

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION (IASSA),
THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE (IASC)
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC (UARCTIC)**

PREAMBLE

This letter recognizes that there are many common interests between IASSA, UArctic and IASC in international and multi-disciplinary cooperation in Arctic research, education and outreach. Increased cooperation between the organizations will be of mutual benefit, and contribute to enhancing the legacies of the International Polar Year 2007-2008.

IASSA

IASSA is a professional association based on voluntary membership. For the purposes of the association, both the Arctic and the social sciences are defined in a broad and inclusive manner, encompassing all Arctic and Subarctic regions, and all disciplines pertaining to the humanities and the social sciences. The goal is to promote and stimulate international cooperation and to increase the participation of social scientists in national and international arctic research; to promote communication and coordination with other related organizations; and to promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and the peoples of the north, while recognizing these are not mutually exclusive groups.

IASC

IASC is a non-governmental, international scientific organization whose mission is to encourage and facilitate cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, in all countries engaged in Arctic research and in all areas of the Arctic region. IASC is an International Scientific Associate of the International Council for Science (ICSU). To fulfill its mission, IASC promotes and supports leading-edge multi-disciplinary research in order to foster a greater scientific understanding of the Arctic region and its role in the Earth system.

UARCTIC

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. UArctic's overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and indigenous peoples through education, training and shared knowledge. UArctic education is circumpolar, holistic and diverse in nature and draws on the combined strength of its members to address the unique challenges of the region.

IASSA, IASC and UArctic are observers to the Arctic Council.

COMMON INTERESTS

IASSA, IASC and UArctic share a number of common interests, which makes it relatively easy for them to work together. Recently, they have already undertaken some limited collaboration by arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest, by encouraging the development of integrated plans for scientific research, by communicating to the public, by entering research partnerships with Arctic residents, by supporting the training and education of students and early career researchers, and by providing advice to policy makers.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

IASSA, IASC and UArctic intend to combine their efforts in selected activities so as to raise the level of impact of all three organizations in terms of making advances in research, education and outreach relevant to Arctic issues, and for providing relevant advice to policy makers. A list of collaborative efforts is given in ANNEX 1, and items on this list may be updated or modified by mutual agreement at any time.

Combining efforts in selected fields and activities requires no change to the terms of reference of the organizations, and carries no financial implication.

Progress on collaborative efforts will be reviewed annually by the Executive Committees of each organization. This agreement will remain in force for 5 years, and thereafter be reviewed and continued as appropriate.

Signed

Joan Nymand Larsen
(IASSA President)

David Hik
(IASC President)

Lars Kullerud
(UArctic President)

Date

Date

Date

ANNEX 1: List of collaborative efforts

IASSA, IASC and UArctic agree to the following, inasmuch as the individual actions are compatible with the mission of each of these institutions (this list is not exhaustive):

1. Collaborate on forwarding-looking initiatives, including planning for a possible 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) and the proposed International Polar Decade;
2. Contribute to the development of synthesis reports that will provide timely assessments of emerging Arctic trends and issues, in a form that will be useful for public and governments;
3. Explore opportunities to promote the importance of fundamental research on the Arctic region with principle national and international funding agencies and advise them on shaping possible thematic calls for research proposals with an Arctic emphasis;
4. Identify issues and forces of change that will influence the state of the Arctic region over the next two decades;
5. Where feasible and appropriate, encourage collaboration between activities undertaken by IASC Working Groups and UArctic Thematic Networks;
6. Continue to support emerging scholars and assist the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) in fulfilling its mission;
7. Support increased involvement of indigenous peoples and residents of the Arctic regions in research, education and outreach activities;
8. Provide advice to science and education ministers regarding opportunities for improved transnational support and access to innovative Arctic research and education programs;
9. Support the implementation of initiatives that will improve open access to information and information exchange (e.g. Arctic Portal and Polar Information Commons);
10. Explore opportunities to maximize the effectiveness of our respective outreach and communication efforts by maximizing the impact of our collective resources and networks.
11. Invite each other to meetings, i.e. IASSA General Assembly, IASC Council, Council of UArctic.