

Cover sheet

Full name of state or organization:

Republic of Korea

Date of submission:

November 30, 2020

Observer's website, if appropriate:

Information for appropriate contact person

Full name: Ambassador Lim Hoonmin

Email: arctic_korea@mofa.go.kr

Telephone: +82 2 2100 7746

Organization or department: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Job Title: Ambassador for Arctic Affairs

Full mailing address:

60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul, 03172, Republic of Korea

Observer Report

Please describe in no more than two pages your state's 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. Please detail any collaboration with Permanent Participants, such as project proposal endorsement and support.

For the past two years, Korea has actively participated in the activities of Arctic Council working groups, task forces, and expert groups and contributed to the Arctic Council's work. Korean experts attended more than 30 meetings that were organized by various groups including working groups (AMAP, CAFF, EPPR, PAME, SDWG), task forces (SCTF, TFAMC), and expert groups (EGBCM, PAME SEG).

More specifically, Korean experts are involved in some of the projects of the following Arctic Council working groups:

· AMAP

- The Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI) has participated in AMAP meetings, and its experts have contributed to the meteorological and climate domains of work of the Arctic Council, joining in the AMAP Climate Expert Group meetings and the Arctic Meteorology and Climate Workshop. In 2019, KOPRI co-hosted the Arctic-East Asia Weather Linkage Workshop in Korea, further strengthening the meteorological linkages between the two regions.

· CAFF

- The National Institute of Ecology (NIE) has participated in CAFF meetings and has been in extensive cooperation with CAFF since 2016 on the Arctic Migratory Birds' Initiative (AMBI). The NIE co-hosted a workshop with CAFF during the 2018 Arctic Partnership Week in Korea. In 2019, the NIE and CAFF co-hosted a breakout session at the 2019 Arctic Circle Assembly on AMBI as a model for Arctic and non-Arctic states cooperation, and the NIE-CAFF Arctic Exhibition was held throughout the 2019 Arctic Partnership Week in Korea.

· PAME

- The Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) regularly attends PAME working group and expert group meetings. It is one of the co-leads in PAME's project on "Strengthening Observer engagement with PAME's shipping-related activities."
- To further the discussion on PAME's project on "Strengthening Observer engagement with PAME's shipping-related activities," as well as to enhance understanding of some of the projects undertaken at PAME, Korea has invited experts involved in PAME projects to participate in the seminars organized by the KMI during the Arctic Partnership Week in 2018 and 2019.
- On request by PAME for its project on Interpretations of the Polar Code, Korea has submitted written comments to provide its interpretation of the Polar Code.

· EPPR

- The Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering (KRISO) regularly attends EPPR working group and expert group meetings on Arctic SAR Agreement.
- Moreover, KRISO is involved in the project titled "New low-sulfur Fuels: Fate and Behavior in Cold Water Conditions" led by the Norwegian Coastal Administration in Norway from 2020 to 2022.

Korea has also contributed to the discussion on maritime cooperation at the Arctic Council through participation in the Arctic Council SAO-based Marine Mechanism webinar series. Korea had an opportunity to present its perspective on the Arctic maritime cooperation to the Arctic Council.

Since 2016, Korea has annually hosted the Arctic Partnership Week, a week-long forum for Arctic dialogue among Arctic stakeholders from Korea and abroad. In 2018, the Arctic Partnership Week was held as a back-to-back event with the Arctic Circle Seoul Forum. The occasion took place in celebration of the 30th anniversary of Korea's engagement in the polar region. Korea used this opportunity to put forward a long-term vision for the Arctic through its 2050 Polar Vision Statement, committing to address challenges caused by human activities and expand the scope of international communication and cooperation in the Arctic and the Antarctic regions.

Korea also has operated youth exchange and education programs for the next generation of Arctic leaders. The Korea Arctic Academy, a youth exchange program co-hosted by UArctic and the KMI, provides Arctic education programs for students from Korea and Arctic countries. Korea also has planned a scholarship program and will invite indigenous students of the Arctic to support them to obtain a master's degree in the Arctic field.

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's 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.

Based on the second Arctic Policy Master Plan for 2018-2022, which was released in 2018, the Korean government has deepened its engagement in and contribution to the Arctic Council's work. Furthermore, Korea plans to introduce new legislation, "Polar Activities Promotion Act" that will include the government's role in supporting Korea's cooperation with Arctic stakeholders.

Korea will continue to actively engage with the Arctic Council. For the 2021-2023 period, Korea intends to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council by participating in the following projects:

- The Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) will continue to participate in PAME's project on "Strengthening Observer engagement with PAME's shipping-related activities."
- The Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering (KRISO) will participate in the EPPR's project on "New low-sulfur Fuels-Fate and Behavior in Cold Water Conditions."
- The Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI) is in consultation with the SDWG for Korea's potential participation in the One Arctic, One Health project, to which KOPRI would like to contribute for the health and well-being of the Arctic residents and Indigenous Peoples, based on relevant scientific research.

Korea will further its efforts in contributing to the Arctic Council by providing science-based information and consultation. Korea will continue its efforts to build a second ice-breaking research vessel. Also, to overcome the difficulties posed by COVID-19, Korea aims to enhance joint scientific activities in the Arctic to extend its contribution to the Arctic Council and the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation of 2017.

- KOPRI will continue to conduct collaborative observations and field research in the Arctic, utilizing its Arctic research infrastructure, which includes the Arctic Dasan Station in Ny-Alesund, Norway, the IBRV Araon, and the six pan-Arctic observation nodes located respectively in Cambridge Bay, Canada; Council, Alaska, U.S.A.; Svalbard, Norway; Nord station, Greenland; Stórhöfði, Iceland; and Baranovo, Russia.
- Korea will continue to develop stronger scientific cooperation within the IASC, a non-state observer of the Arctic Council. In the course of their research projects, KOPRI scientists have joined in the collaborative observation and research initiatives that have been developed with the support of the IASC, such as the Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC), Synoptic Arctic Survey (SAS), and Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP).

Korea will continue to strengthen its partnership with the Arctic by facilitating the exchange of next-generation scientists. In July 2018 and 2019, respectively, four Korean students took part in the 21 Century Dasan Junior program, conducting lab experiments and field research in Svalbard. In addition to its annual outreach program, KOPRI has also organized the Arctic Science Fellowship program since 2018, which has offered seven early career researchers from Arctic countries and researchers of Arctic indigenous heritage an opportunity to visit Korea and conduct collaborative research with KOPRI scientists.

If applicable, please describe in no more than one page your state's 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.

Beyond the Arctic Council, Korea is actively involved in other Arctic-related fora and has partnered with both Arctic and non-Arctic states to promote Arctic cooperation. Korean experts have been actively engaged in other international discussions on the Arctic, such as the Arctic Circle Assembly, the Arctic Frontiers, the International Northern Sustainable Development Forum, and the International Arctic Forum.

Korean polar-related research institutes, such as the Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) and the Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), have signed MOUs on research cooperation with research institutes in Arctic states. They conduct periodic joint research and hold seminars. These Korean research institutes also contribute to increasing awareness of the general public on the Arctic issues by providing up-to-date information.

The KMI has been cooperating with the East-West Center since 2011 to co-host the annual North Pacific Arctic Conference, where scholars and practitioners from Arctic and non-Arctic states gather to share opinions and knowledge related to the North Pacific Arctic. The outcome of the conference is widely disseminated through the publication of the conference proceedings, the *Arctic in World Affairs*.

Korea has supported the signatories of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAOFA), and the Agreement itself, by providing science-based information and advice.

- KOPRI hosted a symposium dedicated to the CAOFA on December 6, 2018, bringing together over 40 experts from six signatory states. KOPRI presented the results of the discussion at the Arctic Circle Korea Forum on December 7, 2018. Korea participated in the first Preparatory Meeting on May 29-30, 2019 and the Provisional Scientific Coordinating Group meeting on February 11-13, 2020.

The Korea Arctic Research Consortium (KoARC), with its secretariat operated by KOPRI, has been dedicated to deepening Korea's Arctic research efforts through its activities.

- KoARC organized a parallel session at the 2019 Arctic Circle Assembly on October 10, 2019, under the title of "Science Transforming the Arctic: An Experiment with Technologies and Partnership." It also held a discussion session on December 11, 2019 on key Arctic issues, based on its *Arctic Issue Report Card* publication series. KoARC also presented a poster on its activities during the Arctic Frontiers 2020 held on January 26-30, 2020.

/END//