

Helsinki Breakout Group d) SAON - Potential Organizational Structure

The SAON Initiating Group (IG) was formed in the beginning of 2007 to develop a set of recommendations on how to achieve long-term, Arctic-wide observing activities that provide free, open and timely access to high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and societal benefits. The method involved a series of three workshops during the IPY: Stockholm, November 2007; Edmonton, April 2008; Helsinki, October 2008.

The overall goal of the current Break-out Group is to reflect on the deliberations of this planning process regarding the organizational structure of a future SAON. This may involve both short-term and the long-term solutions for the coordination of SAON. If we don't succeed to fully develop the long-term solution for SAON, we should aim at developing a plan for a short-term solution, i.e. a one-year continuation of the SAON planning process as a successor of the SAON IG.

Coordination between networks

SAON should be built on existing organizations and programs involved in monitoring and research of Arctic and sub-arctic areas, including a wide definition of networks e.g. environment, health and social-economic sciences, etc. The following table gives an overview of some of the thematic areas and networks that SAON may cover.

Thematic areas	Long term Networks*
Atmospheric/Astrophysical sciences	WMO Networks, IASOA, EMEP, AMAP
Terrestrial	SCANNET, CEON, ITEX, AMAP, IASC , CAFF/CBMP
Freshwater	Arctic HYDRA, IASC
Marine	ICES, PICES, GOOS , IASC, AOSB , FARO AMAP, CAFF/CBMP, IABP,
Cryosphere	IGOS, CALM, GTNP, WCRP/ChC , IPA
Human health	AMAP, AHHI, IUICH, IASC
Social	IASSA , IASC
Economy	ECONOR/ SDWG
Others	IPS , EPB , US-NSF , IPY , ISAC

* For more details, see the Tables in the US-AON report. **IG members are in bold.**

This list of Networks and a list for existing and planned major Arctic platforms/stations, (e.g. Abisko, Zackenberg, Barrow, Ny Ålesund) should be updated at the Helsinki Workshop, including input from the other Break-out Groups.

For the future work it is important for SAON to have a very good coordination between the thematic areas and existing networks. For each thematic area we may choose one coordinating partner. Several options exist, but we need to discuss and see if one network can be chosen, e.g. SCANNET for the Terrestrial. The break-out group is kindly asked to discuss and see if a set of recommended organizations can be prepared.

Coordinating Secretariat

To achieve an efficient coordination between future SAON Networks there will be a need for a sustained Secretariat. The following is a list of possible tasks for the coordinating Secretariat. The break-out group is kindly asked to discuss and adjust/improve the listed tasks.

- to prepare an updated list of all types of operating sites/platforms for research and monitoring, and their main ongoing activities;
- to prepare an updated list of operating Meta-databases, Databases for real raw data and necessary QA/QC, Outreach databases (pending the outcome of the discussion in the data base group this task will be defined);
- to make the above information available on the internet, using the existing website www.arcticobserving.org;
- to establish and operate a close cooperation with all partners, especially the SAON IG Members and the coordinating bodies, to secure flow of important information between the partners;
- to prepare for a yearly meeting of all partners of the future SAON, the work will include the preparation of papers/documents for distribution, preparation of minutes and reports to all partners, etc.;
- to communicate SAON information to other arctic and global organizations and to the public.
- **additional tasks to be added**

Administrative Issues

In order to benefit from existing Arctic structures and be able to influence decisions regarding long-term commitments, it is probably desirable that the coordinating body be, on one side anchored to Arctic governmental bodies responsible for financing stations/platforms and on the other side to Arctic governmental and non-governmental co-operations like the Arctic Council and IASC.

Could SAON make use of the AC/AMAP and IASC Secretariats? By using this combination one could probably achieve a sustained and cost-effective situation regarding the administration of the work, e.g. financial and human resources. This solution can be in operation after the Arctic Council meeting in April 2009, and may serve both a short term solution (in case the SAON planning process needs more time to be finalised) and a long term solution for a SAON Coordinating Secretariat.

Should SAON rather establish a new secretariat? If this is proposed, administration and financial accounting must be added on and will increase the staff by one extra person.

Are there any other options that could fulfil the job in a cost-efficient way?

Both for the short term period, to get things in place and operation and for the long term operation there is a need for resources – human and financial, not only for the central secretariat, but also to secure a cost-efficient operation/coordination with the networks at regional and national levels. The Break-out group is kindly asked to elaborate over this need and how best to secure the work.

Any other issues to be discussed by the Break-out group?

ACRONYMS:

AHHI	Arctic Human Health Initiative
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
AOSB	Arctic Ocean Science Board
Arctic HYDRA	Arctic Hydrological Cycle, IPY project
CAFF/CBMP	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna/Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme
CEON	Circumarctic Environmental Observatories Network
ECONOR/SDWG	Economy of the North, project under the Sustainable Development WG
EMEP	European Monitoring Environment Programme
EPB	European Polar Board
FARO	Forum of Arctic Research Operators
GOOS	Global Ocean Observation System
IABP	International Arctic Buoy Programme
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
IASOA,	International Arctic Systems for Observing the Atmosphere
IASSA	International Arctic Social Science Association
ICES	International Council for Exploration of the Seas
IPA	International Permafrost Association
IPS	Indigenous Peoples Secretariat
IPY	International Polar Year
ISAC	International Study of Arctic Change
ITEX	International Tundra Experiment
IUCH	International Union of Circumpolar Health
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization
SCANNET	Circumarctic Network of Terrestrial Field Bases
US-NSF	US-National Science Foundation
WMO Networks	World Meteorological Organization
IGOS	Integrated Global Observing Strategy
CALM	Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring
GTNP	Global Terrestrial Network - Permafrost
WCRP/CliC	World Climate Research Project /Climate and Cryosphere