exercise in June 2016 where it shared Singapore's expertise in responding to oil spills.

4 MPA also provided information on Singapore's standard-setting processes as inputs to the report on the "Standardisation as a tool for prevention of oil spills in the Arctic" which is one of the projects under the Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention (TFOPP) as part of the output of the International Standards Petroleum, Offshore-oil and Maritime Industries project which will outline the standardization processes of AC Member States. As part of the project, MPA participated in the Workshop on the Development of International Standards and Application for the Prevention of Oil Spills from Offshore Oil in the Arctic, which was held back-to-back with the 17th EPPR Working Group meeting in June 2016.

5 **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF).** Singapore's National Parks Board (NParks) works with CAFF on the conservation and monitoring of migratory shorebird populations (including Arctic migratory species) threatened by overharvest and habitat alteration outside the Arctic. NParks tracks Arctic migratory birds stopping over in the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and provides input to CAFF's Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI). At the AMBI Implementation Meeting in April 2016, NParks reported that Singapore was looking to form a regional migratory bird site network, and that this could be done within the ASEAN framework. The framework currently has working groups for nature conservation and coastal environment. Once the hardware for the network is formed, the software needed to provide capacity building to member sites can be put in place.

6 **Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation (TFAMC).** MPA attended the 3rd TFAMC in June 2016 in Reykjavik, Iceland and contributed to discussions on whether there should be a platform for Arctic states' coordination on marine stewardship by sharing Singapore's experience in regional cooperative frameworks such as the Tripartite Technical Expert's Group (TTEG) and the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Permanent Participants

7 Singapore recognises the importance of the Arctic Indigenous Peoples in the work of the AC and understands that, as key stakeholders of the Arctic, they are most profoundly affected by changes in the region. Again in line with the Nuuk Criteria, Singapore has engaged the AC Permanent Participants (PPs) and the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) actively. Through the **Singapore–AC Permanent Participants (PPs) Cooperation Package**, a customised technical cooperation package designed to enhance the human resource development and governance capacities of the PPs, we have welcomed and sponsored many representatives from the PPs and IPS to Singapore.

8 In September 2015, four Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC) representatives participated in the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) course on “Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Strategies”. AC IPS Executive Secretary Elle Merete Omma attended the SCP “Women and Leadership” course in September 2016. In addition, a Dolgan representative from the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) enrolled to the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) Masters in Public Policy course as the first recipient of the postgraduate scholarship under the Cooperation Package.

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's future plans for contributing to the work of the Arctic Council's Working Groups, Task Forces and/or Expert Groups. Please highlight intentions to contribute to specific projects and to collaborate with Permanent Participants.

1 Working Groups/Task Forces. Singapore will continue to work with AC members to contribute towards the sustainable development of the Arctic in areas where we have relevant experience and know-how.

- **EPPR.** MPA will continue engaging with EPPR by participating in the plenary as well as other smaller discussions such as the Marine Environmental Response (MER) Experts Group and in the 2018 Exercise Design Team. MPA is keen to share Singapore's experiences in oil spill response as well as to learn from other countries' best practices. To this end, we will also continue supporting the implementation of the Framework Plan on Oil Prevention drawn under the TFOPP.
- **CAFF.** In support of the AMBI Work Plan 2015-2019 which calls for the formation of an "ASEAN Plus Network of Migratory Bird Sites", NParks, together with the National Biodiversity Centre, is working with the ASEAN Secretariat to form such a network within the ASEAN Cooperation on Environment Framework. NParks will continue to monitor Arctic migratory bird species and provide this information to AMBI. Singapore will also host the "Conserving Arctic-breeding migratory birds in the East Asian Australasian Flyway" AMBI workshop in January 2017.

2 Permanent Participants. We will continue providing opportunities to the PPs through the Singapore-AC PPs Cooperation Package and will look to update, review and improve our package to cater to the specific and current needs of the PPs. We will also engage the indigenous communities to exchange experiences on adapting to climate change. In consultation with the AC IPS and PPs, we are also planning for the 3rd Singapore Study Visit to be held in 2017 which will focus on the themes of heritage and mental wellness.

3 Arctic Research. Singapore adopts a long term approach to our Arctic engagement and, to ensure our contributions remain relevant to the work of the AC, is currently undertaking research on the following:

- Research on ice mechanics and offshore oil rigs by National University of Singapore (NUS) Centre for Offshore Research and Engineering (CORE)
- Research into Arctic shipping under the new Oceans Governance Research Programme by MPA and the NUS Centre for International Law (CIL)
- Research on Arctic technology by the Keppel-NUS Corporate Laboratory, to contribute to safe, sustainable design of Arctic infrastructure and the environment
- Construction of a Technology Centre for Offshore and Marine, Singapore (TCOMS) by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and NUS.
- Research on the "Viability of Transarctic Shipping Routes and their Impact Analysis on the Maritime Transportation" by the NUS Centre of Maritime Studies

If applicable, please describe in no more than 1 page your state or organization's contributions to other aspects of the Arctic Council and its goals not covered by the previous sections since the time of your most recent report, or in the previous two years.

1 Singapore has also contributed to the AC's work of *disseminating information, encouraging education and promoting interest in Arctic-related issues* by organising public outreach events and projects. In November 2015, Singapore partnered with the Norwegian Embassy in Singapore and the Fram Museum in Oslo to organise an exhibition at the Singapore Science Centre titled "**Explore the Arctic- Past, Present and Future**". The exhibition also featured a seminar on Arctic climate science.

2 Singapore's universities have also partnered with select institutions to aid in this effort. The National University of Singapore (NUS) Centre for International Law (CIL) in collaboration with the K.G. Jebsen Centre for the Law of the Sea (JCLOS) at the University of Tromsø, Norway, co-organised the "**Governance of Arctic Shipping – Balancing Rights and Interests of Arctic States and User States**" conference in December 2015. NUS Energy Studies Institute (ESI), with the support of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the US Office of Naval Research-Global, organised a three-day conference on "**Energy Transitions and a Globalised Arctic: The Role of Science, Technology, and Governance**" in August 2016 and examined issues such as remote access to energy, policies of renewable energy transitions and solutions to these challenges. The conference was well attended by experts from Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the US.

3 In addition to organising the aforementioned conferences, Singapore hosted the **Arctic Circle Singapore Forum (ACF Singapore)** in November 2015, co-organised by the Arctic Circle, the Singapore Maritime Institute (SMI) and supported by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ACF Singapore featured plenary sessions on the governance of Arctic sea routes, infrastructure development in the Arctic, and the role of science and research in enabling Arctic shipping. Then-President of Iceland Olafur Ragnar Grímsson participated as a keynote speaker alongside Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean. Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Manpower Sam Tan Chin Siong spoke at the closing dinner plenary. We have also actively participated in the following Arctic fora:

- Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Engagement and Resilience (GLACIER), August 2015, Anchorage, Alaska
- Arctic Frontiers Conference, January 2016 in Tromsø, Norway
- Warsaw Format Meeting, April 2016 in Warsaw, Poland
- Arctic Circle Greenland Forum, May 2016 in Nuuk, Greenland
- 12th Conference of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, June 2016 in Ulan-Ude, Russia
- International Meetings of Arctic Member-States, Observers and Foreign Scientific Community, September 2015 and August 2016 in Russia
- White House Arctic Science Ministerial, September 2016 in Washington D.C, USA
- Arctic Circle Assemblies, October 2015 and October 2016 in Reykjavik, Iceland

4 Going forward, Singapore recognises the importance of the Arctic and its potential impact on our global environment and, to that end, will continue to explore other avenues to increase awareness of Arctic issues in line with the goals of the AC.