

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES ASSOCIATION
(IASSA)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC SCIENCE COMMITTEE (IASC)**

Background

In March 2008, following agreement by IASC and IASSA Councils, the Presidents of IASC and IASSA signed a Letter of Agreement. This letter recognized that there are many common interests between IASSA and IASC in international and multi-disciplinary scientific cooperation in the Arctic, and that increased cooperation between the two organizations would be of mutual benefit. The two organizations agreed to combine their efforts in selected fields and activities so as to raise the level of impact of both organizations in terms of making scientific advances and of advising policy makers, as well as to avoid duplication.

With the present letter IASC and IASSA agree to continue this partnership, taking into account the development of both organizations during the last five years and the lessons learned from the International Polar Year 2007/2008.

1. IASSA

IASSA, founded in 1990, 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. IASSA membership in 2013 numbers over 600, residing in 30 different countries. The IASSA community remains connected through communication channels such as its electronic list, its website and its newsletter. IASSA organizes the triennial International Congresses of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS), where research is presented and discussed, and which regularly draws about 75% of its membership. The General Assembly, the governing body of IASSA, convenes at the occasion of these congresses. Between congresses, a council of nine members, elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term, leads the Association. IASSA's daily business is carried out by the president and secretariat, the latter located at the president's home institution. The association is widely acknowledged by stakeholders as a legitimate and democratic representative of the international community of Arctic social scientists.

The objectives of IASSA are:

- 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;

- To promote the active collection, exchange, dissemination, and archiving of scientific information in the Arctic social sciences. This may include the compilation of registers of Arctic social scientists and research projects, and the organization of workshops, symposia, and congresses;
- To increase public awareness of circumpolar issues and research results;
- To promote mutual respect, communication, and collaboration between social scientists and the peoples of the north, while recognizing these are not mutually exclusive groups;
- To promote the development of research and educational partnerships with the peoples of the north;
- To facilitate culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate education in the north, including training in social sciences;
- To promote IASSA's statement of ethical principles for the conduct of research in the Arctic
(http://www.iassa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13&Itemid=23).

In order to accomplish its objectives of stimulating the participation of social scientists in national and international arctic research, and of promoting communication and coordination with other related organizations, IASSA has been active in the circles of international Arctic research policy and research planning, such as the International Polar Year, the Arctic Science Summit Week, the International Conference on Arctic Research Planning, the International Polar Initiative and the Arctic Council and especially its Sustainable Development Working Group. IASSA has observer status at the Arctic Council, and contributes to a number of Arctic Council projects and reports prepared under mandate from the working groups. IASSA encourages the participation of Arctic social scientists as full partners in multi-disciplinary projects. IASSA also seeks to increase the profile of Arctic social sciences among others social scientists, and in 2013 became a member of the International Social Sciences Council.

As stated in its objectives, the mission of IASSA includes international scientific cooperation, data management and dissemination, education, outreach, relations with Arctic residents, and research ethics. IASSA advocates responsible research, to be carried out in partnership with Arctic residents, following up-to-date ethical principles.

2. IASC

IASC is a non-governmental organization whose aim 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 was established in 1990, began operations in 1991 and today comprises 21 member countries. The IASC member organizations are national science organizations covering all fields of Arctic research. Representatives of the national scientific organizations from all 21 member countries form the IASC Council. Each national member organization has a mechanism to provide ongoing contact between its IASC Council Member and its Arctic science

community. IASC draws on this structure to identify scientific priorities. An international science program planned or recommended by IASC should be of high priority to Arctic or global science.

The Council elects the President of IASC and four Vice-Presidents to serve on the Executive Committee. Council usually meets once a year during the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW). IASC Executive Committee operates as a board of directors and manages the activities of IASC between Council meetings. The Chair is the President of IASC. The organizational needs of IASC are served by the IASC Secretariat, currently located in Potsdam, Germany.

IASC is affiliated to the International Council for Science (ICSU) as an International Scientific Associate and, as an observer to the Arctic Council, IASC also provides objective and independent scientific advice on issues of science affecting the management of the Arctic region.

IASC is engaged in all fields of Arctic research. Its main scientific working bodies are five Working Groups (WGs): Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Marine, Social & Human and Terrestrial. The main function of the WGs is to encourage and support science-led international programs by offering opportunities for planning and coordination, and by facilitating communication and access to facilities. Each WG is composed of up to two scientists from each IASC member country, appointed by the national adhering bodies. The members are experts in their field, with an international reputation and from different scientific disciplines so that the full range of Arctic research is represented in the WGs. Though the WGs are disciplinary, they also work together to address cross-cutting and broadly interdisciplinary research activities.

Actions Groups provide strategic advice to the IASC Council concerning both long-term activities and urgent needs.

IASC's instruments to support science development include workshops, networks, long-term programs, assessments and science planning activities.

3. Common Interests

IASSA and IASC share a number of common interests, which makes it relatively easy for them to work together, in arranging workshops, conferences, and reports on topics of mutual scientific interest, in encouraging the development of integrated plans for scientific research, in communicating to the public, in entering research partnerships with Arctic residents, and in providing advice to policy makers.

4. Declaration of Intent

IASSA and IASC intend to combine their efforts in selected fields and activities (to be decided by mutual agreement) so as to raise the level of impact of both organizations in terms of making scientific advances and of advising policy makers, as well as to avoid duplication. The focus of IASSA-IASC joint activities should be on interdisciplinary work.

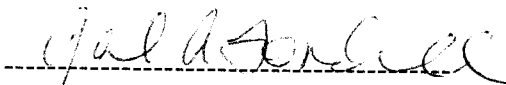
Combining efforts in selected fields and activities requires no change to the terms of reference of either organization, and carries no financial implication.

To facilitate the process, IASSA and IASC agree in particular (the list is not exhaustive):

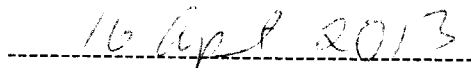
- 1) To consult each other regularly about Arctic Council issues (including its Working Groups), and to develop common standpoints and initiatives whenever appropriate;
- 2) To continue involving IASSA in the preparation and participation in the ASSW;
- 3) To invite each other to meetings of their major bodies;
- 4) To ensure that IASSA leadership is informed about the activities of IASC's Social and Human Sciences Working Group;
- 5) To exchange newsletters and advertise each other's newsletters and web sites;
- 6) To jointly plan and encourage research activities, in particular to collaborate on the planning for the 3rd International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) and the proposed International Polar Initiative (IPI).

The agreement will remain in force for 5 years, thereafter be reviewed and continued as appropriate.

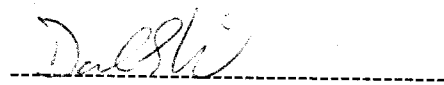
Signed



Gail Fondahl
President, IASSA



Date 16 April 2013



David Hik
President, IASC



Date 16 April 2013