



Announcement First Call for Community Input and White Papers

Arctic Observing Summit 2013

Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, Canada 30 April – 2 May 2013

Aim

The Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) is a high-level, biennial summit that aims to provide community-driven, science-based guidance for the design, implementation, coordination and sustained long-term (decades) operation of an international network of arctic observing systems. The AOS will provide a platform to address urgent and broadly recognized needs of arctic observing across all components of the arctic system, including the human component. It will foster international communication and coordination of long-term observations aimed at improving understanding and responding to system-scale arctic change. The AOS will be an international forum for optimizing resource allocation through coordination and exchange among researchers, funding agencies, and others involved or interested in long-term observing activities, while minimizing duplication and gaps. The AOS is a contribution to the Sustaining Arctic Observing Network (SAON) initiative.

Background

The AOS is led by the International Study of Arctic Change (ISAC). It is a SAON task and part of the broader SAON implementation process, which is led by the Arctic Council jointly with the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the World Meteorological Association (WMO). Organizing partners include the United States interagency Study of Environmental Arctic Change Program (SEARCH), the ArcticNet Network of Centres of Excellence Canada (ArcticNet), the European Union Arctic Climate Change Economy and Society project (ACCESS) and the International Arctic Research Center (IARC). Together these groups engage a wide range of national, institutional and research communities to help organize the AOS.

Participants and Target Audience

The AOS agenda will be based on input from a broad range of stakeholders, including academic and research communities, non-governmental organizations, arctic residents, government agencies, and the private sector. The AOS is an iterative event during which previously prepared draft reports will be refined through discussions, working sessions and panels. The AOS is scheduled to enable the organization of side-events that help advance planning, coordination and integration of activities. AOS products will be prepared for arctic communities, decision-makers in government, the research community, the private sector and the general public.

Engaging with the AOS: Community White Papers

The foundation for the AOS is community input. To capture and integrate input from a broad range of participants the AOS includes preparation, in advance, of community white papers. These white papers are intended to capture community consensus on arctic observing needs, articulate critical issues facing the design, implementation and evolution of an international arctic observing system, and define future directions for its development, including support for implementation, infrastructure and longevity. White papers also provide a mechanism through which stakeholders, beyond the AOS 2013 participants, can shape the 2013 Summit and its outcomes, and guide the focus of future summits. In combination with information obtained through other mechanisms such as a community questionnaire and shorter statements on topics relevant to the AOS, the white papers will focus the work during the AOS itself. Here, the arctic community, including research groups, funding agencies, arctic residents, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, is invited to submit white papers on the AOS 2013 themes, as well as topics they see as relevant to arctic observing systems. The themes for the AOS 2013 are:

1. Status of the current observing system (goals, objectives, capabilities, challenges and sustainability)
2. Observing system design and coordination (including integration of components and implementation)
3. Stakeholder perspectives on observing system design and integration
4. Mechanisms for coordination of support, implementation and operation of a sustained arctic observing system

These themes are necessarily broad so as to ensure diverse perspectives and topical areas are represented. We encourage that the papers bring forward underlying broad questions such as:

1. What can be done to improve the design, implementation, coordination and sustained long-term operation of Arctic observing systems in the focus area of a given white paper?
2. Are Arctic observations relevant to the theme of a given white paper shared optimally today among communities (e.g. between scientists, governments, stakeholders)?
3. Are there specific hindrances to collection or sharing of Arctic observations in focus area of a given white paper (e.g. restrictions due to military strategic reasons, protection of natural resources)?

The community white papers and draft reports will be available for public commentary prior to the AOS. In addition, community members may contribute shorter statements relevant to the AOS themes or other observational matters. The AOS website will include an interactive community questionnaire that is designed to further inform the Summit. If you have questions about potential white paper topics please contact the AOS Organizing Committee members listed on the next page.

