



## Third Arctic Science Ministerial Webinar Series

### Closing Webinar

16 June 2021

### Transcription

Start Time: 13:00 UTC

**1. Housekeeping Remarks, Lindsay Arthur:** Hello to everyone who is joining us. We have an Arctic lands acknowledgement. This is adapted from the IASC state of the Arctic report and they give us permission to use it in our webinar today.

*The circumpolar Arctic is the contemporary home to many different Indigenous Peoples. Wherever you may be participating in this webinar, we honor and recognize the place based knowledge of Arctic Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral and contemporary stewardship of their homelands, and we welcome you to do the same.*

Good morning, good afternoon. Good evening, my name is Lindsay Arthur and I'm from the Icelandic Ministry of Education, Science and culture. This is the final webinar in our ASM3 webinars series and I'm just going to quickly review our housekeeping for this, which is the same for all the webinars in our series. This webinar is being recorded and it will be posted to the European Polar Board YouTube page and shared on the ASM3 website. The microphones and cameras of the audience are automatically turned off. If you're having any trouble, you can use the chat box and ask for assistance. You can also see the ZOOM website site support page. The full program for today is available on the ASM3 website and that link will be posted in the chat. Any questions that you have during the webinar: we do have a Q&A at the end. Please use the Q&A box for those questions and we'll do our best to address what questions we can at the end, or we could type some answers just as we go along. For this webinar IASC has also kindly let us use their code of conduct which they develop for ASSW. So, the link to this will be posted in the chat and what's most important is that we just create a respectful atmosphere, and we listen and ask questions with an open mind. Abuse or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. With that I would like to introduce our first speaker. Hiroyuki Enomoto from the National Institute of Polar Research and also a member of our ASM 3 Science Advisory Board.

**2. Introduction: Hiroyuki Enomoto:** Thank you Lindsay! I'm co-chair of the ASM3 Science Advisory Board. We want to welcome you to the final ASM3 webinar. The Third Arctic Science Ministerial was held successfully in Tokyo on May 8th and 9th, in a hybrid format that combined remote and on-site participants. Thanks to the extraordinary effort of the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology and the Icelandic Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Many countries and organizations cooperated to make ASM3 possible in these extraordinary times. ASM3 with the theme of the knowledge for the sustainable Arctic is a place for us to unite and face the urgent challenges posed by the rapid change in the Arctic. This is a bridge between science and policy. ASM3 allowed us to gather a great amount of up-to-date information on Arctic research review outcomes from the past ASM's and the scientific activities we have achieved through the science process. The detail will be introduced later in the presentation, but we received the submission of 434 projects on Arctic research and education. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of ASM1 and ASM2, and their guidance as we took over the continuation of this important international process. ASM3 was postponed for half a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But in the end, there were many benefits to this delay. There webinar series hosted by the European Polar Board is one of them and allowed us to open the ASM3 science process to the wider Arctic research community and stakeholders. Our first webinar was held in last October last year and covers the history of the Arctic Science Ministerial Meetings and introduce our ASM3 process. Then we try to identify gaps and barriers in our November online workshop. In December we had our Indigenous partners designed a webinar, sharing many perspectives on the importance of Indigenous

knowledge in Arctic research. Then starting in January 2021 this year, we followed with webinars that discuss subthemes of ASM3: observe, understand, response and strengthen. And today we have our final webinar, summarizing the ASM3 process.

The series was developed to increase the transparency of the ASM3 process and provide additional opportunity for people to engage with and contribute to the ASM3 outcomes. We would also like to thank you – the participants, who kept interest in the ASM3 process by engagement in this new shared future of the Arctic. Thank you very much.

**Lindsay Arthur:** Thanks so much, Enomoto. Next step, just a brief look at our agenda and again you can also find this on the ASM3 website. The link should also be in the chat. So next we have Embla Eir Oddsdóttir, who's the director of the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, an also from our ASM3 Science Advisory Board. And she's going to give a look at kind of the ASM3 science process.

**3. Review of the ASM3 Science Process, Embla Eir Oddsdóttir:** Thank you Lindsay. It's a pleasure to be here with you today. If you could go to my first slide, please. As hosts of ASM3, Iceland and Japan arrived at the overarching theme: 'knowledge for a sustainable Arctic' and developed 4 subthemes under the titles: observe, understand, respond, and strengthen. These reflect elements of the previous ASM themes, an reintroduce an emphasis on education, which appeared in ASM1. These themes should be viewed as a four-step iterative cycle, with each theme informing the next without hierarchy.

The Science Advisory Board was brought together under the guiding principles for ASM3 to be transparent, inclusive and implement a bottom up approach to science. Therefore, 12 representatives were nominated to serve on the board from different international Arctic science organizations to help guide the science process for ASM3.

The ASM science process followed the structure of ASM2 by soliciting projects, updates and new projects from participating countries, Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and international organizations while also attempting to create a more formal consultation process with the wider research community. Notably, for this ASM, the working groups of the Arctic Council were invited to contribute projects through the science process. As other international organizations.

A consultation process with the wider research community also took place through the 6th International Symposium on Arctic Research. The ASM3 research community workshops, which was a joint effort between IASC, IASSA and APECS and the Arctic Observing Summit, who submitted a direct call to action to the ASM three ministers. The outcomes of these consultation processes can all be found in the ASM3 report.

All countries and organizations were given new templates to submit their project information. Projects were then reviewed by the Science Advisory Board members who highlighted some key projects under each theme and noted progress made since ASM 2. The ASM 3 science summary found in the ASM 3 report includes the synthesized information from this process.

New to this ASM was a survey on international collaboration and cooperation which was sent to all participating countries and organizations. The aim of this survey was to collect some much-needed information and feedback to help identify gaps and barriers in Arctic research. Which was also addressed specifically in the gaps and Barriers Workshop as part of the ASM3 webinar series.

All 434 of these formal project submissions by countries and organizations were reviewed, discussed, and synthesized by the Science Advisory Board. These statistics can be found in the report with a further breakdown of new projects and project updates by country and organizations.

This gives us a look at the collaboration by country as well as a breakdown of the projects submitted by theme. Many of the key projects which best exemplified international cooperation were highlighted in the ASM3 Webinar series. The intention of this wide-reaching science process was to have a robust and inclusive science

process to provide a strong foundation for all the final outcomes of the ASM3. Hopefully, these final outcomes create useful tools for cooperation, deepen our understanding of both the achievements and challenges that lay ahead and provide a strong framework for taking urgent action. Thank you for your attention.

**Lindsay Arthur:** Thanks so much Embla. So next we have Hajime Kimura from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and also part of the ASM3 organizing committee. He's going to give us kind of a taste of the highlights from the actual ministerial which took place in Tokyo.

**4. Ministerial Highlights from Tokyo, Hajime Kimura:** OK, thank you Lindsay. I'm Hajime Kimura from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Cultures Science, technology in Japan. Today I would like to briefly share highlights from the Arctic Science Ministerial that was held in Tokyo just a few weeks ago. I will tell you a bit more about the ministerial meeting how we organized it and show you some photos taken at the venue. The ASM3 was originally scheduled to take place in November 2021, had been held biannually, but considering the ongoing global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organising committee decided to postpone the Ministerial to May 2021. Finally, we held ASM 3 on 8th and 9th May in Tokyo. For the representatives who are not able to come to Japan, we provided online participation. Some countries who participated online also sent their embassy to take part in the ministerial at the venue in Tokyo, as you can see the photo.

Thank you here, I would like to share with you the opening of the ministerial meeting. Right here is the program for the first day of the ministerial. The meeting started from 7:00 PM Japan time and ended 10:00 PM. Ministers of Iceland and Japan worked as co-chairs. Each helped delegations until he was assigned to one session and make an intervention.

OK, here is the program for the second day. The overarching theme of this webinar series is knowledge for sustainable Arctic. This team focuses on addressing the most urgent challenges facing the Arctic, which can be made through international scientific cooperation. The Science Advisory Board members that ministerial meeting by explaining ASM3 science process and framing the discussion in each thematic session with key findings from their review of all the science submitted by countries and organizations.

The representatives released statements and participated in the general discussion. We had 32 interventions including from 4 Arctic Indigenous peoples organisations representatives. Each head of Delegation delivered a statement in one of the four subthemes sessions of observe, understand, response and strengthen. Regardless of this allocation of each team or HOD, members participated in the general discussion followed by the statement. As a part of the system location statement, a short movie was shown about the work of the late [...], whom many of us know as a major force in polar research and strong supportive of international collaboration. He's very much missed, but his legacy lives on.

On the second day keynote speeches were given by the hosting countries. From Japan, Doctor Shin Sugiyama introduced his activity in Greenland and showed the latest environmental change and its impact on society. He believes that talking to the next generation is an important role for scientists, he said. The climate and environment are clearly changing in the Arctic, and it is clear that they are affecting life in the Arctic. So, we must think about what our next action for sustainable future in the Arctic will be. Next, from Iceland Doctor Joan Nymand Larsen introduced her international collaborative and interdisciplinary work on the Arctic use and Sustainable Futures project. She said the future of the Arctic and the ability to launch on a sustainable trajectory will be determined to a great extent by today's use.

In the closing session all 27 countries and European Union signed a joint statement. When the statement was signed at the venue, all online participants signed a local version of the statement. And at the end of the Ministerial, Russia and France announced that they will co-host the Fourth Arctic Science Ministerial. The meeting was meaningful and formed our shared commitment to international cooperation in Arctic science as an important step to take action on climate change. And we also recognize that active research must necessarily include Arctic Indigenous people as equal partners. And this rich, I think great angle. This photo

represents the fact that this Ministerial meeting was under extraordinary circumstances. We really appreciate the global cooperation online to make this ministerial success. Thank you very much.

**Lindsay Arthur:** Thanks, Hajime. I'm really pleased to introduce our next speaker, Anton Vasiliev, who is the former Russian ambassador to Iceland and is now deputy director of the Representative Office of the Russian State Hydrometeorological University, and he's going to give us an update on ASM4. Anton, are you still muted Anton?

**5. Looking Forward: ASM4, Anton Vasiliev:** So, first of all I'd like to congratulate Iceland and Japan with a wonderful work done with ASM3. Secondly, I would like to say that yes, Russia will be glad to take the torch from the hands of Iceland and carry it on. Our intention is to sustain the tradition. We are working with a potential Co-Sponsorship, so we don't have a final decision from the part of our correspondence to announce it yet, but it will be one of the state observers to the Arctic Council. It is our intention to build on what has been done by our distinguished successors. Maybe bring something new but still carry on along the lines that have been drawn by our distinct predecessors. We shall be led by something which we cannot ignore - we shall be led in our thinking and organizing by the strategic plan of the Arctic Council that the first ever 10 year plan of said mostly scientific research and other activities worked out within the Arctic Council. We shall be led by our own Arctic strategy, which has been renewed last year, and again we shall take into account all the experience accumulated during ASM 1, 2 and 3. It is our intention to work towards the goal of holding the ASM4 before meeting in 2023, so we still have some time and understand there are many questions that that you would like to pose, but I would frankly say that if we were pressured to answer any of them because we are still in the phase of learning, studying and we have agreed preliminary that with this torch given to us, if situation permits during the next assembly of the Arctic Circle in October in Reykjavík.

Many ideas that we're working on and we're thinking what could be over contribution together with all members of the ASM process. One of the ideas is, looking at the prospect of organizing the International Polar Year. Somewhere in the distant perspective, but it will be a huge understanding if ever done. Huge undertaking based on the experience of the previous international polar year. But the preparation to that would need many, many years. So maybe we will of course consult within ourselves with some partners to come to this year. There are many other ideas and again I would like to say that premature to come to talk about them not now. One final point is that we would like to work very in very close contact with Iceland with Japan with other chairs of the ASM process, either in some organization together in one organization organizational committee or in close contact with each other on their personal, professional, professional level just. In order to help us move forward. And of course, of course we have been looking very closely to the very elegant way that Japan and Iceland have managed to overcome the difficulties, huge difficulties because of the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend you and your success, and I will pray, God, that we show during the Russian leadership of the ASM process we will be rid with COVID and there will be no COVID troubles. Thank you very much and I wish you a good meeting, we shall be reading very carefully the final outcome today's meeting. This will be one of our leading documents in our thinking and I'm really very sorry I have to leave the meeting in a moment and thank you very much for inviting me and I wish you good luck. Thank you.

**Lindsay Arthur:** Thank you so much and certainly I know I speak on behalf of all of the ASM3 organizers that we will do our utmost to support your planning for the next ASM and we look forward to collaborating together. So, thank you very much. Alright, so we're moving on now in our program to review the key outcomes from this ASM three process, and I'm pleased to introduce our next speaker, Ásgerður Kjartansdóttir, who is my colleague here at the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in Iceland. So, take it away altogether.

## **5. ASM3 Final Outcomes**

**Report, Ásgerður Kjartansdóttir:** Thank you Lindsay, and thank you Anton again for the warm words. The last part of the webinar, we will present the final outcomes of the ASM3 process, namely the final report, the joint statement, and the online resources.

Following the successful third Arctic Science ministerial, the ASM report is out and now publicly available. The aim of the report was to develop a complete overview of the entire ASM 3 science process. The report includes contributions from countries and organizations, as well as outcomes from the workshops which took place as part of their ASM three process. I will briefly introduce its chapter of the report. The science summary is comprised of theme-based science submitted through the formal process for ASM 3 by countries, Indigenous Peoples' Organizations, and international science and education organizations. Jenny Baseman, our science consultant, will cover the science summary in greater detail later on.

It was important for us to include in the report the joint statement, which was signed by the by all 27 countries and the European Commission at the ministerial in May. We do not underestimate the importance of the consensus and willingness to work together among so many countries who have agreed to cooperate in Arctic science.

Each webinar in this series is recorded and can be found on the European Polar Boards YouTube channel. We wanted to include a record of this series for future organizers to work from and expand this concept because the feedback from the series was instrumental to the success of ASM 3.

The 'moving forward' chapter we introduced to the previous ASM3 report includes key recommendations from the ASM3 Science Advisory Board. These recommendations are for everyone engaged in Arctic science looking to close gaps and to remove barriers to research. In the final section of the report there is also a detailed list of acronyms as well as appendix, which includes summaries from the relevant meetings that were mentioned before, which play that took place leading up to the ASM, including the [...] 6 Arctic observing Summit and the ASM community workshops. But I will now put you in the capable hands of Jenny Baeseman, our science consultant who will dive deeper into the science summary.

**Science Summary, Jenny Baeseman:** Thank you very much and I just want to start out by thanking all of the countries and organizations that participated in this, and especially those of you behind the scenes who take the time to put together all the information that was submitted. Just going through that, we know how much work and time goes into that and we very much appreciate all of your efforts. As Embla mentioned earlier, there were 434 science projects submitted and when pulling together this information, I was fortunate enough to have been involved with [...] and Connor in the organization of the science part for ASM 2. So, we had a little bit of a head start on how we could help to improve the science that was going into ASM3. We followed a similar procedure in which countries would submit information, but the step forward here was that we created standardized forms as Embla mentioned and were able to extract that data and information to do a lot of fun things and organizing and grouping projects into different categories and that was helped very much by the Science Advisory Board who then could go through different topics and help to pick out projects that we wanted to highlight in the science summary. So you can imagine that of the 434 projects fitting that into 30 pages can be a bit challenging, so we did our best and hope that you will use the new resource of the ASM3 Science projects database to find out more about the projects that are briefly mentioned in the summary.

You will also find a section which is new called the ASM3 in numbers. Here we have a word cloud which is the size of the word is represented by the number of times that keyword was selected as being important in the project, and there's a lot more information that we will dig into with statistics and hopefully in the near future and you may you may see some more publications on all the great work that's been done and some of the fun things we can still pull out of the numbers that were submitted. So in addition, there were the Arctic research overviews which each country and organizations submitted, and these were updated from the ASM1 and 2. These are very important because they give a nice quick glance at what the countries are doing. They are organized to showcase or to highlight the research policy and goals. The funders and institutions involved in Arctic research in the countries as well as research and education capacity building initiatives. And the infrastructure that our country might have. If you're interested in what some country organization is working on, check out these great research overviews.

And again, new to this ASM was a section called 'moving forward' as we were going through all of the materials that were submitted, not just the project updates, but also the surveys that were sent out and the input from different organizations and communities. We found these overarching messages that were coming from the community as well as the funders and stakeholders on different things that really should be done to help move international research a few steps forward. They are divided into various categories, observing, which also includes the call to action submitted by the Arctic, Observing Summit research planning activities that could go on education and outreach was very important to this particular ASM, so we encourage you to look at all of that. The Indigenous capacity building kept coming through very strongly and is something that we all know we need to strive to do a little bit better on, and I think some of the recommendations that came out in this section would be very helpful in that activity. Also, suggestions on how to increase international efforts and some potential next steps. So we would like to encourage those of you who have access to creating research policies and funding opportunities in your countries and organizations to take a step at this, or take a look at this next steps guide and potentially see if there isn't something you can do to help with these recommendations that came forward. With that, I would like to turn back to our fearless leader, Lindsay.

**Joint Statement, Lindsay Arthur:** The full link to the report, which is on the ASM3 website, just in the chat box. So, moving on now to the joint statement. There's a reason that we wanted to introduce this whole science process before discussing the joint statement, because we really see this science as kind of the foundation for what we wanted represented in the joint statement. So this is a brief overview of the joint statement process although it's somewhat confidential, a process between the signatories we wanted to review the process because we think that improves kind of understanding on how we got from A-Z from the science requested to the ministerial and that will just help demystify this whole process for the wider community as well as for future organizers.

So we're really pleased to share that the joint statement of Ministers was signed by all 27 countries and the European Union, and as my colleague said earlier, we don't underestimate the importance of reaching such a strong consensus, especially with so many countries involved. So this is kind of the basic schedule that we work with for drafting the joint statement although the basic framework for the joint statement was developed earlier in 2020, we wanted to make sure that we had completed our science process, that the actions identified in the joint statement were well founded in the science and we had strong conclusions to put forward for the countries to consider for their joint actions. So as with the second Arctic science ministerial, the drafting process was open to the participating countries as well as to the six Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Organizations who are also known as the permanent participants in the Arctic Council context. The ASM 3 joint statement made some really meaningful strides to highlight that the equal inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in the Arctic research framework is critical for ensuring that we have the strongest evidence based research to inform holistic decisions.

What we did with the joint statement, you know, the actions that are presented are based on the findings from the entire ASM 3 science process and they are presented in each of the four themes. We also identified a group of cross cutting actions which are relevant across the themes, and so those are identified in a separate section at the end of the joint statement. What's also new to this joint statement is we broke the actions into long term in near term goals. So, identifying some actions that are really right for immediate cooperation and then some that are potentially more relevant that could be developed for collaboration in future Arctic science ministerial. And this is just part of that process of trying to institutionalise the process of the ASM and to help build connectivity from one to the next. And you know, really, as we kind of covered earlier, we see the ASM 3 report as a key resource for diving into the actions that are identified in the joint statement. As with all joint statements, these are pretty high level documents, and so the report is a way to dig deeper into those actions and look into the background and then find maybe some more relevant steps that can be taken forward, so as Jenny mentioned that moving forward section of the report has some really good recommendations for how to dig deeper on the election identified in the joint statement. So, you can find all of this on the ASM3 website. And with that we will move on to our next speech curve, which is Tetsuo Sueyoshi from the National Institute of Polar Research, and also a member of the ASM3 Organizing committee. Thank you, thanks for introduction.

**ASM3 Database, Tetsuo Sueyoshi:** So I will introduce some additional resources produced by the ASM3 process and made available online now and which we believe is very useful for future collaboration among the countries and groups of the researchers. So, let me start from the project database which we believe the one of our major product or outcomes. I mean you saw some statistics already about the project information from the countries, and that information can be simply searched from this database. From using the keywords location countries. And both by the service: list view, quickly shown here. Right hand side is the list view and in the middle part is the map view showing some colours, showing which project is doing which area in the Arctic. And now you can find this website. From there you can find a link from the ASM3 website where you can find the user manual from there so you can easily understand how to navigate those data.

And here's the people who worked behind this database. Jenny mentioned already about the data used for the science summary, but actually the idea of the database was from the ASM2. Unfortunately, at that time it was not possible to realize, as this kind of online database, but now together with the Arctic Data Archive system people, who are invested in the Polar research in Japan. Those three people really worked hard to implement this system on this online database and also did very carefully check about all submitted data together with Jenny. Now, finally on our website, you can find all the available data. The one big advantage of such database is that we can update the information. If there are some errors we can correct it later, and also of course our expectation is the addition of new data from the future ASM's.

We're doing updates on our ASM3 website. This is the website we used during last one or more years, or at one almost two years now. Now this information is about the preparing for the ASM3 meeting in May. I mean which happened last month.

Now we move this information for the documentation type of information, and we will include all key documents like we already announced this science summary and joint statement an all this this type of the important documents. Together with the photo gallery, some of the pictures are already shown by Hajime already during this webinar. Also maybe show some video recordings from the Science Advisory Board members. I mean the science process introduction and also the theme overviews. And also, the keynote presentations, those two speeches are really good ones, and we really hope everybody looks at these presentations. This webinar series archive is already there on the website, but we keep this website up there and so we add some more online resources to the website.

We are now working hard to add these items on our website, so the result from the international collaboration and Cooperation Opportunities Survey, and another two items were listed here on the on this slide. But all of these items will be there soon. So now the big updates on the website is going on, so we hope all of you will check the website again and to see all of these outcomes on our website. Thank you. That's all for me. Thanks so much.

**Lindsay Arthur:** We're working hard to make sure that all of the inputs signed to the input that was given into the ASM process that we're able to share all of those resources because you know, we believe that really helps the formation of future ASM's that were able to see what was submitted and what that resulted in and what kind of the key findings from that are so will continue to update the ASM3 website to make sure that all of those resources are accessible and easily findable. OK, our last speaker is Renuka Badhe from the European Polar Board. And before she starts I'll just embarrass all of our co-organizers at the European Polar Board and just say that this webinar series would not have been possible without their kind cooperation, and they've been excellent partners in this process and we were just so pleased that this came together as a result, really of the pandemic. And this was a huge win for us in terms of the final outcomes of the ASM3, so we're so grateful to all of you at the European Polar Board for making this webinar series happen. Now that I've embarrassed you take it away, Renuka.

**Webinar Series, Renuka Badhe:** Thank you Lindsay. I'm sure I can return the favour. Just wait for a few minutes. Thank you for that introduction. We have basically reached the final talk of this final webinar of the ASM3 webinars series and it is really my absolute pleasure to give you all some highlights of the webinar series

itself. My name is Renuka Badhe and I'm the executive secretary of the European Polar Board. The EPB is an independent organization that focuses in major European strategic priorities in both Arctic and Antarctic regions, and we have quite a wide variety of Members that include research institutes, funding agencies, scientific academies, and polar operators that work at both polar regions from across Europe.

We currently have 28 member organisations in 20 countries and our Secretariat is based in the Netherlands. If you'd like more information about the EPB, my colleague will just copy a link to our website where you can find some more information about us.

So, this series as we've heard quite a few times, was planned as a part of a community engagement process in response to the disruption to travel that happened due to the COVID-19 crisis. And it has also been our pleasure to cooperate with the ASM3 organizers to set up this series. It's been wonderful to be able to participate on an provide support for such and such an amazing initiative. That brought about a lot of community engagement.

We organized 8 webinars in total over nine months. We started in October 2020 and this, as I said, is the final webinar of the series. We've organized this with in cooperation with ASM3 organizers, but we have also now made it made sure that the legacy of this process is going to be carried forward by ensuring that both the video recordings of these webinars and also the transcripts are also made available well beyond the process, so they are available on the EPB YouTube channel, the link is given on that slide.

From the EPB side we provided the web and our platform, technical and organizational support and also the legacy planning. There were eight webinars. Four of these were based on the four themes of the ASM, which was strengthen, respond, understand, and observe, and additionally this series also had cross cutting webinars. For example, the addressing gaps and barriers in international and international Arctic science research and also the very well received Indigenous Peoples' participation in the ASM3 process. We had very high numbers that attended these two webinars within the community. Apart from this official ASM3 series, there were also quite a few webinars that were held within the community, for example the EPB. We also held a European perspective on the ASM3 webinars.

Within this series, I'm particularly glad to present this slide - we had more than 70 speakers from 17 different countries. We had an amazing gender diversity, as you can see in the speakers. This is let me tell you quite rare, so I congratulate the organizers and achieving a good diversity in this case.

We had an amazing and fantastic response from all of you, the attendees for this ASM3 webinars series. We had more than 1000 people attending. All of these webinars, including this webinar that that we are part of right now. We actually had more than 1500 registrations in total from 46 countries in the world.

We see a little bit more of fatigue. I am a scientist, so you get to see a few graphs. We see that that in the various webinars in the beginning were very, very high now. It also became a little bit less with time, so one of the reasons that the first few webinars were cross cutting so they might have gotten a lot more interest from many people and the final few webinars for themed webinars, so that's why they might have been of interest to very specific people with that speciality. We may have also observed a little bit of webinar fatigue going towards the end of that series, so this is easily corrected by ensuring that our recordings are available on YouTube and transcripts are available and we are taking all of these steps to ensure that this goes on.

As you can see, even with the green line, these are the YouTube views of the different videos per month. Since they have been uploaded so you can see that there's been a constant few people checking in almost every month regularly over the time since they've been uploaded.

It is my pleasure to introduce the EPB team. It's not just me, but it's also my colleagues Joseph Nolan and Pjotr Elshout who have provided the technical and organizational support to this EPB webinars to this webinar series.



Just at the end, a few recommendations and some lessons learned from organizing this. The webinars series was very well received. Overall, we have also received a lot of positive feedback and we've definitely heard good things about having an interactive format or having this kind of series that provides access ability. We definitely learned that having an interactive format within webinar, it keeps the audience a lot better involved. Then we also learned that having translations and ensuring different time zones, cover the possibility that people can call in instead of seeing things on the Internet. All of these increase the accessibility of these webinars. We also really need to ensure that the diversity of speakers is present, and it's not just gender diversity, but we have diversity through disciplines. Different career stages, geographies. Different places of the world and also gender. If people see a lot of this diversity, again, the acceptance rate of the webinars increases quite dramatically. And last but not the least, expect the unexpected. Definitely we've had to have several backup plans, not just one or two. Also, people that are ready to go at a moment's notice. In fact, we had some individuals who had to drop out due to hospital visits. Someone had no Internet. We were at the Secretariat affected by a large hack that took place in our host organization, so we had no access to any IT systems, so we had to really make things work on a run. I think all the speakers before me have underline that the importance of such a such a webinar series. I would just like to say that we offer our full support to the next ASM3 organizers for such an endeavour.

And to close my talk, it's my turn to embarrass Lindsay. Now I'd like to really express my thanks not just to my EPB colleagues, but also to all of my colleagues from Iceland and Japan. They were part of the organizing committee for this webinar series. It's been a pleasure to work on this with you all. Thanks, is of course due to all of the speakers that have joined us in the series with really fantastic enthusiasm. And finally the webinars series would not have been successful without you all our audience, so I thank you all for attending and actively participating in this and making the series such a fantastic success. Thank you very much.

**Closing:** Thanks so much Renuka. Yeah, it's really wonderful to see what happened during this whole series. I think we received a lot of positive feedback, but see those numbers and see how widely it was received and attended is really encouraging and it shows how important it is to share all of this research with the wider community in a way that's accessible. I really think to our science Advisory Board. In Jenny baseman for being so willing to continually organize each webinar, and to make each one a success. We had a Science Advisory Board member in each of the webinars helping to give overviews and guide the discussion. All of that wonderfully organized in the background by Jenny. So, thank you very much to our Science Advisory Board and to Jenny for playing that part.

We just have two minutes in our time left. We haven't received any questions in the question box. If there is anything you can type it in now, but we will hopefully end this on time and again just want to say, you know, thank you, especially to the audience who continue to engage in this series. We hope something like this goes forward in future ASM's because again this was just a big learning for us. How important it is to share it with everyone and especially to get a lot of the project leads from the science projects that were submitted through this process. It's wonderful to be able to connect the scientists to these kind of bigger orchestrations happening all the way down to the report and then to the joint statement and to give an opportunity for ministers and those who work in the ministries to connect to as well. This is all part of the bigger plan that we're trying to implement here for the Arctic Science ministerial. So, thank you to all of you who have been part of it. With that, I don't see any questions here so we can end. I'm sad to end as we've had so many of these wonderful webinars. Just again, thank you to all and thanks for being part of this process. Alright. And you can still use this website address if you would like to get in touch with the ASM3 organizing committee. I don't think that there's a formal contact process yet for the next organizers, but you're free to get in touch with us, or if you want to connect to the future organizers, you can. You can reach out to us. Alright. Thank you all.