CNARC Member Institutes

Call For Abstracts:
The 6th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium 2018

Date
May 23-25, 2018

Convened by
Norwegian Polar Institute
Fridtjof Nansen Institute
University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway

Location
Tromsø, Norway

Event by
China-Nordic Arctic Research Center (CNARC)

Language
English

Participants
Chinese and Nordic Institutions

Conference Theme: "*Integrated Ocean Management in the Arctic"- Overarching issues: Knowledge building, governance challenges, science-governance interplay*
Roundtable Theme: *Arctic Cooperation and China*

We cordially invite proposals for oral presentations at the 6th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium. Proposals are welcome from researchers affiliated with Nordic and Chinese universities, research institutes, think tanks and organizations. All presentations will focus on Arctic-related issues, within one of the session topics:

- **Session I *Fisheries Management in Arctic Waters***

For this session, papers are invited for the entire range of fisheries management issues related to the central Arctic Ocean and sub-Arctic waters. Examples:

- *How well are fisheries management systems working in various parts of the Arctic?*
- *How is the interface between scientific knowledge and policy challenges working in a time of extensive stock shifts in Arctic waters?*
- *How are Arctic fisheries perceived from outside the Arctic, i.e. from China?*

- **Session II *Marine Pollution***

In this session, we would like to see presentations addressing the issue of marine plastic pollution both from the natural and social sciences point of view. Examples:

- *Processes from source to recipient, i.e. the life cycle of marine plastic, toxic effects and mitigation strategies are all relevant topics. To what extent is marine pollution becoming a theme in national policies? How well is scientific knowledge communicated? What kind of international initiatives are needed to tackle the issue?*

- **Session III *Climate Change, Maritime Governance and Sustainability in the Arctic***

Presentations in this session might deal with how climate change affects the Arctic, not only with the changing ice situation, but also acidification of the oceans and new weather patterns. Examples:

- *How can increased maritime activity be governed in a safe and sustainable manner? How can the international community respond to climate change in the Arctic? How well is science integrated in decision-making processes?*
- *What are the interests and policies of the Arctic states, as well as non-Arctic states? What is the role of transnational governance, and in particular the Arctic Council? How is the Arctic affected by the international geopolitical situation?*

The 6th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium is an international and multi-disciplinary event expected to draw researchers, industry representatives, policy-makers and community leaders to present, debate and discuss research findings and issues relating to growing Nordic-Asian Arctic cooperation. https://www.cnarc.info/symposia

Abstracts (250–400 words)
Deadline for Abstract Submission: March 5, 2018 *(acceptance of abstracts March 20)*
Please submit abstracts electronically (with a short CV attached) to NPI and CNARC:

Liu Han, Executive Secretary, CNARC: liuhan@pric.org.cn
Anne Kibsgaard, Chief Secretary, Norwegian Polar Institute: anne.kibsgaard@npolar.no

Background description for each session:

Session I, Fisheries Management in Arctic Waters

Since December 2015, the so-called 'five-plus-five' negotiations on high seas fishing in the central Arctic Ocean have been going on between the five central Arctic Ocean coastal States (Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the United States) and China, the EU, Iceland, Japan and South Korea. This exercise represents a new interesting constellation of actors in Arctic governance. While there is currently no fishing activity going on in that region, extensive fisheries take place in sub-Arctic waters. Notably, the main demersal fisheries (fish living on or near the bottom) in the Barents Sea, including the world's largest cod stock, are managed jointly by Norway and Russia, while large pelagic stocks such as herring, mackerel and blue whiting in the Norwegian Sea are managed by EU, Norway, Iceland and the Faroe Islands in multilateral so-called 'coastal states regimes'. Scientific advice for the entire North East Atlantic is provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The main challenges in recent years are related to the extension northwards of the area of distribution of the Norwegian Sea pelagic species. The coastal states are currently not able to agree on total allowable catches that are within the scientific advice provided by ICES. This is a political issue between the involved states, but the science/policy interface is also of great importance because a major issue of contention is how, scientifically, zonal attachment of fish stocks should be defined.

Session 2, Marine Pollution

One of the major issues of our time is the increasing contamination of the marine environment by plastic. The enormity of the issue – over five trillion pieces of plastic pollute the surface of the world's oceans – makes this an urgent situation. Worldwide, only 14 % of plastic is recycled and 32 % is released into the environment. The economic impact of those 32 % is estimated by the World Economic Forum to result in a loss of between USD 87 and 125 billion annually. Plastic enter the oceans by a number of sources, for example through inadequate waste disposal infrastructure, accidental or deliberate emissions from industry and lost or discarded fishing equipment. Recent studies indicate that a limited number of large rivers, of which some lie in China, transports the majority of plastic from land to ocean. Since plastic debris in the ocean does not respect state boundaries, effective global governance responses are required. The current international legal framework on marine pollution is insufficient to handle the full complexity of the plastic issue.

Session 3, Climate Change, Maritime Governance and Sustainability in the Arctic

The changing climate affects the Arctic Ocean. The gateway to the high Arctic is gradually opening, with reduced sea-ice coverage and shorter periods with ice-covered waters as a consequence. Natural resources are thus becoming more accessible, and we can expect increased maritime activity. This will raise a number of issues related to the sustainable management of the marine resources, how to operate safely in Arctic waters and organize search and rescue, how to balance increased activity with the vulnerable Arctic environment.