



# Policy Framework for the Promotion of Arctic Activities of the Republic of Korea 2018-2022

A Pioneer and Partner in Shaping the Arctic Future

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## Edited by

Korea Maritime Institute  
Northern and Polar Regions Department  
[www.kmi.re.kr](http://www.kmi.re.kr)

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## Printed by

Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea  
[www.mof.go.kr](http://www.mof.go.kr)

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December 2019

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## Cover Photo Credit

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# Korea's Arctic Journey

## The History

- 1999 Conducts joint research in the Arctic
- 2002 Establishes the Arctic Dasan Station in Svalbard, Norway  
Joins the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- 2009 President Lee Myung Bak visits Russia, Greenland, and Norway to discuss Arctic cooperation  
Launches Korea's first icebreaking research vessel, the Araon
- 2012 Accedes to the Svalbard Treaty
- 2013 Becomes an Observer to the Arctic Council  
Announces Korea's first Arctic policy, the Arctic Policy Master Plan (2013 to 2017)
- 2015 Appoints Korea's first Ambassador for Arctic Affairs  
Korean shipping company conducts a pilot navigation of the Arctic sea route
- 2016 Takes the initiative to establish the Trilateral High-Level Dialogue on the Arctic with China and Japan, and hosts the first meeting in Korea  
Creates the Arctic Partnership Week, a forum on the Arctic held in Busan  
Enacts 'Guidelines for Vessels Navigating Polar Waters'
- 2017 Establishes the Presidential Committee on Northern Economic Cooperation  
President Moon Jae In announces a New Northern Policy and proposes a 9-BRIDGE Strategy  
Korea Shipowner's Association joins the Arctic Economic Council
- 2018 Announces the Policy Framework for the Promotion of Arctic Activities of the Republic of Korea (2018 to 2022)  
Declares 2050 Polar Vision
- 2019 President Moon Jae-in visits Finland, Norway, and Sweden and discusses Arctic cooperation  
Ratifies the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean



# Policy Framework for the Promotion of Arctic Activities of the Republic of Korea 2018-2022

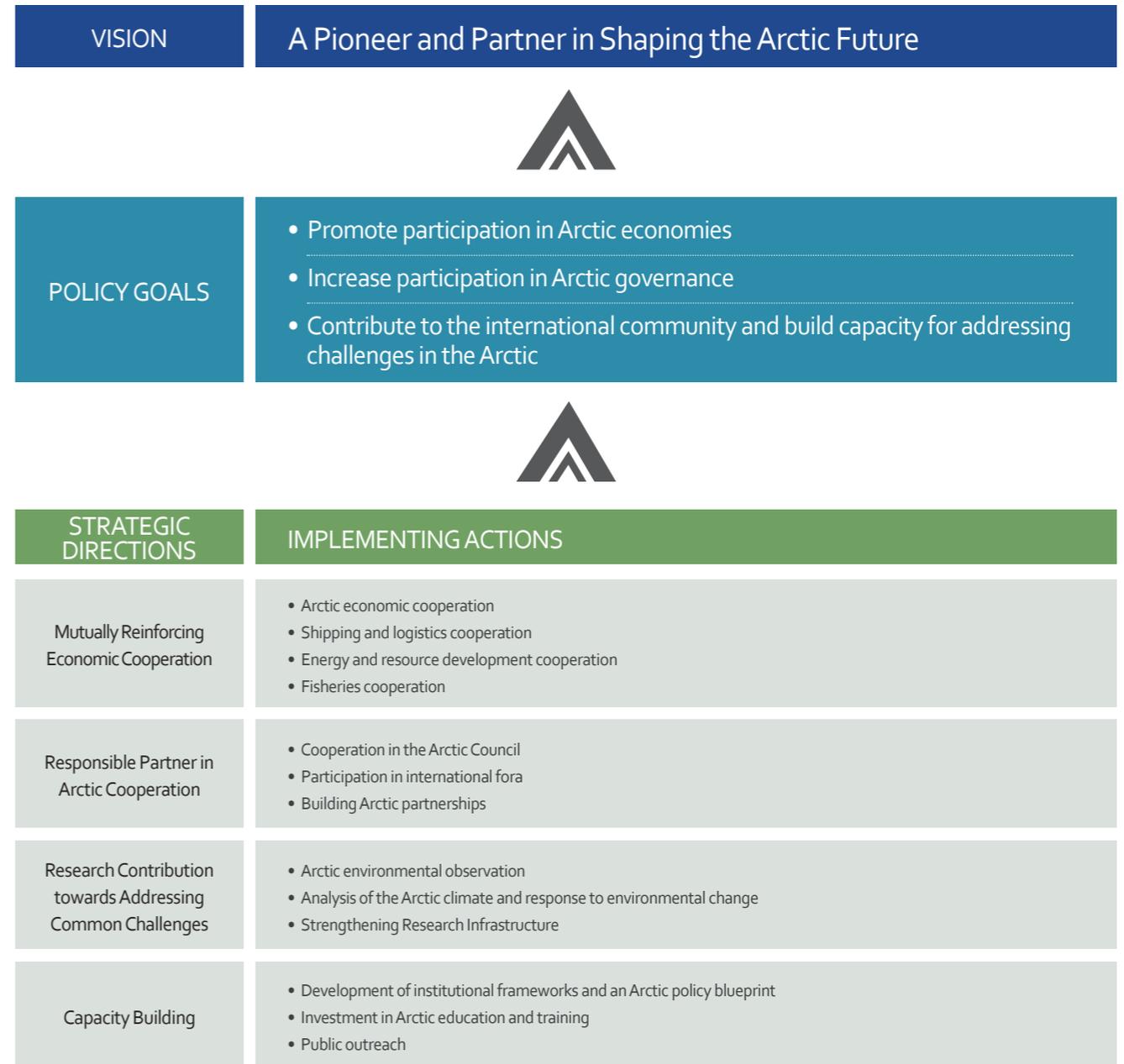


After becoming an Arctic Council observer in 2013, the Republic of Korea established its first Arctic policy, the 'Arctic Policy Master Plan', providing directions for national activities in the Arctic until 2017.

In 2018, an updated policy, the 'Policy Framework for the Promotion of Arctic Activities of the Republic of Korea 2018-2022' was announced, setting directions for the next five years till 2022. An inter-ministerial work involving 7 government ministries, and supported by national institutes and universities, the development of the policy involved many consultations with experts and various stakeholders before being announced.

The vision of the 'Policy Framework for the Promotion of Arctic Activities of the Republic of Korea 2018-2022' lies in becoming a pioneer and partner in shaping the Arctic future. Thereby, the policy goals are set to a) promote participation in Arctic economies, b) increase participation in Arctic governance, and c) contribute to the international community and build capacity for addressing challenges in the Arctic.

From 2018 to 2022, thirteen implementing actions will be pursued under four major strategic directions, which are a) mutually reinforcing economic cooperation, b) responsible partner in Arctic cooperation, c) research contribution towards addressing common challenges, and d) capacity building.



# MUTUALLY REINFORCING ECONOMIC COOPERATION



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## ARCTIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION

- Following the Korea-Russia Summit Meeting in June 2018, strengthen Arctic economic cooperation by creating linkages between the Arctic policy and the '9-Bridge' Action Plan.
- Support the shipbuilding sector by promoting R&D in polar engineering such as in the development of polar navigation technology, and by supporting the modernization of Russian shipyards.
- Expand the scope of the '9-Bridge' strategy of the New Northern Policy to include the Arctic region, and create new business opportunities through cooperation with the Arctic Economic Council.

## SHIPPING AND LOGISTICS COOPERATION

- Establish a channel for consultation between Korea and Russia, conduct a demand analysis for transportation infrastructure along the Arctic coastline with China, Japan, Russia, and Norway, and conduct pilot navigation.
- Publish a guideline on Arctic sea route navigation for Korean businesses, and continue information sharing through the establishment of international networks and consultative bodies between private and government stakeholders.
- Develop a multi-modal transportation and logistics route connecting the Northern Sea Route with the internal waterways in cooperation with Russia, and establish and operationalize the 'Arctic Sea Route Shipping Information Center' to provide navigation information.

## ENERGY AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

- Establish channels for consultation between governments and businesses, and proceed with verifying information regarding prospective LNG projects in the Arctic such as the Russian 'Arctic LNG-2' project.
- Build a third seismic research vessel ('Tamhae 3') and pursue joint international research for conducting resource and energy surveys in the Exclusive Economic Zones of Arctic coastal States.

## FISHERIES COOPERATION

- Pro-actively respond to the follow-up discussions on the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean, and seek conducting joint surveys on fishery resources in the Arctic Ocean with the United States and Russia.
- Pursue the establishment of a 'seafood processing complex' in the Russian Far East in order to secure a stable supply of Arctic coldwater fish stocks including pollack.

# RESPONSIBLE PARTNER IN ARCTIC COOPERATION



## COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

- Increase cooperation in Arctic Council projects that address important Arctic agenda including environmental conservation and sustainable development in the Arctic, and strengthen bilateral cooperation with the Arctic States.
- In cooperation with the UArctic, further expand and regularly hold the Korea Arctic Academy, an Arctic education program inviting students from the Arctic including those from Arctic indigenous communities.

## PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

- Strengthen international cooperation, such as by co-hosting the Arctic Circle Regional Forum in December 2018 in Seoul, hosting sessions at the Arctic Frontiers conference, and regularly holding the Trilateral High Level Dialogue on the Arctic with China and Japan.
- Establish a permanent secretariat for hosting the Arctic Partnership Week, to promote Korea's primary international forum on the Arctic, and to strengthen cooperation with other international bodies.

## BUILDING ARCTIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Establish a platform for promoting cooperation with the Arctic by organizing a meeting tentatively named the 'Arctic Policy Cooperation Meeting', and pursue the establishment of an Arctic Exchange and Cooperation Center for providing secretariat support.
- Designate institutes as Arctic Exchange and Cooperation Institute by their area of expertise in order to ensure they support the work of the Arctic Exchange and Cooperation Center in their area of expertise, and to promote the development of sectoral policy agenda for cooperation.



# RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ADDRESSING COMMON CHALLENGES



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## ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION

- Strengthen Arctic environmental monitoring by establishing an integrated Arctic Ocean environmental change observation system that links the ocean (icebreaker ARAON) with the airspace (satellite Arirang) and land (observing station).
- Develop an international observation cooperation project that aims to identify environmental linkages among the Subarctic, East Asia, and the subtropic West Pacific regions, in order to strengthen the ability to respond to climate change impacts on the Korean Peninsula.

## ANALYSIS OF THE ARCTIC CLIMATE AND RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

- With the development of a polar climate prediction system, start providing climate forecast services and study changes in the carbon uptake in connection with the melting of the Arctic sea ice.
- Promote research cooperation on studying climate change impacts, such as analyzing climate change vulnerabilities in the Northeast

Asian and the Subarctic region, and developing optimal management measures for the coastal region.

## STRENGTHENING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Promote the construction of next-generation research icebreaker for strengthening Arctic research and of a building for promoting cooperation in commercializing specimens from the polar region.
- Provide pan-national measures for joint use of national polar research infrastructure, and provide open access to polar research infrastructure (research stations, research icebreaker, and other facilities) by all researchers from Korea and abroad.

# CAPACITY BUILDING



## DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND AN ARCTIC POLICY BLUEPRINT

- Enact into law the 'Act on Promoting Activities in the Polar Region' and in connection with the law develop a 'Comprehensive Plan for the Polar Region' that includes policy directions on scientific research, environmental protection, human resource training, and industry development in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions.
- Prepare a blueprint that examines the past and current achievements in the Arctic and Antarctic, and present a long-term vision for future engagement in the both regions.

## INVESTMENT IN ARCTIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Increase support for polar researchers and the graduate degree program in Polar science (provided by the University of Science and Technology, and Korea Polar Research Institute).

- Expand education networks with the Arctic and establish a university-wide network in Korea for educating future polar researchers.
- Develop a mid-to-long term strategy for the 'Korea Arctic Research Consortium (KoARC)' to strengthen industry-academia cooperation and to promote the growth of think-tanks in all areas of the Arctic policy.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Improve the functions of the Korea Polar Portal, organize participatory and personalized education programs, and increase public outreach programs (e.g. Polar Camp for elementary and middle school students, Polar Essay Competition for middle and high school students, Student Web-Reporters program for university students, Polar Academy for educators in science, and Polar interactive exhibitions for the general public)





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## 2050 Polar Vision Statement



In December 2018, the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries delivered the '2050 Polar Vision Statement' during the Arctic Partnership Week held in Busan. The aim of the '2050 Polar Vision' is to provide a long-term policy direction for Korea's activities in both the Arctic and the Antarctic regions.

The Polar Regions, a barometer of global climate and environmental changes, hold the key to the future of humanity. In recognition that they are also indispensable parts for national development, we have a commitment to usher the regions into a promising future by addressing challenges caused by human activities and expanding the scope for international communication and cooperation.

We, the Republic of Korea, thereby declare as follows:

**First**, acknowledging the connection between the Regions and the Korean Peninsula, we promote the policies to preemptively respond to the effects of climate change on the Regions.

**Second**, we cooperate in further sustainable development and rational utilization of resources in the Regions.

**Third**, we foster future-oriented industries for the shared prosperity

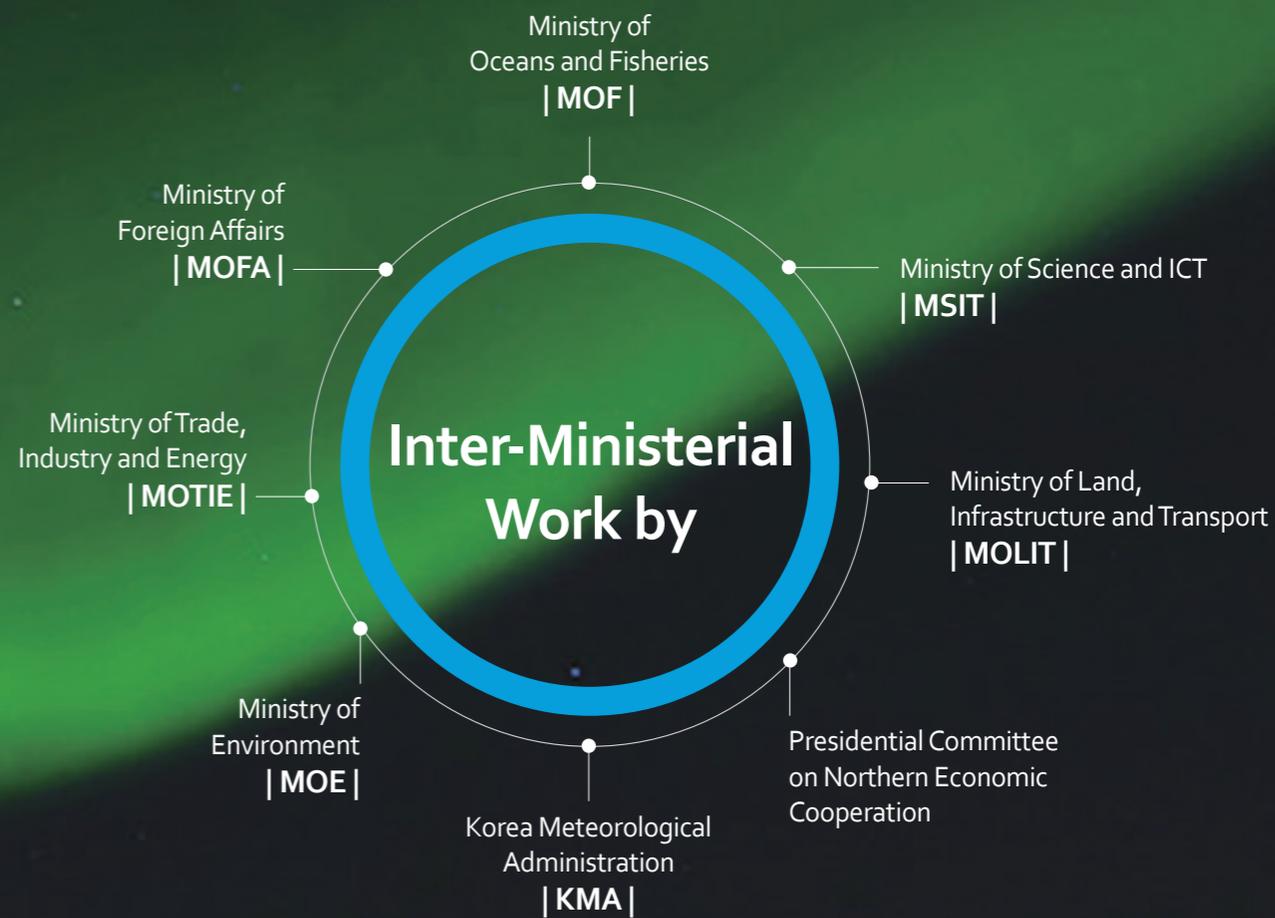
with the Regions of enormous potential.

**Fourth**, we enhance our national science capacity through innovation-driven research on the Regions and its resultant production of practical applications.

**Fifth**, recognizing that the Regions are a borrowed asset from the future generations, we join international efforts to protect the environment of the Regions.

**Sixth**, we extend the scope of interactions and build trust with the local communities of the Regions, including Arctic indigenous peoples, to preserve their social and cultural traditions as a common heritage of the humankind.

**Seventh**, we strengthen the capacity for polar activities by expanding the research infrastructure, including the 3rd research station in the inner Antarctic and nurturing of promising researchers and experts.



In cooperation with : Korea Maritime Institute, Korea Polar Research Institute, National Institute of Ecology, Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources, Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering etc.