



FARO: Forum of Arctic Research Operators

**THIS COMPENDIUM CONTAINS THE REPORTS FOR THE
FOLLOWING**

FARO MEETINGS 2005

FARO MEETING 22 APRIL 2005 – CLOSED SESSION

FARO MEETING 22 APRIL 2005 – OPEN SESSION



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FORUM OF ARCTIC RESEARCH OPERATORS

MEETING REPORT

CLOSED SESSION

22 APRIL 2005

KUNMING, CHINA



FARO Meeting
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MEETING REPORT
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FARO: Forum of Arctic Research Operators
ASSW 2005
Kunming, China
22 April 2005

MINUTES Closed Session

This Closed Session (Operators only) meeting was held after lunch and focussed on:

- IPY and
- Election

List of Participants is enclosed as **Appendix I**

1. IPY

IPY had been fully presented during Project Day, so the FARO intention was to exchange information around the table, i.e. what other operators knew and what they intended to do during IPY.

- **Sweden**
Their main logistical tools are: *Odin* and observatories/research stations in Northern Sweden. The research stations will be involved in CEON and COMAAR.
Odin will undertake an expedition in geology/geophysics NE of Greenland during summer 2007. In oceanography they intend to take part in iAOOS (International Arctic Ocean Observing System, presented by Dr Bob Dickson during Project Day).
Their wish was to have a stable platform in the Arctic Ocean for a longer period of time.
- **Norway**
The Institute of Marine Research operates two vessels south of the ice edge (open water only), with a focus on marine biology. The Norwegian Polar Institute operates the icestrengthened vessel *RV Lance* for March – November each year, and are retaining flexibility so that ship time can be provided to take part in international programmes.
There are several large research facilities in Ny-Ålesund and Longyearbyen

in Svalbard, and there will be increased emphasis on international collaboration, especially with Russian scientists.

- **Poland**

Poland owns two research vessels in the Arctic area. One of them is a sailing research vessel *OCEANIA*. The second one (the training vessel *HORYZONT II*) is to be transformed into a research ship soon.

Polish Polar Station, which carries out the interdisciplinary research comprising geophysics, earth sciences as well as marine and environmental biology, is placed in the protected area of Spitsbergen. There are 43 working places (13 whole year's and 30 seasonal ones). Although the station is environmentally friendly, it is continually modernized to exclude any negative effects it might have on the local environment.

Polish Offer

The Polish supply vessel (serving the Hornsund station in Svalbard) has space available on its cruise from Poland to Svalbard and return. Three times during the polar summer Poland offers an inexpensive opportunity to transport the equipment of other international teams working in Svalbard.

- **Germany**

Germany has two main research platforms for the Arctic:

- **the Koldewey Station** as part of the French-German Research Base in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard with research programmes in the atmospheric, biological and physical sciences.

Campaigns are being planned in atmospheric chemistry together with other nations and using aircraft.

- **Polarstern**

Plans are ready for the use of Polarstern during IPY both for the Arctic and the Antarctic. The cruise areas for the Arctic comprise the Greenland Sea and the high Arctic.

- **USA**

ISAC/SEARCH will be the top priority programmes.

Healy in cooperation with *Odin* will be the main research platform.

Ecology of the Bering Sea (systems approach) will be another priority area. In addition to *Healy*, C-130 will be available, possibly also another aircraft.

- **Canada**

'The Northern Strategy' is a new federal policy document for the northern regions of Canada. As mentioned under the Open Session, *CCGS Amundsen* is available, and *CCGS Louis St Laurent* will become available 8 weeks a year.

Polar Continental Shelf Programme (PCSP) is prepared to help coordinate logistics for IPY projects conducted within the Canadian Arctic and will work with other service providers to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective support is accessible to IPY research activities. PCSP has recently completed some upgrades at its Resolute base, which operates roughly five to six months each year; as well, PCSP can and will arrange aircraft and other support to groups working in the Arctic throughout the year, and can

serve as a reference point in terms of providing advice as to what other services and agencies may be able to help IPY research groups as they plan and undertake their programs in the Canadian Arctic.

- **Denmark**
They had discussed having Station Nord open for a longer season, as well as Zackenberg open all year round. No final decision yet. The national IPY committee had proposed to focus on climate as a theme for their IPY effort.
- **Japan**
Their icebreaker will be used in Antarctica during IPY.
There is a possibility for another vessel, but not clarified yet. The Japanese research station in Ny-Ålesund is the only certain platform so far.
- **Netherlands**
They have small resources for the Arctic, although they presented 73 EoIs for IPY.
There were plans for the reconstruction of a station near Dickson, intended to be used for biological research. They rent some small houses in Ny-Ålesund, which could be used for their participation in international programmes in this area.
Dutch scientists are interested in Peary Land.
- **United Kingdom**
Their research council (NERC) had provided fresh money for IPY, which is now open for competition.
Their main research platform is *RV James Clark Ross*. However, her cruise plans for IPY were not known. On the terrestrial side, they have a research station in Ny-Ålesund. At present, this is a summer-only station.
Aircraft can become available.
- **Russia**
There is a high level support for IPY in Russia (Chilingarov and Bedritsky). North Pole Stations (NP) are being operated and they are now open to international participants.
An observatory in Dickson has been renovated (supported by NOAA). Several bilateral projects have a potential for significant IPY activity.
An IPY Sub-office in St Petersburg mentioned (see more information later in this report).
- **China**
Their terrestrial platform is in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard with a 10-person capacity.
Their icebreaker (*Zelong*) is mainly for the Antarctic. However, she can be used for the Arctic as well. During IPY, a cruise through Bering Strait across North Pole and to the Antarctic is in planning. However, they need the assistance of a stronger icebreaker for this cruise.
Additional funding for IPY depends on the quality of research proposals.
- **France**
France operates the Rabot Station and Corbel Station as part of the French-German Research Base in Ny-Ålesund.

- **Korea**
A high ice-class research vessel is being built. The plans are for her to work in the Antarctic in 2008, and to be used in the Arctic in 2009.
Korea also has a research station in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard.

Discussion and Views

- **Chinese crossing of North Pole in 2007**
RV Zelong has a considerable carrying capacity; however, she needs a stronger icebreaker to undertake the cruise. Germany will consider joining and encouraged others to do the same.
- **Ny-Ålesund**
Many countries have research platforms in Ny-Ålesund. A Ny-Ålesund Science Plan is now being considered, which could reduce duplications considerably and boost international cooperation.
- **Ships: Coordinated effort**
We have quite a number of ships and much can be achieved if we coordinate better. We need an overview of:
 - intended or planned cruise tracks, and
 - main science programmes for them
- **Polish offer**
The Polish supply vessel (serving the Hornsund station in Svalbard) has space available on its cruise from Poland to Svalbard and return (inexpensive opportunity).
- **Non-icebreaker nations**
Space available on icebreakers for scientists from non-icebreaker nations? (Danish request). Also new nations (like Malaysia) are seeking such opportunities.
- **'The IPY War Room'**
In order to clarify whether there are enough Arctic resources for conducting large IPY programmes requiring heavy multinational logistic input (such as icebreakers, research vessels, aircraft, ice camps and other research platforms) it was proposed to conduct an exercise during ICARP II, or adjoining to it. This exercise should have resources displayed in a 'war room overview' that permitted moving these around.
The Secretariat should prepare for such an overview. This could then be followed by a committed discussion of resources at the 2006 FARO meeting.

Actions

1. **Karlqvist, Bergmann, Priamikov to revise the COMNAP questionnaire for Arctic use**
2. **Orheim, Petersen to review Arctic research stations for identifying major gaps (geography/sciences) using information available on the internet (CEON, ARCUS, etc.)**

- **St Petersburg Sub-office**
Implementing major joint IPY initiatives in the Arctic is a complicated undertaking due to national territories and complex access rules. Some major Arctic research operators had discussed the situation and proposed an IPY Sub-office in St Petersburg. The initial proposal had been questioned by the IPY JC, and some changes were made to the proposal.

As IPY JC is likely to play a lesser role in IPY implementation and FARO is to become an important player, the proposers were advised to consider the relationship to FARO more closely, including the possibility of making it a Sub-office of FARO for the IPY implementation.

How the proposers wish to take this proposal forward is up to them. But if the proposers make a proposal to FARO then the FARO Executive will consider it positively

2. ELECTION – FARO EXECUTIVE

The present FARO Executive was elected in 2003. However, John Dudeney had informed that he will retire this year and an election was held for his successor.

Dr Sergey Priamikov, Russia, was unanimously elected as the new member on the FARO Executive.

The FARO Executive is now:

- Simon Stephenson (Chair), USA
- Anders Karlqvist, Sweden
- Sergey Priamikov, Russia
- Zhanhai Zhang, China

Dr Stephenson welcomed Sergey Priamikov on to the FARO Executive, and thanked John Dudeney for his active and constructive participation on the FARO Executive.



FARO 2005 – Closed Session

Forum of Arctic Research Operators

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