

Arctic Futures Initiative Town hall meeting
29 April, 17:00-18:30, Room 204

This town hall meeting introduces a new initiative in the planning phase, the Arctic Futures Initiative (AFI).

The meeting consists of two introductory presentations and discussion:

17:00 Ambassador Hannu Halinen (Co-Chair of AFI Advisory Board)

17:20 Research representative

17:40 Discussion

The Arctic is of increasing strategic interest, both regionally and globally, due to the dual opportunities and challenges brought about by the pronounced changes observed across this critical part of the Earth system. These interests center on the economic potential of the Arctic, recoverable new energy resources across the region, and the potential of northern transportation sea routes.

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) is initiating a new international, collaborative, and integrative research project, the Arctic Futures Initiative for examining the plausible futures of the Arctic. The aim of the AFI is to exploit IIASA's singular position as an international, non-governmental research organization, and to use the Institute's connections, through its 22 National Member Organizations and its history of activity at the science-policy interface, to engage the science and policy communities of the Arctic Council member and observer nations.

The objective of the AFI is a holistic assessment of the Arctic by producing an integrated assessment including a series of plausible scenarios for Arctic future. AFI's activities will build on IIASA's history of developing systems analytic approaches to complex global issues. This project will examine the Arctic from a comprehensive, holistic perspective, covering social, economic, technological, and environmental aspects, while taking into account the connections between the Arctic and rest of the world. The Arctic Futures Initiative brings together researchers (natural and social sciences, economics, humanities, law), policy and business to work in collaboration.