

# Young Researcher Report - NRF Young Researcher's Brainstorming Meeting

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The young researchers participating in the NRF Assembly met on Saturday for a brainstorming session, where the purpose was to learn about each other's background and what our expectations were for the assembly that was to take place in the two following days.

The first question we discussed was how our research related to the theme of the NRF Assembly: Our Ice Dependent world. We found out that the young researchers had quite different backgrounds and were working on a variety of projects, both within natural and social sciences. However, all had some links to the Arctic, or to the theme of ice. Furthermore, all projects seemed to have it as their starting point that rapid environmental changes are taking place, and the aim of the projects the young researchers are working on seems to be either to explore *why* those changes were taking place, or *how* humans could respond to those changes.

The second question posed was about expectations. Some common threats emerged from that discussion as well. To begin with, most expected that the interface between natural and social sciences would be interesting to follow, as well as the dialogue between academia and policy. Furthermore, most mentioned the expectation to be able to network, both with other young researchers, and with some policy makers and established academics. The chance to interact with „like-minded“ people, interested in similar things, was mentioned also. Finally, the young researchers were expecting to have some fun and enjoy their stay in a country that many had never been to before.

The third topic of discussion was how the young researchers thought they could share the knowledge gained at the assembly. Several ideas were put on the table. Many said that they hoped that an improved knowledge would be reflected in the academic research and

publications. Some also expected to integrate information into their university level teaching. A couple of young researchers were involved in community and youth outreach programs, where they imagined they could integrate their lessons from the conference into their work on those programs. Others wanted to reach the public, e.g. using the internet or by writing a journalistic story in a newspaper. Finally, many mentioned they might discuss information from the assembly with their colleagues back home (some of who might not know much about Arctic issues).

The final question in the brainstorming session was about the importance of the theme: Our ice dependent world. Under this question, it was pointed out that the Arctic is at a unique turning point in history, due to the rapid rate of environmental change and changes in ideas about sovereignty, security etc, and therefore important to discuss this theme. An important part of the theme was the focus on bringing together experts on the three regions (Arctic, Antarctica and the Himalayas). All the young researchers agreed that the focus on ice and water was indeed important, and the pressing question is: What will happen when the ice is gone?