

ROSS SEA REGION REGION INFORMATION SHARE 2020/21 SEASON

Country/NAP: Republic of Korea / Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)

Submitted by: Hyoung-Geun LEE / Station Operation Team

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Has your programme made any special season plans in the context of COVID-19? **YES** ~~or NO~~

If yes, please attach the special season plans/information as an Annex to this Information Share template.

Who will be your station leader(s) for the upcoming season (Give station name and then the full name and contact email address for the station leader(s)/expedition manager/station manager(s) for each of your Antarctic stations or facilities)

CURRENT STATION LEADER & MANAGER (TO 03 DEC 2020)

Station Leader: TAEJIN CHOI (DR.) / CTJIN@KOPRI.RE.KR

Station Manager: SUNG-HO JANG (MR.) / SHJANG@KOPRI.RE.KR

NEW STATION LEADER & MANAGER (FROM 04 DEC 2020 TO 30 NOV 2021)

Station Leader: IL-CHAN KIM (DR.) / ICKIM@KOPRI.RE.KR

Station Manager: HWANG-JONG YOOU (MR.) / IBANYU@KOPRI.RE.KR

Season Schedule Overview (start dates/end dates, details of major activities and events)

Jang Bogo Station Summer Season Open – DEC 03

Cargo Operation for Regular Supply – DEC 03-06

Overwinter Crew Change for JBS – DEC 06-25

Science Cruise nearby JBS – DEC 06-25

Jang Bogo Station Summer Season Close – DEC 25

Ship Cruise Schedules & vessel-related information (include information on any helicopters operated to/from vessels), including for collaboration or for SAR purposes

1. DRAFT SHIP CRUISE SCHEDULE (AS OF JULY 07, 2020)

Date	Action	Note
OCT 15, 2020	14-day quarantine before embarkation	Diagnostic tests before and during quarantine period
NOV 01, 2020	IBRV Araon departs from Kwangyang	-
NOV 20-23, 2020	Port Call at Lyttelton for Refuelling	All crew and passengers will stay onboard
DEC 02, 2020	Arrival at Jang Bogo Station (JBS)	Disembarkation of (incoming) 8 th Overwinter Crew for JBS
DEC 25, 2020	Departure from JBS	Embarkation of (outgoing) 7 th Overwinter Crew for JBS
JAN 08-12, 2021	Port Call at Punta Arenas for Refuelling	All crew and passengers will stay onboard
JAN 15, 2021	Arrival at King Sejong Station (KSJ)	Disembarkation of (incoming) 34 th Overwinter Crew for KSJ
FEB 02, 2021	Departure from KSJ	Embarkation of (outgoing) 33 th Overwinter Crew for KSJ
FEB 05-07, 2021	Port Call at Punta Arenas for Refuelling	All crew and passengers will stay onboard
MAR 19, 2021	Arrival at Kwangyang	-

2. NO HELICOPTER OPERATION

3. LIMITED SAR COLLABORATION

Aircraft Arrival and Departure Dates & air operations-related information

No Plan for Inter-/Intra-Continental Aircraft Operation

Planned Cooperative International Activities (logistics/science support activities affecting other NAPs)

No Planned Cooperative International Activities.

High Profile Activities

No plan for High Profile Activities

Non-governmental Activities

No plan for Non-governmental Activities

Use of Drones/RPAS or Balloons

Balloons for atmospheric monitoring is going to be launched regularly. JBS is going to contact McMurdo station & Scott Base to inform balloon launch schedule before its start.

2021 Winter-over SAR assets (helo, etc) and any special medical capabilities/equipment availability

Two Helicopters (AS-350B2) are going to be stored at JBS with no helicopter crew for winter-overtime. Basic medical operation is available at JBS including tele-medicine system.

National Antarctic Programme Aircraft and Vessel Safety Statement

COVID-19 Testing Container Unit with negative room pressure is going to be installed at IBRV Araon for the use of suspected COVID-19 case(s) during 2020-21 season.

[As of July 13, 2020]

KOREA'S ANTARCTIC FIELD PLAN FOR 2020/2021:

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE UPDATE

In an effort to ensure the safety of the overwintering team and continuous operation of our Antarctic research stations, there will be substantial changes put in place in order to minimize impact of COVID-19 pandemic for the upcoming 2020/2021 Austral summer season. Access to both Jang Bogo (JBS) and King Sejong (KSJ) stations will be limited to one regular supply mission via IBRV Araon, which will conduct one-leg voyage to resupply the station and switch overwintering teams. The plan would not utilize any aerial logistics support and operation.

1. BACKGROUND

- A. Multiple governmental sources predict COVID-19 pandemic would continue in the foreseeable future, and the travel restrictions are most likely to persist around the world during the 2020/2021 Austral summer season.
- B. Antarctic research stations and research vessels lack the epidemiological capability to effectively treat and quarantine patients, making them highly vulnerable to COVID-19 outbreak if the virus reaches these facilities.

2. SITUATION ANALYSIS

- A. International air logistics network, which was the most often used method of transportation for the Korean Antarctic program, is facing a substantial reduction in their operation. The number of planned inter-continental air link between gateway city and Antarctica has decreased, and many of the international commercial flights has been canceled. Access to the transit countries as well as Antarctic 'gateway' countries are proving difficult as 14-day self-quarantine policy remains in place.
- B. Under these circumstances, focus lies on handling the tasks of the highest priority for 2020/2021 Austral summer season (i.e. station resupply, the change of overwintering parties, and essential field research activities) with minimum outside contacts to the vessel and Antarctic stations.

3. FIELD PLAN FOR 2020/2021 ANTARCTIC SEASON

- A. A 130-day one-leg voyage onboard the IBRV Araon will resupply and replace of overwintering teams for both Antarctic Jang Bogo (JBS) and King Sejong (KSJ) stations in the 2020/2021 Austral summer season. The voyage is tentatively planned to begin in early November 2020 and end in mid-March 2021, disembarking and embarking only from the Port of Incheon. There will be no aerial logistic support and operation taking place, and fixed-wing or helicopter-based field operation will not be planned.
- B. The voyage will accommodate 85 persons, which includes 31 crews, 36 incoming overwintering staff of the Jang Bogo (JBS) and King Sejong (KSJ) stations, and 18 scientists performing research activities onboard IBRV Araon or at the Jang Bogo Station; all the passengers will be

quarantined for 14 days and tested for the virus before embarkation.

- C. At the gateway ports in the way to Korea’s Antarctic research stations (i.e., Punta Arenas, Chile and Lyttelton, New Zealand), essential cargo operations and bunkering will be conducted with all passengers remaining onboard.
- D. A limited number of scientists will be selected and pre-approved to conduct field research activities at the Jang Bogo Station, while all others remain onboard. No field research activity is planned at or near the King Sejong Station.
- E. DRAFT IBRV Araon’s Cruise Plan (As of June 10, 2020)

Date	Action	Note
OCT 15, 2020	14-day quarantine before embarkation	Diagnostic tests before and during quarantine period
NOV 01, 2020	IBRV Araon departs from Kwangyang	-
NOV 20-23, 2020	Port Call at Lyttelton for Refuelling	All crew and passengers will stay onboard
DEC 02, 2020	Arrival at Jang Bogo Station (JBS)	Disembarkation of (incoming) 8 th Overwinter Crew for JBS
DEC 20, 2020	Departure from JBS	Embarkation of (outgoing) 7 th Overwinter Crew for JBS
JAN 03-07, 2021	Port Call at Punta Arenas for Refuelling	All crew and passengers will stay onboard
JAN 10, 2021	Arrival at King Sejong Station (KSJ)	Disembarkation of (incoming) 34 th Overwinter Crew for KSJ
JAN 28, 2021	Departure from KSJ	Embarkation of (outgoing) 33 th Overwinter Crew for KSJ
JAN 31-FEB 02, 2021	Port Call at Punta Arenas for Refuelling	All crew and passengers will stay onboard
MAR 14, 2021	Arrival at Kwangyang	-

As COVID-19 puts severe restrictions in this year’s Antarctic research and logistics operation, our cooperation with other National Antarctic Programs (NAPs) will be greatly challenged with these measures in place.

For queries, please contact following point of contact info.

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Mr. Young Hoon KWON	yhkwon@kopri.re.kr	Staff in charge of KSJ, Department of Station Operations

[As of June 10, 2020]