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## 2015 AGM Successfully Concluded

The 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of AFoPS was held on 13-14 October at Seogwipo KAL Hotel in Jeju, Korea, the very venue where the first official gathering of AFoPS took place in 2004. This 16th AFoPS meeting brought together Members and observers, offering a forum for discussion to enhance cooperation and to prepare for its next decade.

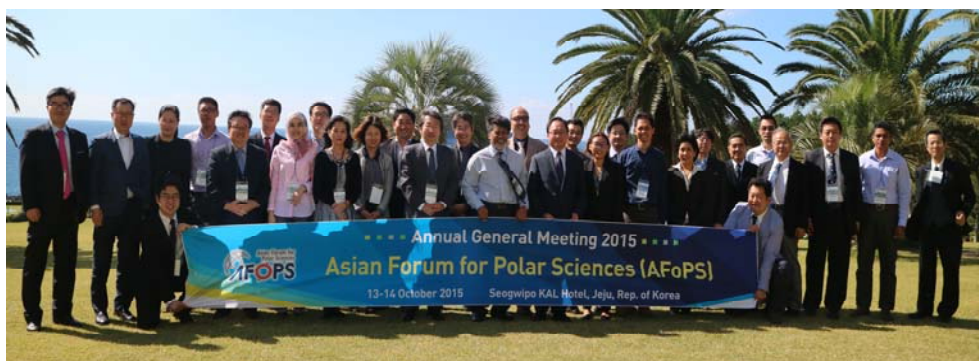
The meeting was attended by 37 participants from all five AFoPS Members and four observing countries, including three newly invited observers respectively from Vietnam (Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology), Sri Lanka (University of Peradeniya), and Indonesia (Indonesian Institute of Science), in addition to the regularly attending observer from Thailand (Chulalongkorn Univer-

sity). Representatives from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea were also in attendance.

The 2015 AGM was another successful meeting and a number of important issues were discussed. The Members took the opportunity to discuss various topics ranging from expedition/operation and research highlights to AFoPS cooperative projects and management issues, aided by a total of nine working papers and 30 information papers during the one and a half day meeting.

The Members agreed to work toward further progress into the next stage of AFoPS cooperation and decided to hold their next special meeting on March 13th in conjunction with ASSW 2016.

(Secretariat)



Participants of 2015 AGM, 13-14 October 2015, Jeju, Korea

## Recent Developments after 2015 AGM

### ◆ *Task Force for AFoPS Vision and Roadmap*

In response to the agreement that the Members' expectation for AFoPS and its vision for the next decade should be discussed, the AFoPS Task Force was formed comprising of five coordinators with the purpose of articulating AFoPS' vision and to generate a roadmap for the next decade.

The TF, entered into force from December 2015, is planning to conduct two online surveys and to produce a draft report by the next AFoPS special meeting in March.

### ◆ *AFoPS Cooperative Project Promotions*

Progress reports of five AFoPS cooperative projects were presented and appreciated during the AGM. In accordance with the Members' decisions, web postings of AFoPS projects have been updated, and AFoPS flags were produced and distributed to the proponents for use in field campaign photos and similar purposes. The Secretariat will also produce an introductory material that can be used to promote AFoPS cooperative projects and to invite more partners to the current programs.

### ◆ *AFoPS Short Statement Submitted for Next Arctic Observing Summit*

A proposal to present a short AFoPS statement in the upcoming Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) in 2016 was made during the agenda on 'other business.' The members appreciated and supported this proposal. The Secretariat produced and circulated a draft accordingly, then submitted the finalized AFoPS short statement in cooperation with Dr. Seong-joong Kim, an AOS point of contact from Korea.

## Second AFoPS Joint Journal Published Now

The second AFoPS joint journal has been published as a special issue in Polar Science (Issue 4, Volume 9). Articles published can be reached through ScienceDirect at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/polar/journal/18739652>.



Malaysia is prepared to take up the responsibility for the next special volume. Malaysia will try to contact a number of publishers and explore options for the publication outlet.

(Dr. Kentaro Watanabe,  
NIPR / [kentaro@nipr.ac.jp](mailto:kentaro@nipr.ac.jp))

## China Builds Renewable Energy System for Zhong Shan Station

The Renewable Energy Micro Network System was built within the existing boundaries of Chinese Zhong Shan Station in February 2015, and combined with the Station Power grid. This system is

currently in operation. It can provide about 10% of the power needs of the station every year, saving approximately 15 tons of fuel. Reducing the station's demand for conventional energy and its

impact on the local environment make a positive contribution to the protection of the Antarctic environment.

(Dr. Chen Bo, PRIC / chen-bo@pric.org.cn)



10 kW Solar PVs (left) and 21kW Wind Power Plants (right) in Operation at Zhong Shan Station (Photo: PRIC)

## KOPRI Operation Center Opens for Safe Field Activities in Polar Regions

KOPRI Operation Center was established in January 2015 to serve as a monitoring facility of KOPRI's expanding research infrastructures and also as the control tower to take prompt actions in response to emergency situations.

To promote and ensure safety at research stations and on the icebreaker, the Operation Center is able to monitor field transportation and personnel status in addition to current local weather condi-

tions, providing a display of key information and locally captured images.



KOPRI Operation Center (Photo: KOPRI)

The Operation Center provides a location tracing service for field personnel, which

automatically detects and sends out a warning signal if the location does not change within 30 minutes.

The Center is also equipped with multilateral video teleconference capability to enable real time communication among the stations and KOPRI headquarters to efficiently respond to emergency situations.

(Dept. of Polar Technology and Safety, KOPRI / techsafety@kopri.re.kr)

## Malaysia to Hold 34th SCAR Biennial Meetings and OSC 2016

Kuala Lumpur will host the SCAR Open Science Conference (OSC) in 2016, at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) from August 20th to 30th. University of Malaya will be involved as a supporting organization for the meetings.

The meetings will commence with SCAR subsidiary bodies and satellite meetings on August 21st, which will be followed by OSC through 26th. SCAR business meetings will take

place on 27th and will be followed by the delegates meeting on 29th and 30th to conclude the whole SCAR week.



Abstract submission for the OSC is now open and will remain so until February 14th, 2016. Registration pages will activate on December 2nd,

2015. Participants registering before May 5th, 2016 may enjoy the early bird fee of USD 550. From May 6th, the regular fee of USD 650 will be applied. On-site registration will be accepted at USD 750. Students with verifiable IDs are eligible for students' fee of USD 300. For further information, please visit

[www.scar2016.com](http://www.scar2016.com) .

(Prof. Siti Aisyah Alias,  
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## NIPR Invitation Program Calls for Application

The National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) initiated an invitation program for Asian scientists for collaboration in polar science since 2007, when NIPR served to chair AFoPS.

This 2-12 weeks program invites Asian polar scientists to NIPR to foster collaborative research with NIPR scientists. Applicants should be faculty staff or post-doctoral fellows and should be nominated by a

national representative of AFoPS member countries or of the equivalent in non-member countries.

Successful applicants, a few in a year, are funded international travel and accommodation expenses to visit and conduct research at NIPR with opportunities for future collaboration with NIPR scientists, including participation in the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE) programs.

Nine scientists from China, India, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand visited NIPR thanks to the 2015 program.

Call for application is now open, the invitation however is closed for scientists in this fiscal year (starting from April) due to financial restrictions.

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