

## Funding and Mission Agency Breakout - Stimulants to discussion at SAON-2

There are approximately 36 approved and (partially) funded IPY projects that propose to establish some type of observing capability. There are also many existing (funded) observational activities and networks in the Arctic. These existing activities fall into two main groups: 1) “operational” activities conducted or supported by a government agency to achieve a defined purpose; and 2) proposal- or mission-driven projects of limited duration designed to increase understanding or achieve scientific or technologic innovation.

A key question to be answered by the SAON process is “How can existing observing activities be better integrated and organized to achieve a sustained set of Arctic Observing Networks that provide information of value to society?”

In this breakout session, we will explore possible answers to this question. Some approaches that have already been suggested include:

1. Identify the existing networks, including their purpose, method of operation, and key contact person(s).
2. Create some formal or informal means of fostering communication and eventually coordinated action among related networks. Such means could be:
  - a. Establish a coordinating body through governmental or non-governmental action, perhaps through:
    - i. signed MOU between governments (Ministerial or higher level)
    - ii. sub-activity of Arctic Council
    - iii. establishment of a formal organization under an international body such as the WMO or IOC
    - iv. voluntary association of observationalists, with common group vision
    - v. other options?
  - b. Consider the need for a Secretariat function. This implies the need for financial support, which could be justified if the Secretariat provides a value-added service to the network(s) it serves.
  - c. Consider the value of establishing a common “gateway” to data from the network(s)
3. Consider establishment of a forum or other arrangement among government agencies on an international basis to review current activities and plans, and seek means of more coordinated approaches to funding, spatial and temporal distribution of effort, support of observing platforms, and other related issues.

Breakout group participants will be invited to suggest refinements to the above and/or other approaches to achieving sustained Arctic Observing Networks. The final outcome of the SAON process is to be a set of recommendations on how to proceed, and the views expressed in this breakout session will be strongly considered in the formulation of relevant recommendations.