

Notice of Cancellation of the ISAR-6

28 February 2020

To ISAR-6 participants,

It is with our deep regret that we have to cancel the Sixth International Symposium on Arctic Research (ISAR-6), scheduled on 2-6 March 2020 in Tokyo, Japan, due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Japan. The ISAR has been held as a biennial symposium since 2008, contributing to identify changes in the Arctic environment and society, and to discuss possible future sustainable development. There were more than 440 abstracts submitted to the ISAR-6.

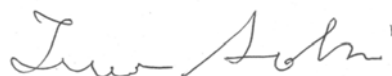
The Organizing Committee decided to cancel the ISAR-6 as posted on 21 February (<https://www.jcar.org/isar-6/>) from the situation as follows:

- 1) It was reported that the number of infected people in Japan has been increasing since 14 February and reached 93 on 21 February 2020. The rate of spread seems accelerating day by day. Presently, the virus transmission routes are not completely identified, and it is suspected that the community-acquired infection keeps spreading.
- 2) If the ISAR-6 were held as scheduled, the organizer is responsible for providing sufficient numbers of facemasks and alcohol-based sanitizers to help prevent the spread of disease. However, they are currently unavailable to purchase in Japan.
- 3) The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced on 21 February 2020 as "Organizers of events are requested to reconsider the necessity of holding the event from the viewpoint of preventing the spreading of infection, taking into account the spread of infection and the situation at the venue."
- 4) Some participants are under the potential risk to be isolated for quarantine after traveling to Japan or to be refused their re-entry to the home country.
- 5) We have received not a small number of cancellations due to the novel coronavirus outbreak in Japan.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and your organization. Further details can be obtained from ISAR-6 Secretariat (isar-secretariat@nipr.ac.jp).

We kindly ask for your understanding.

Sincerely yours,



Teruo Aoki, Professor,
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Deputy Director of Arctic Environment Research Center,
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