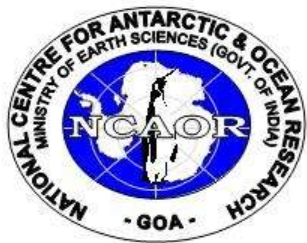

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ANTARCTIC & OCEAN RESEARCH



Ministry of Earth Sciences

Government of India

Headland Sada, Goa 403 804

Phone: (0832)-2525 600; fax: (0832)-252 0877

<http://www.ncaor.gov.in>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ARCTIC REGION (2015-2016)

Application Deadline: 13th January 2015

The National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), an autonomous R & D Institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India has been designated as the nodal agency responsible for the planning, co-ordination and implementation of India's scientific research endeavours in the Arctic realm. On behalf of the Ministry, NCAOR invites research proposals from national scientific organisations/institutions, research laboratories and universities with a sustained interest in polar research for funded access (comprising travel, DA as per the Government of India norms, polar clothing, boarding and lodging) to the Ny-Ålesund Research Infrastructure in Svalbard, Norway.

Scientific research proposals are invited, specifically within the following fields of Arctic research:

- Atmospheric Science with special reference to study of aerosols, trace gases and precipitation over the Arctic
- Marine Science: Dynamics and functioning of Arctic fjords (Kongsfjorden)
- Environmental Chemistry: Natural contaminants in food webs and long range pollutants
- Cryospheric studies: Snow and ice chemistry, glaciology

In addition, the applicants are also encouraged to visit websites http://www.forskningsradet.no/prognett-ssf/Home_page/1253969737234 and www.kingsbay.no for more information regarding Arctic research.

Complete programme, eligibility, and application information is available at: <http://www.ncaor.gov.in/>

Director

E-mail: arctic@ncaor.gov.in

1. Eligibility Criteria:

The Principal Investigator (P.I) as well as the co-investigator(s) if any, who would be submitting the Proposal should be permanent employees of the Institution which would be sponsoring the project and must have sufficient experience in the relevant field. Any scientist who would be involved in the data acquisition along with the PI or on his behalf should necessarily be from the same institute/department. The scientists intending to participate in the field studies should be medically fit for working in cold regions.

NCAOR encourages scientific collaborations among the different national organizations/institutions. Collaboration with scientists of other nationalities especially during the data acquisition phase should be only with the prior knowledge and concurrence of NCAOR.

2. Project Proposal:

Scientific research proposals in the prescribed format duly endorsed by the Head of the organization should be sent to the Director, National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Headland Sada, Goa 403 804, so as to reach him latest by 5:00 pm on the 13th January 2015. Scientists from organisations who have been members of the previous teams which carried out scientific studies at Ny-Ålesund during the previous years should resubmit their proposal if they would like to continue their studies during 2015-16. A report of the salient results of the studies carried out by them should accompany the proposal.

3. Selection Procedure:

The proposals would be peer-reviewed in terms of both scientific content as well as logistic feasibility prior to submission to a Group of Experts along with the reviewer's comments, for the final recommendation. If need be, the proposals may have to be defended by the PI before the Group of Experts. Considering the limited number of accommodation available at Ny-Ålesund, the final recommendations of the projects for implementation would be dictated by the ranking of the project by the reviewer(s), the significance of the proposed work vis-à-vis any similar studies at Svalbard by scientists from other nations, the logistic feasibilities, the time slot proposed, and the institutional commitment. The scientific projects may also be referred to the Ny-Ålesund Science Managers Committee (NySMAC) of international scientists in order to ensure that the planned research at the settlement is not in conflict with the ongoing studies in similar disciplines as well as the environmental laws and regulations in vogue at Ny-Alesund.

Novel long-term scientific programs that will add to our knowledge-base of the Arctic realm and enhance India's scientific credentials in Polar research would get precedence over short-duration projects which will merely add to the Arctic database.

In addition, it may be noted that it is mandatory as per the instructions of the Governor of Svalbard that all those involved in scientific research in Svalbard have to register their scientific project after being approved by expert group in the "Research in Svalbard (RiS)" database on the web pages of Svalbard Science Forum http://www.forskningsradet.no/prognett-ssf/Home_page/1253969737234. All permissions and exemptions if any needed for carrying out the work in Svalbard will be considered only against the registration. Scientists are therefore advised to consult the web page of Svalbard Science Forum while formulating their research project.

4. Duration of field studies

Taking into consideration the logistics involved, it is planned to confine the field studies at Ny-Ålesund to only six months an year- the Summer Phase between May/June and October/November 2015 (four months maximum), and a late winter/early spring phase of activities during March-April of 2016 (two months). Depending on the type of studies envisaged, the proposals may be provided different time slots. The number of days of field studies envisaged may be clearly mentioned in the proposal. In case of installation of scientific equipment, provision for online data transmission to India may be kept in mind.

5. Application information

Please visit our website (<http://www.ncaor.gov.in>) for the application format and the data policy.

6. Deadline for receiving proposals:

The proposal along with the essential endorsement in the prescribed format should be forwarded through the Head of the Institution to the Director, National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research, Headland Sada, Vasco-da-Gama, Goa- 403 804 by 13th January 2015. The envelope should be clearly superscribed "Proposal for scientific research in the Arctic (2015-2016)". An electronic version of the proposal should also be forwarded to arctic@ncaor.gov.in. Proposals received after the last date may not be considered.

7. Background to the study area

A write-up on Ny-Ålesund and the scientific and logistics facilities available is provided at <http://www.ncaor.gov.in/>