



Minutes

INTERACT Daily Management Group Meeting

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20 May 2021

Participants: Luisella Bianco, Elmer Topp-Jørgensen, Terry Callaghan, Kirsi Latola, Margareta Johansson, Morten Rasch, Hannele Savela and Katharina Beckmann

Report from UArctic Congress

Book Launch

On the 17th of May, we launched two books at the UArctic Congress: the printed copy of the Stories of Arctic Science II and the INTERACTIVE E-book. The e-book will continue to evolve over the coming year as educational resources that have been developed together with Wicked Weather Watch should be included in the e-book. The Tomsk State University will develop this part of the INTERACTIVE ebook as well.

Session: The Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation: Empowering institutions and individuals

INTERACT presented in a session on the Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation. The session discussed the role that individual scientists, ECR groups, transnational access networks, universities and research centres and non-governmental organisations, including those who are observers to AC (IASC, UArctic), play in helping to implement the agreement or in creating opportunities, mechanisms and platforms for future work under the agreement. Unfortunately, only 14 people were attending this session – we assume it is due to online meeting fatigue.

IMLA Progress

IMLA (INTERACT Machine Learning Algorithm) has been developed to sort the data into topic categories in the VA Single-Entry Point. The algorithm prototype is almost ready but still inaccurate, and it now needs training as its accuracy improves with the amount of practise. This will be done by launching a “tagging campaign” to provide IMLA with heterogeneous datasets with topics already assigned so that it learns to understand how to tag unknown datasets.

The platform will be demonstrated at the upcoming annual meeting, and in early June we can start inviting people to train IMLA. You need to log in with INTERACCESS to start the training. A suggestion is to award the most productive users with an INTERACT Stories of Arctic Science II book or Images of Arctic Science hard copy (or both).



INPA

Signed Accession Form for INPA

INPA has signed the Accession form in the EU participant portal for Arctic Passion. INPA will hence be a partner of Arctic Passion and the official starting date of the project is 1st July 2021. The next step will be to organise a meeting in the early autumn for the stations that will take part through INPA.

- Margareta will organise a meeting for the 10 stations involved in Arctic Passion through INPA.

INPA Web site

A draft outline of the INPA web site has been sent out and now feedback is needed before the GA. It was suggested that Tomsk State University (TSU) should develop the INPA web site instead of Inkode as was discussed at the last DMG meeting. TSU are already partners in INTERACT II and they have made an outstanding contribution with the e-book. We have to make sure that the branding is consistent (INPA will be slightly different from INTERACT to avoid confusion in the audience). Wordpress will be used as a platform for the INPA website as well to ensure compatibility with the INTERACT web site. We need to fund the web site for years to come and the web site should be stored at an independent server.

- Terry will contact TSU to see if they are able to help with the development of the INPA web site

Website Domain

Available domains have been checked and it was agreed upon to explore *interactassociation*.

External Funding Forms

Two new forms have been created by Margareta and Luisella. One with the necessary information to make a donation and one with a receipt. This is still in development.

INPA Board meeting

Internal documents will have to be agreed upon. The date for the board meeting will most likely be the 28th May.

General Assembly

Online meeting 26-27 May

On the 26-27 May, the first of two general assemblies this year will be held online. All preparations are in place. The meeting consists of reports on progress from the different WPs followed by a discussion on what is needed from other WPs to complete the work. This part of the meeting will be followed by a Station Managers Forum. Separate minutes for the General assembly and for the Station Managers' Forum will be made.

- Katharina will send out links to the WP presentations before the meeting.



Physical GA in November

It was concluded that Finse (which was the original suggestion of venue for our physical meeting in November) is very difficult to access in November. Therefore, other venues for the physical general assembly meeting in November have been discussed. We concluded that the meeting should be in Europe because of covid-19 and the everchanging recommendations and regulations. A technical workshop will be held back to back with the general assembly which is limiting the alternatives.

- Katharina will continue to contact station managers to find a suitable easy-access location.

Any other issues

INTERACT success story regarding cooperation with Russia

EU has called INTERACT a success story when it comes to cooperation with Russia. An EU commissioner selected Olga Morozova from Tomsk State University to be the spokesperson and to answer the many questions about how Russia is benefiting from the cooperation with EU etc. It is excellent that EU is recognising the strong east-west collaboration in INTERACT.

INPA/INTERACT future strategies

It was suggested that we should organise a two-day seminar to discuss future strategies of INTERACT and INPA. INPA is a complement to INTERACT and it is extremely important to brand them differently and to make sure that INPA is ongoing as a parallel. INPA as a legal entity could for example apply for observer status in the Arctic Council (which should be a top priority), this would be something great to bring to the EU. It is important to remember that detailed future strategies of INTERACT is partly decided by future funding calls and it is therefore more difficult to develop detailed future strategies for INTERACT.

- Katharina will organise a face to face meeting with INPA Board and INTERACT DMG to discuss future strategies in spring 2022 when covid allows.

SecNet Special Issue of Ambio on Siberia

AMBIO is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. SecNet won a competition to make a special issue that will be published in November focussing on environmental change in Siberia. This special issue will be very relevant for INTERACT and some of the papers published in this special issues are projects that have been funded by INTERACT TA.