



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON). The newsletter will provide you with information about the progress of the different SAON Projects and forthcoming activities related to Arctic observing.

In this first newsletter, we will introduce SAON and the SAON Board to you, and

also provide you with the latest information on SAON's tasks.

More information is provided on our website [www.arcticobserving.org](http://www.arcticobserving.org).

Via the website you will be able to access further in-depth information about the different SAON Tasks and the work of the SAON Board and Executive Committee.

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, either through the Tasks or through the National SAON Committees.

For more information please contact **Jan René Larsen and Volker Rachold** The SAON Secretariat

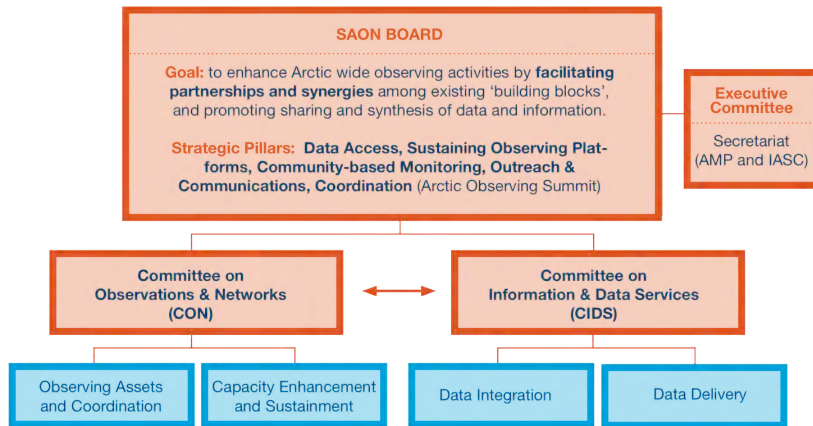
## About SAON

The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) was established following a decision by the Arctic Council at the Ministerial Meeting in Nuuk in 2011. The SAON Vision is that users should have access to free, open and high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and provide societal benefits. To at-

tain that vision, SAON's goal is to enhance Arctic-wide observing activities by facilitating partnerships and synergies among existing 'building blocks', and promoting sharing and synthesis of data and information. To achieve that goal, SAON is a resource for a broad community that includes governments and operational agencies, scientific researchers, indigenous peoples and northern residents, other stakeholders and the

general public.

Tom Armstrong (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)) is the Chairman of the Board, and David Hik (International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)) is the vice-Chairman. The Board of SAON held its first meeting in January 2012 in Tromsø, Norway. AMAP and IASC jointly provide secretariat to the SAON. The implementation plan for SAON can be found [here](#).



**SAON Coordination and Structure:** At its third meeting in Vancouver (Canada) in April 2013, the SAON Board discussed the further development of SAON and agreed to form two committees under SAON: The Committee on Observations and Network (CON) and The Committee on Information and Data Services (CIDS). The minutes from the Vancouver meeting can be found [here](#).

## SAON Tasks

Task Title	Task Lead
IPA workshop on data user requirements definition for permafrost observing GTN-P	International Permafrost Association (IPA)
Polar Metadata Profile and Recommended Vocabularies	John Huck, Canada
Circumpolar Health Observatory	Kue Young, Canada
Role of Remote Sensing in Arctic Monitoring	Yves Crevier, Canada
The Canadian IPY Data Assembly Centre Network: A Case Study	Scott Tomlinson, Canada
Establishing an Arctic network on environmental monitoring of hazardous substances	Ola Glesne, Norway
Polar data and information management principles and practice (workshop)	Simon Wilson, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
Coordination of existing Arctic relevant Meta-databases and Project Directories	Jan René Larsen, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
An International Review of Community-Based Monitoring in the Context of Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks Process (Canada and ICC)	Noor Johnson, USA, Eva Kruemmel, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Canada
Development of Community-Based Monitoring Classification to Improve Standardization of Vocabularies	Victoria Gofman, USA
<b>PEOPLE - ACE</b>	Stephen L. Spehn, USA
Arctic Observing Summit	Craig Lee, USA
Arctic Marine Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (CAFF/CBMP)	Mike Gill, Canada
Arctic Ocean Structure (IPY)	Gleb Panteleev, USA
Expand Historical Climate Analysis to the Pacific Sector of the Arctic	James E. Overland, USA
CBM Inventory (CAFF)	Tom Barry, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
INTERACT (SCANNET) SCANNET is a network of Arctic (terrestrial) observatories, stations and sites. INTERACT is a (time-limited) observing and research program at these stations.	Terry Callaghan, Sweden
International Arctic Systems for Observing the Atmosphere (IASOA): Planning, Partnering and Implementation	Sandy Starkweather, USA
A Research Coordination Network for Very Interdisciplinary Arctic Data and Information	Mark A. Parsons, USA
Contribution to the Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) through the WMO Rolling Review of Requirements	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Arctic Biodiversity Coalition (ABC)	Terry V. Callaghan, Sweden; Mike Gill, Canada
Eye on Earth - Polarwatch (an electronic-Information and Observing Network in the Arctic): Building a Shared Environmental Information Service to support SAON	Nikolaj Bock, Chris Steenmans, European Environment Agency (EEA)
Distributed Biological Observatory	Jackie Grebmeier, USA

SAON is implemented as a series of Tasks that support the SAON goal. The task-based approach allows for countries and partners to engage in work that supports the SAON goal and meets their own needs and priorities, thus making funding and participation from the countries and partners more likely. Updates on a few of SAON's current Tasks are presented below. Future SAON newsletters will highlight more of the ongoing task. More information about the SAON Tasks can be found [here](#).

2014

Arctic  
Science  
Summit  
Week

5-11 April 2014  
Helsinki, Finland  
Second Circular

The Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) is the annual gathering of the international organizations engaged in supporting and facilitating Arctic research. Its purpose is to provide opportunities for international coordination, collaboration and cooperation in all fields of Arctic science. The ASSW 2014 will include business meetings of the participating organizations on 5-8 April and the 2nd Arctic Observing Summit on 9-11 April. The Common Day in the middle of the week will be devoted to the opening of the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III).

Overall, the ASSW 2014 will address the common concern regarding the Arctic environment under the pressure of climate change and global economic demands for natural resources and seek feasible strategies for advanced Arctic Observing Systems to conduct systematic, reliable and cost-effective monitoring of long-term trends and rapid changes.

Contact: [www.assw2014.fi](http://www.assw2014.fi)  
Email: [Kirsti.Kauristie@fmi.fi](mailto:Kirsti.Kauristie@fmi.fi)

The ASSW 2014 is a common effort of:



Registration:

	Regular Before Feb 15	Regular After Feb 15	APECS Before Feb 15	APECS After Feb 15
ASSW Business Meetings	€150	€200	€0	€50
2nd Arctic Observing Summit	€250	€350	€100	€150

(The cost of participation in both meetings is the sum of the individual meeting fees. The fee includes the Icebreaker on April 7. The charge for the conference dinner on April 10 will be €50.)

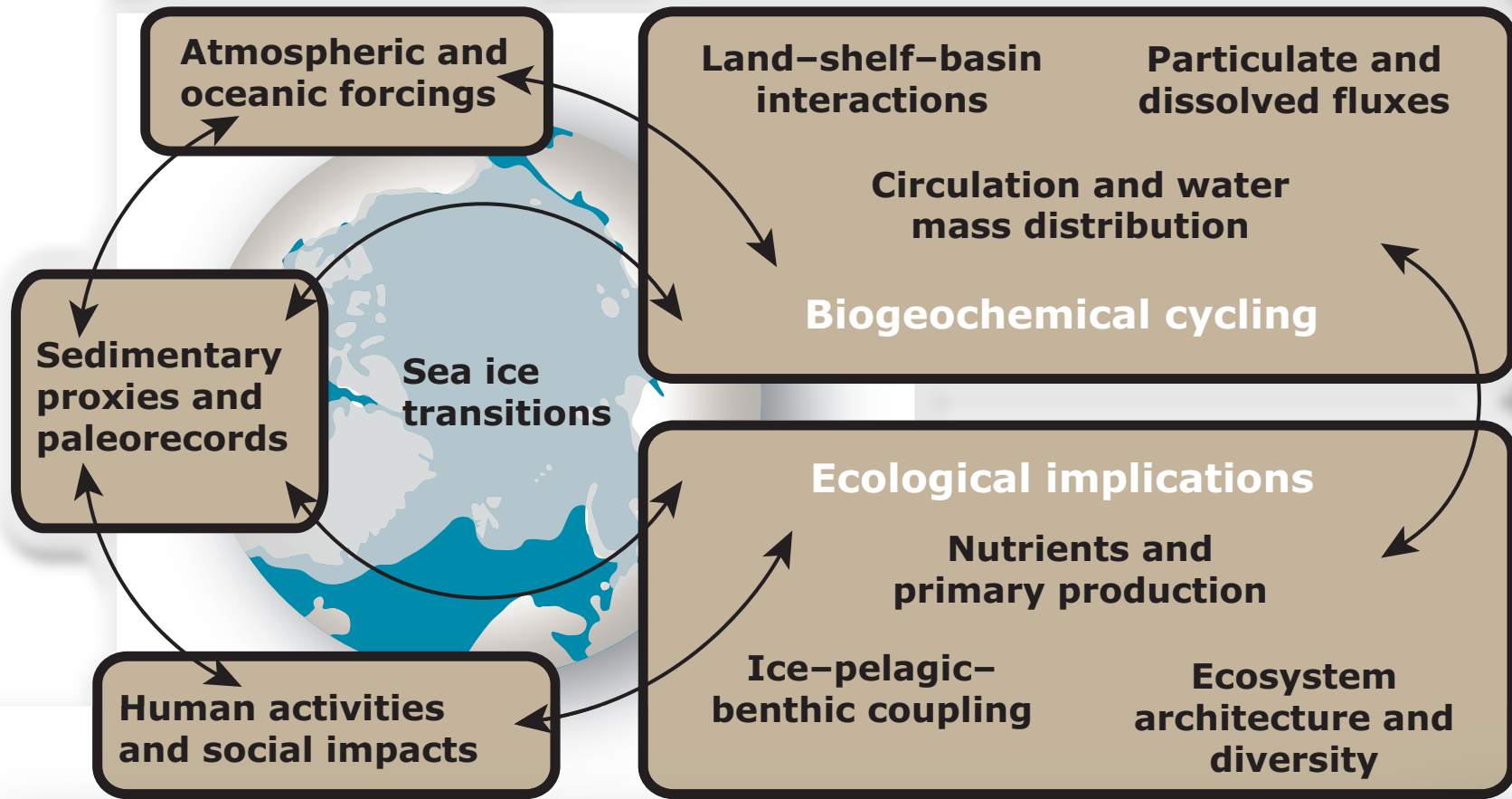
Venue

The ASSW 2014 will be arranged in the facilities of the University of Helsinki and the Finnish Meteorological Institute located on the science campus Kumpula in Helsinki. A high-level panel discussion about future challenges and opportunities in the Arctic will be arranged for stakeholders on Friday (April 11th) in the Great Hall of Helsinki University Main Building.

Local Hosts:



# Scientific framework of ART



Past

Present

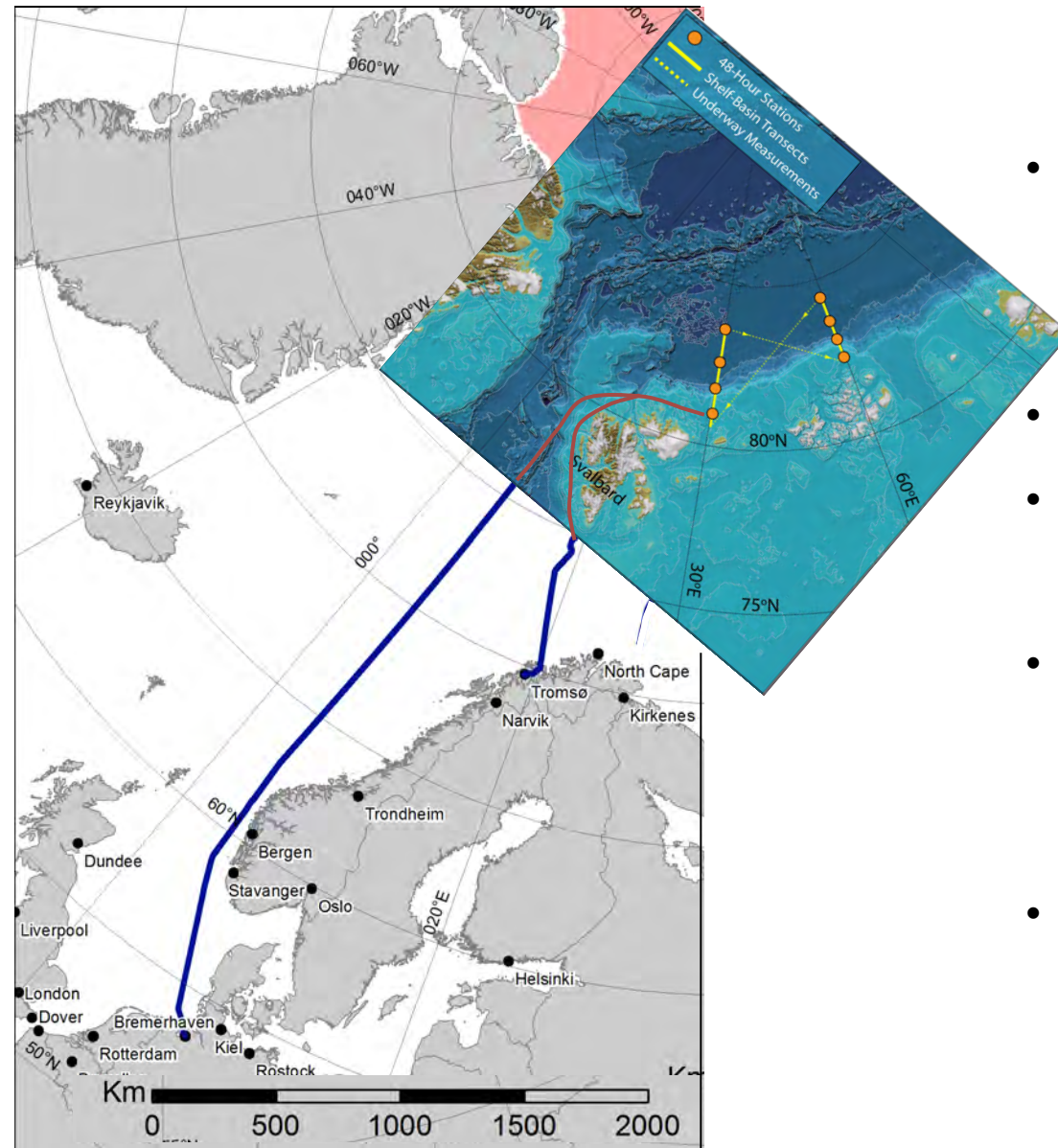
Future



# **POLARSTERN PROPOSAL: TRANSIZ TRANSITIONS IN THE SEASONAL ICE ZONE**

# TRANSSIZ Cruise Outline

- Early spring 2016 (April/May; alternatively 2015 or 2017)
- 13 days of transit from/to port
- 32 days of station time (12 days of transit between stations)
- 2 shelf-basin transects crossing an inflow shelf (eight 48-hours stations, CTDs in-between)
- Research permission for Russian EEZ???



# TRANSSIZ: Link to other initiatives

Applied TransArc II cruise 2015

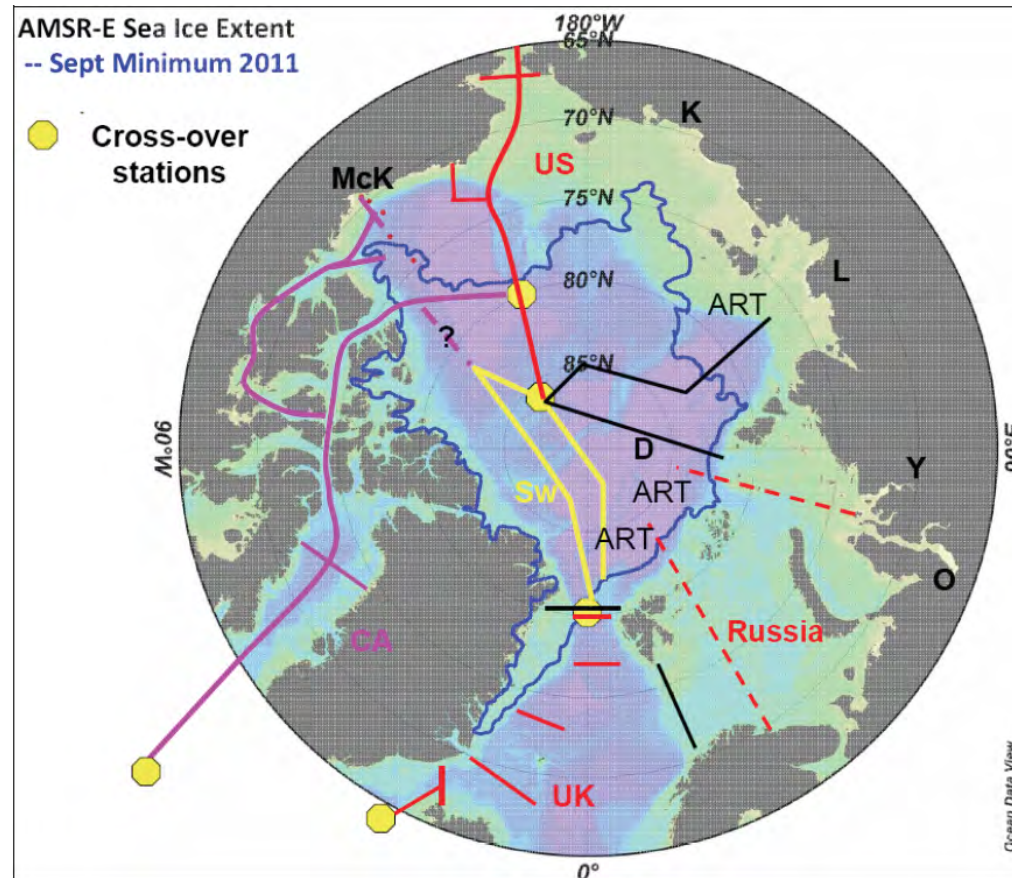
Amundsen cross Arctic cruise 2015

Multinational GEOTRACES programme for 2015 (several platforms)

Proposed winter study LANCE drift

Potential autumn/winter cruise Helmer Hanssen as part of ARCTOS

Proposed overwintering drifting observatory MOSAIC



pan-Arctic GEOTRACES  
research program



## ART - IASC network

- ART cross-cutting application for IASC network (end of January 2013)
- ART approved as IASC network

