

**Draft**  
**Forum of Arctic Research Operators**  
**Meeting minutes**  
**ASSW 2015**  
**25 April, 9:00 -17:30**  
**The conference room**  
**Toyama International Conference Centre**  
**1-2 Otemachi, Toyama, Japan**

## **1. Opening and reporting session**

### **1.1 Welcome and introduction**

James Drummond welcomed the attendees and briefly outlined the intention of the meeting. Furthermore, he thanked the ASSW 2015 Organizing Committee and the secretariat for help with organising the meeting.

### **1.2 Approval of last meeting's minutes in Helsinki, Finland**

James Drummond asked for changes to the minutes of the last FARO meeting in Helsinki, Finland 2014. The minutes were approved without comments.

### **1.3 Adoption of the agenda**

James Drummond asked for suggested changes to the agenda. The agenda was subsequently approved.

### **1.4 Report from the chair**

- There has been a change of Chair. Magnus Tannerfeldt had to leave as he got a new position 1 October 2014 and James (Jim) was elected interim Chair at a telephone conference in the Executive Committee in September 2014
- This is the first year of membership fee for FARO. The members are expecting something - what are we doing between the meetings
- INTERACT has run into difficulties, we will discuss this later
- FARO (the Chair and the secretariat) participated in the Arctic Circle meeting in Reykjavik in 2014 with a poster and leaflets – see items 3.5
- A proposal for procedures concerning election of the Chair, the succession of the executive committee etc. will be presented at the FARO meeting in 2016
- FARO's Executive Committee has had four telephone conferences during the last year
- FARO's history is presented in a chapter in the new book 'IASC after 25 years', which can be downloaded from <http://iasc25.iasc.info/>
- FARO has contacted the Government of Greenland in order to get a Greenlandic member/ delegate/observer in FARO

## 1.5 Report from the secretariat

The secretariat has supported the Chairs, arranged telephone conferences and participated in them, sent out documents and disseminated information of relevance for the members and stakeholders both through the website and by direct e-mails, organizing the membership fee with good help from an accountant, who send out all the invoices and taken care of the website.

At the 2014 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. Please notice that all the presentations can be found on the FARO website <http://faro-arctic.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-2015/>

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

See James Drummond's presentation on the FARO website

**2.2 China:** Huigen Yang, Polar Research Institute of China informed about the Chinese activities in the Arctic.

See Huigen Yang's presentation on the FARO website

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

See Renee Crain's presentation on the FARO website

**2.4: Germany:** Dirk Mengedoht, Alfred Wegener Institute, informed about the German activities in the Arctic and gave an update on 'MOSAiC'.

See Dirk Mengedoht's presentation on the FARO website

Requested to FARO from AWI/MOSAiC!

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

See Piotr Glowacki's presentation on the FARO website

**2.6 Sweden:** Ulf Jonsell, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, informed about the Swedish activities in the Arctic.

See Ulf Jonsell's presentation on the FARO website

**2.7 Portugal:** João Canário, Technical University of Lisbon, informed about the Portuguese activities in the Arctic.

[See João Canário presentation on the FARO website](#)

**2.8 UK: Nix Cox,** British Antarctic Survey, informed about UK activities in the Arctic.

[See Nix Cox's presentation on the FARO website](#)

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

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

**2.10 Denmark/Greenland:** Morten Rasch, University of Copenhagen, informed about the Danish/Greenlandic activities in the Arctic.

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

**2.11 Norway:** Christina A. Pedersen, Norwegian Polar Institute, informed about the Norwegian activities in the Arctic.

[See Christina A. Pedersen's presentation on the FARO website](#)

**2.12 Italy:** Vito Vitale, National Research Council, Italy, informed about the Italian activities in the Arctic.

[See Vito Vitale's presentation on the FARO website](#)

**2.13 The Netherlands:** Peter Jordan, Arctic Centre, University of Groningen, informed about the Netherlands activities

Maarten Loonen from the Arctic Centre, University of Groningen in the Netherlands, is directing the SEES (Scientific Expedition Edgeøya Svalbard) expedition in August 2015. This is a large inter-disciplinary expedition to Edgeøya Island in eastern Svalbard. It is supported by the NWO (Dutch Research Council). This expedition maintains the long-term tradition of Dutch researchers working on Edgeøya, which started with an over-wintering in 1968-9 of Dutch biologists studying polar bears and reindeer. For further information please see: <http://www.sees.nl>

**2.14 Iceland:** Embla Eir Oddsdóttir, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN) had not prepared a presentation but promised to one at the next annual meeting.

Embla informed about the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN), which brings together Arctic organizations and Arctic research in Iceland. IACN aim is to bring different scientists

/people to the table. Embla also referred to their website <http://arcticiceland.is/en/> where you can find information about: Who is doing what in Iceland. Information about different sciences and different projects and partners.

Embla suggested that the FARO website could be a venue for information (i.e. infrastructure and social/human science). She also suggested a page on the FARO website with all 20 countries.

**2.15 Austria:** Wolfgang Schöner, Austrian Polar Research Institute, informed about the Austrian activities in the Arctic.

Austria has no infrastructure besides some automatic meteorological stations and other instruments at field sites. Milestones were: Establishing Austrian Polar Research Institute (APRI) in 2013 and participation in several Arctic organisations, e.g. IASC. Current research focus in the Arctic activities are in Greenland (Zackenbergl in cooperation with Denmark), Svalbard (Ny Ålesund) and Siberia Russian Arctic. Thematic fields are glaciology, ecology, social sciences (see the website: [www.polarresearch.at](http://www.polarresearch.at)). Our interest in FARO is in the cooperation for logistics with other countries in order to enable Austrian scientist's access to e.g. research stations, however because of the current financial constraints Austria will step back to observer status in FARO.

**2.16 Japan:** Kazuyuki Shiraishi, National Institute of Polar Research, informed about the Japanese activities in the Arctic.

[See Kazuyuki Shiraishi's presentation on the FARO website](#)

**2.17 Russia:** Sergey Priamikov, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, informed about the Russian activities in the Arctic.

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

**2.18 France:** Yves Frenot, French Polar Institute, was not able to participate in the FARO meeting but send a brief report about the French activities in the Arctic.

[See Yves Frenot's report on the FARO website](#)

### **3 Other information**

Please notice that all the presentations can be found on the FARO website <http://faro-arctic.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-2015/>

**3.1 'The Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)' update'** Jackie Grebmeier, University of Maryland, USA and PAG gave an update.

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

**3.2 'EU- PolarNet' Nicole Biebow,** Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany gave an update.

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

**3.3 'COMNAP update'** Kazuyuki Shiraishi, COMNAP, gave an update.

[See Kazuyuki Shiraishi's presentation on the FARO website](#)

**3.4 'INTERACT II' update** - Morten Rasch, Copenhagen University, Denmark, gave an update.

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

Questions were raised about the number of stations in Transnational Access and about Marine stations/network. Morten informed that the number of station had risen from 23 to 73, and they were going to keep the network as a terrestrial network.

James Drummond asked how FARO could support the INTERACT II application. INTERACT will come back to FARO and ask for support later. See also section 3.5

**3.5 'Arctic Circle'** - James Drummond, Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators informed about:

FARO (the Chair and the secretariat) participated in the Arctic Circle meeting in Reykjavik in 2014 with a poster and leaflets.

The Arctic Circle is designed to increase participation in Arctic dialogue and strengthen the international focus on the future of the Arctic. Organizations, forums, think tanks, corporations and public associations around the world are invited to hold meetings within the Arctic Circle platform to advance their own missions and the broader goal of increasing collaborative decision-making. The Arctic Circle aims to create opportunities for everyone to attend different meetings, conduct their own networking and engage in one-on-one informal discussions. Organizations will be able to decide their own agendas and convene their own meetings. Arctic Circle has a very different audience compared to the 'usual' conferences/workshop.

FARO (the chair and the secretariat) will also participate in the Arctic Circle meeting 2015. It was decided that FARO should apply for a breakout session at the meeting in 2015 or 2016. James Drummond suggested a joint INTERACT/FARO session. James Drummond will contact Terry Callaghan to discuss a joint breakout session. A FARO/ joint FARO/INTERACT session will be discussed at the annual FARO meeting in 2016.

**3.6 'Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS)'** - Hyoung Chul Shin, AFoPS gave a presentation.

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

**3.7 General discussion**

Berztoz Lisowski, Poland gave a presentation of his thoughts about: What is a Good Polar Leader (GPL)? How do you get/educate GPL? He suggested workshops with experienced leaders and young scientists, and interdisciplinary networking and meetings/workshops.

The suggestions were welcomed by the members. It was suggested to invite psychologists and artists too. Cooperation with INTERACT was suggested – the item will be taken up in the INTERACT II. Furthermore, remember there is not one model for polar leadership. There are different kind of leadership due to different cultures and international commitment.

Poland will hold a 'Polar Leadership Workshop' in autumn 2016.

#### **4. Internal business (open session)**

**4.1 Bringing FARO to the next level:** James Drummond gave a presentation of his ideas of/visions for 'How to bring FARO to the next level' . Please notice that the presentation can be found on the FARO website <http://faro-arctic.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-2015/>

##### 1) The current situation

- Currently operates as a fairly independent entity
- Has no official or legal status
- Has an MOU with IASC
- Operates under a "Terms of Reference" document
- Holds its annual meeting during ASSW week
- Has a web-site with member information and Arctic-relevant news
- Has a small paid secretariat at Aarhus University, Denmark (Lillian)
- Has an Executive Committee of ~6 members that meets regularly by teleconference
- Maintains itself through annual dues from ~17 member countries

##### 2) What FARO should

- Be a clearing house for issues affecting Arctic operations across national boundaries
  - e.g. making everyone aware of changes in international regulations
- Be a point of contact for trans-national planning
  - e.g. who do we talk to in country X about a possible joint Arctic initiative in the continuous permafrost zone?
- Be a promoter of "best practices" in Arctic research
- Be aware of current and future large national and trans-national initiatives
  - i.e. be aware of the big things coming up and try to make sure that they don't collide with each other
- Help nations and large groups negotiate the many overlapping Arctic organisations, operations, projects and initiatives

##### 3) What FARO could

- Take a role in co-ordination of trans-national projects and programs
- Identify and promote areas where nations could benefit from more collaboration.
- Initiate studies of relevance to Arctic operations e.g. identify gaps in monitoring, determine optimal sampling regimes
- Promote Arctic technology – building on the "best practices" for the Arctic
  - e.g. drone/UAV technology for Arctic observations

- o e.g. green energy initiatives adapted for polar regions
- Take an active role in advising the IASC working groups on the practicalities of Arctic observations and the opportunities that exist.

#### 4) The FARO website

- Information on FARO – meetings, presentations, agreements, etc.
- Announcement of major national and transnational initiatives and opportunities
- Provide point of contact to national resources and personnel
- Links to major relevant documents
- Links to relevant organisations
- Discussion documents on topics of interest to Arctic Operators

#### Discussion:

The suggestions/visions were welcomed by the members. A mid-year telecom meeting for NPoC and meetings on regular basis in the Executive Committee was suggested as a way to improve interactions and information sharing.

Sergey Priamikov: FARO should be integrated in to IASC as the sixth working group.

Morten Rasch: Excellent suggestions/visions from James. FARO should stay as we are – an informal organization.

Hyoung Chul Shin: We should keep the informative annual meetings as they are. There are differences between FARO and IASC. FARO should not be integrated in to IASC. The FARO meetings are a way to improve interactions.

Piotr Glowacki: FARO could represent the national regulation for infrastructure. You could then be able to check the regulations for Poland, Germany etc.

In connection with the website mapping was mentioned and cooperation with Arctic Info and Arctic Portal, but it will mean extra funds to maintain the website.

The discussion of 'How to bring FARO o next level' will continue in the Executive Committee, among NPOC/members and at the next annual meeting.

### **4.2 Risk management - action group**

Renee Crain gave a presentation from the FARO Action Group on 'Field Safety Risk Management'. Please notice that the presentation can be found on the FARO website <http://faro-arctic.org/annual-meetings/annual-meeting-2015/>

See Renee Crain's presentation on the FARO website

#### Discussion:

Suggestions to the action group: Young people need training and we need to educate more young leaders. Alpine stations should also be part of the risk management group. Austria offered interest to contribute to the action group.

Another area the group could address is insurance. It is hard to find a company that will take out insurances and they are very expensive.

We could learn from Svalbard safety courses, from COMNAP, and learn to be patients.

A risk management section will be added to the FARO website. Please send material to the FARO secretariat [faro-arctic@bios.au.dk](mailto:faro-arctic@bios.au.dk)

### **4.3 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. See also item 2.14.

### **4.4 Action group on a technology follow-up session at the 2016 FARO meeting in Anchorage, Alaska**

It was decided that the Chair/secretariat will contact Larry Hinzman (Chair of the ASSW 2016 Organizing Committee) as one of the six themes during in Arctic Observing Summit meeting (AOS) at ASSW 2016 is technology.

## **5 Internal business (closed session)**

### **5.1 The FARO secretariat and membership fee**

At the FARO meeting in 2014, the Chair presented a 'plan' for membership fee which would become effective from 1 January 2015. The 'plan' was accepted by the members. It was decided that the membership fee should be approximately 1500 EUR and that the fee was to cover: Salary for the academic secretary (secretariat and website), travel expenses for the academic secretary and the Chair to the annual meeting (ASSW), telephone conferences, information material (production and printing), overhead and a small buffer. Furthermore, member fee will become effective from 1 January 2015 and will have to be paid to the Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark. The invoice will be sending to the NPOC.

Lillian Magelund Jensen informed that 17 of the 20 member countries have agreed to pay the fee. Two countries have asked for observer status and one country is still discussing the fee. The membership fee in 2015 is 10900 DKK (1460 EUR). The fee in 2016 will also be 10900 DKK. The fee for 2017 will be discussed at the 2016 meeting.

### **5.2 Election of a new Chair and new members to the Executive Committee**

The FARO secretariat received two nominations for the Chair position. The procedure for the election of the Chair was discussed at an Executive Committee telephone conference. The secretariat prepared the following procedure for 2015 Chair election: The nominations were sent to all the National Point of Contacts (NPoC). At the FARO meeting the nominees would each be given 5 minutes for a short presentation. After the presentations there would be 5 - 10 minutes for questions from NPoC. The nominees would then be asked to leave the room and a vote of the FARO membership to select the new Chair either by show of hands or by secret ballot would take place. Furthermore, the secretariat informed the NPoC that those who were unable to attend the meeting could notify the secretariat who they would vote for.

The day before the meeting, one of the nominations was withdrawn. At the meeting James Drummond was elected unanimously.

It was decided to establish procedures for the election of the Chair, the succession of the executive committee etc. The Chair and the secretariat will draw up proposals, which will be discussed with the Executive Committee and a proposal will be presented for the members at the annual meeting in Fairbanks in 2016.

It was decided to postpone the election of new members of the Executive Committee until the annual meeting in Fairbanks 2016.

The Executive Committee: James Drummond, Canada (Chair) - Hyoungh Chul Shin, Korea - Uwe Nixdorf, Germany - Sergey Priamikov, Russia - Nix Cox, UK (Cynan Ellis-Evans has retired and Nix has temporarily taken over Cynan's tasks) - Kazuyuki Shiraishi, Japan - FARO secretariat, Denmark.

### **5.3 Next FARO meeting**

The next annual FARO meeting will take place during the Arctic Science Summer Week 12-18 March 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA.

### **5.4 Any other business**

None

## **Participants**

### **Members**

Jim Drummond, Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators, Canada  
Renee Crain, National Science Foundation, USA  
Piotr Glowacki, Polish Academy of Science, Poland  
Morten Rasch, Copenhagen University, Denmark  
Lillian Magelund Jensen, Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark  
João Canário, Portuguese Polar Programme, FCT, Portugal  
Hyoungh Chul Shin, Korea Polar Research Institute, Korea  
Dirk Mengedoht, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany  
Uwe Nixdorf, Alfred Wagner Institute, Germany  
Vito Vitale, National Research Council of Italy, Italy  
Jacek Jania, Committee of Polar Research, Poland

Christina A. Pedersen, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway  
Sergey Priamikov, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Russia  
Elaina Ford, British Antarctic Survey, UK  
Kazuyuki Shiraishi, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan  
Ulf Jonsell, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden  
Nix Cox, British Antarctic Survey, UK  
Peter Jordan, University of Groningen, the Netherlands  
Huigen Yang, Polar Research Institute of China, China  
Embla Oddsdóttir, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, Iceland

**Observers/guests**

Wolfgang Schöner, Austrian Polar Research Institute, Austria  
Nicole Biebow, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany  
Jackie Grebmeier, PAG and University of Maryland, USA  
Berztoz Lisowski, Jagiellonian University, Poland  
Kentaro Watanabe, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan  
Atsuma Ohmura. E.T.H. Zurich, Switzerland  
Sara Bowden, IARPC, USA  
Min Pan, Tongji University, China  
Jihoon Jeong, Korea Polar Research Institute, Korea  
Marc Meloche, Canadian Polar commission, Canada  
Carin Ashjian, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA  
Sandy Starkweather, University of Colorado, USA