

### Fourth Briefing Meeting

14 October 2020

### Questions & Answers

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#### What will be the delegation size for Observers?

We would like to clarify that the term Observers is taken from the Arctic Council context. Within the ASM framework, International Science Organizations have been invited to contribute science projects relating to the ASM themes for including in the ASM3 final report. Due to the limited size of the Ministerial meeting under social distancing requirements, the Organizing Committee is focusing on a smaller Ministerial meeting. Thus, the Ministerial will likely not include Organizations. However, the [ASM3 Webinar Series](#) is designed to provide an open public forum for all ASM3 stakeholders to engage in the ASM3 process leading up to the Ministerial, similar to the opportunities provided by the Science Forum for ASM2. We are also planning to hold a “wrap-up” webinar after the Ministerial takes place in June 2021. Additionally, the Arctic Circle Japan Forum is being planned to for the same timeframe and venue as the Ministerial and could provide some opportunities for larger dialogue on topics related to ASM3.

#### Do you expect the webinars to take a presentation format or be more dialogue-based, with dialogue amongst the participants?

For the most part, the webinars will be a panel format with the emphasis being on sharing information on the science that has been submitted and the resulting actions and examples of projects relating to the themes which best exemplify the themes for ASM3. There may be an opportunity in the two special webinars focused on Gaps and Barriers in International Research and the Indigenous focused webinar for some dialogue. The leaders of those webinars will decide on the best format for those topics.

#### Will the webinars provide reviews of some of the submitted projects or be broader overviews of themes?

We hope the webinar series can offer both. In consultation with the Science Advisory Board who are reviewing the projects submitted to ASM3, we hope to give a broader overview of the themes and highlight a handful of projects which exemplify the spirit of international cooperation throughout the webinar series.

#### Could you say a few more words about the science process? When can we expect the draft? Should we comment on facts only, or broader on the content, by 30 November?

We have experienced some delays in the draft of the Science Summary due to the delay in submitting projects. We hope the Science Summary is ready for review in early 2021. We expect the review process by countries and organizations to be a light touch as this is a summary of the information already submitted. However, we will make it available for ASM3 participants to review for accuracy.

#### When do you now expect the work that we outlined in our deliverables to ‘begin’ Will the idea of the pre-meeting ‘Science Fair’ for ministers take a different form now? And what might it be?

For the Science Fair, we think that many of the objectives of the Science Fair will be achieved through the webinar series. Furthermore, with the uncertainty around the planning process we are focused now on planning a simple Ministerial meeting we are no longer planning for a Science Fair. We anticipate

that further information on the Ministerial schedule and events will be made clear once the program for the Ministerial is released in the coming months.

Regarding the deliverables, work on the deliverables/projects submitted begins when the project starts - the ASM3 process does not set the start date for projects submitted as contributions, this is determined by the submitting entity. In terms of how the delay in the ASM3 process will affect reporting on project updates for ASM4, we don't yet know what those impacts will be since we cannot yet anticipate what the schedule for ASM4 will be.

#### **How are you determining to whom to send invitations to the Ministerial?**

MEXT plans to send the official invitations by email to the established ASM3 email list and send a physical version of the invitation through the diplomatic channels via the embassies in Tokyo. The contact information for invitations to the Ministerial for Indigenous Organizations is being organized by the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat and shared with the ASM3 Organizing Committee.

If any country would like to update their contact information for receiving the official invitations to the Ministerial, they should contact [ml-asm3@mext.go.jp](mailto:ml-asm3@mext.go.jp).

**[It was mentioned in the presentation that] the draft joint statement will be shared with the Indigenous permanent participants (and perhaps other entities, like IASC, IASSA, etc.), for their consideration and review. But who'll be the signatories on the statement? In ASM1 and ASM2, the signers were the representatives of the states (nations) and the EU. Will the Indigenous PPs be asked to sign the joint statement for ASM3?**

It is the role of the Organizing Committee to listen to all perspectives on this matter and welcome feedback and ideas from all ASM3 participants, acknowledging that each ASM so far has incrementally increased opportunities for engagement for Arctic Indigenous Organizations and International Science Organizations. The Organizing Committee is in dialogue with the Arctic Indigenous Organizations engaged in the ASM3 process to understand how the process with the Joint Statement proceeded with ASM1 and ASM2 and what a fair and equitable outcome could be for ASM3.

