

## Evaluation: 2015 Annual report Arctic Research Centre (ARC)

This is the third full-year of ARC since the establishment of the centre and consequently the fourth evaluation report including an internal mid-term evaluation from December 2014. The centre has been challenged by the intern evaluation team to strengthen the integration of Health, ARTS and BSS in ARC, increasing the growth layer, assessment of the centre in an international context and develop a strategy for future financing.

**Research activities:** The main field campaign in 2015 has been conducted at Station Nord with the involvement of more than 30 scientists. Field campaigns have also been conducted by the atmospheric group, the limnic and palaeoclimatic group, the sea ice group and the oceanography group – all of this in addition to a large number of other campaigns and events. The high number of scientific publications demonstrates the very high level of research activities of the centre. In 2015 ARC published 160 scientific articles, primarily based on international peer review and with international co-authors. The number of articles is significantly higher than the number of articles published in previous years (109 articles in 2013, 107 articles in 2014). Many publications are based on an interdisciplinary approach involving several departments within a faculty. The number of publications based on a cross faculty approach has increased, although it is still limited, but the increased number illustrates the commitment to strengthen interdisciplinary approach. In addition, the centre has presented at a large number of international conferences and seminars in 2015.

**Growth layer:** The centre has a high focus on the growth layer. In 2015 34 PhD-students and 20 Postdocs has been affiliated with ARC, which is a significant increase compared to the 2014 figures with 18 PhD students and 9 Postdocs. This is an impressive increase and will further contribute to develop ARC. Furthermore, the first Master level courses in Arctic topics were realized in Nuuk in the spring term 2015, which also is an important instrument for future student recruitment and talent development.

**International and national position:** ARC has obtained a very strong international position due to high number of publications, an excellent network with international research institutes worldwide including Arctic Science Partnership with University of Manitoba and Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and Alfred Wegner Institute, Germany. In Denmark, ARC is the largest arctic research environment characterized by high scientific production, comprehensive dissemination activities and also education. ARC has been the key partner in building and further development of the portal, Isaaffik Arctic Gateway, which is regarded as an important tool for arctic researchers as well as an important link to the international research communities.

**External funding:** ARC researchers have been highly successful in obtaining external funding from a variety of national and international sources. External funding will continue to be a major funding source to secure the high level of activities at ARC beyond the current grant period ending in 2016. This calls for continuing keeping a strong focus on exploring national and international opportunities for external funding.

**Conclusion:** The 2015 annual report of the AU Interdisciplinary centre ARC is very satisfactory. The level of scientific output is very high, in quality as well as in quantity, and new activities as education and dissemination is now part of the activities. ARC fully meets the requirements in terms of the degree of international competitiveness and the quality and breadth of talent development. The activities of ARC represent an impressive degree of international collaboration. With respect to interdisciplinarity, ARC has improved its efforts to increase integration of its activities across all four AU faculties. The Faculty of Science and Technology will be hosting ARC also contribute to the funding beyond the first five-year period, although ARC also in the future has to be extensively based on external funding.