What is SAON?

SAON is a **process** to support and strengthen the development of multinational engagement for sustained and coordinated pan-Arctic observing and data sharing systems that serve societal needs, particularly related to environmental, social, economic and cultural issues.

SAON was convened by Arctic Council following the Salekard Declaration in 2006 and renewed following the Tromsø Declaration in 2009

(SAON Initiating Group: 2007-2009)
(SAON Steering Group: 2009-2011)

www.arcticobserving.org

SAON Vision

The SAON *vision* is that users should *have access to free, open and high quality data that will realize pan-Arctic and global value-added services and provide societal benefits*.

To attain that vision, SAON's goal is to enhance Arctic-wide observing activities by facilitating partnerships and synergies among existing 'building blocks', and promoting sharing and synthesis of data and information.
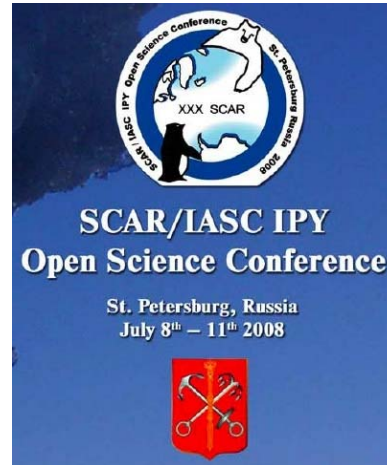
Organizations that were part of the SAON Initiating Group

SAON-IG Workshops
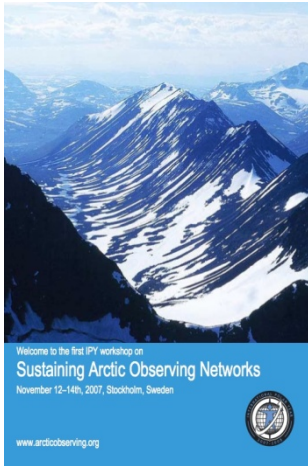
Stockholm
(November 2007)

Edmonton
(April 2008)

St. Petersburg
(July 2008)
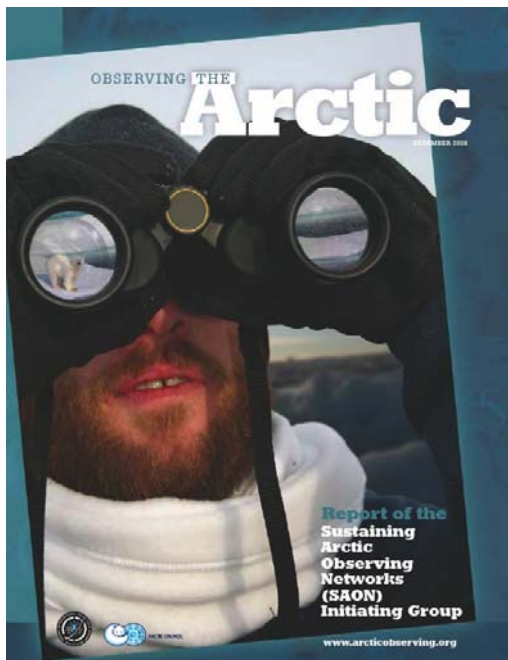
Incheon
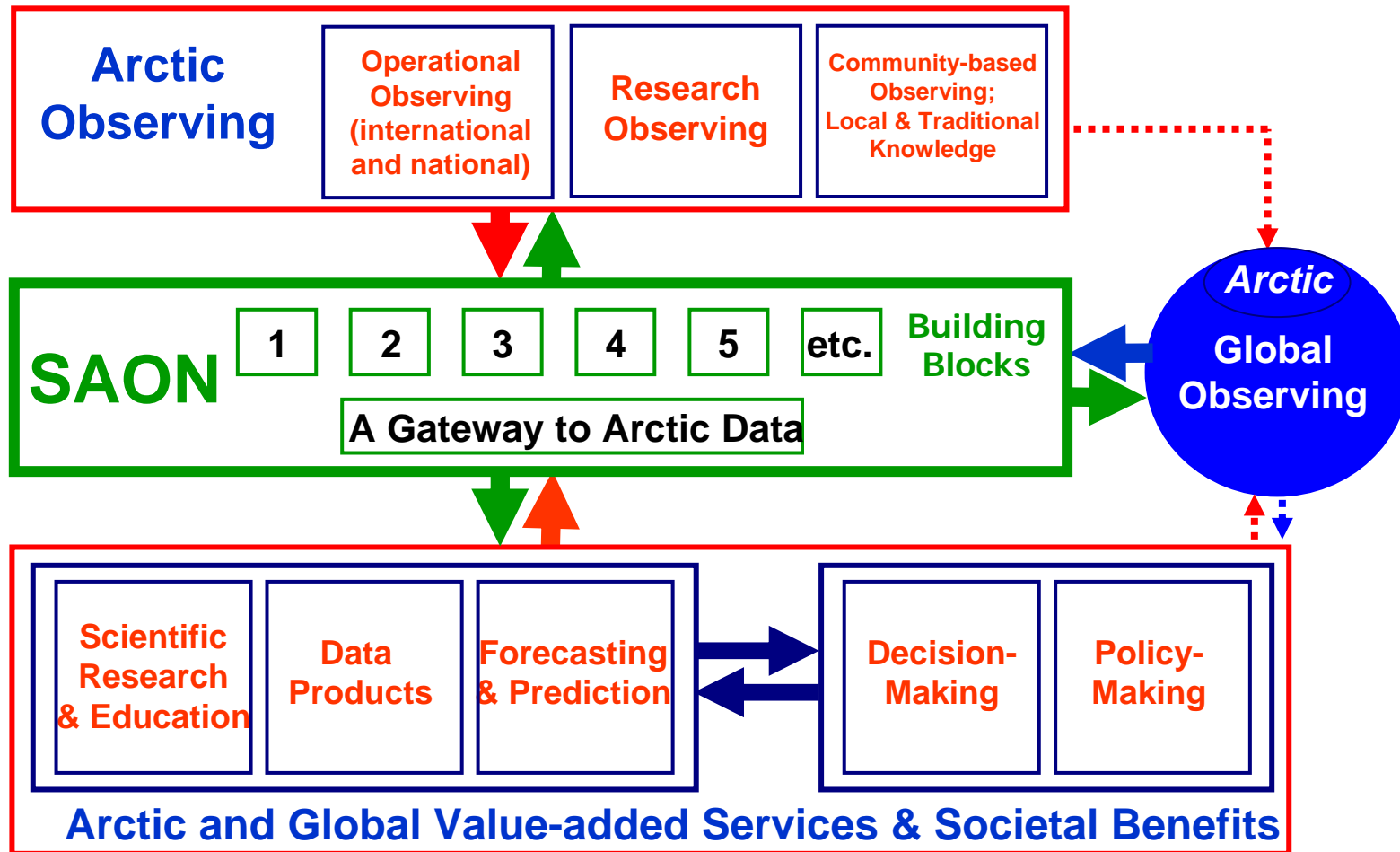**(September 2008)**

Helsinki
(October 2008)

Final SAON-IG report was distributed in January 2009

SAON-IG Report: Recommendations

1: The Arctic Council should lead efforts to ensure a sustainable pan-Arctic observing system.

2: Arctic Council member states should commit to sustaining and enhancing current observing activities and data and information services.

3: Arctic states are urged to increase inter-governmental cooperation in coordinating and integrating Arctic observing and data management activities.

4: Arctic issues are of global common concern and open for scientific study by all states, therefore Arctic Council member states are urged to welcome non-Arctic states and international organizations as partners in sustaining and improving Arctic observing capacity, and data and information services.
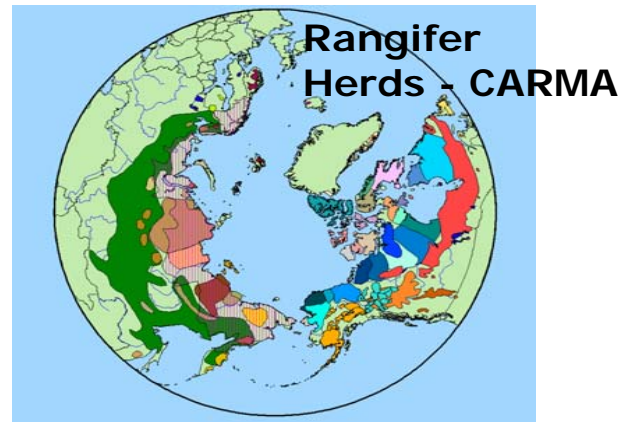
SAON as an IPY legacy

SAON
SUSTAINING ARCTIC
OBSERVING NETWORKS

Arctic Observing

Operational Observing (international and national)

Research Observing

Community-based Observing; Local & Traditional Knowledge

SAON

1 2 3 4 5 etc.

Building Blocks

A Gateway to Arctic Data

Arctic

Global Observing

Arctic and Global Value-added Services & Societal Benefits

Scientific Research & Education

Data Products

Forecasting & Prediction

Decision-Making

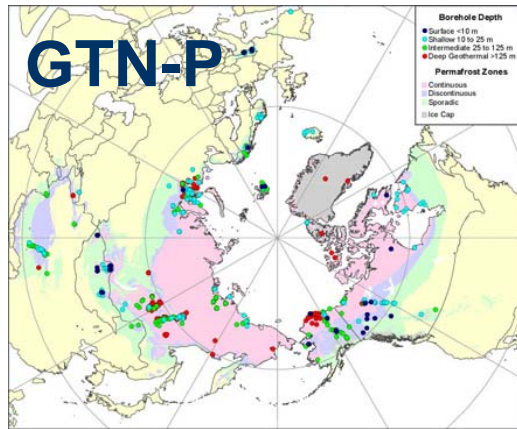Policy-Making

![SAON logo] SAON — SUSTAINING ARCTIC OBSERVING NETWORKS

Existing Observing Networks are SAON Building Blocks

Some examples:

SCANNET

Earth Observation

Weather Stations

GTN-P

Rangifer Herds - CARMA
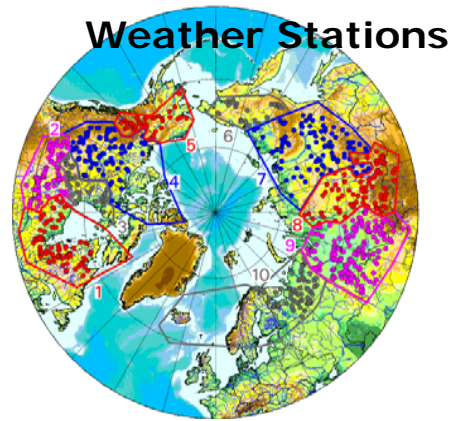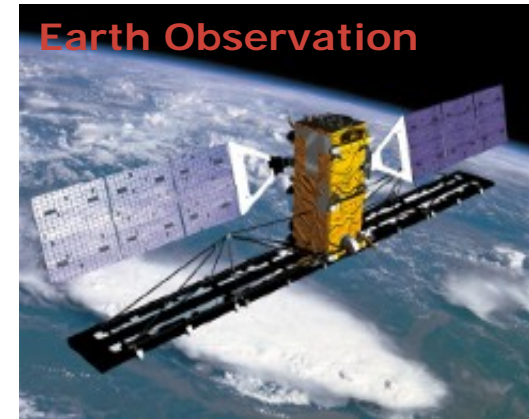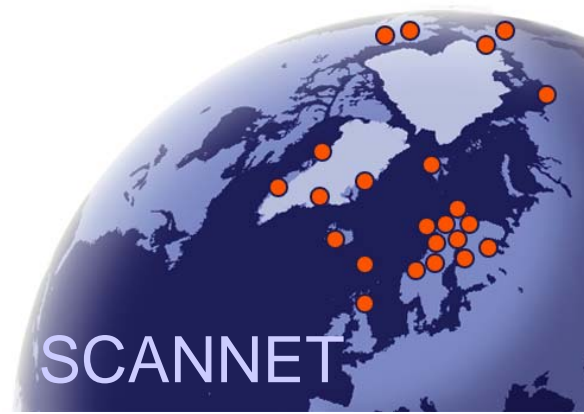
Existing Observing Networks are SAON Building Blocks

More examples:

(..and many others)

Current SAON priorities

1. Inventory of Observing Networks

2. Facilitate Data Access, Archive and Sharing

3. Promote Community Based Monitoring

4. Explore Funding and Agency Cooperation

5. Recommend Institutional Framework

1. Inventory of national observing networks

Countries have provided and inventory of established networks and data archives using a standard format.

- Focus on long-term networks initially;
- Information to be made available on the SAON web site;
- New and updated information will be added to this list on an ongoing basis;
- Expand list to include other observing and data management activities.
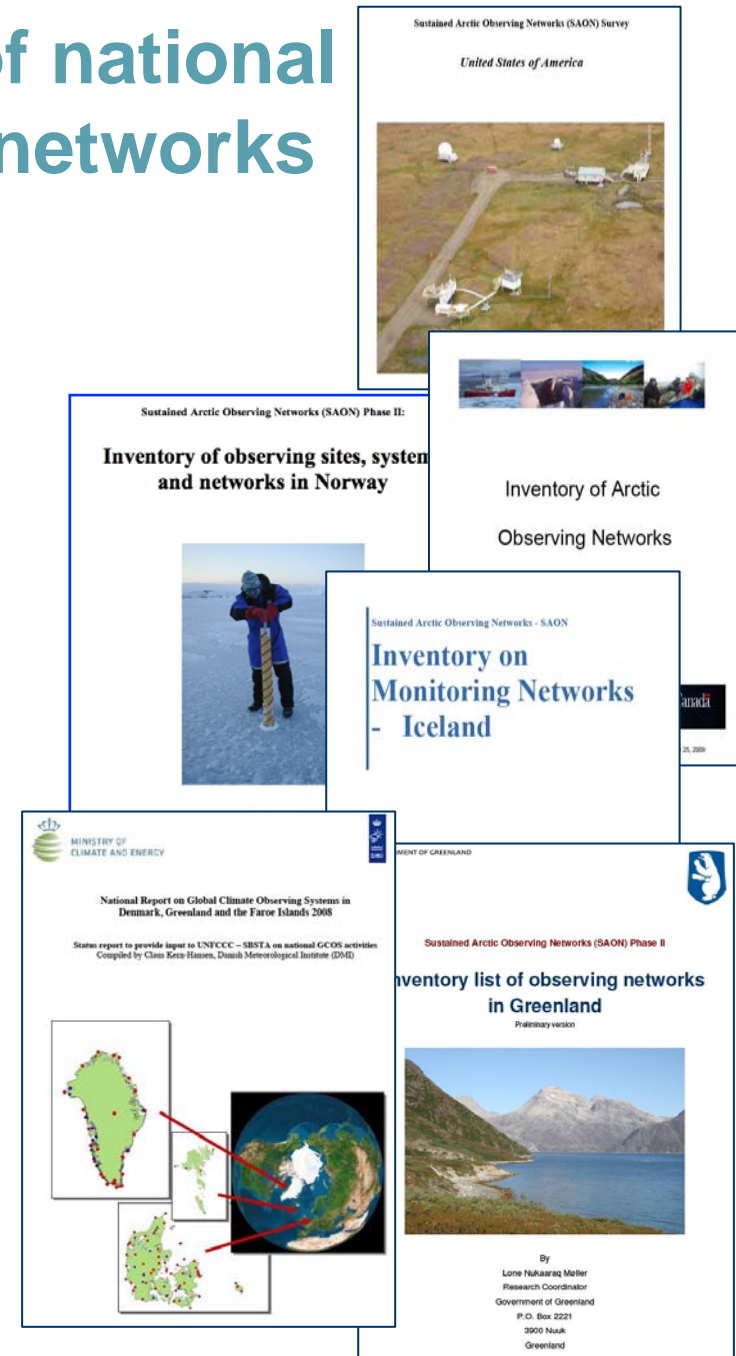
2. Data access and sharing

- Forthcoming *State of Polar Data* Report reviews current state of technology and support for discovering, accessing, and sharing polar/Arctic data;

- What processes should be used to design and implement the optimal (minimal?) system for single entry, Arctic-wide data discovery, access, and sharing?

- SAON and IPY Data Management Committee will host a joint workshop at Oslo IPY OSC in June 2010 to:

  - Promote interoperability of observing and data management systems and identify improvements;

  - Identify useful approach for developing "union catalog" of data sets (e.g. Polar Information Commons, ICSU/CODATA Task Group, etc).

3. Community-based monitoring

- Subgroup of SAON SG, coordinated by CAFF, gathering information on existing CBM and local/traditional knowledge activities;

- Support map-based registry developed by ELOKA for SAON inventory and website;

- Collaboration with the Inuit Circumpolar Council and other indigenous peoples organizations

4. Meeting of funding agencies

One of the most important steps toward realization of sustained Arctic observations is to obtain the views and support of the many funding and implementing organizations that deal with observations on the Arctic region.

SAON-SG sponsored a workshop at the State of Arctic Conference in March 2010 attended by funding agencies from all Arctic countries, the EU, and Japan to explore feasible mechanisms for harmonizing actions involving priority-setting, decision-making, and implementation regarding long-term observing activities in the Arctic.

SAON building blocks = SAON partners

Features of a SAON "building block":

1. It is an operational observing activity;

2. There is a defined point of contact and a process for regular dissemination of information (a Web site and/or newsletter);

3. There is a public mechanism for obtaining information (metadata) about the observing activities and data;

4. Appropriate data quality control procedures are in place;

5. The principal of free and open data access is being followed to the maximum extent possible;

6. Plans are in-place for both medium and long-term data archiving at nationally- and/or internationally- recognized data repositories.

More information: **www.arcticobserving.org**

SAON
SUSTAINING ARCTIC
OBSERVING NETWORKS

www.arcticobserving.org

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) is a process to support and strengthen the development of multinational engagement for sustained and coordinated pan-Arctic observing and data sharing systems that serve societal needs, particularly related to environmental, social, economic and cultural issues.

How to become a SAON Network?
The SAON SG aims to be a facilitator that serves the needs of existing observing sites, systems and networks, and data and information management activities that wish to be building blocks of SAON.

To achieve this, the SAON SG has prepared a short survey with two questions and an inventory form requesting some basic information about your observing activity. Network leaders are asked to complete the survey and help the SAON to best serve the Arctic observing community of operators and users.

Observing sites, systems and networks, and data and information repositories can be recognized by SAON if they are long-term activities that meet a few specific criteria and submit the SAON Network Inventory form. Such long-term activities include operational observing, scientific research-based observing, community-based observing and traditional knowledge. Short-term, campaign-style activities or process studies are unlikely to qualify, unless they create baseline data sets for future comparative study.

The criteria for SAON recognition are:

1. The activity is currently functioning, not a plan or hope.
2. There is a defined point of contact and a process for regular dissemination of information (web site and/or newsletter).
3. There is a public mechanism (preferably a web site) for obtaining information (metadata) about the observing activities and data.
4. Data quality control procedures are in place.
5. The principle of free and open data access is being followed to the maximum extent possible.
6. Plans are in place for both medium and long-term data archival at nationally and/or internationally-recognized data repositories.

Next Steps for SAON Steering Group

Presentation to Arctic Council Deputy Ministers in May;

Host SAON/IPY Data Management meeting in June (Oslo);

Review suggested tasks and establish initial priorities (summer);

Solicit task descriptions with budgets (summer);

Present a draft list of tasks to the Arctic Council in fall 2010, including proposal for funding of each task;

Final report and recommendations in April 2011.