2020-2022 GEO Work Programme for ArcticGEOSS

Response from Craig Larlee (clarlee@geosec.org), 2nd May 2019

Dear Jan,

Thank you again for your interest in contributing to the GEO Work Programme.

The Secretariat has reviewed the draft Implementation Plan for Arctic GEOSS. The proposed activities and other elements of the plan appear quite sound and are certainly relevant to GEO. The only aspect of the plan which makes it difficult to accept in its current form is that it appears to represent the strategy and work plan of SAON, that is, of one GEO Participating Organization (PO).

The GEO Work Programme, at its core, is a mechanism for facilitating cooperation between GEO Members and POs on particular topics of common interest. Of course, there are multiple countries and organizations involved in SAON and so, by extension, they are involved in Arctic GEOSS. SAON, within its domain, thus plays a very similar role to that which GEO plays at a global and multi-thematic level. However, it is not clear from the plan how the proposed Arctic GEOSS Community Activity would provide additional value above that already being achieved by SAON alone, including through its involvement in GEO as a PO. Rather, the plan appears to be a re-branding of SAON's work under a new title. This impression may well be incorrect, but the presentation in the document, which refers in many instances to SAON and only rarely to Arctic GEOSS, does little to dispel such an interpretation.

We value SAON as a PO and we do not want to discourage you from your desire to collaborate with GEO. Perhaps a teleconference could be set up to discuss how SAON hopes to benefit from its engagement with GEO and what the various options might be to realize those benefits.

Kind regards,

Craig Larlee

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