

Coordination and Funding Breakout Group

Conclusions from Discussions

Conclusion #1

- No objection to AC/IASC assuming responsibility for continuation of the SAON process for the near-term by establishment of a joint “SAON Secretariat”; be alert to possibility of adding additional capacity if justified. Inclusion of the “PPs” is a strong reason for AC involvement. The continued role of AC/IASC can be re-evaluated as needed. For the near-term, establishment of a “new” secretariat is not recommended.
 - functions of a Secretariat must include formation of a mechanism to engage all stakeholders into the SAON process, specifically including interested non-Arctic countries
 - the AC should consider how to engage all relevant national agencies, not only the traditional foreign and environmental agencies
 - coordination with WMO must be a part of the responsibility of the SAON Secretariat

Conclusion #2

- The main purpose of SAON is to serve society, through a value-added approach to Arctic observations. All that SAON does should be focused on this objective.
 - A primary task of SAON is to enhance observations, facilitate sharing of resources, and consider common interests and challenges.
 - Integration and coordination are ways to provide value. For example, integrated data analysis is important to answer questions of scientific and public interest.
 - Data sharing is important, but needs to be based on defined data types that can be approved by governments, not blanket statements about all data

Conclusion #3

- A main user of SAON will be government agencies and governments should be expected to cover most of the costs. But governments will expect adequate advance work before making funding commitments.
 - Activities having strong scientific basis, supported by expert groups
 - Preparing new science plans shouldn't be needed; take advantage of existing ones
 - Implementation plan should be available, supported by business plan
 - Existence of an intergovernmental statement of principles or intent; cooperation agreement among agencies

Conclusion #4

- Implementing “SAON” will be harder than proposing it. Governments, science community, and all stakeholders will have to be convinced that it is worth the added cost and effort.
 - keep the focus on societal benefit
 - begin with a sharp focus and limited expectations
 - identify possibilities for early success and implement projects that can demonstrate success within a 12-24 month timeframe
 - **early projects** should be selected based on defined criteria
 - based on the strongest existing activities
 - involve several countries
 - provide observations of good scientific quality that provide specific societal benefit
 - have high national priority so as to improve chances for support
 - have realistic costs

- Possible **early projects** include:
 - evaluation of IPY observation projects to determine which are so important that they should continue
 - conduct a “gap” analysis to determine critical observing activities that are lacking or inadequate
 - add a “networking” and integrated analysis component to existing activities that are ready to proceed to this stage (consider at least one in each of the major observing areas, i.e., atmosphere, marine, terrestrial, socio-economic (ensure that there is appropriate attention to Indigenous People’s needs))
 - demonstration of the value of the “data portal”; perhaps with emphasis on high level products with the ability to drill down to actual data

- Determination of **early projects** should be based on a formal and open process
 - Broad call for nominations of possible early projects
 - Review of nominations based on established criteria
 - Recommendations to governments for funding consideration, but with recognition that governments will use their own priorities and processes to determine what to do