

The Arctic as a Messenger for Global Processes - Climate Change and Pollution

Time and Venue: 4-6 May, 2011, University of Copenhagen
Organized by: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
University of Copenhagen
Aarhus University

Topics to be Covered:

- Climate Change and its Impacts on the Arctic Cryosphere – Past, Present & Future (Sea Ice, Greenland Ice Sheet, Arctic Ice Caps, Snow and Permafrost, Frozen Rivers and Lakes, Arctic Livelihood)
- Pollution of the Arctic – Sources, Pathways and Effects
- Global and Arctic Systems – Feedback Mechanisms
- Arctic Ecosystems – How Resilient are They?
- Human Aspects of Climate Change and Pollution
- Science and Policy-Making (Actions taken in Response to AMAP Assessments)

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Photo: Sebastian Gerland, Norwegian Polar Institute

Conference Organization and Structure:

The conference will include talks by invited keynote speakers, oral presentations selected on the basis of submitted abstracts, poster presentations and short (3 minute) oral presentations of selected posters. A panel discussion will develop messages to be communicated to the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting that will take place in Greenland one week after the Conference.

Young Scientists' Seminar:

A seminar entitled Young Scientists' Arctic Messages to Policy Makers is to be held **May 3rd 2011** and the results of this seminar will be reported to the panel discussion on the last day of the Conference.

Who Should Attend:

Scientists, decision-makers, Ph.D. students, administrators, managers, health care officials, indigenous peoples, representatives of industry and non-governmental organizations.

Abstract – Deadline:

Abstracts for proposed oral and poster presentation (max. 750 words) should be forwarded to the Conference organizers (amap@amap.no). **The deadline has been extended to February 1st 2011.** Selection of oral and poster presentations will take place within one month and speakers and presenters will be informed of the outcome by February 15th.

The printed Conference programme will include abstracts of the accepted oral and poster presentations.

Contact Information:

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Background:

Over the past 20-30 years, our knowledge and understanding of the Arctic has expanded rapidly against the backdrop of concerns about climate change and pollution. The linkages between the Arctic and the rest of the World mean that Arctic science has come to play an increasingly prominent role in the public consciousness and the concerns of policy-makers. Key to these developments has been the cooperation on science in the post-Cold War era - initially between the Arctic countries and later extending to the global scientific community – that formed the basis for the International Polar Year 2007/2008 and the establishment of internationally coordinated monitoring and assessment efforts that have provided vital information necessary for science-based decision-making.

Over the past 20 years, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) has played a central role in these developments. Established by the eight Arctic Countries in 1991, and now one of the groups serving the Arctic Council AMAP is charged with coordinating monitoring and performing scientific assessments of pollution and climate change issues in the circum Arctic area to document trends and effects in Arctic ecosystems and humans and identify possible actions for consideration by policy-makers.

Symposium Fee:

A conference fee of 220 Euros will be charged to cover the programme, lunches, coffee breaks, etc. Ph.D. students will pay a reduced fee of 60 Euros.

Co-Chairs:

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Katherine Richardson (Denmark)

Morten Skovgaard Olsen (Denmark)
Mikala Klint (Denmark)

Jesper Madsen (Denmark)
Lars-Otto Reiersen (AMAP)

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Jeff Key (USA)
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Barry Goodison (WMO)
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Thorstein Thorsteinsson (Iceland)
Søren Rysgaard (Greenland)
Vladimir M. Katsov (Russia)
Mads C. Forchhammer (Denmark)

Organizing Committee:

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP):
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Lillian Magelund Jensen

AMAP has produced several highly-valued science based assessment reports over the years. At this conference AMAP will present the results of its most recent assessments, including the 2011 SWIPA (Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic) assessment and the 2011 AMAP Mercury assessment. Recently updated assessments on human health and other pollution issues such as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and radioactivity will also be addressed. The SWIPA assessment was initiated as a follow-up to the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA) and will produce information that will feed into the next IPCC report. The mercury assessment includes contributions to the process currently ongoing under UNEP to establish a global agreement on mercury while the POP assessment is providing data of relevance for the Stockholm Convention.



Photo: Rane Willerslev

