

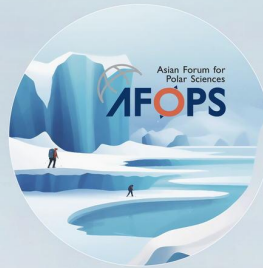


# 20 Years of Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS)



Inaugural AFoPS meeting in Jeju, Republic of Korea (2004)

The Asian Forum for Polar Sciences (AFoPS) is an international organization established in 2004 to promote cooperation and advancement in polar sciences among Asian countries. It serves as a platform for information exchange, research collaboration, and logistics cooperation among Asian polar science institutions. AFoPS aims to encourage cooperative research activities, involve more Asian countries in polar sciences, and share the achievements of Asian countries with the international polar communities. Over the past 20 years, AFoPS has made significant contributions to polar research and collaboration, fostering scientific cooperation and facilitating the exchange of expertise, data, and resources among its members. 2024 marked the twentieth anniversary of AFoPS.



## Future Endeavors

Looking forward, AFoPS aims to have a more prominent presence and a contribution in the international polar community. However, it is important to note that AFoPS does not intend to form an exclusive regional bloc. Instead, AFoPS is determined to establish a channel and leverage it to maximize contributions to the global community, aiming for greater output than what can be achieved when AFoPS members work individually and in isolation.

## 20 Years of AFoPS: Major Achievements

### Overview

Over the past 20 years, AFoPS has achieved significant milestones in polar research and collaboration playing a crucial role in fostering scientific cooperation among Asian countries in the Antarctic. Through collaborative research expeditions and shared logistics, AFoPS has facilitated the exchange of expertise, data, and resources, leading to various successes.

In the early years of AFoPS, members gave regular updates on their national polar activities. Such robust information sharing enabled the launch of logistics cooperation in Antarctic science between AFoPS members.



MOU Signing Thailand-China Science and Technology Collaboration, August, 2022

### AFoPS Joint Publication

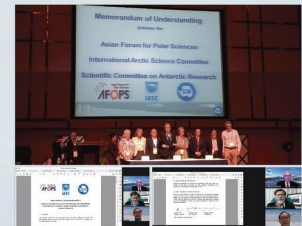
To increase the visibility of Asian polar research, AFoPS began to produce joint publications in the form of special issues in academic journals. The first AFoPS journal was published in 2013 as a special issue in *Advances in Polar Science* through efforts led by China. The second joint publication was led by Japan and published in *Polar Science* in 2015 followed by the third joint publication led by India and Malaysia in *Current Science* in 2018. The fourth and most recent joint publication was led by Korea and published in *Environmental Research* in 2022 as a special issue.



(From left to right) Cover pages of AFoPS Joint Publications (Yang, 2013; Watanabe et al., 2015; Mohan & Wong, 2018; Kim et al. 2022)

### Cooperation with other International organizations

AFoPS enhanced its position as a regional scientific forum and engaged with various international partners including the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). Specifically, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SCAR and IASC was signed in 2016 (Colombo, 2019).



Signing of the MoU between AFoPS, IASC, and SCAR (2016), and renewal of the MoU (2021)



AFoPS V in Shanghai (2006)



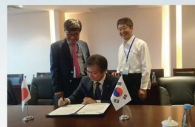
AFoPS XIV and 10th Anniv. Symposium (2014) Port Dickson, Malaysia



Malaysian Scientists join the Korean Jang Bogo Station Expedition, 2017



MoU between PRIC & KOPRI (2018)



KOPRI & NIPR MoU Signing Ceremony (2019)



Thailand Scientists Joined the 13th Chinese Arctic Cruise with Xue Long 2, 2023



Lake Drilling Cooperation drilling programme between Japan and India



JARE Winter Training Course opened for AFoPS members

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
China	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
India	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	6
Iran	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Japan	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Malaysia	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
Nepal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Turkey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Uzbekistan	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	7

KOPRI opened fellowship Awards to AFoPS members and Observers (2015-2023)

### Capacity Building Efforts

AFoPS members not only cooperated in science and logistics but also organized various capacity-building programs, workshops, and training sessions to enhance the research capabilities of both early and established researchers in the Asian region. Initiatives such as the



10th anniversary Newsletter in 2014

AFoPS Webinar for early career researchers, fellowship programs from AFoPS members, hosting of field training sessions have promoted skill development, knowledge transfer, and the nurturing of young polar scientists among AFoPS members.



AFoPS Webinar for early career researchers held online (2021)

