



Draft
Forum of Arctic Research Operators
Meeting minutes
ASSW 2014
5 April, 9:00 -17:30
Physicum, Helsinki, Finland

1. Opening and reporting session

1.1 Welcome and introduction

Magnus Tannerfeldt welcomed the attendees, briefly outlined the intention of the meeting and suggested a brief round of introduction. Furthermore, he thanked the ASSW 2014 Organizing Committee and the secretariat for help with organising the meeting.

1.2 Approval of last meeting's minutes in Krakow, Poland

Magnus Tannerfeldt asked for changes to the minutes of the last FARO meeting in Krakow, Poland 2013. The minutes were approved without comments.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

Magnus Tannerfeldt asked for suggested changes to the agenda. Magnus suggested that item 1.4 and 1.5 are to be combined. Furthermore, he will present item 4.2. The agenda was subsequently approved.

1.4 + 1.5 Report from the chair and secretariat

- FARO has sent invitations for this meeting to: IASC, PAG, EPB, NySMAC, ISIRA, APECS, SAON and UArctic
- FARO has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IASC (April 2013)
- FARO has received an inquiry from UArctic concerning Memorandum of Understanding (MoU): Discussion initiated – will be addressed in the closed session
- FARO is taking part in the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS). Session 3 and the poster exhibit are organized by FARO in collaboration with EPB and IASC. Furthermore, Magnus Tannerfeldt will chair two sessions during AOS
- FARO has a seat in the ICARP III steering group: Magnus Tannerfeldt participated in a meeting in Potsdam October 2013 and will participate in meetings during the ASSW 2014
- FARO did not participate in the Arctic Circle meeting in 2013. Participation in the 2014 meeting will be addressed in the closed session
- FARO participated in the Rome Symposium and Workshop on Arctic and Marine Research Infrastructures (Rome 16-20 September 2013). There is an expectation from the scientific community and political level that FARO will take a stronger role in promoting international Arctic cooperation
- FARO has been invited to the Arctic Council Task Force on Scientific Cooperation (which has a meeting in Helsinki this week). Magnus Tannerfeldt will give a presentation at the meeting
- FARO's Executive Committee has had two telephone conferences during the last year

- FARO now has 20 member countries – Austria and Portugal are welcomed as new members
- FARO's member register has been updated and a National Point of Contact (NPOC) has been identified for each country
- FARO's history will be presented in a chapter of the IASC 25th anniversary book, which will be published by ASSW 2015
- FARO has produced a poster

The secretariat has supported the Chair, updated the member register including identification of NPOC (National Point of Contact), arranged telephone conferences, sent out documents and disseminated information of relevance to members and stakeholders both through the website and by direct e-mails, and taken care of the website.

At the 2013 FARO meeting, the members were asked to send information to be posted on the website and to send comments and suggestions about the website to the secretariat. However, the secretariat did receive very little response from the members.

2. Information from countries

Short news from each country on items of relevance to other members - each member gave a short presentation of (logistical) items of relevance to the other members.

2.1 Canada: James Drummond, Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators (CNNRO), informed about Canadian activities.

[See James Drummond's presentation on the website](#)

2.2 China: Yuansheng Li, Polar Research Institute of China informed about the Chinese activities in the Arctic.

The Chinese icebreaker is back from the Antarctic, and will in 2014 be in the Arctic Ocean for 2.5 months. The Chinese Station at Svalbard has four visiting groups. PRIC is buying an aircraft (Basler 67). The contract with a Canadian company has been signed. The aircraft will be used in the Arctic during summer and in the Antarctic during winter. PRIC is applying for a new icebreaker, which is waiting for approval.

2.3 Denmark/Greenland: Morten Rasch, Aarhus University, informed about the Danish/Greenlandic activities in the Arctic.

[See Morten Rasch's presentation on the website](#)

2.4 Finland: Jari Haapala, Finnish Meteorological Institute, informed about the Finnish activities in the Arctic.

Finland has a relatively small infrastructure and small icebreakers. During the next four to five years, there will be no marine activity in the Arctic only in the Baltic Sea. Concerning marine infrastructure in the Arctic, Finland is dependent on collaboration with other countries working in the Arctic.

Terrestrial infrastructure: Satellite receiving stations – Sodänhylä satellite station (carrying out snow research). Collaboration with ICOS and with Tiksi in the Russian Arctic.

Finland has a new Road map for Arctic marine research

2.5 Germany: Dirk Mengedoht, Alfred Wegener Institute, informed about the German activities in the Arctic

[See Dirk Mengedoht's presentation on the website](#)

2.6 Korea: Hyoung Chul Shin, Korea Polar Research Institute, informed about the Korean activities in the Arctic.

[See Hyoung Chul Shin's presentation on the website](#)

2.7 The Netherlands: Annette Scheepstra, Arctic Centre, informed about the Dutch activities in the Arctic.

The Arctic Centre has barely any money for infrastructure. They are in collaboration with AWI in Ny Ålesund. They are also involved in the new building at the station in Ny Ålesund, which is a German, France and Dutch project. In collaboration with the Dutch Navy and Norway, Jan Mayen will be visited in August 2014. In 2015, collaboration between the Arctic Centre and Tourist Company (Cruise) will bring 50-60 researchers to Svalbard (Edge Øya).

2.8 Norway: Nalan Koc, Norwegian Polar Institute, informed about the Norwegian activities in the Arctic.

[See Nalan Koc's presentation on the website](#)

2.9 Poland: Piotr Glowacki, Polish Academy of Science, informed about the Polish activities in the Arctic.

[See Piotr Glowacki's presentation on the website](#)

2.10 Sweden: Björn Dahlbäck, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, informed about the Swedish activities in the Arctic.

[See Björn Dahlbäck's presentation on the website](#)

2.11 UK: Cynan Ellis-Evans, National Environmental Research Council/British Antarctic Survey, informed about UK activities in the Arctic.

[See Cynan Ellis-Evans' presentation on the website](#)

Furthermore, BAS/NERC has a new director and a new science programme where Antarctic and Arctic Research are more integrated. There has also been a restructuring of funding. The UK station at Ny Ålesund will stay in INTERACT. BAS/NERC has been given access to submarine data (turbulence data). Examination of the turbulence data has shown that 75 % of the data is usable. Possibility for a new large ice-going vessel (size of Polarstern) in 2019 replacing James Clark Ross and Shackleton by 2022.

2.12 USA: Renee Crain, National Science Foundation, informed about the US activities in the Arctic.

[See Renee Crain's presentation on the website](#)

Furthermore, a report on Arctic field safety/risk management will soon be available on the NSF website.

2.13 Japan: Hiroyuki Enomoto, National Institute of Polar Research, informed about the Japanese activities in the Arctic and ASSW 2015.

[See Hiroyuki Enomoto's presentation on the website](#)

2.14 Portugal: João Canário, Technical University of Lisbon, informed about the Portuguese activities.

Small community of Arctic researchers. Fifty percent of the researchers are working in both the Arctic and the Antarctic. There are six to eight research groups - both biological and human related groups. The Portuguese Arctic community depends on collaboration with the Canadian Centre of Northern Studies at the University of Laval, and with Norway. The Portuguese Polar programme has no legal structure but acts as a link between funding agencies. In 2013, a programme for logistics and research was opened. The Portuguese Polar programme hopes to be able to build a polar ship funded by the private sector.

2.15 Italy: Vito Vitale, National Research Council, Italy, informed about the Italian activities.

Italy is involved in research at Ny Ålesund and in SIOS. They also have a joint venture programme with Japan. Italy has received observer status in the Arctic Council, which has increased attention from the political level. Signals from the government are positive.

2.16 Russia: Sergey Priamikov, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, was not able to participate in the meeting but has sent his presentation and notes, which are found on the FARO website.

[See Sergey Priamikov's presentation on the website](#)

3 Other information

3.1 'Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III)'

Volker Rachold, IASC, gave a presentation.

[See Volker Rachold's presentation on the FARO website](#)

3.2 'RV Lance freeze-in'

Harald Steen, Norwegian Polar Institute, gave a presentation.

[See Harald Steen's presentation on the FARO website](#)

Please notice that there is still room for researchers especially in the beginning of the cruise.

3.3 'COMNAP'

Heinz Miller, COMNAP/AWI, gave a presentation.

[See Heinz Miller's presentation on the FARO website](#)

Conclusion: FARO and COMNAP will have observers at each other's meetings. We will also look for opportunities for joint efforts.

On-line website: Annual report of security and near misses. See also section 3.15.

3.4 'The Ice Diminishing Arctic: Atmospheric, Ice, Ocean and Ecosystem Observations-Pacific Arctic Group and FARO Proposal'

Kathleen Crane, NOAA, gave a presentation.

[See Kathleen Crane's presentation on the FARO website](#)

They want responses to their visions. They will like to put out the Arctic concept/Pan-Arctic concept but website input gives problems. They have decided to put out science plans not ship plans.

PAG and FARO need to talk more often. Kathleen Crane was given a mandate to represent FARO at the upcoming PAG meeting.

3.5 'INTERACT II' and 'Best Practice Manual'

Morten Rasch, Aarhus University, gave a presentation.

[See Morten Rasch's presentation on the FARO website](#)

3.6 'The Japanese Arctic program and ASSW 2015'

Hiroyuki Enomoto, National Institute of Polar Research gave a presentation.

[See Hiroyuki Enomoto's presentation on the FARO website](#)

3.7 'New Russian Research Infrastructure in the Arctic: Russian Science Centre on Spitsbergen (RSCS) in Barentsburg and Research base on Baranova Cape Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago'

The presentation was cancelled, as Sergey Priamikov, AARI, was not able to participate in the meeting. Afterwards Sergey sent his presentation and notes, which are found on the FARO website.

[See the FARO website](#)

3.8 'Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS)'

Cynan Ellis-Evans, SIOS Steering Board, gave a presentation of "Svalbard Integrated Earth Observing System.

[See Cynan Ellis-Evans' presentation on the FARO website](#)

3.9 'ARICE' and 'EUROFLEETS 2' updates

Nicole Biebow, AWI, Germany, gave a presentation.

[See Nicole Biebow's presentation on the FARO website](#)

3.10 'Arctic GEOTRACES' update

Simon Stephenson, NSF, USA, told that there was no further news than those given by Renee Crain earlier (see section 2.12). Magnus Tannerfeldt told that Oden is not part of Arctic Geotraces.

3.11 'The Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)' update

Jackie Grebmeier, University of Maryland, USA, gave a presentation

[See Jackie Grebmeier's presentation on the FARO website](#)

PAG and FARO need to talk more often. Kathleen Crane was given a mandate to represent FARO at the PAG meeting.

3.12 'MOSAIC' update

Heinz Miller, AWI, Germany, gave a presentation.

[See Heinz Miller's presentation on the FARO website](#)

It was suggested to use the FARO forum for discussions on operational issues. A meeting in September was suggested (maybe a telephone conference before the meeting.)

MOSAic is not in Horizon 2020. NSF is in contact with EU. Renee Crain is coordinating the operational options.

3.13 'Arctic Circle Forum'

Cynan Ellis-Evans, NERC/BAS, UK, gave a presentation.

3.14 'European Polar Board (EPB): Polar coordination plans and station catalogue' –

The presentation was cancelled, but the EPB is planning to build upon the INTERACT Station Manager Catalogue and map all sorts of European research infrastructures in the Arctic and Antarctica.

3.15 General discussion

- It was decided to put up an action group on Risk Management. Members: Nick Cox (NySMAC), Renee Crain (FARO), NN (UNIS), Dirk Mengedoht (FARO), Morten Rasch (INTERACT)
- It was decided to give a presentation of FARO at the next COMNAP meeting (2015)
- It was decided that FARO will participate in the next Arctic Circle Forum meeting in autumn 2014
- It was decided to have a Technology follow-up session in 2015
- It was suggested that FARO can make guidelines for custom, flight manuals, permits etc., but this needs solution on a political level. Magnus Tannerfeldt will bring it up in his talk at the Arctic Council meeting

4. Internal business (closed session)

4.1 Evaluation of the new Terms of Reference (ToR)

At last year's meeting, it was decided that the ToR would be evaluated at this year's meeting. No suggestions were received from members; therefore, no changes were made to the ToR.

UARctic has requested to be included in FARO's ToR, and that we sign a Letter of Agreement. We have replied that FARO is very positive towards continued informal relations with UARctic, that we invite them to our meetings and are ready to discuss any issues that they wish to bring up for our consideration. When it comes to including UARctic in the FARO ToR, we can probably do this at the next revision. Regarding their request for an agreement, FARO has asked for more information on what such a formal collaboration would focus on and entail.

Membership fee is discussed under item 4.2.

4.2 The FARO secretariat and membership fees

Magnus announced that Morten Rasch is stepping down as executive secretary. Morten was thanked for his many years of work for FARO. Lillian Magelund Jensen (academic secretary) will keep running the FARO secretariat.

The cost of running the FARO secretariat has since the start of FARO been covered by means from the National Science Foundation. At 2013 meeting, Simon Stephenson (NSF) announced that a new solution had to be found from 2015 e.g. member fee. Member fee has been discussed at telephone meetings in the Executive Committee. The chair was asked to present a 2015 budget for the FARO secretariat at this meeting.

Magnus presented a slimmed down budget compared to earlier year's budgets and explained that FARO, in the future, will be run by the chair and the academic secretary. Given that all 20

members share the cost, the fee for each member country would be in the order of 1000EUR/1500 USD. The fees will cover: Salary for the academic secretary, maintenance of the website, travel costs and information material. Member fees will become effective from 1 January 2015. It will be possible to pay the fee from around 1 October to Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University. The invoice will be send to the NPOC and must be paid before 1 January 2015.

Discussion:

- The members agreed on the 'system' for member fee presented by the Chair
- Concerning the question about raising the fee in a year or two if necessary. The majority of members preferred to fee to be 1500 EUR from 1 January. Especially since it is fully possible that the Arctic Council Task Force will ask FARO to develop/be more active
- Two countries suggested raising the fee to 5000 EUR. It was noted that the FARO fee is very cheap compared to the COMNAP fee
- Two countries said they will have problems raising 1000 EUR
- It should be possible to pay either for one year or for 3 or 5 years at a time. Different rules apply in different countries concerning payment of international fees, but paying for 3 or 5 year at time can save money in administration
- Extra costs concerning evaluation of FARO every fifth year (as mentioned in the ToR) has to be addressed

4.3 Election for the Executive Committee

At last year's meeting, it was decided, in order to keep the Executive Committee dynamic, that China and US will rotate out this year and give room for Japan. Huigen Yang, China and Simon Stephenson, USA, therefore resigned from the Executive Committee. Huigen and Simon were thanked for their many years of work in the Executive committee. The new member of the Executive committee is Kazuyuki Shiraishi, Japan.

Furthermore, Simon announced that Renee Crain was taking over as the US NPOC.

The Executive Committee members are now: Hyoung Chul Shin, Korea – Uwe Nixdorf, Germany – Sergey Priamikov, Russia - Magnus Tannerfeldt, Sweden – Cynan Ellis-Evans, UK – James Drummond, Canada, Kazuyuki Shiraishi, Japan - FARO secretariat, Denmark.

4.4 FARO input to 'ICARP III' and 'Arctic Council Task Force on Scientific Cooperation'

ICARP III: The poster exhibit and Session 3 on *Technology and Innovation* is organized by the FARO in collaboration with the European Polar Board (EPB) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), as a contribution to the Arctic Observing Summit (AOS 2014) and the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III).

FARO was invited to give a presentation at the Arctic Council Task Force on Scientific Cooperation (which takes place during the ASSW 2014). Magnus Tannerfeldt gave the presentation.

4.5 Enhanced inclusion and engagement of members and nations – action groups

Action groups can be formed during the year, if need arises. The Chair uses ExCom for input, but anyone is welcome to join discussions on specific issues. No suggestions have been brought forward since the last annual meeting, but at this meeting in Helsinki an action group of Risk management was established (see item 3.15).

Greenlandic member/delegate in FARO. FARO will contact the Government of Greenland in order to get a Greenlandic member/delegate in FARO.

4.6 The FARO website – comments and ideas concerning the content

Lillian Magelund Jensen asked for comments and suggestions for the new layout of the website. Furthermore, Lillian asked for information to be put on the website.

4.7 Next FARO meeting

The next annual FARO meeting will take place during the Arctic Science Summer Week 23-30 April 2015 in Toyama, Japan.

4.8 Any other business

None

Participants

Members

Simon Stephenson, National Science Foundation, USA
Renee Crain, National Science Foundation, USA
Magnus Tannerfeldt, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden
Piotr Glowacki, Polish Academy of Science, Poland
Morten Rasch, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark
Lillian Magelund Jensen, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark
Gonçalo Vieira, FCT, University of Lisbon, Portugal
João Canário, IST, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal
Annette Scheepstra, Arctic Centre, the Netherlands
Björn Dahlbäck, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden
Nalan Koc, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway
Hyoung Chul Shin, Korea Polar Research Institute, Korea
Cynan Ellis-Evans, National Environment Research Council, UK
Dirk Mengedoht, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Kathleen Crane, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA
Jim Drummond, Dalhousie University/CNNRO, Canada
Harald Steen, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway
Hiroyuki Enomoto, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan
Jari Haapala, Finnish Meteorological Institute, Finland
Jennifer Mercer, National science Foundation, USA
Yuansheng Li, Polar Research Institute of China, China

Observers/guests

Jianfeng He, Polar Research Institute of China, China
Christie Logvinova, APECS
Gerlis Fugmann, APECS
Heinz Miller, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Miki Yoshioka, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan
Halvard R. Pedersen, Svalbard Science Forum/research Council of Norway, Norway
Vito Vitale, National Research Council, Italy
Jacek Jania, Committee of Polar Research, Poland

Zhanna Tairova, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark
Matthew Shute, University of Colorado/NOAA, USA
Nicole Biebow, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Jackie Grebmeier, University of Maryland/IASC, USA
Volker Rachold, IASC