

Draft

FARO meeting minutes Open session

**ASSW 2006
Potsdam, Germany
March 27, 2006**

1 Opening and reporting session

1.1 Welcome

The FARO chair, Dr. Simon N. Stephenson, welcomed the attendees and briefly outlined the intention of the meeting and suggested a brief round of self introduction.

After this, the Chair gave a brief characterization of FARO as a loosely organised group with the purpose of being a forum of Arctic logistic operators tending to operate at national level.

1.2 Minutes of last year's meeting

The Chair asked for suggested changes to the minutes of last FARO meeting in Kunming, China. The minutes were approved without comments.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. However, it was agreed to discuss general IPY subjects like infrastructure systems under agenda item 2.2 and save the discussion of IPY planning scenarios for the closed session.

1.4 Report from the FARO Chair

The Chair gave a short update on the current activities of FARO. Especially, ICARP II (in the wake of the ICARP II conference) and IPY were mentioned as the overall activities that have been dealt with recently.

Thus the FARO has been primarily working with IPY and ICARP II issues during the last months. Specifically, the secretariat has been engaged in 1) summarizing and quantifying the logistical needs outlined in the various ICARP II working group reports, and 2) collecting information from the FARO membership to inform about logistical capacity relevant for the science topics and project plans. The work has resulted in a FARO working group report on infrastructure needs identified in the reports by other working groups appointed by ICARP II.

Considering the future requirements of FARO, the Chair expressed hope that with the new FARO secretariat located at the Danish Polar Center the organization could play a more active role in the future and especially during the overture of IPY. However, he underlined that an active role of FARO cannot be achieved without good interaction between members, the executive committee and secretariat.

Formerly it has been discussed to make FARO a membership organization. However, last year NSF accepted to fund the secretariat on a three-year basis. Thus the secretariat will start working on a possible model for a future transition into a membership organization.

An update on the ALIAS-website was also given. While it has been used as an information system so far, it should be functioning as a tool for planning and coordination of IPY activities.

Finally the new FARO website was shortly introduced to the audience and everybody was encouraged to comment on it.

2 Main issues

2.1 ICARP II. FARO report – follow up

The Chair informed that the secretariat has reviewed the ICARP II working group papers and extracted the passages concerning infrastructure needs. Afterwards the reviews were sent to the working group chairs with the request to add further logistical requirements if needed. Also the FARO members were asked to outline the logistical capacity in order to try to put the needs and capacity together.

It was discussed that the question of logistics and infrastructure needs had not been addressed very carefully by many of the working groups. That's probably due to the fact that the reports summarize scientific *plans* that have not yet turned into real projects.

Dr. Kristjan Kristjansson, member of the ICARP II steering committee, informed that the final ICARP II report from the conference in Copenhagen will be ready in November. While the ICARP II science reports are available now, the infrastructure report is still underway. He underlined that the ICARP II reports should be seen as science plans that have not yet resulted in projects. However, he expressed the need for a substantial report from FARO on logistic needs based on the ICARP II science plans and themes.

Simon N. Stephenson underlined the importance of getting guidance from the membership on this matter.

It was finally decided to circulate a draft of the FARO report to ICARP II as soon as it has been made. Jørn Thiede and Simon N. Stephenson agreed to take the first steps towards making the report.

2.2 IPY - planning

2.2.1 Arctic ships coordination during IPY

Arctic ships coordination and icebreaker support during IPY (ASCI) was discussed. Dr. Ursula Schauer gave an update on the workshop held Sunday 26 March, as a side meeting to ASSW, on ship coordination during IPY. She presented the ship website www.asci-ipy.de and remarked that it will need a new host and editor in about two years when existing funding runs out. She estimated that it continuously will be necessary with a person with sufficient time to act proactively towards both researchers and logistic planners to keep the website functionally and updated for the benefit of the users.

The website is an "initiative to facilitate optimal use of ships and other platforms to meet the scientific goals for Arctic Ocean studies during the International Polar Year". The website aims to provide detailed information about planned IPY cruises and the state of planning. It also aims to be a forum for discussion of needs and possibilities for groups or individuals to join planned activities.

Simon N. Stephenson said that an extension to the site that shows the ship plan, especially where cruises are known, could be useful. Map information would also be a very good tool.

Stephen Peck from the Canadian Coast Guard informed the meeting participants about the possibilities for researchers to use Canadian icebreakers during IPY. He expressed the need for a forum of icebreaker coordination, not only an informative website. He also said that depiction of IPY activities on a series of charts is a necessary tool to provide a detailed picture of where the ships are when and what projects they are supporting and nature of sampling program. Such a series of charts would provide a synopsis of a "virtual international fleet" which would enable PIs to evaluate where there could be opportunities to better integrate their research through an appreciation of the other projects. Also, in light of the international collaboration inherent in marine research proposals it may be appropriate for FARO to provide some guidelines for eligible elements for cost recovery based on criteria such as: per capita participation (perhaps involving the establishment of daily rates); the nature of the participant(s) contribution to the project's goals.

2.2.2 Other logistics coordination during IPY, e.g. terrestrial sites and air support

The idea of making a general directory on terrestrial sites was discussed. The secretariat can, to some extent, be supportive in making such a directory.

Further, it was decided that a directory of available state owned research air craft should be made. This directory should, among other things, consist of a list of links to relevant aircraft operators.

2.3 CEON

Craig E. Tweedie gave an update on the FARO supported Circumarctic Environmental Observatories Network (CEON).

During the last year, CEON has participated actively in ACIA, ICARP II, SEARCH, IASC, AON and IPY. The number of CEON partners has increased and the development of the web sites (www.ceoninfo.org, www.ceonims.org and www.baidims.org), and especially mapping applications, has continued. CEON has also been supporting IPY projects and participated in the 'IPY Sub Committee on Observation'.

The next three years, CEON will participate in and support ongoing observation efforts. The activities include the establishment of a joint European and North American Science Coordination Office (SCO - Abisko and UTEP) and annual meetings for CEON stakeholders, SCO's and working groups. Also, CEON will be occupied with the development of tools for knowledge dispersion and information, e.g. an email list server, an overarching information portal (CEON-IMS), regional information portals (e.g. BAID-IMS), searchable and peer-reviewed standards and protocols databases, and novel visualization tools to enhance education and outreach.

The many activities, though, put the CEON leadership under time pressure. CEON has been funded for three years by the NSF.

3 Information session

Hartwig Gernandt gave a presentation about the new German research vessel Maria S. Merian. The vessel offers a wide range of equipment and a wide range of laboratories and rooms for scientific work. Accommodation can be offered to 22 scientists and 21 crew members and the scientific load is 150 ton.

Jörn Thiede delivered a status on the "Aurora Borealis" project.

Sergei Priamikov presented the Eurasian Arctic sub office of IPY, including a website www.ipyeaso.aari.ru to help plan activities. The website summarises activities, present themes, disciplines, geographical sites, infrastructure capacity, publications and environmental conditions etc.

4 Closure

The Chair thanked the audience for a constructive participation in the meeting.