



European
Commission

AAAS 2014 Annual Meeting

13-17 February Chicago

The Arctic Cocktail: Shaken, Not Stirred

Saturday, 15 February 2014 > 8:00 AM-9:30 AM
Toronto (Hyatt Regency Chicago)

The unexpected record low in Arctic sea ice extent in 2012 is only one of the many indications that the Arctic is changing at a rapid pace. The northern high latitudes warm twice as fast as the rest of the world, Greenland glaciers release hundreds of gigatons of ice into the ocean each year, and polar ecosystems back out. What was formerly a vast and icy desert, home only to polar bears and to people who have adapted over centuries to this hostile environment, may soon become an area for thriving economic activities.

While some see their traditional way of life made impossible or a unique natural heritage endangered, others are already reaching out for the treasures that were buried under Arctic sea ice and glaciers. Their melting makes oil, gas, and other raw material accessible. The ice-free ocean offers a tempting short-cut for shipping routes to Asia.

Climate change in the Arctic may offer economic opportunities but dramatic run-away effects in this vital and vulnerable part of our planet may well kick the entire Earth's climate system out of balance. What are the knock-on effects of Arctic change on other parts of the world regarding climate, ecosystems, economy and geo-strategic issues? How can societies deal with the tension between the desire to preserve and the lust to exploit?

The session will be organised as follows: 15 minutes for the main speeches and five minutes for questions from the audience after each speech. Then the round table takes place (20 minutes) with the three speakers, chair and moderator sitting together. The moderator of the roundtable will introduce successively three questions related to the three speeches that will give the possibility for the audience and the panellists to react and engage in further debates.

Chair: *Andrea Tilche (Head of Unit - Climate Action and Earth Observation, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission)*



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AGENDA

08:00 - 08:05 **Welcome**

Andrea Tilche (Head of Unit - Climate Action and Earth Observation, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission)

08:05 - 08:25 **International Cooperation for Addressing the Arctic Challenge**

Lars-Otto Reiersen, Executive Secretary Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)

08:25 - 08:45 **The Environmental and Socio-Economic Challenges in the Arctic Ecosystem**

Aqqaluk Lyngge, President of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)

08:45 - 09:05 **The Arctic Change: Risk or Opportunity?**

Simon Stephenson, Section Head National Science Foundation (NSF)

09:05 - 09:25 **Open discussion**

09:25 - 09:30 **Conclusions**

Andrea Tilche



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Earth Observation Data Goes Open Access

Monday, 17 February 2014 > 9:45 – 11:15
Columbus EF (Hyatt Regency Chicago)

Facilitating the access and the uptake of EO data by a wide range of user communities and boosting their use for society are the key objectives of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) in setting up GEOSS.

In the 2010 Beijing Declaration GEO Members committed to implement the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles by developing flexible policy frameworks that enable a more open data environment which has influenced national and regional data policies, including INSPIRE and Copernicus in Europe and Landsat in the US.

GEO has set ambitious strategic targets and is making significant progress towards delivering them. Global and regional initiatives, such as AfriGEOSS, the Asian Water Cycle Initiative, the Blue Planet initiative, the GEO Biodiversity Observing Network, the Global Agricultural Monitoring initiative, the Global Carbon Observing System, the Global Forest Observing Initiative and the Global Mercury Observation System have been created to address gaps in our capability as identified by users.

In this session, panellists representing some key GEO members will discuss the GEO achievements so far and the extension of its mandate in view of a full implementation of GEOSS beyond 2015. Then the round table takes place (20 minutes) with the three speakers, chair and moderator sitting together. The moderator of the roundtable will introduce successively three questions related to the three speeches that will give the possibility for the audience and the panellists to react and engage in further debates.

Chair: *Rudolf Strohmeier (Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission) and Li Jiahong, Deputy Director, National Remote Sensing Center of China*



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AGENDA

09:45 - 09:55 **Welcome**

Rudolf Strohmeier (Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission) and Li Jiahong (Deputy Director, National Remote Sensing Center of China)

09:55 - 10:15 **GEO: Sharing Resources at Global Level for Monitoring the Planet Earth**

Kathryn Sullivan, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting NOAA Administrator

10:15 - 10:35 **The Future of the Group on Earth Observation**

Philemon Mjwara, Director General of South Africa's Department of Science and Technology

10:35 - 10:55 **GEO Contributing to the Surveillance of Areas Prone to Natural Hazards**

Stephen Briggs, Head of Earth Observation Programme Planning and Coordination, European Space Agency

10:55 - 11:15 **Round Table (Moderator – Andrea Tilche, Head of Unit - Climate Action and Earth Observation, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission)**

Rudolf Strohmeier, Li Jiahong, Kathryn Sullivan, Philemon Mjwara, Stephen Briggs.

Research and
Innovation