

# Year In Review

## Thematic Network on Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic

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The past 12 months have been a time of growth for the Arctic in Asia and Asia in the Arctic Thematic Network. We have added several new members from Japan, Taiwan, Norway, Iceland, and Canada. The Arctic Research Center at Hokkaido University, with members serving as co-leads in the TN, celebrated its 10th Anniversary, further strengthening the link between Asia and the Arctic. Several members of the TN also participated in many conferences, seminars, and courses in Asia on topics of Arctic relevance and in the Arctic on topics of Asian relevance. Our collective activities solidified the Asian-Arctic engagement in multi- and interdisciplinary research and teaching, underlining the importance of focusing on Asian engagement in the Arctic.

### Key Activities and Milestones

- One of our TN Leads (Ohnishi) was invited to Ocean Economic Forum for "2026 Ocean Week" 8-10 June 2026 in Busan and presented on "Arctic Shipping in a geopolitical world."
- Conference: A Roundtable Panel as the UARctic Congress on Shifting Poles: Asia's Role in Arctic Geopolitics and Governance, May 2026. See: <https://www.uarctic.org/news/2026/6/session-shifting-poles-asias-role-in-arctic-geopolitics-and-governance-at-uarctic-congress-2026/>;
- Conference: Several TN members participated in the The 40th International Symposium on the Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans in February 2026;
- Workshop: Hybrid Governance in the Arctic, 23 October 2025, 13:00-16:45, Hokkaido University, organized by Arctic Challenge for Sustainability (ArCS) III - Arctic Governance Research Group and Hokkaido University Arctic Research Center (Onsite, English);
- Celebrating The 10th Anniversary of the Arctic Research Center Hokkaido University, October 2025;
- Seminar: Asia and the Arctic: Encounters and Entanglements, 4 July 2025, Hokkaido University (Sapporo), organized by Hokkaido University Arctic Research Center, Arctic Challenge for Sustainability (ArCS) III - Arctic Governance Research Group, Asia Arctic Network for Research and Education, UARctic Thematic Network for Asia in the Arctic, Arctic in Asia (Hybrid, English);
- Several TN members were involved in/cooperated during the Hokkaido University Summer Institute course "Understanding the Changing Arctic and Its Global Interconnections", 1-4 July 2025;
- Several members participated in the Workshop on Arctic Governance and Diplomacy at the Institute of Political Science at Academia Sinica (IPSAS), Taipei, Taiwan, June 2025.

### Looking Ahead

In cooperation with the TN on Arctic Law and Arctic and Northern Governance, and new members from the Taiwan Polar Institute (TaiPI), we have been awarded Norwegian UARctic funding to launch an inter- and multidisciplinary pilot course on "Globalizing the Arctic: Asian Engagement, Natural Systems, and Northern Stewardship" for Master's and PhD students designed to bridge the knowledge gap between the High North/Arctic and Asia (East and South). Creating and launching this course will consume most of our activities in the coming year.

Nevertheless the coming year will also see many of our TN members participating in:

- The TaiPI-led international seminar on "Globalizing the Arctic: Asian Engagement, Natural Systems, and Northern Stewardship" (tentative title), September-October 2026;
- Seminar: Asia and the Arctic: Evolving Interactions Between State and Non-State Actors (tentative title), 24 September 2026, Hokkaido University (Sapporo), organized by Hokkaido University Arctic Research Center, JSPS-Research Council of Finland project: The Russian invasion of Ukraine impacting actions and visions of Japan and Finland in the Arctic; UARctic Thematic Network on Arctic in Asia, Asia in the Arctic, The Asia-Arctic Network for Research and Education, ArCS3 Governance Group (Subgroup 2), (Hybrid, English)
- The Second Asia-Arctic Conference (AAC) of Asia-Arctic Network for Research and Education (AANRE), 18-19 February 2027, Hokkaido University (Sapporo).
- Annual Mombetsu Symposium, Mombetsu, Japan, February 2027.
- ASSW 2027 in Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan, from 11 - 20 April 2027 followed by The Ninth International Symposium on Arctic Research (ISAR-9).



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