

# Enhancing International Scientific Cooperation: Arctic Science and Technology Advice with Ministries

## Goal of the Project:

The goal of this holistic (international, interdisciplinary and inclusive) project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan is to help enhance international scientific cooperation with transdisciplinary integration of international law, ministries of nations, Indigenous peoples and science inclusively. The Arctic will be applied as a global case study, considering climate and planetary challenges to balance national interests and common interests “for the benefit of all on Earth across generations.”

## Project Background and Objectives:

International scientific cooperation is fundamental to the implementation of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, involving science and decisionmaking institutions involved with governance mechanisms and built infrastructure. The changing Arctic has increasingly important global consequences, generating strategies that involve Arctic and non-Arctic States along with Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations to enhance international cooperation with science.

Research and action contributions with science in the Arctic are highlighted by the 2017 *Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation* that is binding among the eight Arctic states and the Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM) process that began in 2016 among Arctic and non-Arctic states with Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations. This project will address the inevitable question that has yet to be formally addressed:

**What are the relationships and synergies between the Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM) process and the 2017 Arctic Science Agreement, both of which involve ministries and science?**

The theme of this project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan is the 3<sup>rd</sup> *Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3): Arctic Science and Technology Advice with Ministries*, formally involving objectives to:

1. Further publicize contributions from ASM3, which was hosted in Tokyo in May 2021 by Japan and Iceland with an exemplary webinar series that was convened beforehand;
2. Involve experts and students affiliated with the Program on Negotiation (PON) at Harvard Law School and associated university programs in Boston and those affiliated with the Polar Cooperation Research Center (PCRC) at Kobe University as well as other institutions that are part of the Arctic Challenge for Sustainability II (ArCS II) project in Japan, considering contributions from the international community inclusively;
3. Contribute to the “Science-to-Policy Process” towards ASM4, which will be hosted by the Russian Federation and France in 2023; and
4. Promote holistic dialogues among students, scholars and decisionmakers in view of Arctic sustainability in a global context;



## Project Implementation:

This project builds on contributions from experts involved with the ASM process since 2016, including: ASM1 in Washington, DC with the United States as the initial host; ASM2 in Germany with Finland and the European Commission as co-hosts in 2018; ASM3 in 2021 and ASM4 in 2023, as mentioned above. Discussions among interested students and faculty in Boston and Japan have been initiated, noting the 14<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium at Kobe University in November 2021 will involve dialogues regarding the 2017 Arctic Science Agreement and lessons from ASM3 that will contribute to ASM4. Following on preparatory dialogues among interested parties inclusively for this project in 2021, three holistic webinars will be convened subsequently in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) monthly, starting in January 2022. These webinars will be coordinated with science diplomacy and informed decisionmaking strategies that involve transdisciplinary approaches, which originate with questions to build common interests among allies and adversaries alike:

- **Session 1: What is Arctic Science?**
  - How do natural sciences, social sciences and Indigenous knowledge enhance each other?
  - How is science facilitated and conducted?
  - Who is needed to do 'the science'?
- **Session 2: How can science transform data into evidence for informed decisionmaking?**
  - How are decisions on science priorities made and who are the decisionmakers?
  - How are evidence for decisions developed?
  - What evidence is needed to produce informed decisions that operate short-to-long term?
- **Session 3: What international decisionmaking processes are needed to enhance understanding of the Arctic system and its global relevance?**
  - What are the science and decisionmaking mechanisms that exist at local-global levels?
  - What mechanisms are need to enhance science for sustainable development?
  - How could enhanced scientific cooperation impact other areas of international relations?

Each webinar will be 2-3 hours with plenary presentations and breakout sessions. Six graduate students from Boston and Japan will contribute as key facilitators throughout the project. In addition to academic exchanges, the deliverable from this ASM project will be a summary publication in [Science Diplomacy Action](#) with distribution to ministries among Arctic and non-Arctic states as well as with Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and other interested parties inclusively seeking to enhance international Arctic scientific cooperation.

## Project Coordination:

This project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to EvREsearch LTD with Paul Arthur Berkman as the Chief Executive Officer. In addition to serving as Director of the Science Diplomacy Center at EvREsearch LTD as well as MGIMO University in Moscow, Prof. Berkman is a Faculty Associate with the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School and an Associated Fellow with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) along with serving as Fulbright Arctic Chair 2021-2022 awarded by the United States Department of State and Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The coordination team importantly involves Dr. Jenny Baeseman, who assisted with administration of the ASM2 and ASM3, and Prof. Akiho Shibata, who is Director of the Polar Cooperation Research Center at Kobe University.

