



11/12/2014 – Scientific Program

Climate change and future scenarios in the Arctic Region

Session 1 – Changes in the natural environment (atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere)

The Arctic region is warmer than it used to be and the temperatures are continuously increasing. Over the past 30 years, the Arctic has warmed more than any other region on Earth. Most scientists agree that Arctic weather and climate are changing because of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission and consequent induced climate change. Arctic warming has caused (and continues causing) sea ice and permafrost melting and snow cover change. These changes in the Arctic are especially worrisome because they might induce feedback effects leading to further acceleration of the process.

09.00 – 09.20	Welcome address Marco Filippo Tornetta , <i>Senior Arctic Official</i> Umberto Vattani , <i>President of Venice International University</i> Enrico Brugnoli (CNR) , <i>Department for Earth System Science and Technologies for the environment</i>
09.20 – 11.20	Opening speeches by the Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council or Governments representativesⁱ
<i>11.20 – 11.30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30	Keynote: Kim Holmen (Norway), <i>“A Svalbard perspective on global change”</i>
12.00	Dmitry Drozdov, <i>“Cryosphere response to the climate change and technogenesis in Russia”</i>
12.15	Ian Hedgecock, <i>“The Polar Hg cycle in a changing climate”</i>
12.30	Angelo Viola, <i>“CNR research activities in the Arctic region”</i>
12.45	Roberto Azzolini, <i>“The European Polar Board strategy in the Arctic and Polar research”</i>
13.00	Discussion
<i>13.30 – 14.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>



Session 2 – Impact of climate change and sustainable development in the Arctic

The unprecedented melting of the Arctic sea ice and permafrost is also opening expectations and opportunities for economic exploitation of the Arctic. The most considerable effect is perhaps the opening of the Northwest Passage. But ice melting is also the trigger for a scramble to exploit the region's rich and abundant resources as they become increasingly accessible. However, many of these resources and in particular the Arctic's hydrocarbons are the very factors fuelling the melting in the first place as a result of the build-up of greenhouse gases triggering climate change, and can also represent risks of catastrophic events of oil spill and accidents. For such reasons any economic exploitation of these fragile ecosystems must be sustainable and extremely careful in order to avoid any negative impact.

- 14.30** **Lars Otto Reiersen (AMAP Executive Secretary)** (on videoconference)
- 15.00 Vilborg Einars, *“Reacting to climate change in your own interest – the importance of information”*
- 15.30 Stefano Aliani, *“The Arctic Ocean in the global climate”*
- 16.00 – 16.15 *Coffee break*
- 16.15 Mauro Guglielmin, *“Impact of climate change on Arctic permafrost”*
- 16.45** **Keynote: Peter Wadhams, “Arctic climate change and its impact”**
- 17.15 Roberto Udisti, *“Aerosol measurements in the Arctic. A tool to understand environment/climate interactions”*
- 17.45** **Discussion**
- 18.15** Mr. Marzio G. Mian, journalist and project manager, will present *“The Arctic Times Project”*, a non-profit and multimedia expedition to Greenland and the Arctic



12/12/2014 – Social Session

Session 3 – Indigenous peoples in a changing Arctic

The Arctic Region is inhabited approximately by four million people according to the AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report). The settlement area is divided between eight Arctic countries: Canada, United States, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and Denmark. The circumpolar region is sparsely populated. Using a more broad definition, according to the University of the Arctic Atlas, there are approximately 13.1 million people living in the area of the circumpolar North. People in the Arctic are worried about climate changes, for example about contaminants, land use, climate, security and access and rights to land and sea. Since climate change is affecting tremendously the traditional harvesting activities of indigenous peoples, any economic development or exploitation of Arctic resources must involve them as main actors in order to produce improvement in their lifestyle and wellbeing.

- 09.00** **Keynote: Gunn Britt Retter** (on videoconference)
- 09.15 Adele Airoidi, *“The European Union and the Arctic – The long march northwards”*
- 09.35 Maria Pia Casarini, *“The impact of climate change on Inuit and Nunavut and the activity of Istituto Geografico Polare Zavatti”*
- 10.00 Dario Speranza (ENI)
- 10.20 – 10.40 *Coffee break*
- 10.40** Paola Toniolo, *“Finmeccanica in the Arctic Sustainable development”*
- 11.20 Anna Devitofrancesco, *“Sustainable Housing Design in the Arctic Region”*
- 11.30 – 13.00** **Chair: Marco Tornetta**

Round Table

The S.A.O.'s and other government representatives, Mr. Franco Frattini, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, will deepen, in the light of the outcomes of the seminar, the perspectives of future cooperation and development of the Arctic, in the respect of natural environment and indigenous populations.

The round table will finish at lunchtime

ⁱMikael Anzén, Ambassador, S.A.O. Sweden

Roberta Burns, F. US Arctic Officer US State Department

Paul Gibbard, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Canada in Rome - Former Director of Circumpolar Affairs

Hannu Halinen, Ambassador, S.A.O Finland

Erik Vilstrup Lorenzen, Ambassador, S.A.O. Denmark

Platon Ratskevich, Vice Consul of the Russian Consulate General in Milan

Mathias Rongved, Norwegian Embassy in Rome

Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Foreign Minister of Iceland, (video message)

