State of the Arctic Conference

16–19 March 2010
Miami, Florida, USA
soa.arcus.org

Summary Report & Data
Conference Goal & Focus

• **Main Conference Goal:** Review our understanding of the arctic system in a time of rapid environmental and socio-economic change.

• **Four Major Science Themes:**
  1. Advances in arctic system understanding
  2. Arctic change
  3. Linkages to the Earth system
  4. Translating research into solutions
Structure

• 4-day conference: 3 days for main program and 1 day focused on “International Collaboration”

• Main Program
  – 18 plenary talks plus panel
  – 18 interdisciplinary parallel sessions with 160 talks
  – 2 poster sessions with 220 posters

• International Day
  – 21 international program talks plus panel
**Attendance**

- 448 Participants (with ≈200 additional joining via webcast)
- 16 Countries Represented; 25% Non-US

**Participations By Country**
- USA (337)
- Canada (53)
- Norway (15)
- Russia (9)
- Sweden (6)
- France (5)
- UK (4)
- Denmark (4)
- Germany (3)
- Japan (3)
- Finland (3)
- Austria (2)
- China (1)
- Greenland (1)
- Switzerland (1)

**By Organization Type**
- Universities/Research Institutions (265)
- Government (118)
- NGO’s (38)
- Business (14)
- K-12 (9)
- Other Arctic or Native Organizations (4)
Student Participation

- 64 Students Total (Defined as undergraduates, graduate students, or those who graduated within the past year)
- 26 Supported (in whole or part) by student scholarship funds from NOAA, AOSB/IASC, and CRREL
- Activities Included:
  - Student Room
  - Pre-Conference Networking Webinar
  - Meet and Greet Breakfast
  - Conversations with Scientists Luncheon
  - Mentoring Program (36 Mentor Volunteers)
  - “Effectively Communicating Climate Change” Workshop
Sponsorship

• Major Funding from National Science Foundation Division of Arctic Sciences

• 15 Total Sponsors & Partners (the majority of additional sponsor funding went to student scholarships)
Press

- Covered by several print, radio, TV, and Internet media
  - “Five Feet of Seawater to Flood Florida’s Coastline Over the Next 100 Years, Scientists Warn”, The Palm Beach Post
  - 5 Interviews on National Public Radio Affiliates and Radio News Stations
  - 2 T.V. spots on NBC affiliates
  - Internet Coverage: NBC online, others
Participant Evaluation

- 31% Response Rate
- 78% rate conference 4 or 5 (out of 5) for "offering opportunities for presenting and sharing arctic science in an interdisciplinary manner”
- 83% rate conference 4 or 5 for "meeting expectations for providing a means to network with colleagues both formally and informally”
- 76% rate conference plenary sessions 4 or 5 for quality and variety
- 81% rate conference web site 4 or 5 for quality and satisfaction
Sample of Participant Comments

• In the past 9 months as director, Navy Task Force on Climate Change, I've attended dozens of climate and arctic-related conferences. This conference had the combination of the highest participant energy, quality of research and breadth of participation I have seen. Outstanding conference -- it was a joy to speak at. Thank you!

• I have never attended such a well run and organized event...I can honestly say that this conference was amongst the best experiences of my young academic career

• This was a huge hit and in recent days I’ve had several discussions, comments from students and also emails highlighting how badly we needed this and what a great job was done by all

• Flawless operation at the meeting

• The entire conference was well-planned and executed, something the entire community has grown accustomed to with ARCUS! this conference reinforced and highlighted the importance of integrated, inter-disciplinary Arctic research

• The meeting in Miami was great and I am so glad I was able to attend - learned alot and made good contacts...

• This venue featured a great lineup of plenary speakers and a truly interdisciplinary focus - live streaming added value, reach, and impact. Congratulations and thanks!

• Congratulations again on a job well done- last week was really, really fabulous!!!
Critiques

• More natural science/ecology and social science
• More arctic peoples / indigenous representation
• More time for posters
• Higher international participation a challenge, especially with competing meetings and declining travel budgets
• Too much cheese 😊
Take-Home Points

From Peter Schlosser and Hajo Eicken, Organizing Committee Members

• Acceptance that *anthropogenic change* is overprinted on natural variability

• Arctic system science is being conducted in the context of a *changing Arctic* and, where appropriate, in the context of global change

• Arctic science community is increasingly *interdisciplinary* and framing their research around topics and themes rather than traditional disciplines

• *Societal need and solution-oriented research* is becoming central for new research programs in the Arctic

• Community now exploring questions on adaptation to and mitigation of arctic change in *innovative ways that may lead the way for other regions* (because of strong partnerships with indigenous organizations, government and non-government entities, and the private sector)

• The *need for stakeholder involvement* into the early phases of the design of research programs is becoming more apparent and accepted

• Opportunities and challenges to switch to *new research modes* that would allow multi-domain system-scale observations of the arctic system simultaneously with interpretation of new data streams and synthesis/modeling
Expected Products

Target for Completion: Fall 2010

1. Conference statement/resolution
2. Conference summary
3. EOS article on conference outcomes
4. Policy paper (to peer-reviewed journal)
5. Synthesis paper (to peer-reviewed journal)
6. Special volumes from parallel sessions (to be determined by session chairs)
7. Variety of archival materials: plenary and parallel session presentations, presentation and poster abstracts, digital copies of posters, video of plenary talks, final attendee list, photos
Thank You to the SoA Sponsors and Participants!