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Dr. Ho-Il Yoon, President  
Korea Polar Research Institute  
26, Songdomirae-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, 406-840, Korea

Dr. Hyoung Chul Shin  
Director, Division of Strategy and Cooperation  
Korea Polar Research Institute  
26, Songdomirae-ro, Yeonsu-gu, Incheon, 406-840, Korea

Dear Drs. Yoon and Shin:

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) is a joint initiative of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), established following the 2011 Arctic Council (AC) Nuuk Declaration. SAON's vision is a connected, collaborative, and comprehensive, long-term, pan-Arctic observing system that serves societal needs. SAON facilitates, coordinates, and advocates for international Arctic observations and mobilizes the support needed to sustain them.

Until recently, Norway has supported a SAON secretariat, including a full-time Executive Secretary and funds to support SAON activities. However, this generous support is going to be reduced before the end of 2017.

Recognized by the White House Arctic Science Ministerial's Joint Statement of Ministers for the "critical role" it plays in "the shared development of a science-driven, integrated Arctic-observing system", SAON needs funding support to work to achieve its mission and vision, through the central work of its secretariat, its core activities, and key projects. SAON is in the process of finalizing a strategic framework which defines its priorities and goals for the coming years.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

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As SAON and KOPRI share common goals related to understanding Arctic Climate Dynamics and Environmental Protection and Sustainability and we would like you to consider if there could be ways in which Korea may be able to help (financially, materially, or through partnership) SAON achieve its vision for the Arctic. We would welcome a call to discuss such a possibility.

Thank your for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Þorsteinn Gunnarsson  
SAON Chair



Larry Hinzman  
SAON Vice-Chair

Cc: Dr. Yoo Kyung Lee  
Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)