



# Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS)



# Introduction

- 19-year old Asian 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.
- 6 Members – CHINA, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, INDIA, MALAYSIA and THAILAND
- Observers: Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Phillipines.

# Members and Observers



# AFoPS Operation

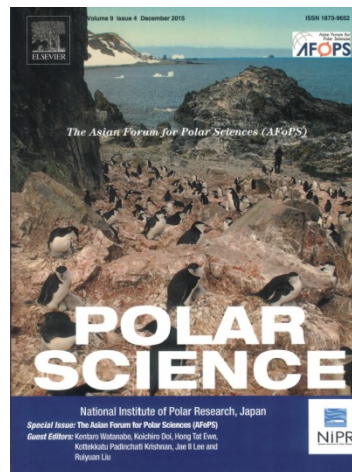
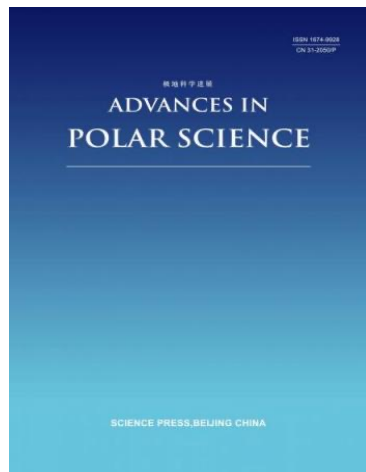
- AGM & Special Meeting(s) as needed
- AFoPS Committee
  - Comprises representatives and coordinators from member countries
  - Decides major issues by consensus
- Country chair and secretariat of AFoPS is on a two-year term.
  - Malaysia (NARC) chaired AFoPS from 2021-2022.
  - Current chair: Thailand

# Major AFoPS Activities

- Research Collaboration
  - Cooperative Project, Bi-Multilateral Project
  - Joint Journal Publication
  - Science Symposium
- Human Exchange
  - Fellowship, Joint Workshop, Training
- Inter-Organizational Cooperation

# Joint Journal Publication

- Published 4 AFoPS Special Issues/Sections
  - *Advances in Polar Science* (Dec 2013)
  - *Polar Science* (Dec 2015)
  - *Current Science* (November 2018)
  - *Environmental Research* (July 2022)



# Capacity Building

- Invitation/Fellowship Programs to facilitate cooperation in research/operation
  - NIPR Invitation Program
  - KOPRI Fellowship Program
  - Also bilateral MoUs between AFoPS members for joint research on research cruises and polar stations
- Joint Workshops and Trainings
  - Overwintering Trainings
  - Antarctic Medical Workshop

# Strengthened Efforts in Inter-Organizational Cooperation

- Submitted reports to greater international polar communities
  - AFoPS Report to ATCM
  - Short Statement for AOS
- MOU with IASC and SCAR for Cooperation in Polar Research
- Joint meeting between AFoPS and the EPB for information sharing on polar research and infrastructure



# Main Activities (2021-2022)

- AFoPS Webinar: Opportunities and Capacity Building
  - Representatives from each AFoPS members, SCAR and IASC
- Polar Research Symposium & AFoPS AGM 2022
  - Forum "*Polar Regions As A Legacy Of Scientific Cooperation*" [AFoPS, SCAR, IASC]
  - Polar Research Symposium
  - AFoPS Annual General Meeting 2022
  - AFoPS – EPB joint meeting for cooperation
  - YPASM 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (medals, awards)



# AFoPS Future Plan

- 20 Years' Achievement
  - Information-sharing scheme and framework for joint work in Asia.
- Strengthen the AFoPS Secretariat.
- Roadmap for the next decade
- Deepen intra Asian and international cooperation on polar research.
- Will create a channel that maximizes regional contribution to the global community in a synergistic way.
- Increase the Asian polar science footprint and visibility.
- Facilitate more Asian countries and scientists to undertake research in the polar regions.
- Promote the importance of the connectivity of polar region to the global ecosystem especially in the Asian region.

# Thank You



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