Status of SAON and Legacy of SAON 1, Stockholm
SAON 2 Edmonton, Alberta, 9 April 2008
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Stockholm legacy – user needs

- Workshop acknowledged and solidly confirmed the needs for SAON as a useful and timely initiative.
- Gave excellent coverage of user needs…
- …as seen from, especially, the scientific community and to some extent local communities, peoples, and Arctic residents.
- National and operational agencies were less well covered and should be a primary focus in SAON 2.
Stockholm legacy – build on existing agencies

- Widespread acknowledgement that SAON needs to go from words to deeds
- Solid recognition of the need to build on existing agencies, organizations, and other bodies and operational structures to make SAON a working reality.

Stockholm legacy – maintenance and governance

- Planning and operational work should be **wisely coordinated**
- **Efficient** use of resources
- **Secure** accessibility of data
- **Complementing** existing agencies – make the whole more than sum of parts
- **Facilitate** cooperation under a common SAON framework.
1 Atmosphere

- Stakeholders, operational weather forecasters, the research community, and local peoples and residents, require:
- More atmospheric observations both regionally and temporally.
- Types of observations vary from conventional weather observations and radio sondes to state-of-the-art remote sensing instruments.

2 Ocean – Sea Ice

2nd SAON Workshop needs to involve:
- Agencies that oversee industrial activities – continued satellite coverage is key, requires high degree of international coordination.
- Space agency representatives; satellites key in specific design of adaptive systems.

General reflexion: cost aspects crucial – how to accommodate costs of observing infrastructure among several nations?
2 Ocean – Sea Ice cont’d

- **Top-down integration** at the level of operational and funding agencies, and other relevant bodies is needed.
- **Stepwise approach**: Simple and robust SAON should be implemented immediately as part of ramp-up to a multi-component, interdisciplinary Arctic observing system.
- **International body required** to coordinate various national programs and ensure compatibility, open access and distribution of data.

3 Hydrology/Cryosphere

- Before the 2nd SAON Workshop, group agreed to:
- Finalize assessment of currently existing Arctic observation capacity ( CliC Project Office ),
- A few experts to review the IGOS report and adding missing information to achieve a pan-arctic perspective.
3 Hydrology/Cryosphere cont’d

To better meet user needs:

- Data rescue and coordination (save data from "individualist" scientists…)
- Data center support (expensive, but…?)
- Improve on accuracy and robustness of measurements

4 Terrestrial

- No list of monitoring variables is definitive because needs change. However, baseline information needs to be obtained and sustained
- Gaps in information can be determined by using environmental envelopes and geography.
- Current IPY projects fill many gaps but their legacy is uncertain
4 Terrestrial cont’d

Flagship observatories?

- Current flagship observatories and key sites need to be sustained with ensured funding for their networks and collaboration with Arctic residents.
- Flagship observatories are a joint international responsibility and cooperation, also in financing. More firm agreements to assure long term funds for the coordination of flagship observatories and key sites, i.e. through the Arctic Council.

5 Human Dimensions

3 priority areas:

- A: Access to statistical agency data on a pan-Arctic scale
- B: Implementation of local observation networks
- C: Synthesis and access of special study data, incl. from research

SAON II reminders:

- A: Speak to agencies in each country.
- B: Involve experts in local observation network development.
- C: Make meta-data available from IPY projects.
What lies ahead?

- SAON 2.1 St Petersburg: meeting with key Russian agencies on 7 July (b/t/b with SCAR/IASC conference).
- SAON 2.2 Incheon, Korea: meeting with Asian agencies and organizations 23 September (b/t/b with 15th International Symposium on Polar Sciences including representation from China, Japan, Korea and others. See: http://symposium.kopri.re.kr.

What is needed for success?

- Strong results and solid commitment from Edmonton – depends on all of you!
- An idea of process – how to use time efficiently between now and October?
- Coordination and leadership – nodal point of a very complex science/agency/community/politics process.
Process – some tentative thoughts

- Agencies have been less than desirably involved – they need to be taken firmly on board.
- How? Through a national and regional iterative process.
- Idea for discussion: National responsibilities carried by IPY committees.
- Consultations with agencies.
- Similar process for local communities.

Coordination

- Results of agency pre-Helsinki consultations must be collected and structured.
- How?
- SAON IG and WOC 3 (Helsinki) to take key role – temporary clearinghouse April-September 2008.
Assumed result

- SAON IG and WOC 3 well anchored draft report some weeks ahead of SAON 3.
- Post-Helsinki distribution, discussion and vetting.
- Continued role of SAON IG.
- "End of IPY" submission.

Post submission

- April 2009 Arctic Council Minister meeting to decide on SAON plus implementation.
- Decision should be assumed to impact on national budgets for R&D, Northern/Arctic affairs, Environmental protection, weather observation etc.
- Conclusion: SAON report should be tailored to facilitate such a decision including implementation.