



SOOS

SOUTHERN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

SOOS Asian Workshop
Best Western Pudong Sunshine Hotel
Shanghai, China
23-24 May 2013

Preliminary Notice and Call for Participation

SOOS Asian Workshop Objective

The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) Scientific Steering Committee is convening a 2-day workshop to highlight Asian activities in Southern Ocean observations and research, and to stimulate discussion about enhanced involvement in SOOS from Asian countries.

Motivation

The Southern Ocean plays a fundamental role in the function of the Earth System, influencing climate, sea level, biogeochemical cycles and biological productivity on a global scale. Ocean observations from this region suggest that large-scale changes are taking place, which are of global concern, yet because of its remote location and harsh environment, the Southern Ocean remains one of the least sampled zones in the world.

SOOS was developed as an international initiative both to address these issues and to provide an overarching structure to coordinate and expand the efforts of all nations that collect and disseminate observations from the Southern Ocean. Since its launch in 2011, SOOS has focused much of its attention on identifying the scientific platforms currently capable of delivering (or which need development to deliver) the measurements required to address six key challenges, identified in the *SOOS Initial Science and Implementation Strategy* (Rintoul *et al.*, 2012, available at www.soos.aq). To meet these challenges sustained data collection by the international research community is required.

The **SOOS Asian Workshop** will provide an opportunity to highlight research and observations being undertaken by Asian countries in the Southern Ocean and to stimulate discussion, and foster further involvement, from Asian countries in SOOS activities. The long-term vision of SOOS is to achieve the sustained, multi-disciplinary observations required to address key scientific and societal issues (such as climate change, sea-level rise, and the impacts of global change on marine ecosystems) in the Southern Ocean. To meet this vision SOOS must be a fully integrated and



coordinated international system with infrastructure, resources and investment from all nations involved in Southern Ocean research and observations¹.

Scope

The objective of the **SOOS Asian Workshop** is to highlight the activities of Asian countries currently engaged in Southern Ocean research (e.g., China, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Russia, etc) relevant to the SOOS science strategy, and to stimulate discussion and foster involvement by Asian countries in SOOS. Asian countries not presently engaged in Southern Ocean research and observations, but which have expressed an interest in being active in Antarctica (e.g., Indonesia, Pakistan, Vietnam)², are encouraged to attend.

Outcome

The workshop aims to facilitate and enhance involvement by Asian countries in SOOS, as SOOS strives to reach its ultimate goal: to develop a sustained, multi-disciplinary and internationally coordinated Southern Ocean observing system. It is anticipated that an outcome from the meeting will be a report published by SOOS that summarizes current contributions to SOOS by Asian nations, the prospects for enhanced contributions and in what form, and a strategy for facilitating this enhanced participation as part of the international community effort in the Southern Ocean.

Workshop Structure

The two-day workshop will be structured as follows:

- **Day 1 (23 May)** – Oral presentations by representatives from the Asian scientific community to illustrate their national and organizational research and observation activities and capabilities (current and planned) in the Southern Ocean. SOOS Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) members will also present an overview of their international activities in the Southern Ocean. Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes for invited speakers, and 10 minutes for SSC members.
- **Day 2 (24 May)** – Break into small working groups (morning) to discuss Asian countries' current/planned Southern Ocean observations and research, and how they can engage in SOOS activities. Working groups will be based on the six SOOS thematic themes and led by a SOOS Theme Leader and an Asian representative:

1. Heat and freshwater balance

¹ Meredith, M. *et al.*, submitted. The Vision for a Southern Ocean Observing System. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*.

² Brady, A-M. (2012) The Emerging Economies of Asia and Antarctica: Challenges and opportunities. *Australia's Antarctica: Proceedings of the Symposium to Mark 75 Years of the Australian Antarctic Territory*. Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies Occasional Paper No. 2, 2012. University of Tasmania, Australia.



2. Circulation
3. Ice sheets and sea level
4. Carbon
5. Sea ice
6. Ecosystems

A plenary session (afternoon) will enable each working group's team leader(s) to report their discussion/suggestions (e.g., 10-minute oral presentations) followed by a general discussion about how to implement the proposed strategies and the timelines.

Attendance and Registration

Attendance on Day 1 of the workshop is open to all interested parties; however, registration is essential (numbers will be restricted to 100 due to the size of the workshop venue).

Participants wishing to attend Day 1 must register with the SOOS International Project Office (email info@soos.aq) by 23 April 2013.

When the maximum capacity is reached (on a 'first in, first served' basis) no additional registrations will be accepted; however, a reserve list will be held in case of late cancellations.

Presentations by guest speakers on Day 1 of the workshop are by invitation only. SOOS will contact guest speakers individually with more information.

Attendance on Day 2 of the workshop is by invitation only. Guest speakers, SSC members, and other key representatives will be invited by SOOS to attend Day 2. Requests for an invitation to attend Day 2 will be considered on a case-by-case basis and if capacity permits.

Representation

The following representation has been sought for the **SOOS Asian Workshop**:

- Participants from Asian countries actively undertaking Southern Ocean research and observations.
- Participants from Asian countries seeking to become involved in Southern Ocean research and observations.
- Scientists from Asian countries representing key observation platforms.
- Data management representatives.

Travel Support for Guest Speakers

It is expected that guest speakers' travel costs to attend the **SOOS Asian Workshop** will be supported by the organizations that they represent; however, the workshop's Chinese sponsor (Polar Research Institute of China: PRIC) will provide some travel support (accommodation and meals for three days) for guest speakers to attend, if



required. Please advise SOOS if you are an invited speaker and require travel support.

Travel support is not available for general participants.

Venue

The **SOOS Asian Workshop** will be held at the *Best Western Pudong Sunshine Hotel Shanghai*.

Best Western Pudong Sunshine Hotel Shanghai

99 Jinxin Road

Shanghai, 201203, China

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<http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/CN/Shanghai-hotels/BEST-WESTERN-Pudong-Sunshine-Hotel-Shanghai/Hotel-Overview.do?propertyCode=78627>

From Pudong International Airport the hotel is 30 km (30 minutes by car; approximate taxi fare \$12USD one-way).

From Hong Qiao International Airport the hotel is 40 km (45 minutes by car; approximate taxi fare \$15USD one-way).

Accommodation

Workshop participants are encouraged to stay at the workshop venue, the *Best Western Pudong Sunshine Hotel Shanghai*, for convenience and where a special rate has been obtained (approximately \$80USD/night).

To receive the special accommodation rate at the *Best Western* please forward your full name, arrival and departure dates to Na Li (lina@pric.gov.cn) at PRIC who will book your accommodation for you. Accommodation costs, however, will remain the responsibility of individuals.

Participants booking accommodation directly through *Best Western* or other agency will be charged the standard room rate (approximate \$140USD/night).

Participants choosing not to stay at the *Best Western Pudong Sunshine Hotel Shanghai* should make their own accommodation arrangements. There are many other hotels near the workshop venue.

Visa Requirements

Foreign passport holders may need a Chinese business visa to attend the **SOOS Asian Workshop**. Visas must be applied for in advance and applications may also require an invitation letter to attend the workshop from your home organization and/or SOOS and the workshop's Chinese sponsor (PRIC).





Check your visa requirements and contact the SOOS Executive Officer (info@soos.aq) and Na Li (lina@pric.gov.cn) if you require an invitation letter from SOOS and PRIC.

Sponsors and Hosts

The **SOOS Asian Workshop** is sponsored by PRIC, SCAR and SCOR. PRIC will also host SOOS's Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) Meeting in Shanghai during the same week. The SSC Meeting is a closed meeting for SSC members only.

Other Information

For more information or general enquiries about the **SOOS Asian Workshop** please contact:

SOOS International Project Office

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More information will also be made available on the SOOS website at www.saos.aq/index.php/calendar/meetings-workshops as the **SOOS Asian Workshop** schedule develops.



The *SOOS Asian Workshop* is sponsored by

