

Draft
Forum of Arctic Research Operators
Meeting minutes
ASSW 2012
21 April, 9:00 -12:30
Palais des congrès, Montreal, Canada

1. Opening and reporting session

1.1 Welcome and introduction

Magnus Tannerfeldt acted as chair for the Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO) meeting as stand in for the late chair Martin Bergmann. He welcomed the attendees and briefly outlined the intention of the meeting and suggested a silent moment for Martin. Magnus asked for a brief round of introduction before giving the word to Marian Campbell Jarvis and Danielle Labonté. They paid a tribute to Martin and informed about "The Tribute Event for Martin Bergmann" to take place later during the IPY Conference and they informed that the first 'Martin Bergmann Medal' would be awarded at the tribute event.

1.2 Approval of last meeting's minutes in Seoul, Korea

Magnus Tannerfeldt asked for changes to the minutes of the last FARO meeting in Seoul, Korea 2011. The minutes were approved without comments.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

Magnus Tannerfeldt asked for changes to the agenda. Magnus suggested a minor change, i.e. to move item 4.4 to item 1.5. The agenda was subsequently approved.

1.4 Report from the chair

Magnus Tannerfeldt informed that due to the special circumstances, FARO had not been very active during the last year. Accordingly, no action has been taken in the interim group B working with how FARO can help to make it easier to achieve an overview of application procedures in the different arctic countries, and in interim group C working with future regulation of research in the Polar Sea related to UNCLOS.

1.5 News from secretariat

Morten Rasch gave a brief overview of the secretariat's work since the last meeting. Four telephone meetings have taken place in the interim group A. These meetings resulted in the different scenarios for a future FARO – to be discussed under agenda item 4.2. The FARO website (item 4.4) has been updated, and the secretariat has disseminated information of relevance to members and stakeholders both through the website and by direct e-mails. At the 2011 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 session

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

2.1 Germany: Uwe Nixdorf, Alfred Wegener Institute, informed about 'German Arctic expeditions 2011 – 2012', as well as Arctic research stations and the plans for a new ship, *Polarstern II*.

[See Uwe Nixdorf's presentation](#)

2.2 France: Yves Frenot, the French Polar Institute, informed about 'The French Polar Institute in the Arctic'.

[See Yves Frenot's presentation](#)

2.3a Canada: Stephen Peck, Canadian Coastguard, informed about the background, status and future plans of the Canadian Coastguard, including plans for a new heavy icebreaker.

[See Stephen Peck's presentation](#)

2.3b Canada: Marian Campbell Jarvis, Natural Resources Canada, Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP), informed about the Canadian activities in the Arctic. PCSP continues to support research infrastructure development and Arctic Net receives support too. PEARL (Polar Environmental Atmospheric Research Laboratory) at the northern tip of Ellesmere Island is closing. The Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) will be built at Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. In total, PCSP will support 140+ projects with logistics during 2012. Some of the Canadian arctic military stations are also open for science, based on user payment. PCSP continue to support science initiatives also benefitting local communities. Safety for clients in the field has been an item for much discussion.

2.4 Norway: Kim Holmén, Norwegian Polar Institute, informed about Norwegian activities in the Arctic.

A new ice-strengthened research vessel designed for the needs of scientists is planned to be built. The new vessel will replace Lance, which is 30 years old. The research activities on Svalbard have increased during the last years. UNIS has received money for foreign projects and there will be more places for foreign students. Free-drift projects with Lance are planned for several winters.

2.5 Russia: Alexey Pavlov, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, informed about recent Russian research activities in the Arctic.

Russia has carried out a spring campaign at Barneo station. They will continue with seasonal campaigns at the North Pole 39 drifting station. Expedition "Arktika 2012" will take place during the autumn in connection with termination of the North Pole 39 station and establishment of the new North Pole (NP40) drifting station. In 2012, Russia has had/will have joint cruises with Germany and Norway in the European Arctic. The cruise ship (former research vessel) Professor Molchanov is used for a research and educational cruise to the White Sea and the Barents Sea.

2.6 Japan: Kazuyuki Shiraishi, National Institute of Polar Research, informed about 'Japanese National Activity in the Arctic Science - The updated activities'.

[See Kazuyuki Shiraishi's presentation](#)

2.7 UK: Ian Dunn, British Antarctic Survey, informed about UK activities. There has been a shift in focus from Antarctic activities to Arctic activities. BAS has a programme for foreign scientists. BAS's logistics capacity is not fully utilised during the Arctic summer and BAS is therefore very interested in cooperating with international partners with a need for logistics in the Arctic during the summer. BAS can offer logistical support in form of aircrafts (Twin Otter and Dash 7), an ice-strengthened research vessel (James Clark Ross) and expertise on field safety.

2.8 Korea: Dongmin Jin, Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), informed about 'KOPRI's Arctic Research Plan in 2012'.

[See Dongmin Jin presentation](#)

2.9 Poland: Jacek Jania, Polish Academy of Science, informed about 'Modernization of Polish facilities for Arctic research'.

[See Jacek Jania's presentation](#)

2.10 USA: Simon Stephenson, National Science Foundation, informed about the NSF activities, including the launch this year of a new research vessel with ice breaking capability, the *Sikuliaq*.

[See Simon Stephenson's presentation](#)

2.11 Denmark: Morten Rasch, Aarhus University, informed about Greenlandic and Danish research logistics 2011-12. He informed that:

- Denmark does not have a coordinated arctic research programme. Instead, mainly universities and research institutes with coordination on *ad hoc* basis carry out the Danish arctic research.
- Aarhus University is planning to build a new research station at Station North. The university is still looking for money to finance the project but prospects are positive.
- Aarhus University has established a Partnership in Arctic Research in cooperation with University of Manitoba (Canada) and Greenland Climate Research Centre. The initiative is extensive and focusing on how arctic natural systems are influenced by the global climate.
- Greenland Institute of Natural Resources has just launched a new research vessel to have port in Nuuk. The research vessel can accommodate ten scientists and has equipment suitable for different marine research.
- Denmark signed UNCLOS in 2004, and accordingly Denmark has to deliver their 'claims' in 2014. Some claims are finished, but work is still to be made for some of the claims especially in relation to the Polar Sea north of Greenland. Information about the Danish UNCLOS activities is available on www.geus.dk.

2.12 Sweden: Magnus Tannerfeldt, the Swedish Polar Research secretariat, informed about 'Swedish Arctic Research'.

[See Magnus Tannerfeldt's presentation](#)

2.13 China: Huigen Yang, Polar Research Institute of China, was not able to participate in the FARO meeting but sent a presentation.

[See Huigen Yang's presentation](#)

3. Other information items

3.1 The proposed Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for Studies of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC)

Ola Persson, NOAA, USA, gave a presentation of the proposed Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for Studies of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC).

[See Ola Persson's presentation](#)

3.2 The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) – An Initiative for a Large-Scale International Arctic Infrastructure

Georg Hansen, Norwegian Research Council, gave a presentation of The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) - An Initiative for a Large-Scale International Arctic Infrastructure. An In

[See Georg Hansen's presentation](#)

3.3 INTERACT - International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic

Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Aarhus University, Denmark, gave a presentation of INTERACT - International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic.

[See Jan Elmer Topp-Jorgensen's presentation](#)

3.4 The Canadian High Arctic Research Station

Georgina Lloyd, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, gave a presentation of the Canadian High Arctic Research Station.

[See Georgina Lloyd's presentation](#)

3.5 Coordination of European Icebreakers and the associated workshop taking place in Montreal

Nicole Biebow, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany, invited to a workshop on 'Coordination of European Icebreakers' to be held later during the IPY Conference, and gave a short presentation about the scope of the workshop.

[See Nicole Biebow's presentation](#)

4. Internal business

4.1 Future relation between IASC and FARO

Magnus Tannerfeldt presented his ideas for a possible future FARO – IASC cooperation. FARO could in the future be helpful to IASC by providing information concerning:

- Ships/vessels and research stations
- Rules for permit application in different countries
- Cruise plans and other relevant information
- Contact persons for different organizations/projects

IASC can be helpful to FARO by approaching the Arctic Council and its member states concerning freedom for science in the Arctic and by harmonizing procedures to get permissions for marine scientific research in the Arctic, and by providing FARO with information about scientists and research projects and in general to guide FARO on needs from the research community.

Magnus Tannerfeldt also presented ideas on how FARO could respond to requests from research groups and/or IASC Working Groups, by providing advice on logistics and as starting point for bi- and multilateral collaborations.

4.2 Future role of FARO including possible future membership

Morten Rasch presented the two scenarios that were agreed upon in the interim group A during the four telephone meetings: 1) Status quo – FARO continues as an informal platform for information exchange between arctic logistics operators. 2) FARO becomes a larger and more active organisation to coordinate arctic research logistics – i.e. with a more extensive secretariat. The last option will require that FARO becomes a membership organisation with a budget based on membership fees.

Discussion of items 4.1 and 4.2:

Ian Dunn: Asked for FARO's Terms of Reference.

Morten Rasch: Only a very rough Term of Reference exists. <http://faro-arctic.org/fileadmin/Resources/DMU/GEM/faro/2009farotermssofreference25may2010.pdf>

Simon Stephenson: NSF is backing a FARO secretariat, but is waiting to see what the members of IASC decide concerning cooperation with FARO before any decision is taken regarding possible future changes to the organisational structure of the FARO.

Magnus Tannerfeldt: We need to have a group to draft and finalize the Terms of Reference.

Stephen Peck: FARO is not running science and logistics programmes. FARO is a network of national research operators serving national science programmes. Logistics is the core activity and the network is attached/connected to scientific groups/organisations. FARO is a very diverse group representing various types of stakeholders, which can be a challenge if we want to pursue a more formal organisation.

Jackie Grebmaier: The IASC working groups are building international projects and connections. There could be cooperation between the working groups and FARO.

Heinrich Miller: The working groups of SCAR created COMNAP/SCALOP (Standing Committee on Antarctic Logistics and Operations). You could do the same for the Arctic if you want a more formal and coordinated way of working together.

Marian Campbell Jarvis: It is in our interest to develop a closer coherence of science and logistics between FARO and national/international fora to improve coordination and cooperation between logistics networks and scientific institutions/organisations. This can be achieved by either ensuring parallel coherence or by integrating science and logistics in the organisational platform.

Magnus Tannerfeldt: FARO could be helpful in linking international research projects, international logistics and international funding.

Jacek Jania: FARO can operate on two levels. 1) As a standing committee who takes care of relations to international scientific programmes, organisations and networks, and international coordination of national logistics and research operations. The committee can also decide on specific projects promoting FARO, e.g. making a catalogue of icebreakers, vessels etc. relating to the needs of IASC. 2) Keep things as they are, i.e. to continue as a forum for exchange of informal information on national activities involving logistics and information about specific national/international projects.

Kim Holmén: There is an unrealized potential in coordination of ships/vessels/stations. It just needs innovative thinking and cooperation. We will save money by coordination of logistics and by helping each other. FARO should turn to IASC and ask what is possible in relation to more cooperation.

Uwe Nixdorf: COMNAP is a good example. They did the “the job” through informal discussions and meetings among five or six countries.

Simon Stephenson: The issue is how to respond as a group, how to respond to a project, e.g. MOSAiC. We can develop a formal proposal/review process or we can carry on circulating incoming proposals and discussing these informally among the members of FARO.

Uwe Nixdorf: IASC is happy for FARO whether it is a working group or not. FARO is a valuable forum for operators to meet annually and for midterm’s ideas for making them operational.

Conclusion: Uwe Nixdorf concluded the discussion: A stronger interaction with IASC is supported by the group, and the annual FARO meetings with informal discussions are valuable for us.

4.3 Election of new chair

After an introduction by Morten Rasch, Magnus Tannerfeldt was elected chair of FARO for a term of three years. It was agreed that the existing executive committee is too large. However, since three of the members were not present at the meeting, it was decided to let the present executive committee continue for another year and then elect a new smaller executive committee at the FARO meeting in 2013.

4.4 The FARO website

See item 1.5.

4.5 Next meeting

The next FARO meeting will be at ASSW 2013, which takes place 13 -19 April in Krakow, Poland. Jacek Jania, Polish Academy of Science, informed about ASSW 2013.

[See Jacek Jania's presentation](#)

4.6 Any other business

There were no other issues to be discussed.

5. Closure

Magnus Tannerfeldt thanked the secretariat and the members for good cooperation during the last year. Magnus Tannerfeldt also thanked the ASSW 2012 Organizing Committee.

Minutes including the presentations will be available on the FARO website.

Executive committee: Huigen Yang, China – Dongmin Jin, Korea – Simon Stephenson, USA – Uwe Nixdorf, Germany – Sergey Priamikov, Russia - Magnus Tannerfeldt, Sweden – Piotr Glowacki, Poland – FARO secretariat, Denmark.

Overview of interim groups, their tasks and participants:

Interim group A: Give recommendations on the future role/structure of FARO, including its relation to IASC. Participants: Simon Stephenson, USA - Magnus Tannerfeldt, Sweden - Piotr Glowacki, Poland - Uwe Nixdorf, Germany - Huigen Yang, China – the FARO secretariat, Denmark.

Interim group B: How can FARO help to make it easier to achieve an overview of application procedures in the different arctic countries? Participants: Uwe Nixdorf, Germany - Simon Stephenson, USA - Piotr Glowacki, Poland - Sergey Priamikov, Russia.

Interim group C: Future regulation of research in the Polar Sea related to UNCLOS. Participants: Sergey Priamikov, Russia - Uwe Nixdorf, Germany - Dongmin Jin, Korea - Volker Rachold, IASC.

Participants

Members

Simon Stephenson, National Science Foundation (NSF), USA
Uwe Nixdorf, Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Germany
Magnus Tannerfeldt, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS), Sweden
Jacek Jania, Committee on Polar Research, Polish Academy of Science, Poland
Marian Campbell Jarvis, Natural Resources Canada, Polar Continental Shelf Program (PCSP), Canada
Ian Dunn, British Antarctic Survey (BAS), UK
Morten Rasch, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark
Lillian Magelund Jensen, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark
Dongmin Jin, Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), Korea
Kazuyuki Shiraiishi, National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR), Japan
Kim Holmén, Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), Norway
Yves Frenot, French Polar Institute (IPEV), France
Stephen Peck, Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), Canada

Observers/guests/friends

Harald Loeng, Institute of Marine Research, Norway
Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark
Alexey Pavlov, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI), Russia
Danielle Labonté, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada/ Quebec University, Canada
Georg Hansen, Research Council of Norway, Norway
Nicole Biebow, Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Germany
Heinrich Miller, Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Germany
Angelika Dummermuth, Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Germany
Geir W. Gabrielsen, Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), Norway
Jackie Grebmaier, Centre for Environmental Science, University of Maryland/IASC, USA
Georgina Lloyd, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Canada
Ola Persson, University of Colorado/NOAA, USA