



Arctic ROADS Advisory Panel and Open Partnership Meeting
30th October 2025, 13:00–14:30 Local time Tokyo
In-person and Remote Participation

Minutes

About this Open Partnership Meeting: The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) *Arctic Roadmap for Observing and Data Services* (ROADS) Advisory Panel invited participants who are already engaged or considering engagement in the ROADS integrated advisory process to attend an open partnership meeting during the Eighth International Symposium on Arctic Research, Hachioji, Japan. Participants learned about the ROADS process, progress made by the Advisory Panel and progress of those engaged.

Part I - ROADS Progress Reports

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – Jan Rene Larsen opened the meeting with welcoming remarks. Lauren Divine, Co-Chair of the SAON ROADS Advisory Panel (AP) outlined the goals of today's meeting and a round of introductions took place (see Appendix 1: Listing of Participants, and Appendix II: Draft Agenda)
- 2. What is SAON Arctic ROADS?** – Lauren provided a concise overview of the SAON ROADS process. Reference material is available on the SAON website and she encouraged interested persons to follow the upcoming March 2026 Arctic Observing Summit (AOS) for more information and presentations.
- 3. Background, Purpose, Status for SAON ROADS Expert Panels (EPs)** – Jan facilitated this agenda item with a series of presentations from some of the EPs.
 - a. **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) EP** - Lauren reported on this EP that is addressing an increasing concern in Alaska.
 - b. **Sea Ice EP** – Talia Wells reported on the work of this EP that is focussing on Phase II efforts.
 - c. **Salmon EP** - Jamie O'Connor stated reported that the EP is currently working on their Phase IV implementation report.
 - d. **Wildfires EP – Nordic Focus** - Katriina Veijola noted that the EP's current focus is refining Phase III documentation and starting work on Phase IV Implementation.

- e. **Wildfires EP - North America Focus** - Chris Waigl's presentation will be completed at a later date.

Part II – Engagement of non-Arctic States in Arctic ROADS

Hajo Eicken facilitated a discussion panel that included Tetsuo Sueyoshi, Michael Karcher and Jeremy Wilkinson. They discussed how non-Arctic states (e.g. Japan, Korea, UK) could see their engagement, and what might some of the hurdles be, in the Arctic ROADS process. Tetsuo noted that following AOS 2024, concerns were raised from Asian Arctic scientists (e.g. Japan, Korea and China) that it was increasingly difficult to join the community discussions and connect to the local context. He outlined the challenges of aligning their Arctic research work that addresses Japanese governmental priorities and that may not align closely with the research needs of Arctic communities and SAON itself – while both processes are well designed, there is a paradox between the two. Michael spoke that the work of the Expert Panels on Shared Arctic Variables (SAVs) could be considered as “shared interests” or “shared problems” and there may be some of these interests which would allow greater collaboration on joint/broader EPs. He cited sea ice as a possible example, where Japan has considerable expertise in northern regions and this could be brought to the EP. Another example could be Extreme Weather and Extreme Events that are relevant to Japan, Korea and also the UK. He emphasized the need to think broadly and identify connections at large scales across the Arctic. Jeremy reflected that the Sea Ice EP is still open and additional expertise would be welcomed. He continued that initiatives like Arctic PASSION (EU funded) have been effective at advancing ROADS processes, including the work on SAVs and EPs. Hajo highlighted that the lessons learned from the existing Expert Panels will be beneficial as ROADS moves forward with new EPs in the future.

APPENDIX I

**Arctic ROADS Advisory Panel and Open Partnership Meeting
30th October 2025 - Japan**

Lauren Divine, Aleut International Association (AIA) – ROADS AP Co-Chair
Hajo Eicken, University of Alaska
Michael Karcher, Alfred Wegener Institute
Maribeth Murray, Arctic Institute of North America
Jamie O'Connor, Salmon Expert Panel
Sandy Starkweather, NOAA, USA – ROADS AP Co-Chair
Mikko Strahlendorff, Finland Met Service, SAON Board Chair
Tetsuo Sueyoshi, JAMSTEC/NIPR, Japan
Katriina Veijola, FMI, Wildfires EP (Nordic Wildfire Expert Panel)
Talia Wells, Arctic Institute of North America, (Sea Ice Expert Panel)
Jeremy Wilkinson, British Antarctic Survey
Jun Inoue, NIPR, Japan
Mariko Hatta, JAMSTEC, Japan
Seong-Joong Kim, KOPRI, Korea

SAON Secretariat: Jan Rene Larsen

APPENDIX II

Arctic ROADS Advisory Panel and Partner meeting

About this Meeting: The Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) Arctic Roadmap for Observing and Data Services (ROADS) Advisory Panel invites those already engaged or considering engagement in the ROADS integrated advisory process to join us for our open partnership meeting during the Eighth International Symposium on Arctic Research, Hachioji, Japan. Participants will learn about the ROADS process, progress made by the Advisory Panel and progress of those engaged.

30th October 2025:

- Tokyo (local time): 13:00–14:30
- CET: 05:00-06:30
- UTC: 04:00-05:30
- EDT: 00:00 am (30th October) - 01:30am (30th October)

Venue: [ISAR-8](#), Hachioji, Japan, [Room 5, 3rd floor](#)

Teams link for remote attendance:

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_MzVkNTdiYTktNTliMi00Zjc0LTk5NjktMjYzMjRkMzZhODQ0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e85164ec-9598-49a2-98a1-709a3f29cfc6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22201df34a-7bdc-4596-b7a2-09094429e16e%22%7d

Pre-reads: [Plain language brochure on the SAON-ROADS process](#)

A more comprehensive description of the Arctic ROADS process is found [in this Arctic PASSION deliverable](#).

Draft agenda

Part I

1. Welcome & Introductions (Jan Rene Larsen, 5 min)
2. What is SAON ROADS? (Sandy Starkweather, 10 min)
3. A status for the Expert Panels. What are your concerns, roadblocks, issues? (Jan Rene Larsen facilitates, 10 min each)
 - a. Harmful Algal Blooms (Lauren Divine, remotely, confirmed)
 - b. Sea Ice (Talía Wells, confirmed)
 - c. Salmon (Jamie O'Connor, confirmed)
 - d. Wildfires - Nordic (Katriina Veijola, remotely, confirmed)
 - e. (Wildfires - North America (Chris Waigl, recording))

Part II

How do non-Arctic states see their engagement in the Arctic ROADS process? How might partnerships with Arctic countries or Indigenous organizations or sovereigns help?

A panel with Hajo Eicken (University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA) and panelists:

- Tetsuo Sueyoshi, National Institute of Polar Research, Japan
- Michael Karcher, Alfred Wegener, Germany
- Jeremy Wilkinson, British Antarctic Survey, UK

Documents for the meetings of the Advisory Panel [are found here](#).

The list of Advisory Panel members [is found here](#).