

Akureyri, 10 March 2020

Subject: Cancellation of Arctic Science Summit Week 2020 in response to COVID-19

To whom it may concern:

The outbreak of COVID-19 is severely affecting an increasing number of countries worldwide, including Iceland. In Iceland the situation has escalated significantly during the past week, raising the number of confirmed cases to a total of 69, of which 15 were infected domestically and about 600 people in quarantine (as of 10 March 2020). Experts expect this number to continue to increase.

A state of emergency was declared in Iceland on 6 March. "A ban on public gatherings is probably one of the most effective tools we have in our tool box to slow down the spread of the virus ... it is inescapable, we believe, that we'll take that route at some point in time," said Víðir Reynisson, chief superintendent of the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management.

Therefore, the ASSW2020 organizers, which includes also the 5th Arctic Observing Summit, in close cooperation and consultation with the government authorities in Iceland, following the recommendations of World Health Organization, and in the understanding that a growing number of States and organizations worldwide are voluntarily issuing bans on "non-essential" travel, have decided that the Arctic Science Summit Week 2020 (originally scheduled for 27 March – 2 April 2020 in Akureyri, Iceland) will be held only online.

Given the extreme circumstances involved, and that this physical meeting cancellation follows official guidance of the Icelandic government, the ASSW2020 Organizers encourage all vendors to offer full or significant refunds to ASSW2020 attendees for travel and accommodation services.

Federica Scarpa [€]



ASSW2020 Conference Manager
Borgir, Norðurlóð
600 Akureyri
Iceland
info@assw2020.is