**The Arctic in World Affairs: A North Pacific Dialogue on the Future of the Arctic** addresses future developments in five areas: Arctic maritime shipping, Arctic oil and gas development, potential Arctic fisheries, the resilience of Arctic communities, and Arctic Ocean governance. Bringing together prominent experts from the three North Pacific Arctic coastal states (Canada, Russia, and the United States) and three leading North Pacific non-Arctic states (China, Japan, and Korea), the book goes beyond generalities; it addresses the details of major concerns in an effort to identify practical solutions to Arctic maritime issues and move them from paper to practice.

Regarding shipping, the book addresses the logistical challenges of using Arctic shipping routes, paying particular attention to factors affecting the prospects for both destination and transit shipping in the Northern Sea Route. It also explores the central challenges for the Arctic states and the global maritime community regarding international cooperation needed to address issues of safety and environmental protection associated with Arctic shipping.

On the future of Arctic oil and gas development, the book focuses on the international dimensions of seven key concerns: global energy markets; the impact of the shale gas revolution on the competitiveness of Arctic hydrocarbons; relevant technological developments; the effects of public policies in the Arctic states; environmental issues associated with the extraction of Arctic oil and gas; the impacts of such development on Arctic coastal communities, and the long-term energy needs of China, Japan, and Korea.

In the case of potential Arctic fisheries, the book provides a scientific examination of factors and conditions relevant to the migration of various species into the central Arctic Ocean and the prospects for future commercial fisheries there. Turning to issues of management, contributors ask whether it would be timely to create a regional fisheries management organization for the Arctic Ocean proper to prepare for the prospect of commercial fishing in the future.

On building resilient communities in the Arctic, the book considers the changing circumstances of the human communities of the Arctic. It explores their role in the development of the region’s resources as well as the determinants of resilience in these communities.

Regarding Arctic Ocean governance, the book addresses the broad topic of how governance of the Arctic Ocean has evolved to date and possible future directions for the management of human activities that impact the Arctic marine environment.

Taken together, the contributions fill gaps in knowledge regarding the maritime Arctic, identify remaining uncertainties, and point to policy innovations that can promote peaceful and sustainable uses of Arctic resources in the future.
KMI/EWC SERIES ON THE ARCTIC IN WORLD AFFAIRS

The Korea Maritime Institute (KMI) is a government-affiliated research organization under the umbrella of the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Science (NRCS) in the Republic of Korea. Since its establishment in 1984, KMI has been a major think-tank in the development of national maritime and fisheries policies including shipping and logistics, port development, coastal and ocean management, maritime safety and security, and fisheries affairs. Currently, KMI is building research capacity on the new ocean industries, the so-called Blue Economy, for sustainable coastal and ocean resources development. KMI’s international research network covers not only the Asian region but also other regions such as Africa, the Pacific islands, the Americas, Europe, and the polar areas.

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The Center’s 21-acre Honolulu campus, adjacent to the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, is located midway between Asia and the U.S. mainland and features research, residential, and international conference facilities. The Center’s Washington, D.C., office focuses on preparing the United States for an era of growing Asia Pacific prominence.

The KMI/EWC series The Arctic in World Affairs publishes work from the North Pacific Arctic Conference, which aims to provide a forum in which key individuals from relevant countries and major stakeholder groups are able to develop relations of trust that allow them to discuss complex and sometimes difficult issues pertaining to the maritime Arctic in a spirit of problem solving rather than advocacy.

The first volume in the series, A North Pacific Dialogue on Arctic Transformation, based on the 2011 North Pacific Arctic Conference, was edited by Robert W. Corell, James Seong-Cheol Kang, and Yoon Hyung Kim.

The second volume, A North Pacific Dialogue on Arctic Marine Issues, from the 2012 conference, was edited by Oran R. Young, Jong Deog Kim, and Yoon Hyung Kim.

This volume, A North Pacific Dialogue on the Future of the Arctic, from the 2013 conference, was edited by Oran R. Young, Jong Deog Kim, and Yoon Hyung Kim.
The Arctic in World Affairs
A North Pacific Dialogue on the Future of the Arctic

2013 North Pacific Arctic Conference Proceedings

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KMI/EWC SERIES ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARCTIC

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE KOREA MARITIME INSTITUTE AND THE EAST-WEST CENTER
# Contents

*List of Tables*
*List of Figures*
*Contributors*
*Preface*

1. Introduction and Overview  
   *Yoon Hyung Kim, Oran R. Young, and Jong Deog Kim*

## PART I  THE FUTURE OF ARCTIC MARITIME SHIPPING

2. The Future of Arctic Marine Operations and Shipping Logistics  
   *Bjørn Gunnarsson*

   - Introduction 37
   - First Step in Addressing Logistical Challenges: Assessment Study 38
   - Second Step in Addressing Logistical Challenges: Modeling and Visualization Study 39
   - Third Step in Addressing Logistical Challenges: Costs and Financing Study 40
   - Significance of Sea-Ice Reduction for Future Arctic Navigation 42
   - Energy and Mineral Resource Development in the Arctic 43
   - The Freight Market, Price Differences, and Time Sensitivity of Markets and Cargo 43
   - Time and Cost Savings by Using the NSR vs. the Suez Route 45
   - Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the NSR 47
   - Availability of Ice-Class Ships in Different Segments and Sizes 47
   - The Importance of Arctic Icebreakers 48
   - Inaccessibility and Poor Conditions of Existing Arctic Ports 49
   - Importance of Transshipment Hubs for the NSR 50
   - Navigation and Communication 51
   - Limited SAR and Oil Spill Response Capabilities 52
   - The Significance of the IMO Polar Code for Arctic Shipping 54
   - New Industrial Frontier and Arctic Shipping 55
   - Destination Arctic Transport on the NSR 56
   - Transits on the NSR 56
   - Conclusion 58
Commentaries

IMO perspective by Heike Deggim 62
Russian perspective by Arild Moe 71
NSR operational perspectives by Lawson Brigham 76
Conservation perspective by Martin Robards 80
Community perspective by Denise Michels 88
Chinese perspective by Xu Hua 94
Japanese perspective by Toshiyuki Kano and Takahiro Majima 103
Korean perspective by Sung Woo Lee 110

3. International Cooperation in Arctic Marine Transportation, Safety and Environmental Protection
Lawson Brigham

Introduction 115
Key Drivers of Arctic Marine Navigation 116
Arctic Marine Accessibility 117
Cooperative Research on Arctic Marine Transportation 118
The Arctic Council & Arctic State Cooperation 120
Non-Arctic State Observers: Roles in the Arctic Council 126
International Maritime Organizations: Cooperation on Arctic Issues 128
Bridging the North Pacific, Arctic and North Atlantic: Cooperative Opportunities 133
Conclusions 134

Commentaries

USCG perspective by Captain David A. Vaughn 137
Chinese perspective by Jiayu Bai 143
Japanese perspective by Kiyoshi Nakashima 148
Korean perspective by Jong Deog Kim 151

PART II THE FUTURE OF ARCTIC OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT

Perspectives
American perspective by Lucian Pugliaresi 161
Russian and Norwegian perspectives by Arild Moe 169
Conservation perspective by Alexander Shestakov 177
Community perspective by Edward Itta 186
Chinese perspective by Kang Wu 190
Japanese perspective by Fereidun Fesharaki and Tomoko Hosoe 199
Korean perspective by Seong-Min Lee 206
PART III POTENTIAL ARCTIC FISHERIES

Perspectives

Natural science perspective by Herald Loeng 215
Social science perspective: the future of Arctic fisheries governance – a restless sea by David VanderZwaag 221
Conservation perspective by Henry Huntington 228

PART IV BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE ARCTIC

Perspectives

Inuit perspective by Duane Smith 235
Greenland perspective by Sara Olsvig 252

PART V THE EVOLUTION OF ARCTIC OCEAN GOVERNANCE

4. The Evolution of Arctic Ocean Governance 267
   Oran R. Young

   What is the Issue? 267
   How Should We Think about Governance? 269
   What Are the Principal Components of the Arctic Ocean Governance System? 271
   What is the Status of Issue-Specific Arrangements in the Arctic? 273
   What Roles Can the Arctic Council Play? 279
   Is a Third Leg of the Arctic Ocean Regime Complex Needed? 283
   Are There Ways to Strengthen the Foundation of the Arctic Ocean Governance System? 288
   Concluding Observations 292

Commentaries

American perspective by Robert Corell 299
Canadian perspective by Bernard Funston 310
Chinese perspective by Kai Sun 323
Japanese perspective by Fujio Ohnishi 328
Korean perspective by Sung Jin Kim 334
List of Tables

Table I-1  Details of potential routes between Shanghai and Rotterdam  100
Table I-2  Select findings of the Arctic Council’s Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA, 2009)  122
Table I-3  The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment recommendations by theme: A framework policy for the Arctic Council (AMSA, 2009)  124
Table I-4  Select 2013-15 projects, activities and lead countries for the Arctic Council’s Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) working group (Arctic Council b, 2013)  127
Table I-5  Select 2013-15 Projects and Lead Countries for the Arctic Council’s Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Working Group (Arctic Council b, 2013)  128
Table I-6  Summary of IMO MARPOL Special Areas (IMO, 2012)  130
Table I-7  Member States of the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) and North Atlantic Coast Guard Forum (NACGF) in 2013  133
Table II-1  Percentage of time during the operating season when no response to in-situ burning, mechanical containment or recovery and areal dispersant application is possible (WWF, 2011)  179
Table V-1  Global trends 2030: An overview  305
# List of Figures

| Figure I-1 | Integrated frame for Arctic shipping assessment | 95 |
| Figure I-2 | Potential routes between Shanghai and Rotterdam | 99 |
| Figure I-3 | Market areas of potential routes between Eurasian places and Rotterdam | 101 |
| Figure I-4 | Values of attained and required EEDI | 105 |
| Figure I-5 | Outlines of simulation study conditions | 106 |
| Figure I-6 | EEDI of ice-class vessels and traditional ships | 107 |
| Figure I-7 | Ship speed reduction by ice | 107 |
| Figure I-8 | Variation of CO₂ emission amount ratio of the NSR and SCR | 108 |
| Figure I-9 | The path of the navigation route of a crude oil tanker on the NSR | 108 |
| Figure I-10 | Advent of new routes in Eurasia | 111 |
| Figure I-11 | The Arctic Ocean and marine transportation routes | 119 |
| Figure I-12 | The Arctic search and rescue agreement areas of Application (Illustrative map) | 125 |
| Figure I-13 | China, Japan and Korea in the global economy (1) | 151 |
| Figure I-14 | China, Japan and Korea in the global economy (2) | 152 |
| Figure I-15 | FTAs with Korea | 153 |
| Figure I-16 | Shipping agreements with Korea | 154 |
| Figure II-1 | Challenges to Arctic development by country | 161 |
| Figure II-2 | U.S. natural gas output likely to continue growth (trillions of cubic feet/year) | 163 |
| Figure II-3 | U.S. Unconventional oil production forecast | 164 |
| Figure II-4 | Canadian production growth (millions of barrels/year) | 165 |
| Figure II-5 | Cost outlook scenarios, growth in exploration and capital expenditures, per barrel | 166 |
| Figure II-6 | U.S. oil consumption with carrying capacity estimates | 167 |
| Figure II-7 | China’s oil consumption and net import dependence, 2007-2020 | 191 |
Figure II-8  China’s nature gas use and net import dependence, 2007-2020  
Figure II-9  Forecast Japanese nuclear capacity declines (MW)  
Figure II-10  (a) Korean primary energy market and (b) Expected primary energy share  
Figure II-11  Expected natural gas supply  
Figure III-1  Arctic Ocean and surrounding shelf seas  
Figure III-2  Ice extent in the Arctic Ocean in September 2012, in relation to the high seas area of the central Arctic Ocean  
Figure IV-1  Inuit and circumpolar peoples  
Figure IV-2  The 2012 Arctic sea ice extent  
Figure IV-3  The Chinese MV “Xue Long” (Snow Dragon) crossed the Arctic in the summer of 2012 Arctic shipping  
Figure V-1  History of world primary energy use by source  
Figure V-2  The hypothesis: There are three issues that are inexorably interconnected
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Preface

Climate change is occurring more rapidly in the Arctic than in any other part of the planet. Reductions in sea ice in the Arctic Ocean are increasing access to the region’s natural resources and opening new shipping routes. The global demand for natural resources makes these opportunities attractive. But Arctic resources are expensive to produce, and the economics of Arctic shipping are by no means clear-cut. Moreover, the growing exploitation of Arctic resources raises issues relating to pollution control, maintenance of biological diversity, the protection of indigenous rights, and governance more generally that can only be addressed through international cooperation. The challenge is to find a way forward that respects the rights of Arctic stakeholders and protects the natural environment, while allowing the development of Arctic resources to proceed on a sustainable basis.

Commercial shipping in the Arctic is now technologically feasible. But there is a lack of both the hard and soft infrastructure needed to make this option commercially attractive. Not only are aids to navigation, port facilities, and emergency services underdeveloped, but also more-developed administrative arrangements are needed to deal with traffic management, along with fee structures, insurance, liability systems, and procedures for avoiding sensitive areas. Similarly, the Arctic contains globally significant reserves of oil and gas. But Arctic hydrocarbons are expensive both to produce and to deliver to urban markets. Oil spills under Arctic conditions pose severe threats to biophysical and socioeconomic systems. Economic forces, such as the shale gas revolution, which is affecting world market prices, together with public policies designed to minimize environmental impacts and protect the well-being of coastal communities will determine the prospects for hydrocarbon development in the Arctic. The calculations of global companies (e.g., Shell, ExxonMobil) and the fate of efforts to reach international agreements on reductions of greenhouse gas emissions will also affect the pace of oil and gas development in the Arctic. Little is known about the impact of climate change on living resources in the central Arctic Ocean and its marginal seas. We need to learn more about the dynamics of fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean, scenarios dealing with future developments regarding these stocks, and the implications of these developments for management.

Turning to questions of governance, what strategies are available to
Arctic communities that seek to benefit from economic opportunities but also to protect traditional lifestyles and avoid shocks caused by the actions of remote decision makers? How can the Arctic Council play an effective and constructive role in meeting the challenges of the maritime Arctic? Now that China, India, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea are officially council observer states, are there roles for non-Arctic states, operating singly or in combination, which will contribute to sustainable development in the maritime Arctic?

The 2013 North Pacific Arctic Conference (NPAC), organized by the East-West Center and the Korea Maritime Institute and held in Honolulu, Hawaii, sought answers to these questions. This volume, entitled A North Pacific Dialogue on the Future of the Arctic, contains the proceedings of NPAC 2013. The chapters and commentaries included in the book are based on the presentations of the authors at the conference. In the opening chapter, the editors seek to capture the main themes and to set the entire discussion in a broader context. Substantial chapters by Bjørn Gunnarsson and Lawson Brigham review the future of Arctic maritime shipping. Oran Young’s chapter addresses the evolution of Arctic Ocean governance. The volume also includes international and interdisciplinary perspectives on key Arctic issues relating to oil and gas development, potential Arctic fisheries, and resilient communities.

An especially important feature of this volume is the inclusion of a range of commentaries on the papers presented at the conference. Read together with the papers themselves, the commentaries provide a unique window into the different ways in which those coming from a number of countries and various walks of life approach the same issues. This is not a matter of searching for the correct approach to any given issue. Rather, it reminds us of the multiplicity of ways in which it is possible to frame important issues and of the challenge this poses for those seeking common ground as a basis for moving forward cooperatively and avoiding potential conflicts that can be headed off by those who are willing to make the effort to understand the roots of each other’s views.

Along with the formal presentations, the North Pacific Arctic Conferences are notable for the opportunities they afford for informal dialogue in a relaxed setting that fosters frank discussion, in contrast to the articulation of negotiating positions on key issues. Dialogue of this sort cannot substitute for the policy debates and institutional bargaining that take place in more formal settings. Yet there is no doubt that nurturing a
community of individuals drawn from Arctic and key non-Arctic states who can communicate easily with one another, who are able to look at emerging issues from a number of perspectives, and who are in a position to share their views with members of the policy community in their own countries can make a positive contribution to ensuring that the Arctic remains a zone of peace and sustainable development during the coming decades. NPAC will continue to play this role in the coming years. NPAC 2014 will focus squarely on identifying and exploring opportunities for international cooperation in a changing Arctic.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Oran R. Young, research professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Dr. Jong Deog Kim, research fellow at the Korea Maritime Institute, and Dr. Yoon Hyung Kim, emeritus professor at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and senior fellow at the East-West Center for coordinating the conference and preparing this volume for publication. We are grateful to Dr. Nancy Lewis at the East-West Center for her support of the NPAC program. We also wish to thank the paper writers, commentators, and others involved in contributing to the success of this conference. Our sincere gratitude goes to Eugene Alexander of the East-West Center for his expert management of the conference logistics.

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