



# Asian Forum for Polar Sciences: An Introduction



<http://www.afops.org>

Prepared for FARO meeting  
Fairbanks, Alaska on Mar 12, 2016

# Introduction

- 11-year old Asian regional polar organization
  - Dedicated to advance of polar research & cooperation in Asia since 2004
- Regional alliance with global perspective
- Important medium of collective endeavors
  - Human/info. exchange, research collaboration, logistic cooperation, etc.
- 5 Members – CN, JP, IN, KR, MY
  - W/ 4 Observing countries : TH, ID, PHI, VN

# Members and Observers



# AFoPS Operation

- AGM & Special Meeting(s) as needed
- AFoPS Committee
  - Comprises representatives and coordinators from member countries
  - Decides major issues by consensus
- Chair and Secretary selected by rotation with two-year term
  - Korea (KOPRI) 2014-2016

# Major AFoPS Activities

- Research Collaboration
  - Cooperative Projects
  - Joint Journal Publication
- Human Exchange
  - Fellowships
  - Joint Workshops/Trainings
- Inter-Organizational Cooperation

# Cooperative Projects

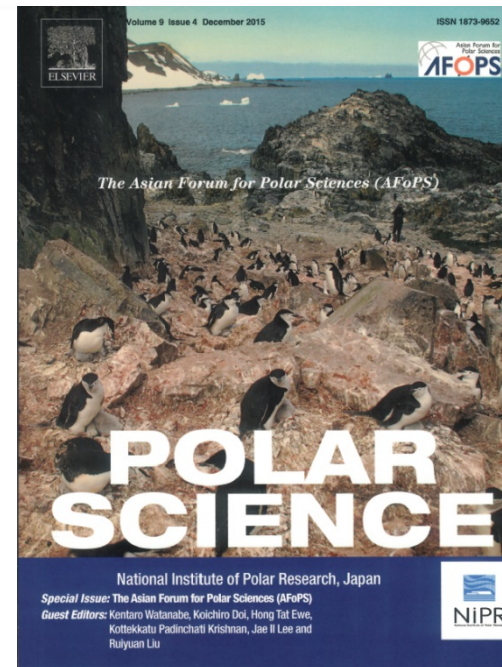
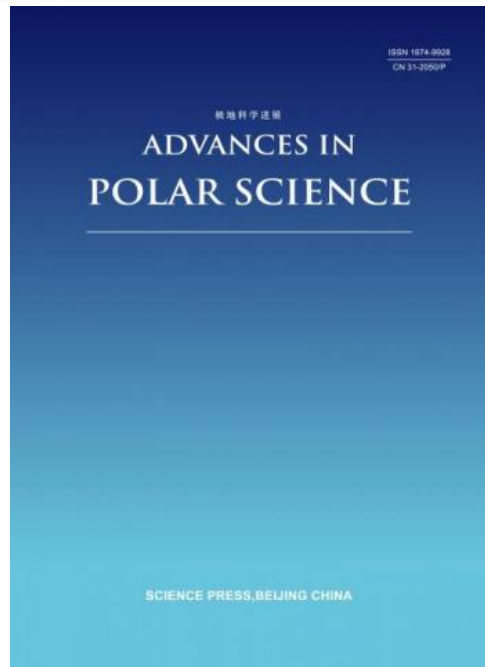
- 5 AFoPS-endorsed projects for research collaboration
  - Arctic Ocean sea ice observations
  - Ecological responses of Antarctic penguins
  - Climate linkage between polar region and tropics
  - Geology expeditions near Syowa
  - Geology expeditions near Jang Bogo

# Joint Expedition to Jang Bogo in Terra Nova Bay, Antarctica during 2015/16 season



# Joint Journal Publication

- Published 2 AFoPS special issues
  - *Advances in Polar Science* (Dec 2013)
  - *Polar Science* (Dec 2015)





# Human Exchange

- Invitation/Fellowship programs to facilitate cooperation in research /operation
  - NIPR Invitation Program
  - KOPRI Asian Polar Science Fellowship
- Joint workshops and trainings
  - Exchange of Antarctic winter member trainings
  - Antarctic Medical Workshop (NIPR)

# Strengthened Efforts in Inter-Organizational Cooperation

- Submit reports to relevant international polar communities
  - AFoPS Report to ATCM (Apr 2015)
  - Short Statement for AOS (Oct 2015)



IP 70

Agenda Item: ATCM 4,  
ATCM 13  
Presented by: Korea (ROK)  
Original: English  
Submitted: 29/04/2015

**Report from Asian Forum of Polar  
Sciences to the ATCM XXXVIII**

Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS) Secretariat

---

**Arctic Observation:  
Contribution from Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS)**

AFoPS Secretariat  
on behalf of  
AFoPS Arctic research community

## **Introduction**

The Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS) established in 2004, is a non-governmental organization set up to encourage and facilitate cooperation for the advance of Antarctic and Arctic sciences among Asian countries. The AFoPS currently consists of five Members - China, India, Japan, Malaysia, and the Republic of Korea - with a growing number of observers from Thailand and many more.

Towards the end of the first decade, the AFoPS has become an important medium of collective

# Members' Recent Arctic Activities Reported to AGM 2015 (AFoPS-XVI)



## Chinese Yellow River Station Expedition (2014 /15)

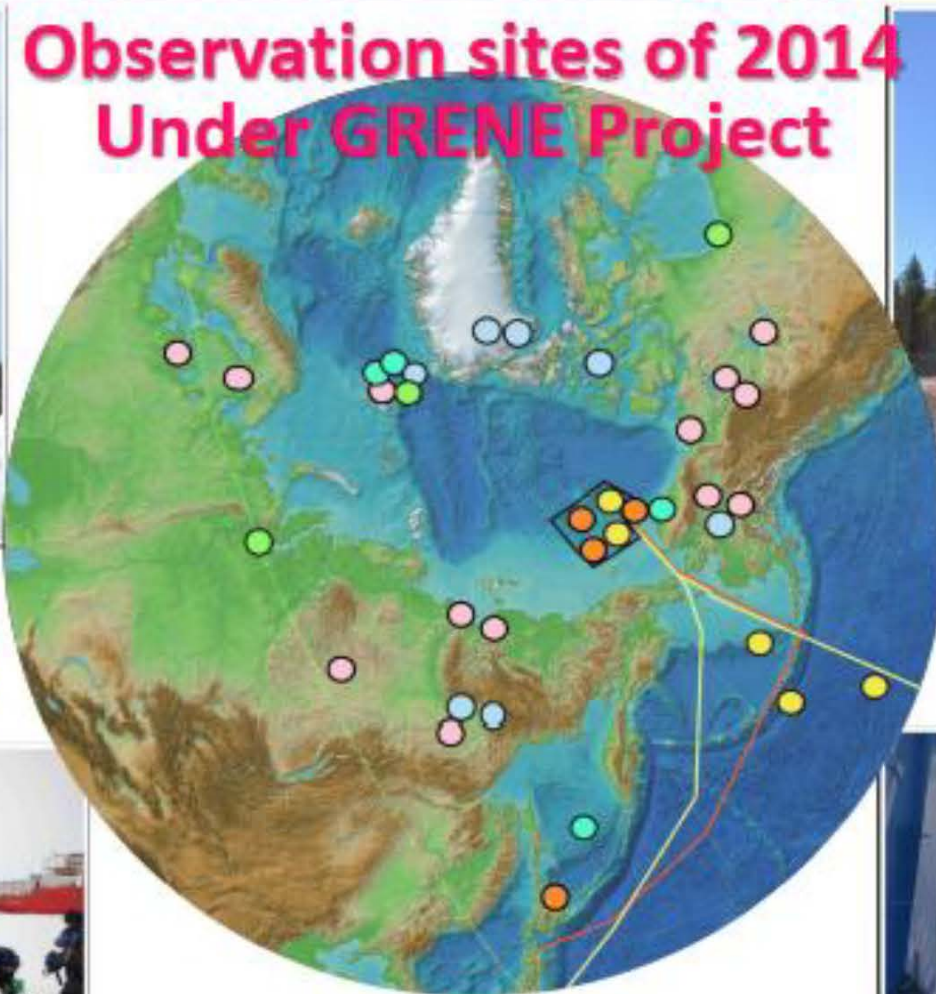
17 projects in 2014 and 21 projects in 2015, covering glaciology, GPS tracking and observation, ecology, biology, geology, etc.

# Pan-Arctic observation sites

## Observation sites of 2014 Under GRENE Project



Shallow core drilling on glacier ice  
(Cryosphere Theme)



Automatic Weather Station  
(Terrestrial Theme)

- Terrestrial (pink circle)
- Marine ecosystem (yellow circle)
- Sea ice and Arctic sea route (orange circle)

- Atmosphere (green circle)
- Greenhouse gas (light green circle)
- Cryosphere (white circle)



Sea ice observation near ice breaker  
(Sea Ice and Arctic Sea Routes Theme)



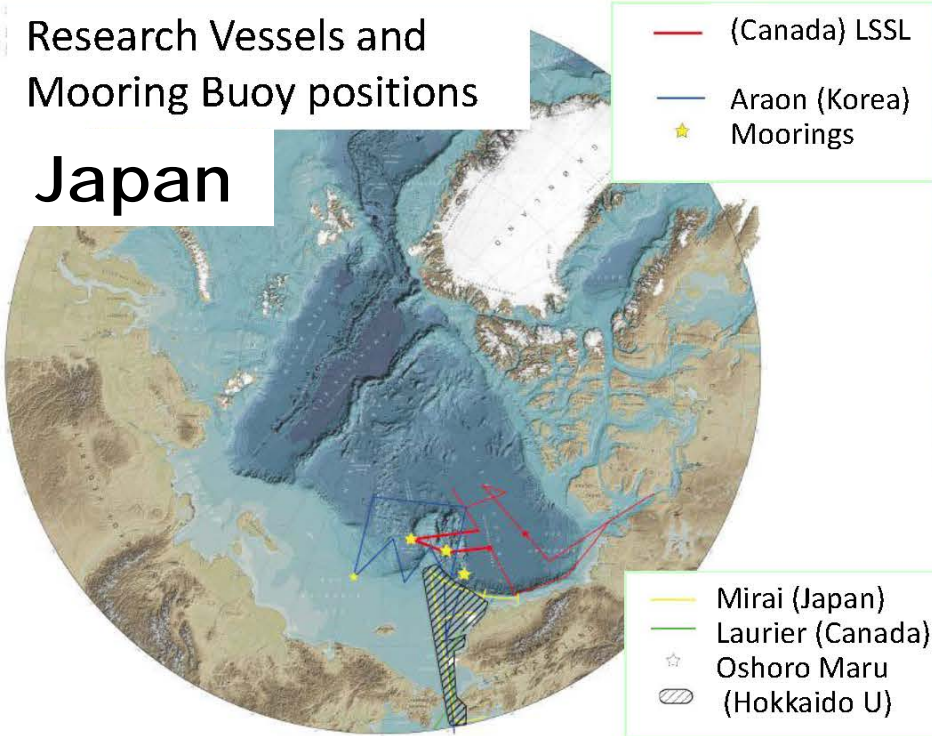
Buoy deployment from R/V "Mirai"  
(Marine Ecosystem Theme)

With International  
Cooperation

# Infrastructure: Research vessel, icebreaker and mooring buoy

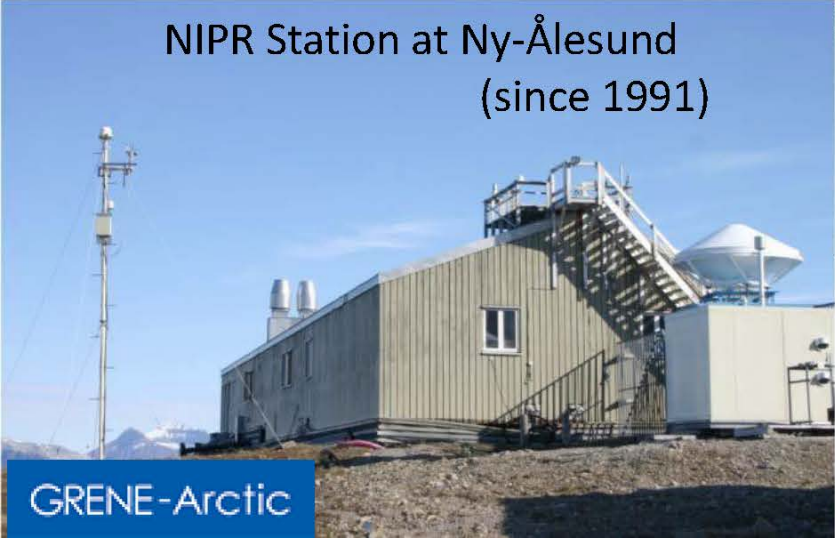
Research Vessels and Mooring Buoy positions

Japan



Bottom trawl

NIPR Station at Ny-Ålesund (since 1991)



GRENE-Arctic



- ✂ Participation in/ collaboration with Icebreaker cruises.
- CCGS **Louis S. St-Laurent** (Canadian Coast Guard): Heavy icebreaker
- CCGS **Amundsen** (Canadian Coast Guard): Icebreaker
- CCGS **Sir Wilfrid Laurier** (Canadian Coast Guard): Light Icebreaker
- RV Araon (Korea): Icebreaker, USCGC Healy** (US): Icebreaker,
- FS Polarstern** (Germany): Icebreaker

## KOREAN ARCTIC RESEARCH IN 2015

## DASAN ARTIC STATION

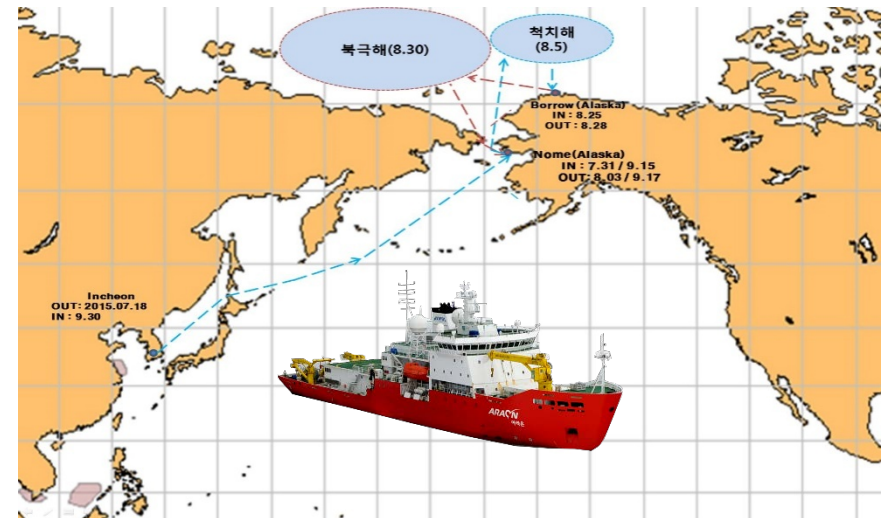
73 PERSONS  
2015

64

Scientists conducted field research activities in Atmospheric study, Geology, microbiology, Geophysics, and Sedimentology

## ARAON ARCTIC CRUISE

74 DAYS  
2015





Excellence

Frontier spirit

ARACON  
아라온

Partnership

69 participants from 24 institutes and universities of 8 countries in 2015

Collaboration is at the heart of KOPRI's core values



# Indian Arctic Program Highlights

- **Thrust Areas** – Marine Environment, Cryosphere, Atmosphere.
- **Projects:** 18 received. 13 selected for implementation.
- Station opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015. Will be operational till end October.
- Hon. President of India, H.E. Shri. Pranab Mukerjee interacted with Indian researchers at Ny-Ålesund over video conferencing.
- India hosted the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Meeting and the Atmospheric Flagship Gap Analysis Meeting (4-7 November 2014).
- Joint Seminar on Polar Research between MoES, ESSO-NCAOR and the Royal Danish Embassy in India: 10 November 2014 at MoES.

**National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research**  
(Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India),  
Headland Sada, Vasco-da-Gama 403804, Goa



# AFoPS Future Plan

- 10 Years' Achievement
  - Information-sharing scheme and framework for joint work in Asia
- Draft roadmap for the next decade being prepared
- Create a channel that maximizes regional contribution to the global community in a synergistic way

# Thank You



Visit our website: [afops.org](http://afops.org)