

COMNAP UPDATE: June 2020



COMNAP Members, Observers, and all those from the SCAR community will know that we made the early decision to cancel the in-person meetings scheduled to take place in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, in early August 2020. It was a tough decision to make, but given the current, on-going, global issues related to the pandemic, it proved to be the right decision. We are grateful to our COMNAP Member, the Australian Antarctic Division, for all the work they put into the organisation in advance of our meetings. We are also delighted that they have given COMNAP permission to continue to use the Annual General Meeting (AGM) logo for the now virtual COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020) that will be held on-line by way of a series of ZOOM sessions taking place over the confirmed AGM week in early August 2020. Further details are included in this *COMNAP UPDATE* and are now available on the Member's Only area of the COMNAP website.

Preparing for COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXXII (2020) – our first virtual AGM!



COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020) Registration Now OPEN!



COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020) will be held by virtual means, on-line at various times, on UTC Monday 3 August 2020, Tuesday 4 August 2020 and Wednesday 5 August 2020. The schedule is available below.

As with any COMNAP AGM, you must register to participate in any of the scheduled AGM sessions. Registration is now open through the Member's Only area of the COMNAP website. Go to www.comnap.aq and select "Members Login". Enter your Username and Password and Login. On the Member's Only page, under the "Welcome", select: "Quick link to COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXXII (2020) information and registration." This takes you to the registration form.

Complete the form and submit before the deadline of 10 July 2020. Late registration cannot be accepted. Once you complete the registration, the Secretariat will receive the information and review the registration. Members, Observers and Invited Experts who have successfully registered by the deadline will receive the information they require to access the Regional Break-out Group sessions they registered for-please do not share the information with others who have not registered. Members who have successfully registered by the deadline for the AGM Plenary Business session will receive information, including a password, for access to that session.

AGM Meeting Papers

As with any in-person AGM, we will accept Meeting Papers for any of the Agenda items, we also look forward to receiving the completed Regional Break-out Group Information Exchange forms. All documents will be shared by way of an AGM dropbox and on the Member's Only area of the COMNAP Website. Please email all documents to the COMNAP Secretariat by 15 July 2020.

Agenda of COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020)

*Only items with a * will be discussed. All other items will be taken as read. All Meeting Papers submitted will be shared.*

Item 1*: Opening of on-line plenary

Item 2*: Adoption of COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019) Final Report

Item 3: Chair's Report

Item 4: Executive Secretary's Report

Item 5: Administrative & policy matters

Item 6: Reports from observers and invited experts

Item 7*: Improving support of science & international collaboration

Regional group on-line sessions and information exchange

Item 8: Current projects

Item 9: Expert Groups

Item 10: Strategic directions

Item 11: Project plan 2021–2026

Item 12*: Finance

Review of preliminary statement of accounts 2019–20; Present draft budget 2020–21

Item 13*: Election of officers

Item 14*: Future AGMs and Symposiums

Item 15: Any other business

Item 16*: Close of on-line plenary

Schedule and format of the COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020)

There will be two specific formats for the on-line AGM sessions:

A. Regional Break-out Groups (Agenda item 7); and

B. Plenary (Business Agenda items 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 16).

A. All Regional Break-out Group sessions are open to registered Members, Observers and Invited Experts.

The schedule for the Regional Break-out Group sessions is as follows:

UTC Monday 3 August 2020

14:00–16:00hrs Peninsula Facilitators: Agnieszka Kruzewska & Antonio Quesada

20:00–21:30hrs Ross Sea Region Facilitators: Paul Sheppard & Simon Trotter

UTC Tuesday 4 August 2020

03:00–04:30hrs East Antarctic Facilitator: Charlton Clark

04:30–06:00hrs Larsemann Hills Management Group Facilitator: Javed Beg

06:00–07:30hrs High Plateau Facilitator: Jerome Chappellaz

UTC Wednesday 5 August 2020

07:00–09:00hrs Dronning Maud Land Facilitator: Uwe Nixdorf

B. The Plenary (Business) session is open to registered Members only.

The date and time for that session is as follows:

UTC Wednesday 5 August 2020

12:00–13:00hrs Facilitators: Kelly K Falkner, COMNAP Chair & Michelle Finnemore, Executive Secretary

COMNAP Symposium 2020 “Antarctic Station Modernization: Future-proofing Infrastructure to Support Research and to Reduce Environmental Impact”

With thanks to everyone who was able to send in an abstract, a number of abstract submissions for posters and oral presentations were received before the submission deadline and the plan is to proceed with an on-line Symposium. Symposium Convener Charlton Clark (AAD) is currently working with the Symposium Review Committee & Project Development Manager Andrea Colombo to make the final selection of oral and poster presentations and to plan the format. Further information will be available soon.

Progress Report on the COMNAP On-line ZOOM Meetings

The Round 1 “Townhall Meetings” (7–15 April): Twenty-two of the 30 COMNAP Member National Antarctic Programs participated. A broad summary of the discussions across all four sessions is available from the Members Only webpage, under the Current & Working Documents table.

“Supporting National responses through COMNAP guidance: COMNAP On-line ZOOM Meeting with a medical focus in preparation for Antarctic season 2020/21 in the context of COVID-19” (8 June): Eighty-two participants from across the Antarctic community listened to this presentation by Dr Tim Heitland (AWI) followed by a question and answer session led by Tim and Dr Anne Hicks (JEGHBM). The presentation and the questions, comments and responses are available from the Members Only webpage, under the Current & Working Documents table.

The Round 2 “Advanced Planning Forums” (9–12 June): Twenty-five of the 30 COMNAP Member National Antarctic Programs participated. Advanced Planning Information Exchange documents are being made available (as they are received) on the COMNAP Member’s Only webpage, under Advance Exchange of Operational Information.

New! Just added as Members requested! Note the date and join in!

During rounds 2 and 3, we identified a need for some additional on-line discussions: 1. With “other operators” such as those from the IAATO deep field operators’ community and those commercial operators that are contracted by, or operate with, national Antarctic programs on a regular basis for Antarctic operations and logistics.

This on-line ZOOM discussion is now confirmed to take place **on UTC 30 June 2020 from 12:00–13:00hrs**. All MNAPs and DMNAPs will be sent the link in order to participate. They can also share the link with other members of their team.

Confirmed “other operator” participants for this on-line ZOOM discussion are:

Lisa Kelley, IAATO Director of Operations and Government Affairs

Brian Crocker, Kenn Borek Air

Vasily Kaliazin & Richard Skinner, TAC/ALCI

Nick Lewis & David Rootes, ALE

Andrea Pivcevic, DAP

Sune Tamm, Arctic Trucks

Robyn & Patrick Woodhead, White Desert

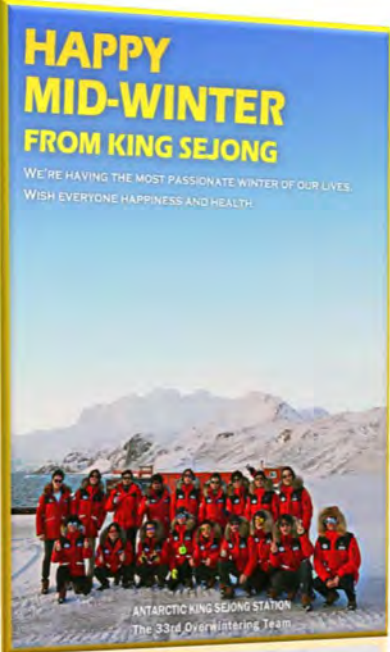
A further additional on-line discussion identified during our round 1 and round 2 meetings were with our science/research community communicating the importance of continuing support to Antarctic research while noting the scaled back operations and logistics likely for the 2020/21 Antarctic season due to COVID-19. The COMNAP Secretariat is in discussion with the SCAR Secretariat in order to schedule this on-line discussion. Information on this will be made available when confirmed.

Other news and information

Update from the Year Of Polar Prediction (YOPP) International Coordination Office

YOPP has written to COMNAP saying, “We are writing to express our appreciation for National Antarctic Program support of the YOPP-SH during the 2018–2019 austral summer and to update you on new planned activities for winter 2022. Your support resulted in more than 2,200 additional radiosondes being launched from around Antarctica; these currently are being assessed for impact on atmospheric predictability and observing system design. Thank you!” YOPP is proposing Targeted Observing Periods (TOPs) from mid-April to mid-July 2022 in and around the Antarctic with a focus on major Southern Ocean cyclones that will impact the coastal regions in a profound way. Further information is expected from YOPP in the near future. You can also go to <https://www.polarprediction.net/>.

The next page is a selection of the mid-winter picture greetings received from Antarctic winter-over stations. Congratulations to everyone on the Antarctic Winter-Over team of 2020! If you have any National Antarctic Program news, photos, or other information you would like included in the next *COMNAP UPDATE* send it to sec@comnap.aq by 1 September 2020.



中国南极考察

祝各国越冬队员
仲冬节快乐!

中国南极长城站

