



**ACCESS**  
Arctic Climate Change  
Economy and Society



**Project no. 265863**

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**Arctic Climate Change, Economy and Society**

Instrument: Collaborative Project  
Thematic Priority: Ocean.2010-1 “Quantification of climate change impacts on economic sectors in the Arctic”

**D7.13 – Advisory Board meeting minutes**

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<b>Dissemination Level</b>		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

## **Protocol of the Advisory Board meeting minutes**

On March 9, 2012 as part of the ACCESS General Assembly, held at the Beijer Institute in Stockholm, the first meeting of the ACCESS Advisory Board took place. Following a first day general presentation of ACCESS activities in a plenary session by all the ACCESS Working groups, AAB members formulated comments on the status and future prospects of ACCESS to the ACCESS General Assembly, allowing for open discussion.

The members of Advisory Board are as follows:

**Professor Oran R. Young** is at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California Santa Barbara, in the United States. Prof. Young specializes in the analysis of environmental institutions with particular reference to international regimes. He chaired the Steering Committee of the Arctic Governance Project and has served as Vice-President of the International Arctic Science Committee, Chair of the Board of Governors for the University of the Arctic, and Co-chair of the Arctic Human Development Report. He is the author or co-author of more than 20 books, including “Institutional Dynamics: Emergent Patterns in International Environmental Governance” (2010) and “Science Diplomacy” (2011).

**Professor Thomas Sterner** is at the School of Business, Economics & Law, Gothenburg University, in Sweden. Prof. Sterner’s main research interests lie in environmental economics and the design of policy instruments with diverse applications to resolve energy, climate, resource and pollution issues. Prof. Sterner is active on numerous international advisory boards dealing with resource and economic issues, including as President of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists from 2008-09. His many publications and books include “Policy Instruments for Environmental and Natural Resource Management” (2011), which is in its second edition, and “Fuel Taxes and the Poor: The Distributional Effects of Gasoline Taxation and Their Implications for Climate Policy”, which also was published in 2011.

**Honourable Inuuteq Holm Olsen** has served as Deputy Minister for the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Greenland since July 2006. Minister Holm Olsen began his career at the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1996 and was Private Secretary to the Premier from 1997 through 1999. He was posted at the Danish Foreign Ministry in Copenhagen and was at the Greenland Representation in Brussels from 2000 through 2003.

Minister Holm Olsen earned a BA in Political Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1994 and a MA in International Affairs from The George Washington University in 1996.

**Honourable Hannu Halinen** is Ambassador for Arctic affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Amb. Halinen also is a Senior Arctic Official for the Arctic Council and for the Nordic Council of Ministers as well as a Member of the Committee of Senior Officials for the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. Amb. Halinen has provided leadership in many diplomatic arenas, including as: Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization; Representative of Finland to the UN Human Rights Commission; Ambassador of Finland in Hungary; and Ambassador of Finland in the Arab Republic of Egypt among other postings.

**Professor Hajo Eicken** is at the Department of Geology & Geophysics, University of Alaska Fairbanks, in the United States. His research interests include the growth, evolution and properties of sea ice. He is particularly interested in determining how microscopic and macroscopic properties affect sea-ice processes and the climate system. Prof. Eicken's group also investigates different uses of sea ice in indigenous communities, the private sector and the public at large to help decision makers adapt to a changing Arctic. Prof. Eicken chairs the Science Steering Committee for the Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH) project.

**Ms. Adele Airoidi** has a master in Polar Studies from Scott Polar Research Institute. She worked at the secretariat of the European Union Council of Ministers in Brussels from 1981 until 2004, mainly on environmental policy issues. During that period she assisted Denmark and Greenland at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in preparing the 2002 Ilulissat Conference. Since 2004, she has been active in the field of Arctic affairs. In 2008 she wrote a report "The European Union and the Arctic- Policies and Actions" for the Nordic Council of Ministers, which was updated in 2010.

**Professor Thomas Sterner** was not able to join the assembly unfortunately.

The AAB session started with a contribution from Ms. Adele Airoidi. She pointed out the novelty of ACCESS approach, integrating scientific and economic issues with the challenges of governance. She noted that, while in the past Arctic-related research projects had little impact on policy formulation, ACCESS because of its timing and characteristics offered a unique opportunity to contribute to the ongoing reflection on and elaboration of a EU Arctic policy. She pointed out that to fulfill such a role it was important that ACCESS regularly inform and update on the progress of the project during its active phase the EU officials dealing with Arctic issues in the Commission and the other EU institutions. She also stressed that particular attention should be given to the concerns of indigenous peoples, to overcome their negative perception of past EU legislation impacting on the Arctic.

**Prof. Hajo Eicken** stated that the challenge for the project was big, even more so since it is largely a user-driven research approach, in contrast to academically-driven research. A very important aspect in his view was that this kind of EU Arctic research was perceived as impartial by others. He strongly urged to keep up this kind of neutrality. A challenge will be to bridge the requested level of high specificity and at the same time to keep up a pan-Arctic vision. He suggested to start with the local scale and then to zoom out at the pan-Arctic scale. A last issue he mentioned was the question of accessibility of the ACCESS quality controlled products and how results can and should be best communicated by the project to the outside world.

**Ambassador Hannu Halinen** pointed out the importance of international cooperation for all Arctic research, and the necessity to involve all players. Furthermore he highlighted the question of how ACCESS should and could convey the acquired knowledge to stakeholders and large public, and he suggested that the Arctic Council's action plan on outreach might be an appropriate example. He mentioned the ambitious program of the Arctic Council for the coming years, including the Arctic Change Assessment ACA and the Resilience Project. He welcomed the possibilities for ACCESS to provide an input to the ACA.

**Minister Inuuteq Holm Olsen** stated the willingness of Greenland to use the best practice to make use of the natural resources. He mentioned, the process was developing very fast at the moment, having started about 10 years ago. He pointed out the important question for understanding and anticipating where the forces of change might come from the outside world, the climate or from the inside? He pointed out that policy makers were looking for solutions and this was one of the questions where science might play a role. He made one further recommendation, i.e. to think about possibilities to produce some outcome from the

project not only in English language, but in other languages such as Russian and/or Inuit to reach a larger audience.

**Professor Oran Young** presented five observations related to ACCESS:

1. He highlighted the importance of linking the ACCESS research with other scientific programs, like the AO review, the Arctic Governance project, and to the debates about Governance and related discussions on EU policy.
2. Further he suggested to 'compare notes' with other programs, such IASC.
3. An important aspect he pointed out was to carefully keep an eye on the policy relevance of the research and to frame questions in a way that is relevant to on-going discussions e.g. in the Arctic Council's working groups. An example may be the Arctic Human Development report of the Arctic Council from which Governance related researchers could be identified and to which connections could and should be made.
4. Pr Young stressed our attention on the great importance for the ACCESS research to envision and to understand the Arctic in a global context
5. For the next general Assembly he suggested a more interactive approach to better involve all ACCESS participants in the discussions and results of the project.