



Third International Symposium
The Role of Non-Arctic States / Actors in the Arctic Legal Order-Making

Session on Policy-Relevant-Science within the Context of the Arctic
Afternoon of 8 December 2017

In the afternoon session, Professor **Akiho Shibata** will give his main speech entitled “**How to Make Arctic Marine Scientific Observation ‘Relevant’ to the International Policy Community**”.

Discussants: **Naomi Harada, Malgorzata Smieszek**
Coordinator: **Malgorzata Smieszek**

Many of the challenges facing modern societies like climate change cannot be adequately addressed without the input from science and scientific advice. In the context of large science projects including those relating to polar sciences, the phrase “policy-relevant-science” is increasingly uttered. Within the context of the Arctic, policies formulated in the Arctic Council, for example, which have implications for scientific activities including those of non-Arctic States and institutions show how science is internationally policy-relevant. At the same time, science needed to formulate these policies also comes from non-Arctic States and their research institutions.

This session explores the science-policy nexus, the rapidly growing field of interest and examination. The research framework is set by the Policy-Relevant-Science (PRS) study initiated by PCRC, Kobe University, and Japan Agency of Marine and Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) within the framework of the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability (ArCS) project.

This session takes one scientific project proposal to conduct marine physical, chemical, and biological observation in the Gulf of Anadyr on the Bering Sea in far northeast Siberia and the East Siberian Sea and examines its international legal and policy relevance as a feasibility case study on PRS. The main purpose of this session is to obtain feedback on the proposed methodological framework and the appropriateness of the case study, as well as to advance discussion on the topic.



1. The session adapts and arranges, as appropriate, the ‘Value Tree Analysis’ as utilised in the STPI-SAON Arctic Observations Assessment Framework. This methodology attempts to link international Arctic strategies (policies) and the scientific observations necessary to achieve the common (international) objectives identified from the review of those policies.
2. The session tries to demonstrate the potential for the PRS study in producing a virtuous cycle between science and policy studies, modelling after some preceding studies such as those undertaken under the EU PolarNet projects.
3. The session reviews the Arctic strategies of relevant countries and the Arctic Council scientific documents to see whether the Gulf of Anadyr and East Siberian Sea research proposal is suitable for the international objectives as identified in the review.
4. The current scientific challenges in the Arctic Ocean and the perspectives for future international cooperation in Arctic marine scientific research are examined. The potential of the PRS study for producing policy-relevant choices for international collaborative marine scientific research for the Arctic Ocean is argued.