

Status of SAON and Legacy of SAON 1, Stockholm

SAON 2 Edmonton,
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Stockholm legacy – user needs

- Workshop acknowledged and solidly confirmed the needs for SAON as a useful and timely initiative.
- Gave excellent coverage of user needs...
- ...as seen from, especially, the scientific community and to some extent local communities, peoples, and Arctic residents.
- National and operational **agencies** were less well covered and **should be a primary focus in SAON 2.**

Stockholm legacy – build on existing agencies

- Widespread acknowledgement that SAON needs to go from words to deeds
- Solid recognition of the need to build on existing agencies, organizations, and other bodies and operational structures to make SAON a working reality.

Stockholm legacy – maintenance and governance

- Planning and operational work should be **wisely coordinated**
- **Efficient** use of resources
- **Secure** accessibility of data
- **Complementing** existing agencies – make the whole more than sum of parts
- **Facilitate** cooperation under a common SAON framework.

1 Atmosphere

- Stakeholders, operational weather forecasters, the research community, and local peoples and residents, **require**:
- More atmospheric observations both regionally and temporally.
- Types of observations vary from conventional weather observations and radio sondes to state-of-the-art remote sensing instruments.

2 Ocean – Sea Ice

2nd SAON Workshop needs to involve :

- Agencies that oversee industrial activities – continued satellite coverage is key, requires high degree of international coordination.
- Space agency representatives; satellites key in specific design of adaptive systems.

General reflexion: cost aspects crucial – how to accommodate costs of observing infrastructure among several nations?

2 Ocean – Sea Ice cont'd

- **Top-down integration** at the level of operational and funding agencies, and other relevant bodies is needed.
- **Stepwise approach:** Simple and robust SAON should be implemented immediately as part of ramp-up to a multi-component, interdisciplinary Arctic observing system.
- **International body required** to coordinate various national programs and ensure compatibility, open access and distribution of data

3 Hydrology/Cryosphere

- Before the 2nd SAON Workshop, group agreed to:
- Finalize assessment of currently existing Arctic observation capacity (CliC Project Office),
- A few experts to review the IGOS report and adding missing information to achieve a pan-arctic perspective

3 Hydrology/Cryosphere cont'd

To better meet user needs:

- Data rescue and coordination (save data from "individualist" scientists...)
- Data center support (expensive, but...?)
- Improve on accuracy and robustness of measurements

4 Terrestrial

- No list of monitoring variables is definitive because **needs change**. However, baseline information needs to be obtained and sustained
- Gaps in information can be determined by using environmental envelopes and geography.
- Current IPY projects fill many gaps but their legacy is uncertain

4 Terrestrial cont'd

Flagship observatories?

- Current flagship observatories and key sites need to be sustained with ensured funding for their networks and collaboration with Arctic residents
- Flagship observatories are a joint international responsibility and cooperation, also in financing. More firm agreements to assure long term funds for the coordination of flagship observatories and key sites, i. e. through the Arctic Council

5 Human Dimensions

3 priority areas:

- A: Access to statistical agency data on a pan-Arctic scale
- B: Implementation of local observation networks
- C: Synthesis and access of special study data, incl. from research

SAON II reminders:

- A: Speak to agencies in each country.
- B: - Involve experts in local observation network development.
- C: - Make meta-data available from IPY projects.

What lies ahead?

- SAON 2.1 St Petersburg: meeting with key Russian agencies on 7 July (b/t/b with SCAR/IASC conference).
- SAON 2.2 Incheon, Korea: meeting with Asian agencies and organizations 23 September (b/t/b with 15th International Symposium on Polar Sciences including representation from China, Japan, Korea and others. See: <http://symposium.kopri.re.kr>).
- SAON 3: Helsinki October 2008: Final report draft.

What is needed for success?

- Strong results and solid commitment from Edmonton – depends on all of you!
- An idea of process – how to use time efficiently between now and October?
- Coordination and leadership – nodal point of a very complex science/agency/communitiy/politics process.

Process – some tentative thoughts

- Agencies have been less than desirably involved – they need to be taken firmly on board.
- How? Through a national and regional iterative process.
- Idea for discussion: National responsibilities carried by IPY committees.
- Consultations with agencies.
- Similar process for local communities.

Coordination

- Results of agency pre-Helsinki consultations must be collected and structured.
- How?
- SAON IG and WOC 3 (Helsinki) to take key role – temporary clearinghouse April-September 2008.
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Assumed result

- SAON IG and WOC 3 well anchored draft report some weeks ahead of SAON 3.
- Post-Helsinki distribution, discussion and vetting.
- Continued role of SAON IG.
- "End of IPY" submission.

Post submission

- April 2009 Arctic Council Minister meeting to decide on SAON plus implementation.
- Decision should be assumed to impact on national budgets for R&D, Northern/Arctic affairs, Environmental protection, weather observation etc.
- Conclusion: SAON report should be tailored to facilitate such a decision including implementation.