



Forum of Arctic Research Operators

FARO Annual Meeting 2016

ASSW 2016 - 12 March 2016, 09:00-17:30

Gruening Building Room: 412

University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

Minutes

1. Opening and reporting session

1.1 Welcome and introduction

The FARO Chair (James Drummond) made a welcome statement and FARO Annual Meeting participants presented themselves.

1.2 Approval of last meetings minutes

Minutes from the FARO Annual Meeting 2015 were approved.

1.3 Adoption of agenda

The FARO Chair informed of the cancellation of Finland' country presentation (the representative was unable to attend due to a last-minute emergency) and the agenda was adopted.

1.4 Report from the Chair

The FARO Chair informed that the past year had been affected by serious illnesses of key staff and hence FARO had not achieved as much as hoped.

- 1.4.1 A MoU has been drafted with INTERACT and the ratification of this was on the agenda later at the meeting.

- 1.4.2 The Arctic Circle conference is different from many other international conferences as it has participation from a broad set of stakeholders: Science community, Decision makers, Indigenous Peoples, Industry, etc.
- 1.4.3 The FARO Chair participated together with Terry Callaghan in the 2nd Tri-lateral Symposium on Arctic and Marine Research Infrastructure in Halifax, Canada on September 24-25, 2015 and led a breakout session on International scientific planning.
- 1.4.4 The tragic loss of Lillian Magelund Jensen (FARO Executive Secretary) after a period of illness greatly affected FARO. Lillian was a powerhouse for FARO and through her long dedicated participation possessed invaluable knowledge of the organization and its activities. Lillian will for this reason and for her always positive attitude be greatly missed in FARO. 1 minute of silence was held to honour Lillian and a letter of condolence to her family was signed by participants.

2. Information from countries

Short news from each country on issues relevant to other members – Each member gave a short presentation of logistical items of relevance to the other members. Please notice that all presentations can be found on the FARO website.

2.1 France:

Yves Frenot, French Polar Institute, informed about the French activities in the Arctic. See Yves Frenot's presentation on the FARO website.

2.2 Norway:

Nalan Koc, Norwegian Polar Institute, informed about the Norwegian activities in the Arctic. See Nalan Koc's presentation on the FARO website.

2.3 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.

2.4 USA:

Renee, National Science Foundation, Crain informed about the US activities in the Arctic. See Renee Crain's presentation on the FARO website.

2.5 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.

2.6 UK:

Henry Burgess, NERC Arctic Office, informed about the UK activities in the Arctic. See Henry Burgess's presentation on the FARO website.

2.7 Italy:

Vito Vitale, National research Council, informed about the Italian activities in the Arctic. See Vito Vitale's presentation on the FARO website.

2.8 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.

2.9 China:

Jianfeng He, Polar Research Institute of China, informed about the Chinese activities in the Arctic. See Jianfeng He's presentation on the FARO website.

2.10 Germany:

Dirk Mengedoth, Alfred Wegener Institute, informed about the German activities in the Arctic. See Dirk Mengedoth's presentation on the FARO website.

2.11 Poland:

Piotr Glowacki, Polish Academy of Science, informed about the Polish activities in the Arctic. See Piotr Glowacki's presentation on the FARO website.

2.12 Sweden:

Håkan Grudd, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, informed about the Swedish activities in the Arctic. See Håkan Grudd's presentation on the FARO website.

2.13 Canada:

James Drummond, Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators, informed about the Canadian activities in the Arctic. See James Drummond's presentation on the FARO website.

2.14 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.

2.15 Portugal:

Joao Canario, University of Lisbon, informed about the Portuguese activities in the Arctic. See Joao Canario's presentation on the FARO website.

2.16 Austria, Czech Republic, Finland and Iceland:

Were unable to participate and hence no presentations were given for these countries.

2.17 Discussion and summary remarks from the FARO Chair

Country presentations show an impressive amount of research including many long term infrastructure initiatives. A general positive trend in the use of terrestrial infrastructures was noted and plans for new ships for Arctic research were presented by several countries. Presentations also showed a great deal of collaboration across countries and sharing of infrastructures, which is one of the key aims of FARO. However, liability was raised as an issue that potentially could limit the open sharing of infrastructure.

3 Other information

3.1 Arctic Circle

James Drummond, Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators, gave an update:

- 3.1.1 James Drummond highlighted the broad set of stakeholders attending the Arctic Circle conference and the potential herein for increasing the visibility of FARO among decision makers, funding agencies, scientists, industry and others.
- 3.1.2 James Drummond suggested that FARO should apply for a session at the upcoming Arctic Circle conference (always held in Reykjavik, Iceland). James suggested that the idea could be developed further by FARO ExCom and noted that the deadline for applying for sessions is 15 May 2016.
- 3.1.3 A brief discussion followed regarding the purpose and costs of having a session at the conference:
 - Purpose: Promote FARO and infrastructures, and show the amount of work and level of cooperation.
 - Target groups: It is important to identify target groups and ensure their participation in the session. It should be seen as an option for strengthening ties to funding agencies, the science community and others.
 - Session elements: About FARO, summary of combined activities, show case examples, etc.. A key question for the session could be “What logistics is needed in the Arctic the coming 20 years?” including the need for sustained financing for ongoing activities and new

developments. Involve existing infrastructure projects representing relevant sectors, e.g. ships, planes, terrestrial stations, buoys, etc.

- Costs are difficult to estimate, but it would surely increase the level of activities and hence costs of the FARO Secretariat. It would also require more input from FARO participants in the period leading up to the conference. Money for travels to ensure participation of key speakers would probably also be needed. The FARO Chair informed that financial resources were available to cover these extra costs.
- The FARO Chair encouraged participants to think more about this and said that the issue will be raised in an upcoming FARO ExCom meeting.

3.2 INTERACT II

Morten Rasch, University of Copenhagen, gave an update. See Morten Rasch's presentation on the FARO website.

3.3 COMNAP

Kazuyuki Shiraishi, National Institute of Polar Research, gave an update. See Kazuyuki Shiraishi's presentation on the FARO website.

3.4 The Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)

Jackie Grebmeier, University of Maryland/PAG, gave an update. See Jackie Grebmeier's presentation on the FARO website.

3.5 Risk Management

Renee Crain, National Science Foundation, gave an update. It was agreed to include Risk Management as an issue on the FARO website. The idea will be developed further by the Risk Management group and the FARO Secretariat and input may be requested from other FARO participants (e.g. publications/field manuals) and other institutions/organisation dealing with risk management (e.g. COMNAP, Arctic Safety Center at UNIS). See Renee Crain's presentation on the FARO website.

3.6 Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS)

Yea Dong Kim, Korea Polar Research Institute, gave an update. See Yea Dong Kim's presentation on the FARO website.

3.7 EU-PolarNet

Dirk Mengedoth, Alfred Wegener Institute, gave an update. See Dirk Mengedoth's presentation on the FARO website.

3.8 MOSAIC

Dirk Mengedoth, Alfred Wegener Institute, gave a presentation. See Dirk Mengedoth's presentation on the FARO website under the German country presentation.

4 Internal Business (open)

4.1 Ratification of MoU with INTERACT

The MoU had been ratified by INTERACT and the FARO members agreed to ratify the MoU. The FARO Chair will ratify the MoU and notify INTERACT.

4.2 Other

It was suggested that the plans for future activities for each FARO country should be presented on the FARO website. The FARO Secretariat would initiate this and ask for input from individual countries (e.g. plans or national logistics planning systems).

FARO Internal Business (closed session)

4.3 The FARO Secretariat and membership fees

- 4.3.1 The FARO Chair informed that the FARO Secretariat could be located in any FARO country. Some member countries stressed the importance of securing stability in the support function and minimize loss of knowledge build up over the years. It was agreed to maintain the FARO secretariat at Aarhus University, but that the issue will be discussed again during upcoming FARO meetings.
- 4.3.2 The FARO Chair presented the financial statement for 2015 showing a surplus of 12.842 \$, partly due to the prolonged illness of key persons in the FARO Secretariat and external funding of the Chairs participation in the FARO annual meeting.
- 4.3.3 The budget for 2016 was presented and discussed. The Chair highlighted that the 2016 budget was based on previous years' budgets and a best guess of costs related to a potential session at the Arctic Circle conference. Assuming membership fees of similar magnitude as 2015, would lead to a small surplus of 1.053 \$ for 2016. Should the costs for the Arctic Circle conference be higher than estimated, the FARO Chair highlighted that the FARO surplus from 2015 would act as a buffer. It was agreed to keep the membership fee at the present level, but discuss this again during future FARO meetings.

4.4 The next FARO meeting

NPOCs agreed that the next meeting will take place at the Arctic Science Summit Week 2017, 31 March – 7 April, in Prague, Czech Republic.

Some members raised concern over the FARO meeting often conflict with other meetings preventing some participant from being present during the full day FARO Annual Meeting. The FARO Chair will keep this in mind when planning the next annual meeting.

4.5 Any other business:

None.

Participants

Members

Dirk Mengedoth, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Elmer Topp-Jørgensen (FARO Secretariat), Aarhus University, Denmark
Håkan Grudd, Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, Sweden
Henry Burgess, NERC Arctic Office, UK
Hyoung Chul Shin, Korea Polar Research Institute, Korea
James Drummond (FARO Chair), Canadian Network of Northern Research Operators, Canada.
Jianfeng He, Polar Research Institute of China, China
Joao Canario, University of Lisbon, Portugal
Kazuyuki Shiraishi, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan
Morten Rasch, University of Copenhagen, Denmark/Greenland
Nalan Koc, Norwegian Polar Institute, Norway
Piotr Glowacki, Polish Academy of Science, Poland
Renee Crain, National Science Foundation, USA
Sergey Priamikov, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Russia
Uwe Nixdorf, Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Vito Vitale, National research Council, Italy
Yves Frenot, French Polar Institute, France

Observers /Guests

Anna Schemper, Polar Field Services, USA
Davis LeBlanc, Polar Knowledge Canada, Canada
Frej S. Dichmann, Ministry of higher Education and Science, Denmark
Ivan Tomskii, Minny Polytechnic Institute, Russia
Jeremy Mathis, NOAA Arctic Program, USA
Jessica Rohde, US Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, USA
Kelly Falknar, National Science Foundation, USA
Laurel McFadden, Polar Field Services, USA
LeeAnn Fishback, Churchill Northern Studies Centre/CNNRO, Canada
Marin Kuizenga, Polar Field Services, USA
Naomi Whitty, Polar Field Services, USA

Tom Quinn, Polar Field Services, USA