

**Joint Workshop on Challenge for a Sustainable Arctic**  
**Japan's Policy toward the Arctic:**  
**An Evaluation from the Perspective of International Relations (IR)**

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# Involvement – 1990s –

## The Pillar of Diplomacy

### Svalbard Treaty (1920)

Japan joined to the **Svalbard Treaty** as one of the high contracting parties.

### Other involvement (1990s)

- The Japanese government joined to the **Barents Euro-Arctic Council** as an observer state in 1993.
- The Japanese government attended the meeting of establishment of the **Arctic council** as an ad-hoc observer in 1996.

## The Pillar of Science

### Arctic Research and Observation (1990s)

The government founded the National Institute of Polar Research, an inter-university research institute in 1973, which in turn established **the Arctic Environment Research Center** in 1990. The AERC opened a research station at Ny-Ålesund on Svalbard in 1991. Joining **IARC** in 1991.

## The Pillar of Business

### KANUMAS project (1990s)

A seismic reconnaissance survey in the northern parts off the eastern and western coasts of Greenland. The **Japan National Oil Corporation** (now called Japan Oil, Gas and Metal National Corporation: JOGMEC) joined it as a member of the major oil companies (BP, Exxon, Shell, Statoil and Texaco) in addition to the Nunaoil.

### INSROP: International Northern Sea Route Program (1993-99)\*

An international project of close collaboration among the partner countries, with 390 participating researchers from 14 countries “pursuing the multidisciplinary study of the NSR.

\* This was not a national project and was funded by private thinktank

# Engagement – 2000s-2010s –

## The Pillar of Diplomacy

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

- July 2009, MoFA officially submitted its application to the observer status to the Arctic Council
- September 2010, MoFA established the Arctic Task Force.
- March 2013, the appointment of an Ambassador of Arctic affairs.
- May 2013, Japan was admitted an **observer status of the Arctic Council.**

## The Pillar of Science

### Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

- May 2011, the **Japan Consortium for Arctic Environmental Research** was founded as a platform for coordinating the Arctic research activities of Japan.
- June 2011, MEXT also initiated the five-year **Arctic Climate Change Research Project.**

## The Pillar of Business

### Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT)

- August 2012, MLIT set up a board in order to examine the Northern Sea Route's feasibility and logistics for Japanese shipping companies, including ports in the northern part of Japan.
- Winter 2013, MLIT conducted an on-site inspection in Russia in order to gather basic information on the NSR.
- May 2014, MLIT established a '**Public-Private Partnership Council for the Northern Sea Route**'

### Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

- May 2011, Greenland Petroleum Exploitation Co. Ltd. (GreenPeX) was established mainly to implement a preferential exploration right of JOGMEC.
- December 2013, **GreenPeX was awarded exploration licenses** at the two oil fields

# Ocean Policy

**2013 Basic Plan on Ocean Policy**

2008 Basic Plan  
on Ocean Policy

2007 Basic Act on Ocean Policy  
(6 Principles & 12 basic measures)

Enhance, strengthen, intensify and improve the **existing measures**.

**Measures to be Promoted Intensively** under the Plan will be clarified in consideration of the changes in social circumstances surrounding the sea, and other factors.

- (1) Promotion and creation of marine industries
- (2) Securing safety and security on the oceans
- (3) Promotion of marine surveys and integration and disclosure of marine-related information
- (4) Developing human resources and improving technological ability
- (5) Comprehensive management of sea areas and formulation of plans
- (6) **Other important measures to be promoted intensively**

- a. Disaster control and environmental measures after the Great East Japan Earthquake
- b. **Measures responding to changes in the Arctic Ocean caused by climate change**

“Given the changes in the Arctic Ocean caused by climate change, Japan has been facing diverse issues to study and address, such as **securing maritime transport, securing the safety navigation, promotion of research and survey activities, conservation of environment, and promotion of international coordination and cooperation.**”

# Science & Technology Diplomacy

- Basic Law on Science and Technology 1995
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Basic Plan on Science and Technology
- Enhancement of Science and Technology for diplomacy - Report by the advisory panel on science
- Science and Technology Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Advisory Board for the Promotion of Science and Technology Diplomacy
- Objectives
  - **Enhancement of international cooperation for facilitation of Science and innovation (bilateral or multilateral)**
  - **Utilization of Science and technology for solving global-wide challenges**
  - **Facilitation of bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology cooperation**
  - **Dissemination of Japan's soft power as a science and technology nation**

# Science & Technology Diplomacy

- Frontier areas in strategic approach of science and technology diplomacy  
ex. outer space, the Arctic, deep sea, and cyber space,

“▪▪▪ major states have started to make rules on governance and are exercising their diplomatic measures.”

“It is urgent to acquire basic information and knowledge for relevant policy-making.”

“Major states turn more to science and technology for recognizing the current state and analyzing prospects of the utilizations of outer space, surveilling the destructive actions to satellites, observing the pace of thawing in the Arctic, mapping the geographic data of the sea floor..”

*See more details: Advisory Panel on Science and Technology Diplomacy, Report (2015)*

# Japan's Arctic Policy (Oct. 16, 2015)

## Background and Purpose of Basic Policy

- 1) proactive contribution to Peace;
- 2) an important player that contributes to the international community (=Panoramic dip. )

## Need to Address Arctic Issues

- 1) Global Environmental Issues, 2) Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic 3) Science and Technology, 4) Ensuring the Rule of Law and Promoting International Cooperation, 5) Arctic Sea Route, 6) Natural Resources Development; 7) National Security

## Specific Initiatives

### Research and Development

- Promotion of Arctic research to **contribute to policy decision making and problem solving**
- Strengthening observation and analysis systems and developing the most advanced observation instruments
- Establishment of research stations in Arctic states
- Data sharing and management
- Training and supporting researchers
- **Arctic research vessel**



ArCS

### International Cooperation

- Active participation in response to global issues regarding the Arctic and formulation process of international rules for the Arctic
- Further contribution to activities of the Arctic Council
- Expansion of international and bilateral cooperation with Arctic and other countries

### Sustainable Us

- Work toward greater **involvement of Japanese companies** in economic activities in the Arctic
- Arctic Sea Route
- Mineral resources
- **Marine living resources**



## Japan's International Scientific Activities for the Arctic

### Experts contribution to AC Committees

AMAP, SWIPA, AACA:	Sending experts to contribute reports
CAFF, PAME, SCTF:	Participating as an observer
IASC:	Council and WG activities (1991- ), hosting ASSW2015

### Arctic Research of Japan (Bilateral or Internationally collaborated)

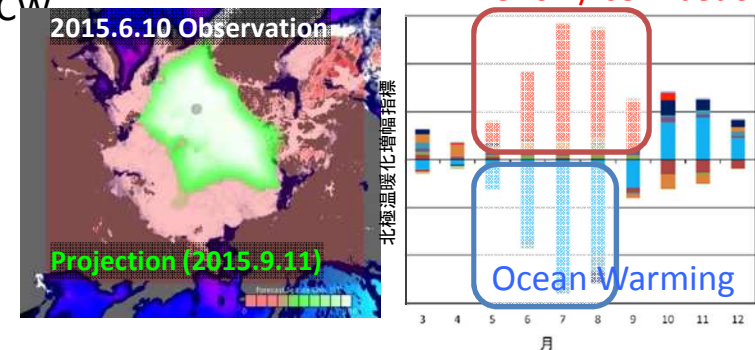
- Ecological studies in Ny-Alesund (20 years)
- Greenland Ice cores (NGRIP, NEEM)
- Observation in Arctic Ocean by R/V Mirai (30 years)
- Climate and Ecosystem change modelling/projection
- Earth observation by satellite
- Observational studies in eastern Siberia (Yakutsk region, 20 years)
- Vegetation and carbon budget studies in Alaskan boreal forests
- SIGMA Project (snow and albedo study) → Contribution to GCW



### **GRENE Arctic Project (2011-2015)**

#### **Coordinated research activities producing new results:**

- Mechanism: polar amplification (precise feedback analysis)
- Projection: seasonal projection of summer sea ice condition
- Mechanism: sea ice decline causing severe winter in mid latitude

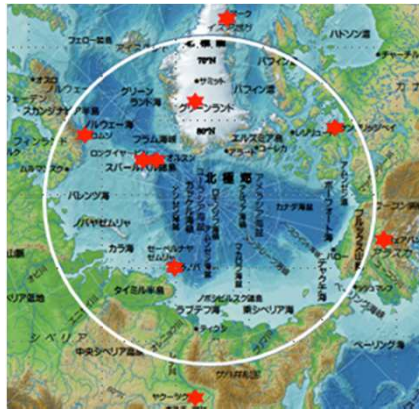


Based on these achievements and advantages, ArCS will respond to expectations from Arctic countries as an “AC observer”, showing Japan’s presence in Arctic research.

# Three Pillars of ArCS

ArCS will strengthen the scientific cooperation with AC and non-AC states which recognizes the importance of the Arctic. The aim of the project is not only to show the Japan's presence in arctic research, also to provide the opportunity to research co-designing with domestic and international stakeholders, with the ideas of social and cultural studies, for future bridging industry and the Arctic.

Expansion of research base/stations



Improving the basic research facilities for long-term stay and/or monitoring studies, which can be used by international collaborative studies.

Sending experts and young scientists



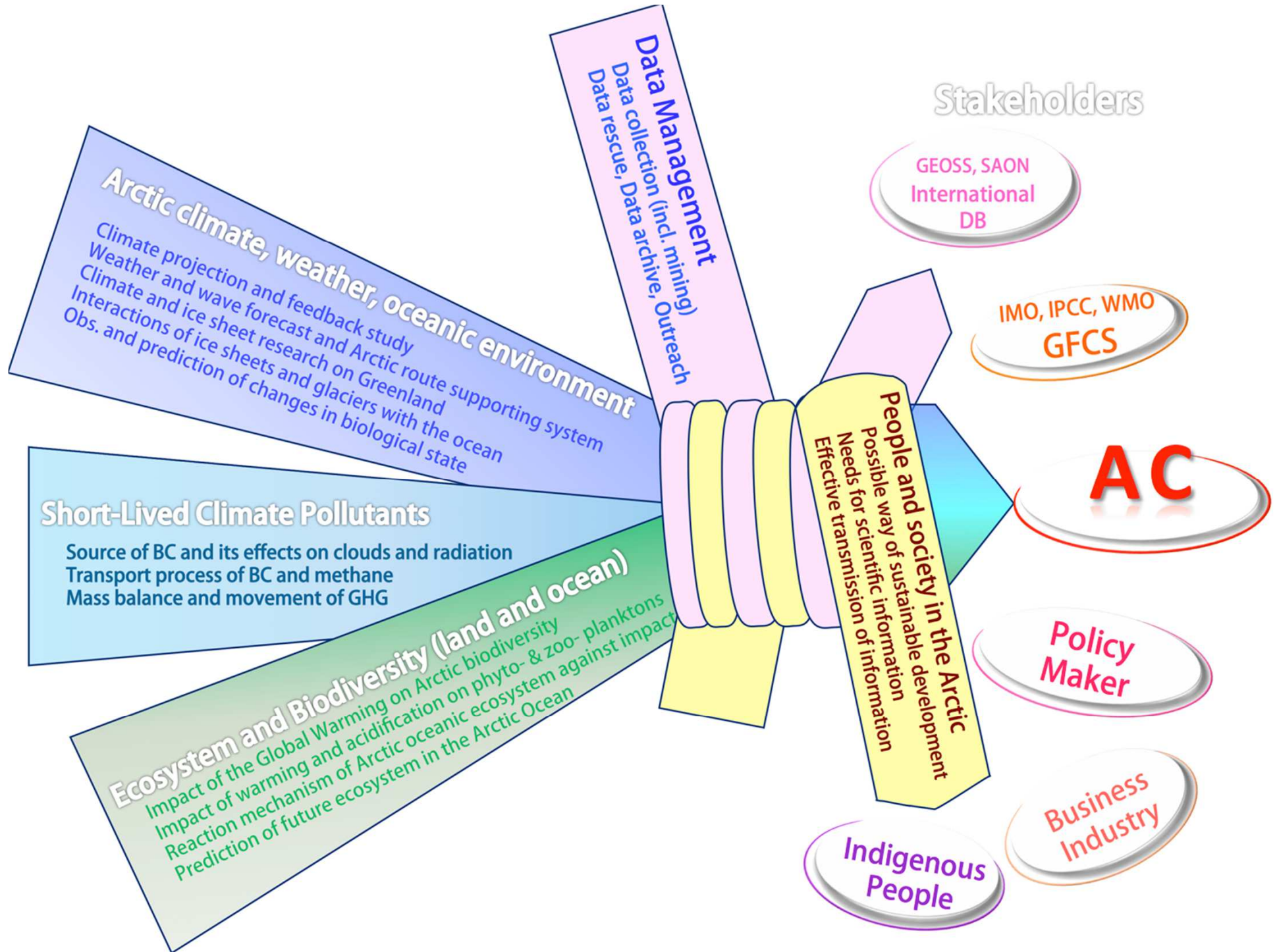
Long-term research cooperation through the exchange of young researchers. Interdisciplinary human resource development. Sending experts to International committees and meetings.

International research collaborations



Carrying out the international joint research project with AC countries. Considering the social and cultural impacts, providing information appropriately.

# Stakeholders



# Conclusion

## IN PRACTICE

- 1) from involvement (reactive, sporadic, less strategic) to engagement (active & proactive, concerted, strategic)
- 2) three pillars in Arctic policy
- 3) a complex of three policies: OP–STD–JAP  
shifting from ‘diplomacy for Arctic to Arctic for diplomacy?’

## From IR perspective

- 1) response to a ‘new’ status quo (US decline = Japan complement)
- 2) utilizing ‘soft power’ for a better place in power constellation of international politics
- 3) ▪ ▪ ▪ however, are science and technology really soft power?  
isn’t it too optimistic?