

Call For Abstracts: The 8th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium 2020

Date
May 27 - 29, 2020

Location
Umea, Sweden

Language
English

Convened by
Umea University

Event by
China-Nordic Arctic Research Center (CNARC)

Participants
Chinese and Nordic Institutions

Symposium Theme: Research Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing for a Sustainable Arctic

Roundtable Theme: Tourism, Winter Sports and Regional Development

We cordially invite proposals for oral presentations at the 8th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium. Proposals are welcome from researchers affiliated with Nordic and Chinese universities, research institutes, think tanks and organizations. All presentations will focus on Arctic-related issues, within one of the session topics:

• **Session I - Society development and knowledge systems in the Arctic**

- Community based research
- Sustaining Arctic knowledge systems and model of knowledge diffusion

• **Session II - Globalization and the Arctic**

- Arctic Council Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation
- Transport, logistics and polar expeditions
- Health and well-being

• **Session III - China – Nordic Arctic Cooperation**

- China – Nordic Arctic relations in the circumstances of new Arctic geopolitical dynamic
- Economic opportunities in the Nordic Arctic and China's engagement
- China – Sweden Arctic relations

• **Session IV - Arctic Ecosystems and Processes**

- Marine and coastal environment
- Natural resources
- Climate change

The 8th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium is an international and multi-disciplinary event expected to draw researchers, industry representatives, policy-makers and community leaders to present, debate and discuss research findings and issues relating to growing Nordic-Asian Arctic cooperation.

Abstracts (250–400 words)

Deadline for Submission: March 1, 2020 (acceptance of abstracts March 15)

Please submit abstracts electronically to:

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Background description for each session:

Session I – Society development and knowledge systems in the Arctic

Sub-themes: (1) Community based research; (2) Indigenous issues; (3) Sustaining Arctic knowledge systems and model of knowledge diffusion

Social development in the inhabited areas of the Arctic is diverse. There are strengths and weaknesses to the human conditions in all Arctic regions, but also different approaches to sustainability. Still, knowledge about the history, root causes and long-term effects of social diversity needs to improve bringing ideas and perspectives from the bottom and up to bear on policies of development, reform and change. The needs and wants of local Arctic communities may not always speak to government agendas. Indeed, what are typically local aspirations in the Arctic and how do they transform into knowledge about the Arctic? How can different approaches to community based research contribute to successful diffusion of Arctic knowledge? These challenges include the implementation of local and traditional knowledge systems (TLK) in academic knowledge production.

Session II – Globalization and the Arctic

Sub-themes: (1) Arctic Council agreement on enhancing international arctic scientific cooperation; (2) Transport, logistics and polar expeditions; (3) Health and well-being

There can no longer be any doubt that climate change enhances the role of the Arctic in globalization. Increasingly, what used to be a frozen polar cap in the North is becoming a navigable sea of economic potential. The Arctic Council has thus far provided a forum for dialogue on mutual recognition, negotiation and stewardship as well as a way to circumvent international competition for resources and influence. Scientific endeavor and cooperation in such areas as polar exploration and transport remain high on the political agenda, promising of a future development where care and respect for the unique Arctic environment and its various biospheres dominate. Nevertheless, global economic opportunity is a harbinger of more uncertain, potentially less respectful future developments as humanity increases its pressure on global natural resources. What are the pros and cons of the Arctic Council science agreement, for Arctic states and for near-Arctic states? Which are the challenges of future transport systems and of vessel-based climate research? How can research-based knowledge improve health and well-being of the peoples in the Arctic?

Session III – China – Nordic Arctic Cooperation

Sub-themes: (1) China – Nordic Arctic relations in the circumstances of new Arctic geopolitical dynamics; (2) Economic opportunities in the Nordic Arctic and China's engagement; (3) China – Sweden Arctic relations.

With re-emergency of hard security concerns in the Arctic, the priorities for the agenda of Arctic Council and the Arctic strategies of Nordic countries may have shifted for the past year. China and Nordic countries encounter the emerging challenge of how their respective Arctic strategies and policies to be compatible with each other. This session hope to explore the following questions: How China – Nordic Arctic relations will develop in the circumstances of new Arctic geopolitical dynamics characteristic of the prioritization of hard security concerns and the growing competition of great powers in the region? With several setbacks in China's economic engagement with Nordic countries in the past year, what is the prospect for China-Nordic economic cooperation in the Arctic and are there any approaches that could strengthen mutual understanding and trust? Swedish Arctic strategy is distinct from others' as it emphasizes the notion of "comprehensive security" and sticks to green development and environment responsibility, for China and Sweden, what are the potential cooperative domains that could bring the bilateral Arctic relations to a new level?

Session IV – Arctic Ecosystems and Processes

Sub-themes: (1) Marine and coastal environments; (2) Natural resources; (3) Climate change

The rapid changes that take place in the Arctic have a severe effect on the ecosystems. The well-being of Arctic waters on land and the Arctic Ocean is of fundamental importance in the times of rapid climate change and its impacts on not only global climate, economics, politics, but also on health and well-being of indigenous and local communities in the Arctic. The natural resources in the Arctic are of increasing global importance. Their extraction is however a critical balancing act in terms of responsibility for a sustainable development. Often new initiatives for mining and energy production are met with local and national resistance, and it is of uttermost importance to analyze the different interests involved. Climate change is the single-most important global challenge. How can research find multi-disciplinary find ways to reach the targets, and how can the monitoring systems be developed?