



Forum of Arctic Research Operators

FARO Annual Meeting

ASSW, Prague, Czech Republic

1 April 2017, 9:00-17:00

Kepler Room

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 meeting minutes (Fairbanks 2016)

Minutes from the FARO Annual Meeting 2015 were approved.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

1.4 Report from the Chair (James Drummond)

2016 was a year of consolidation following the tragic loss of the long-term FARO Secretary Lillian Magelund Jensen. James outlines the overall purpose of FARO as a platform for information exchange between member states and between external networks and FARO. The FARO Secretariat had a booth at the Arctic Circle conference in Iceland 7-9 October 2016 with the aim of making stakeholders aware of FARO and its activities. The Arctic Circle conference was selected because of its mix of stakeholders spanning across all scientific disciplines, scientific organizations, businesses, authorities, etc.

Over the past year, the FARO ExCom held several teleconferences. It was evident from these meetings that there were a need for clarification and formalization of ExCom member roles, resulting in the agenda items on this matter. James thanked Kuyuki Shiraishi (Japan) and Uwe Nixdorf (Germany) for their significant contributions over the years and encouraged new FARO members to step into the ExCom at the election process later in the day.

James described the FARO Risk Management initiative as a mechanism to share materials developed by individual partners with the FARO community. These materials can be of great value to others working on similar topics.

ICARP III was released in 2016 and discussed in the ExCom. The Excom have been through the document to identify items of relevance to FARO (to be presented later at the meeting).

James informed that 2018 will be the 20th anniversary of FARO. The FARO Secretariat applied for a special session at the POLAR 2018 conference (where ASSW 2018 will be held) to celebrate the anniversary. Unfortunately, the conference was swamped by applications and the FARO proposal was fused with six other proposals. The FARO Secretariat and Excom will work on another event to celebrate FARO.

James thanked all ExCom members and NPOCs for their contributions over the year as we approach 20 years of FARO.

2. Information from member countries

2.1 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.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 Sweden:

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

2.5 USA:

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

2.6 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.

2.7 Poland:

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

2.8 France:

Yves Frenot, French Polar Institute, informed about the French activities in the Arctic. See Yves Frenot'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 Italy:

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

2.11 UK:

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

2.12 Portugal:

Teresa Cabrita, Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, informed about the Portuguese activities in the Arctic. See Teresa Cabrita's presentation on the FARO website.

2.13 Germany:

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

2. 14 Finland:

Paula Kankaanpää, Finnish Environmental Institute, informed about the Finnish activities in the Arctic. See Paula Kankaanpää's presentation on the FARO website.

2.15 Austria, Czech Republic, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Russia:

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

3. Projects and programs of relevance to FARO (10 mins presentations)

3.1 Central Arctic Ocean – Oslo Declaration (Marc Meloche)

Marc Meloche presented information about the Central Arctic Ocean initiative. See presentation and document link on the FARO website.

3.2 INTERACT

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

3.3 Asian Forum of Polar Sciences (AFOPS)

Huigen Yang, Polar Research Institute of China, gave an update. See presentation on the FARO website.

3.4 EU-PolarNet

Nicole Biebow, Alfred Wegener Institute, gave an update. See presentation on the FARO website.

3.5 COMNAP

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

3.6 MOSAIC

Dirk Mengedoth, Alfred Wegener Institute, informed about the Mosaic initiative. See presentation on the FARO website.

3.7 Pacific Arctic group (PAG)

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

3.8 EduArctic

Piotr Glowacki, Polish Academy of Science, informed about the EduArctic initiative. See presentation on the FARO website.

4. Internal business (Open session)

4.1 Update and proposed FARO activities until next annual meeting

a) Upcoming conferences (e.g. Arctic Circle 2017, Polar 2018)

Arctic Circle 2017:

James highlighted the conference as a success for disseminating knowledge about FARO to a wider audience and recommend that FARO attend again in 2017. Encouraged countries to send materials they would like on display in the FARO booth (the FARO Secretariat will send an e-mail with specifications prior to the conference).

Polar 2018 (ASSW2018 and FARO Annual Meeting 2018):

The 2018 ASSW will be held during the Polar2018 conference. The Secretariat will try to avoid conflict with IASC WG meetings when identifying date for FARO annual meeting 2018. As mentioned above, the FARO Secretariat applied for a session that has been pooled with six other initiatives and the Secretariat and ExCom will work on another event to celebrate 20 years of FARO.

b) Communication and outreach (website, newsletter, brochures, papers, etc.)

Posters will be produced for Arctic Circle Conference.

Brochure: The Secretariat will work on a brochure capturing the history and legacy of 20 years of FARO for the Polar2018 conference.

FARO Website will continue to present relevant news received from countries and organizations. Presentations from meetings will be uploaded. Resources from countries will be shared (e.g. Risk management)

Need for new photos for FARO outreach materials, so the FARO Secretariat encourage members to send photos of research infrastructures and people in the field (include name of photographer in file name, so proper credit can be given).

Sharing info on projects and expeditions: Morten Rasch suggested that Isaaffik (a web-based information tool for Arctic research) could be turned into a FARO initiative where all countries can enter information about projects, programs, expeditions, cruises, etc. This will be discussed further in the ExCom and annual meetings.

c) Horizon Scan of ICARP III

James presented items of relevance to FARO from the ICARP III document. Among these were need for coordination of activities, capacity building, calibration, etc. FARO members already deliver on many of these items and it is suggested that FARO try to gather an overview on how FARO member countries respond to ICARP III items and present results at 20 years celebration of FARO at the Polar 2018 conference.

d) Risk Management

Jenifer Mercer presented purpose of the FARO Risk Management initiative, explaining that it should be sharing of existing documents and making these available in an international context.

1. Share updates, information, common practices among Arctic operators
2. Share opportunities for training
3. Use FARO website to share resources and information
 - Manuals, policies, procedures, lessons learned
 - Existing documents, not new ones
 - FARO solicited members last fall, received no responses

Jenifer presented examples of US documents that can go on the website, e.g.:

- Community and Environmental Compliance SOP (CECSOP)
- Incidents and near misses document (for research support staff)
- Safety documents
- Training documents
- Etc.

Jenifer also highlighted examples of common interests (Firearms, Policies/Insurance, Traveling, Camp Safety, Vessel Safety, etc.) and “hot topics” (Sexual harassment, issues of political and social relevance). These are issues that could be discussed further in FARO.

Morten Rasch highlighted challenges in changing a community culture as a central issue when developing new safety procedures. Henry Burgess also encouraged cooperation and sharing of standards and practices as these can challenge cooperation efforts. James and Jenifer commented that young researchers may be inexperienced and in need of guidance, whereas experienced researchers sometimes stick to their habit instead of adhering to new guidelines and recommendations. Dirk Mengedoth explained that there are common rules in Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard (where there are research stations from ca. ten countries). Morten Rasch elaborated that Greenland often looks to the University Center of Svalbard (UNIS) when making new procedures and that INTRACT together with UNIS will

produce a fieldwork preparation guide and practical field guide for research stations. James and Jenifer noted that liability may be an issue if you have standards and that insurance can help solve such issues.

FARO Member countries are encouraged to inform the FARO secretariat about relevant resources to be included in the list currently on the FARO website, allowing other to be inspired by existing work on all these issues.

NPOCs interested in joining the Risk Management Group can participate by contacting the FARO secretariat.

The goal for this year is:

- Publish resources on FARO webpage
- Schedule regular calls, quarterly?
- Out-year goal: identify commonalities and differences, themes

5. Internal business (Closed session)

5.1 The FARO Secretariat (2016 finance report, 2017 budget)

James presented the accounts for 2016 and explained differences in relation to the budget. There was a surplus of 6.409 US\$ taken the FARO Buffer to 19.252 US\$ (considered a reasonable buffer by the FARO Chair).

The suggested FARO budget for 2017 was presented (including keeping the fee at the same level). The budget was approved, but led to a brief discussion on a) membership for countries who cannot pay the fee and b) that it was important to consider and explain why outreach activities targeted a specific conference.

Ad. a) Netherlands indicated prior to the meeting that they could not pay the annual fee and that their operations in the Arctic were very small compared to others. Morten Rasch commented that it would be a pity if the fee kept countries from participating. It was agreed that the ExCom will discuss possibilities for obtaining observer status for a period if a country is not able to pay the annual fee.

Ad. b) Hyoung Chul Shin asked about the purpose of going to the Arctic Circle conference in Iceland and said that it is important that we seek to maximize impacts of outreach activities. An option was to rotate between different key conferences to spread impact. This will be discussed further by the ExCom. Henry Burgess suggested a session on Risk Management at an upcoming conference.

5.2 Presentation and approval of FARO Executive Committee terms and processes

James presented FARO ExCom terms. These were adopted with no changes.

5.3 Election of FARO ExCom member(s) for the period 2018-2021

Kazuyuki Shiraishi (Japan) and Uwe Nixdorf (Germany) stepped out of the ExCom. Jenifer Mercer (US) and Piotr Glowacki (Poland) stepped in.

The FARO Excom 2017 consists of:

James Drummond (Chair)(Chair term ending 2018)

Hyoung Chul Shin (Korea)

Sergey Priamikov (Russia)

Jenifer Mercer (US)(elected 2017)

Piort Glowacki (Poland) (elected 2017)

5.4 Next FARO Annual meeting (Davos, Switzerland, June 2018)(Arkhangelsk, Russia, 2019)

15-18 June 2018, Davis Switzerland, <http://www.polar2018.org/>.

5.5 Any other business

There was a general wish to allow time for more discussions at the FARO Annual meetings. An option could be to release country presentations before the meeting or produce a one page summary for all countries to be shared prior to the meeting. This will allow us to discuss relevant issue in greater detail. It was agreed that the ExCom will discuss this prior to the next annual meeting.

FARO Annual Meeting 2017 Participants

Dirk Mengedoth (Mosaic)

Elmer Topp-Jørgensen (FARO Secretariat)

Frej Sorento Dichman (Denmark)

Henry Burgess (UK)

Huigen Yang (China)

Jackie Grebmeier/Takashi Kikuchi (PAG)

James Drummond (FARO Chair/Canada)

Jennifer Mercer (USA/Risk Management)

Kazuyuki Shiraishi (Japan)

Magnus Augner (Sweden)

Marc Meloche (CAO science cooperation)

Maria Teresa Cruz Mera Vitoriano Cabrita (Portugal)

Morten Rasch (Denmark)

Nicole Biebow (EU-PolarNet)

Piotr Glowacki (Poland)

Simon Stephenson (US)

Uwe Nixdorf (Germany)

Vito Vitale (Italy)

Yong Yu (AFOPS)

Paula Kankaanpää (Finland)

Yves Frenot (France)