



State of the Arctic Conference

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

Summary Report & Data

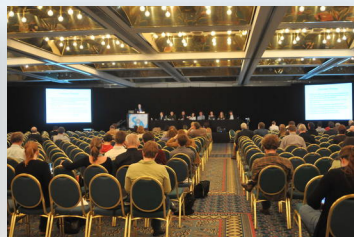
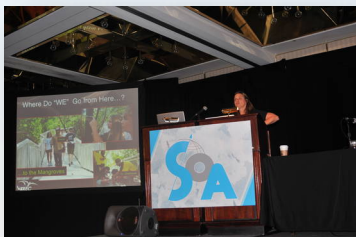


Conference Goal & Focus

- **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

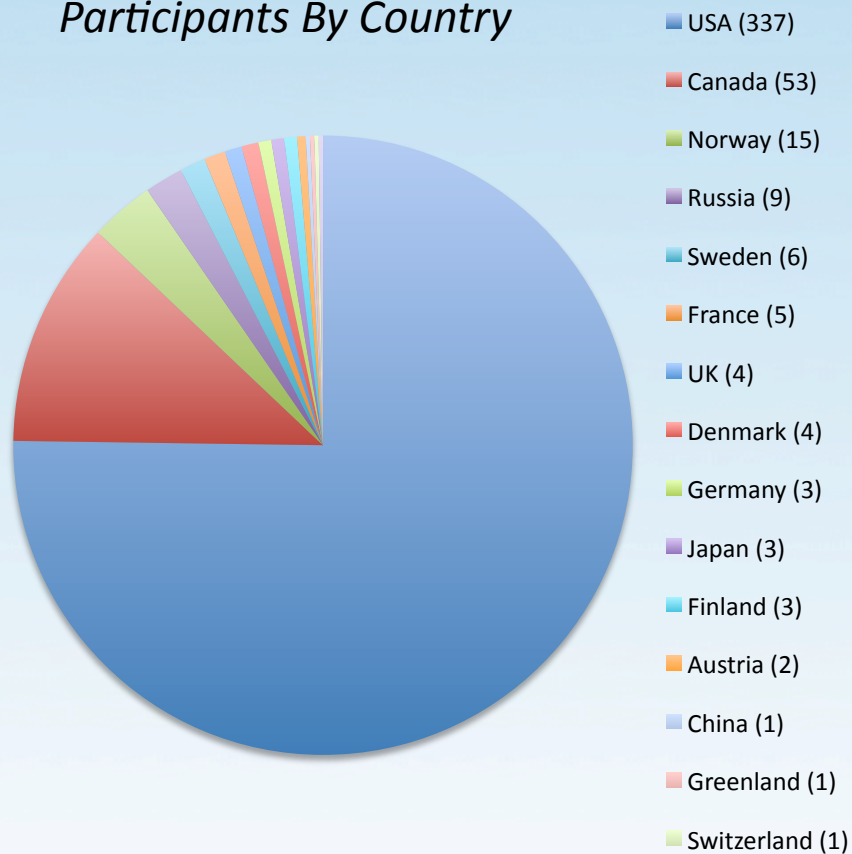
- 4-day conference: 3 days for main program and 1 day focused on “International Collaboration”
- Main Program
 - 18 plenary talks plus panel
 - 18 interdisciplinary parallel sessions with 160 talks
 - 2 poster sessions with 220 posters
- International Day
 - 21 international program talks plus panel



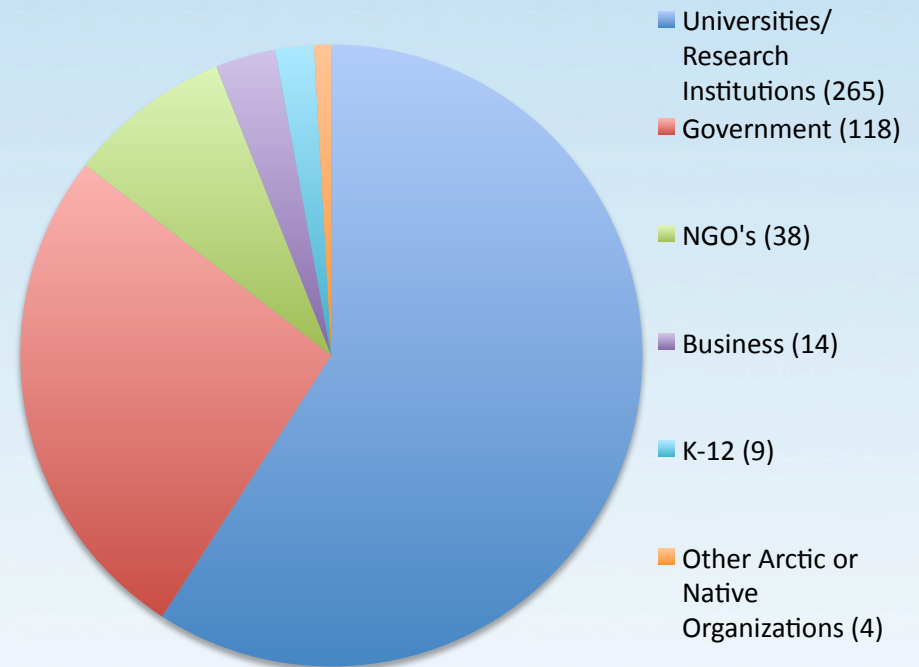
Attendance

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

Participants By Country



By Organization Type



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)

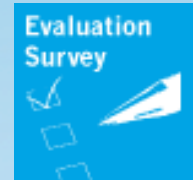


Press

- 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

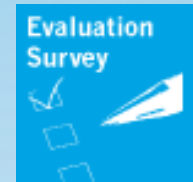


Participant Evaluation



- 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!**

