

SAON Newsletter

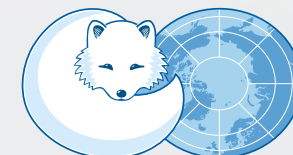
Summer 2017

From the editor

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the summer 2017 newsletter of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON).

We hope this newsletter will keep you informed on the progress of SAON and that it will encourage you to get involved in the work.



ARCTIC COUNCIL

News from the Committees

Arctic Data Committee (ADC)

In autumn 2016 ADC organised the Interoperability Workshop in cooperation with a [series of partners](#). The Committee met in this context and is currently developing its 2017-19 work plan under these heading:

- Mapping the Arctic Data Ecosystem
- Polar data publication and citations
- Definition of Metadata Elements
- Network building
- Explore options to create a polar group under the Research Data Alliance
- Outreach

The Committee is also currently reviewing its Terms of Reference. The chair of SAON is Peter L. Pulsifer. Vice-chairs are Marten Tacoma and Stein Tronstad. The Committee web site: <http://arcticdc.org>.

Committee on Observations and Networks (CON)

This Committee is also currently developing its 2017-19 work plan with these elements:

- Define requirements for inventories of observational assets (programs, projects, platforms and networks), also as a contribution to EU-PolarNet
- Contributing to GEO
- Contribute to INTAROS
- Contribute to WMO Rolling Review of Requirements (RRR)
- Developing best practises for SAON Networks
- Developing best practises for national SAON offices

The Committee is also currently reviewing its Terms of Reference. Co-Chairs of CON are Lisa Loseto and Hannele Savela. More information about the Committee [is found here](#).



Development of an International Arctic Observations Assessment Framework

The Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) is the outreach event of SAON. The summit statement from 2016 called to *“coordinate the implementation of a pan-Arctic observing system with regional and global observing initiatives, and organize efforts in securing resources for its sustained operation through the leadership of the SAON initiative.”*

In January 2017, the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) in Washington and SAON convened a workshop with experts representing 9 countries. The workshop developed a framework, defining 12 Social Benefit Areas providing a common, crosscutting set of international service, operational, and research objectives for the Arctic.¹

Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting - US Arctic Observing Network Office

Science ministers met in September 2016 in Washington DC, USA. The statement from the meeting mentions SAON as a critical contributor to ‘Strengthening and Integrating Arctic Observations and Data Sharing’²

An outcome from the Arctic Science Ministerial Meeting is that as a contribution to SAON, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has opened a U.S. AON Office. It will “foster interagency and international collaboration in the development of Arctic observing and data systems, as well as the delivery of higher-level data and information to the scientific community and policymakers.”³

1 http://www.arcticobserving.org/images/pdf/Board_meetings/2017_Prague/22_SAON_Briefing_Slides_FINAL.pdf

2 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/28/joint-statement-ministers>

3 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/28/fact-sheet-united-states-hosts-first-ever-arctic-science-ministerial>



External review of SAON

An external Committee conducted a review of SAON in 2016. (Click here for the [summary](#) or the [full report](#).) The Committee concluded that SAON was valued by the Arctic observing community, but had yet to reach its full potential. “With refinements to its Vision, Mission and Goals, improvements to its Organizational Structure, a new focus on funding and sustainability, and increased outreach and communication efforts, SAON should be able to make great strides in the next five years to enhance pan-Arctic observing networks to meet the needs of Arctic peoples.”

The review was presented to the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials meeting in October 2016. They noted that “everyone supports the idea of SAON, and that the entity has had a number of successes in its first 5 years. Nonetheless, SAON is evolving, and this review process has delivered some good ideas for potential improvements to SAON, and for ways in which the Council can help it to improve.”

As a response to the review, the SAON Board is currently developing a strategic framework for SAON – see below.

SAON Board

The Board met 7th April in Prague, Czech Republic, with participants from 15 countries, 2 indigenous organisations and 6 organisations/networks. The purpose of the meeting was to review the activities of the Committees and to prepare a response to the external review. The Board will meet 27-28 June 2017 to draft a strategic framework for SAON.

Countries		
Canada	Canadian Polar Commission (CPC)	David J. Scott
China	Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC)	Rubio Lei; Beichen Zhang
Denmark	Ministry of Higher Education and Science	Helle Poulsen
Finland	Finnish Meteorological Institute	Mikko Strahlendorff
France	Laboratoire d'Océanographie et du Climat (LOCEAN), Université Pierre et Marie Curie	Marie-Noëlle Houssais
Germany	Alfred-Wegener-Institut	Nicole Biebow
Iceland	The Icelandic Centre for Research	Thorsteinn Gunnarsson
Italy	Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (ISAC) National Research Council	Vito Vitale
Japan	National Institute of Polar Research	Yuji Kodama
Korea	Arctic Research Center, Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)	Yoo Kyung Lee
Norway	Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø	Birgit Njåstad
Poland	Institute of Oceanology PAS, Physical Oceanography Dept.	Agnieszka Beszczyńska-Möller
Russian Federation	Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute	Igor Ashik
Spain	Instituto Geológico y Minero de España Secretaría General – Jefe Unidad de Informática	Oscar Bermúdez Molina
Sweden	The Swedish Polar Research Secretariat	Ulf Jonsell
United Kingdom	NERC Arctic Office	Henry Burgess
USA	NOAA Arctic Research Program (ARP) Climate Observation Division (COD)	Jeremy Mathis

SAON Board

Arctic Council Permanent Participants		
Aleut International Association (AIA)	http://www.aleut-international.org/	Jim Gamble
Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)	http://www.inuitcircumpolar.com/	Eva Kruemmel
Saami Council	http://www.saamicouncil.net/	Jannie Staffansson

Organisations		
Arctic Portal	arcticportal.org	Halldór Jóhannsson
European Commission (EC)	ec.europa.eu	Attilio Gambardella
European Environment Agency (EEA)	www.eea.europa.eu	Nikolaj Bock
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)	www.earthobservations.org	Dominique Berod
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	www.ices.dk	Adi Kellerman
International Permafrost Association (IPA)	www.ipa-permafrost.org	Karina Schollaen
International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC)	www.arcticchange.org	Peter Schlosser
OSPAR	www.ospar.org	Darius Campbell
Pacific Arctic Group	pag.arcticportal.org	Jackie M. Grebmeier
UNESCO	www.unesco.org	Douglas Nakashima
World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)	www.wmo.int	Etienne Charpentier

SAON Executive

Chair	Christine Daae Olseng	AMAP (The Research Council of Norway)
Vice-Chair	Larry Hinzman	IASC (University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA)
Arctic Council Chairmanship	Mikko Strahlendorff	Finland
Arctic Council Permanent Participant	Eva Kruemmel	Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
Committee Chair	Peter L. Pulsifer	The Earth Institute, Columbia University, USA
Committee Chair	Hannele Savela	Thule Institute, University of Oulu, Finland
Committee Chair	Lisa Loseto	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Secretariat	Allen Pope	IASC Secretariat (ex-officio)
Secretariat	Jan Rene Larsen	SAON Secretariat (ex-officio)

About

SAON is an initiative of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee.

SAON web site: www.arcticobserving.org

SAON is on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sustaining-Arctic-Observing-Networks-SAON-1016390421715264/>

SAON Secretary: Jan Rene Larsen (email jan.rene.larsen@amap.no)