

## Third Briefing Meeting

24 June 2020

## Questions & Answers

---

### PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS:

#### Reporting from countries/organizations

##### Note How do you plan to use updates on ASM2 projects and new project proposals for ASM3?

We are building ASM legacy data, tracking projects and updates and thus creating the foundation for an ASM database to make projects and cooperation opportunities easily accessible and searchable. New projects set in motion new actions and reveal next steps for cooperation opportunities for future Arctic Science Ministerials.

##### The Request for Information process is taking us longer than expected, can we have an extension?

Yes, the organizing committee has decided to offer a 1-month extension for countries and organizations to submit their Request for Information packages. **The new deadline is 31 July 2020.** Please understand that our intention is to build the science feedback from countries, organizations and the broader research community into the Science Summary and Joint Statement in order to lay a scientific foundation from beginning for the ASM3 final products. Thus, with delays in the feedback process we experience the ripple effect of delays across the ASM science process. Please send in your Request for Information package as soon as it is ready. We are learning from the advice of the ASM2 organizers that delays in receiving feedback from countries and organizations has a significant impact on the ASM process.

##### What measures is the ASM3 organizing committee taking to ensure that Indigenous stakeholders, especially up-and-coming leaders and representatives, can participate in ASM3, either virtually or in-person?

The consultation process with Arctic Indigenous Organizations on ASM3 began in June 2019 in coordination with the first SAO meeting for the Arctic Council in Iceland. The organizing committee is grateful to have had consistent communication with the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat to help the ASM3 organizers connect both in-person and via email with the Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Organizations. Membership of our Science Advisory Board includes an Indigenous Arctic Knowledge Holder Representative, Liza Mack, and an Indigenous Science representative, Eva Kruemmel. All Arctic Indigenous Organizations received a similar Request for Information Package to submit and reflect on their own research agenda and goals which will be integrated into the Science Summary and used to inform the Joint Statement. Participation in the 15 June Workshop was designed for feedback from individuals engaged in Arctic research and education with input very much encouraged from Arctic Indigenous people as individuals to provide an opportunity for direct input into the ASM3 science process outside of the formal channels of the Request for Information Package. For this reason, we also provided the online survey for all who could not access the meeting because of timing or accessibility issues. This was a good start, but this model could be further improved in future. Japan has created a budget for Indigenous Peoples' Organizations representatives to participate in ASM3 in-person. In the

event of a virtual meeting, the organizers will work with these representatives to design what support is needed for a virtual meeting because their participation in this discussion is crucial. The organizers are also very receptive and open to engaging in further dialogue with the Arctic Indigenous community to develop their chosen participation and input into the ASM process for ASM3 and to make recommendations for future Indigenous engagement in the ASM process.

### **Are any steps being taken to integrate Early Career Researchers into the ASM3 process more than has been done in the past?**

Yes. We have requested that each project update and proposal submitted by countries and organizers describes the diversity of project which includes but is not limited to the involvement of early career researchers, gender diversity, indigenous involvement, etc. We hope to use this material to start tracking the involvement of early career research and other components of the diversity reflected in Arctic research.

The intention of our science process and online Research Community Workshops was to provide a direct link for those in the wider Arctic research community to submit their ideas and feedback to the ASM3 science process. In these workshops we were pleased to see strong engagement by early career researchers as well as input to the online survey which accompanied the workshop for those who couldn't participate in-person.

Additional Note: The ASM3 Organizing Committee values the input of early career researchers and as such included APECS in the Science Advisory Board along with the other major Arctic research organizations. This provides the high-level opportunity for early career researcher input directly into the science process.

### **Joint Statement/Science Summary**

#### **What is the process for the Science Summary? Will countries have the opportunity to comment before it is final?**

The Science Summary will be compiled and organized by Jenny Baeseman who also worked as the consultant on this part of the project for ASM2, so she comes to this work with a very deep understanding of the content. Jenny and the Organizing Committee will work with the Science Advisory Board to complete the Science Summary. Countries and Organizations will be given an opportunity to see the report before it is finalized to check for any inaccuracies (but not for large changes or revisions).

#### **Will the SAB report be a standalone document or feed into the overall ASM3 report and/or the Joint Ministerial Statement?**

The design will be similar to ASM2 with a Science Summary as a standalone report which will be included in the final ASM3 report along with the Joint Statement.

#### **What is the process for finalization of the Joint Ministerial Statement?**

We plan to do two rounds of revisions with countries on draft versions of the Joint Statement. As discussed in the Briefing Meeting, we would like to receive all the Request for Information packages in order to fully inform the Science Summary and Joint Statement from the beginning. So, the earlier we receive that information, the better. You can also refer to the timeline for the Science Summary and Joint Statement presented earlier in the Briefing Meeting.

#### **Would it be possible to look forward to a possible timeline for the preparation of the Joint Statement?**

The timeline was shared in the Briefing Meeting and will be sent out via PDF to all participants afterwards.

## Science Fair

### What is the draft agenda for the Science Fair?

We will share the draft agenda for the Science Fair in the announcement for ASM3 which should be sent out by the end of summer.

### What advance preparation do countries need for planning for the science fair?

As we will use each country's Arctic Research Overview to print out and make visible for the Science Fair, you are already doing your prep work. Further instructions on preparation for the Science Fair will be shared after the Request for Information packages have been received by the Organizing Committee.

### Can my organization participate in a session like we did at the ASM2 Science Forum?

For ASM3 we took the idea of the Science Forum and integrated it into the international science meetings ISAR-6, ASSW, AOS and ICASS-X happening in 2020 with the intention of gathering the science feedback and discussion from the wider Arctic research community early in the process to integrate their feedback into the Ministerial meeting. Although these meetings have changed in format, the feedback was successfully gathered and the input from these meetings will supplant the form of the Science Forum from ASM2. So, there will not be a similar opportunity for ASM3 in Tokyo. However, as announced by the Arctic Circle Secretariat, Arctic Circle Japan Forum will be held simultaneously with ASM3, which may provide the opportunity for further discussion on ASM3 related topics around the Ministerial meeting.

## Arctic Funders Forum

### Would it be an option to explore synchronous timing of a (high level) meeting of the Arctic Funders Forum in anticipation of the ASM3?

We are planning the next meeting of the Arctic Funders Forum to happen online in the early Autumn of 2020. We'll explore and discuss options for the best places to convene this forum in-person going forward in the future.

### Is it too late to join the Arctic Funders Forum?

It's not too late! All participants of the pre-meetings are now included in the Arctic Funders Forum List. If you or your country did not participate in those pre-meetings, please reach out to us and we'll include you in future updates.

---

## LIVE QUESTIONS:

### Regarding deliverables, since MOSAiC is a significant project mentioned in several ASM2 deliverables, is there guidance on how to go about updating and/or any new related deliverables? Would it be useful or possible to work across the MOSAiC countries, led by Germany, to produce collective, international information on MOSAiC? Or should each nation provide its own?

For large international projects, we ask that the lead country/organization submit an overall update on the project and that participating countries/organizations submit an update based on their specific contribution to the project. This will help show not only the overall contribution of these large projects, but also identify the specific areas where various countries/organizations contributed. This applies to

projects such as MOSAiC, YOPP, EU-PolarNet, Edu-Arctic and most of the EU funded projects. If you have further questions or need clarification, please let us know.

### **Why only one-month extension if the ministerial has been extended by 6 months?**

The organizers and Science Advisory Board hope to produce an action-oriented Joint Statement with the science feedback for ASM3 as the basis for the Joint Statement and Science Summary. Additionally, some countries engaged in ASM3 require a long review process of the Joint Statement which can take several months.

### **Should participants in the Science Fair be included in the 5-person country delegation? Or are Science Fair-only participants in addition to the 5?**

Attendees to the Science Fair-only would be outside the 5-person delegation. The Science Fair proposed for ASM3 is not the same as the Science Forum for ASM2 but is intended to be a much smaller and shorter event. The intention for such Science Fair-only participants is that the program for the Arctic Circle Japan Forum, held simultaneously with ASM3, would create added value to their attendance to ASM3 Science Fair. Countries/Organizations are not required to send people to participate only in the Science Fair.

### **We understand the deadline of 30 June / 31 July. However, the ASM is almost 10 months later. Will it be possible to submit updates - if any - around the beginning of 2021?**

It is important to keep in mind that the science summary is not an up-to-date summary of research results in the Arctic, but rather a compilation of what countries/organizations are working on and in what areas. The process of compiling the science summary will begin as the information request packets are returned and that information will be used in drafting the Joint Statement. If new projects arise or major updates occur after the 31 July deadline, we will try to incorporate them into the process, however it may not be possible to include specifics depending on where the process is when the new project/update is submitted. However, one of the new products from ASM3 will be the database on Arctic research projects which can be updated and added to on a rolling basis and new projects/updates submitted after 31 July can certainly be added to the database as contributions to ASM3. If new projects/updates arrive after September, they will likely not be included in the Science Summary or Joint Statement.

### **My first question would be how all these preparatory meetings will analyse what has been achieved from last Arctic Science Ministerial?**

As part of the Request for Information packets we have asked countries/organizations to provide updates on what has happened with the projects submitted since ASM2. This information, along with newly proposed projects, will form the bulk of the science summary for ASM3. In addition, we have the science community input from the various conference/online meetings and online survey to help identify what research areas need increased collaboration and how barriers to international collaboration can be reduced.

### **What might the hybrid Ministerial option look like?**

At this point we don't yet know. It will depend on the specific effects of COVID-19 at the time. We value an in-person meeting in order to facilitate discussion and cooperation for the Arctic Science Ministers.

We also recognize that with a global representation for a Ministerial, we have a significant time-zone challenge. We also must consider which platform is best and meets security concerns for the majority of participants in the event of a hybrid or online meeting.

**If my memory is correct, ASM2 (held in mid-October 2018) was based on the information as of June 2018.**

The Request for Information from countries for ASM2 was originally due in March 2018, 7 months before the Ministerial in October 2018. However, many countries sent in their information late which put significant pressure on the science process for ASM2. Additionally, the Science Summary and Joint Statement were developed simultaneously for ASM2. As ASM3 moves into a more action-oriented phase of the ASM process, the organizers would like to build the science feedback into the Joint Statement from the beginning.

It is also important to note that several countries engaged in ASM require a long review process of the Joint Statement which can take several months so we need to build this requirement into the ASM process before the Ministerial.

**It was mentioned that an on-line system will be available to better organize present and future information packages. Will this be available in the coming weeks or do we proceed off-line?**

The database for tracking submission information is a long-term project of the ASM, so please submit your Request for Information packages as email attachments to ml-asm3@gmail.com.

**When will the official invitations to the Ministers of Science be expected?**

An announcement including the postponement dates will be sent in late summer 2020. We expect the official Ministerial invitation will then be sent in late Autumn.

Additional Note: In the Briefing Meeting it was mentioned that the official invitation would be sent in late summer. This was an error. The official invitation can be expected in late Autumn.



Government of Iceland  
Ministry of Education,  
Science and Culture



MEXT

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE, SPORTS,  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN