

ARCTIC OBSERVING SUMMIT '13

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

Call for Community Input and White Papers

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. 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 a 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 will also identify observing network issues that require the attention of the Arctic Council's Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (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).

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, including both solicited and unsolicited white papers submitted in advance. These white papers are a means to capture and integrate input from a broad range of participants and, in combination with information obtained through other mechanisms (such as a community questionnaire), will focus the work during the AOS itself. Here, the arctic community, including research groups, funding agencies, arctic residents, NGOs 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
2. Observing system design and coordination
3. Stakeholder perspectives on observing system design and integration
4. Support and funding of SAON

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.

Outcomes and products

The key outcome of the AOS will be an assessment of the fit between stakeholder-needs, science objectives and observing networks. The tangible products produced will include, but will not be restricted to, the following:

1. Succinct policy briefs for the optimization and coordination of existing systems.
2. The definition and operationalization of one or more initiating projects to network two or more observing systems to achieve a common set of science/mission objectives.
3. A collection of one or more peer-reviewed articles related to the AOS themes in special journal edition(s), as well as the publication of summit proceedings.
4. The establishment of long-term AOS goals (e.g. unify data access, distribution and archiving practices, improve international access to the Arctic).

White paper formatting and submission information

White papers: White papers should be approximately 5000 words long, with maximum five figures. White papers should include an executive summary of 200 -300 words. There is no restriction on the number of authors. The working language of the AOS is English. The submission deadline is 10 January 2013. Papers should be submitted electronically to: AOS@arcticchange.org

Statements: Short statements of one page or less, in English, should be submitted electronically to: AOS@arcticchange.org. There is no restriction on number of authors.

Timeline:

December 2012

Activation of AOS website, including questionnaire.

January 2013

White paper submission deadline (10 January 2013).

Review process (target for completion 1 March 2013).

Papers available for public comment on AOS website.

February 2013

White paper review.

Revised white papers on web by 1 March 2013

March – April 2013

Thematic working groups begin development of draft summit reports.

Draft reports available on web site no later than 1 April 2013

For more information please contact:

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International Study of Arctic Change

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