



THE NORTHERN FORUM

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016-2017

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACAP	Arctic Council's Arctic Contaminants Action Program
AMAP	Arctic Council's Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
APPLICATE	Advanced Prediction in Polar regions and beyond: modelling, observing system design and Linkages (project financed by the EU HORIZON 2020 Research and Innovation programme)
AREA	Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (SDWG project)
ARENA	Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (SDWG project)
CAFF	Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group
CLEO	Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer network (ACAP)
EALLU	EALLU: Arctic Indigenous Youth, Climate Change and Food Culture (AC SDWG project)
EPPR	Arctic Council's Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Working Group
IASC	International Arctic Science Committee
PAME	Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group
RAIPON	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North
RCC	Regional Coordinators' Committee of the Northern Forum
SAO	Senior Arctic Officials of the Arctic Council
SDWG	Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group
SecNet	Siberian environmental change Network

SLiCA	The Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic (AC project)
UIC	Ukpeagvik Iñupiat Corporation
WASH	Improving Health in Arctic Communities through Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer: Water, Sanitation and Health (SDWG project)

2016

Meetings

On November 20, 2015, a joint meeting of the Presidium of the Expert Council for the Arctic and Antarctic under the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation with the members of the State Commission for Arctic Development took place in Moscow at the Federation Council, and gathered together the governors of Russian federal subjects, which are included in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation, among them the Head of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Egor Borisov and Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai Viktor Tolokonskiy delivered a speech on behalf of the Northern Forum.

As a result, the meeting protocol was adopted, which has the item on Russian federal subjects and municipalities, which are included in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation, to participate in international Arctic forums: To recommend to subjects of the Russian Federation, which are included in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation, to intensify the work in international organizations, which are operating in the Arctic territories.

On March 23, 2016, a joint meeting of project coordinators, business partners and members of the working groups from Sakha Republic (Yakutia) was held in Yakutsk.

The Northern Forum Secretariat convened the meeting on composing the Working Groups approved by Resolution #177 “On project activities of the Northern Forum” to discuss a status of project activities and mechanisms of interaction in accordance with a new structure. Participants also discussed the preparations for a working meeting on establishing and developing new mechanisms of interregional cooperation on project activities of the Northern Forum, which was held on April 3-8, 2016, in Krasnoyarsk and was initiated by the Chair of the Northern Forum, Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai Viktor Tolokonskiy.

The working meeting in April 2016 in Krasnoyarsk was devoted to establishment and development of new mechanisms of interregional cooperation on project activities of the Northern Forum and was attended by representatives of the Northern Forum member regions. The international and interregional cooperation on education development, culture preservation and ethnic sports of the indigenous peoples of the North roundtable have also been held.

The roundtable was attended by the Northern Forum members, including representatives of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Krasnoyarsk Krai, Khanty-

Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Sakhalin Oblast, Magadan Oblast, Republic of Komi, Khabarovsk Krai, Kamchatka Krai. To achieve the goals of the Northern Forum, the roundtable participants discussed issues related to creation of conditions and successful implementation of international and interregional cooperation on education development, culture preservation and ethnic sports of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East.

In his welcome remarks, Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai Viktor Tolokonskiy emphasized that a core value of the North and Arctic are people who live under extreme conditions and create unique environmental, economic and cultural space. Viktor Tolokonskiy noted that the extensive work on experience sharing and development of new projects related to circumpolar infrastructure, northern aviation, environmental monitoring, northern schools and vocational education, children of the North and Arctic, regional informatization of the Arctic regions, innovative business on the northern territories, introduction of new energy sources, telemedicine development, distant legal support system and other necessary assistance, lies ahead of the Northern Forum member regions. Preservation and support of the traditional northern economy, including domestic reindeer herding is particularly important. The traditional northern economy serves as a base for recreation of its unique environmental and artistic culture.

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The presentations of the roundtable participants were focused on search for solutions and development of recommendations on three main blocks of tasks and challenges specific to the Arctic and North: ethnic sports development, preservation of the unique culture of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East, vocational education quality improvement on the northern territories, including education of children of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East.

In December 2016, the working meeting of the Northern Forum member regions representatives took place within the international forum “Arctic: Today and the Future” in Saint Petersburg, and discussed participation in the International Arctic Forum “Arctic – Territory of Dialogue”, which will be held in Arkhangelsk in March 2017 with the participation of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, as well as the XIII General Assembly.

Regional Coordinators Committee meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, USA **on July 25-27, 2016** was the most significant event of the Northern Forum in 2016.

A total of 40 people attended the meeting.

Regional coordinators were represented by 7 regions: Krasnoyarsk Krai, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Nenets Autonomous Okrug (by proxy), State of Alaska (restored member).

On the first day of the meeting, July 25, 2016, from 10 AM to 12 PM Alaskans officials delivered a briefing, which was opened by welcoming remarks of the Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott. The keynote reports were presented by:

- Shelley James – Associate Director, Office of International Trade, report on Alaska’s Economy, Exports and International Affairs;
- Valerie Davidson – Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, report on Alaska Tribal Health System;
- Fred Parady – Deputy Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, report on Improving Alaskans Lives and Livelihoods.

At 12 PM Governor of Alaska Bill Walker signed the Northern Forum Membership Agreement at Official Signing Ceremony. Besides of the Governor, the regional coordinators also delivered the welcome address. Thereafter meeting participants exchanged memorable gifts with each other.

In his speech at the signing ceremony, Governor of Alaska Bill Walker emphasized the importance of regional cooperation with the Russian regions: “I am proud to be the Governor of Alaska. Whenever I would go into Governor Hickel's (founder of the Northern Forum, former Alaska Governor 1966-1969, 1990-1994) office, every time, he would take me to the globe and say, “All Arctic regions and countries must work together to solve common problems”.

We have common problems to deal with, and these problems can be solved via common approaches. Like many other parts of the Arctic, Alaska faces issues with infrastructure and social stressors.

An important field to work on is the Northern Sea Route; we believe it can become an equivalent of Panama Canal. This work requires communication and cooperation with other countries and regions, which have the similar range of problems.

Nowadays we see that Arctic is a priority zone for Alaska. Our mission is to improve the Alaskans lives; we want to assist our people to have a full access to all resources, which other state residents have. However, we are affected by fall in the price of oil.

Here, our cooperation with Russian colleagues is very important, because they are in the same geographical and environmental conditions. We know that today we have different formats of interaction between Moscow and Washington. Alaska and Russian regions have to build bridges between each other as well.

Together we can deal with energy issues, improve infrastructure, and reduce the price of electricity for Arctic residents.

We will work on these issues through Alaskan coordinators and the Northern Forum Secretariat in Yakutsk.

We have everything to pursue better interaction.”

After lunch, Regional Coordinators Committee General Meeting was held according to agenda from 2 PM to 5 PM.

The meeting was led by Yuri Zakharinsky, Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee, Vice-Chair of Krasnoyarsk Krai Government, and Mikhail Pogodaev, Executive Director of the Northern Forum.

At the beginning of the meeting the Northern Forum regions had the brief presentations, and then Mikhail Pogodaev made a report on the Northern Forum activities from 2015 until present.

At the end of the first day Gwen Holdmann, Alaska Center for Energy & Power, and Nils Andreassen, Executive Director of Institute of the North, Alaska, USA, made a report on Arctic Council projects:

1. Arctic Council SDWG ARENA – Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy.

This is a project of the Working Group on Sustainable Development of the Arctic Council, which aims to increase the capabilities and potential of the Arctic population and to promote leadership by creating knowledge-sharing programs, focusing on the development, operation and management of remote energy networks (microgrids), including renewable resources. This program is focused on the current and future leaders in the development of energy and serves to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas in the Arctic, as well as between the Arctic and developing countries. The Northern Forum is a partner of the project and with the approval of the regional coordinators Committee, will be responsible for the collection and processing of information for the Russian Arctic.

2. Arctic Council SDWG AREA - Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA) - best practices and local adaptation actions in the Arctic.

The aim of the project is the development and maintenance of the first Atlas of renewable energy sources in the Arctic as a resource of free access for the wide audience to raise awareness about opportunities in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in remote and sparsely populated areas of the Arctic. Produced using a geographic information system (GIS) technology. Atlas brings together maps of renewable energy, data and various success stories in a single comprehensive public document. The Northern Forum is also a partner in this project and with the approval of the Regional Coordinators Committee will collect data on the Russian Arctic.

On the second day, July 26, 2016, Regional Coordinators Committee continued meeting by thematic discussions according to approved agenda. Following reports were presented:

- Circumpolar Local Environmental Observers –Mike Brubaker, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium;
- Red Book through children eyes, Olga Stytsiuk, Director of the Museum “Gleam”, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation;
- Yakutian Arctic, Vladimir Chlenov, President of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Adviser of the joint-stock company “Sakhatransneftegas”, Chair of Yakutsk branch of the Association of Polar Explorers, MP of Sakha Republic State Assembly (Il Tumen), Russian Federation;
- Ecological expedition to the Bely Island, Aleksandr Mazharov, Vice-Governor of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation;
- On the Northern Forum Working Group Activities, Vladimir Vasiliev, Minister for Federal Affairs and External Relations of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation;
- Ecological Monitoring on Chukotka, Olga Safonova, Deputy Head of Department of Agricultural Policy and Environmental Management of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Chairman of Committee of Environmental Management and Protection, Russian Federation;
- Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, Teresa Imm, ASRC, Alaska;
- Ethnosport: Traditional boat racing on “Oblas”, Eduard Isakov, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra Government Representative at the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Russian Federation;

- On adaptive sports development, Mikhail Vtorushin, Director of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra Center for the adaptive sports, Russian Federation.

At 12 PM participants attended a luncheon in honor of the founder of the Northern Forum, former Governor of Alaska Walter J. Hickel, which was moderated by Nils Andreassen, Executive Director of Institute of the North. Yuriy Zakharinskiy, Aleksandr Mazharov, Eduard Isakov, Vladimir Vasiliev, Natalya Slugina made a welcoming address on behalf of Russian regions.

After luncheon meeting began with Michael Perkinson, Chief of Staff to Chief Investment Officer at Guggenheim Partners, USA, who started a discussion on Arctic Investment Protocol and Infrastructure Fund.

After discussion, the following issues were addressed:

- The Northern Forum development strategy;
- Discussion of work plan for 2017;
- Determination of venue and time of the XIII General Assembly of the Northern Forum in 2017;
- Resolutions adoption: on the Northern Forum work plan for 2017; on the XIII General Assembly of the Northern Forum; on the Northern Forum working groups.

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Regional Coordinators decided to continue the work on development strategy, set up an expert group with the involvement of all regions representatives and introduce a draft resolution until the end of 2016.

A suggestion to hold a meeting of Regional Coordinators Committee in Khanty-Mansiysk during international boat racing on oblas in late June 2017 was included in work plan for 2017.

In the evening the former Lieutenant Governor of Alaska Mead Treadwell hosted a dinner.

The third day of the meeting, July 27, 2016, was devoted to discussion of the best practices and innovations experience, potential projects and cooperation on housing and energy. The discussion was held as a roundtable, and was moderated by Nils Andreassen, Executive Director of Institute of the North.

Roundtable participants:

- Scott Waterman, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation

- Sean Skaling, Alaska Energy Authority
- Chris Rose, Renewable Energy Alaska Project
- Eric Hanssen, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Tony Slaton-Barker, Coffman Engineers
- Aleksander Gogolev, Sakhatransneftegas JSC, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation
- Vladimir Mikhalev, Teploenergосervis JSC, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation
- Vladimir Syromiatnikov, Energy-Saving Technologies LLC, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation
- Vladimir Chlenov, President of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Adviser of the joint-stock company “Sakhatransneftegas”, Chair of Yakutsk branch of the Association of Polar Explorers, MP of Sakha Republic State Assembly (Il Tumen), Russian Federation

Main results, conclusion and proposals:

I. On Development Strategy of the Northern Forum

1. To set up an expert group, comprising representatives of each member region, to develop a strategy of the Northern Forum. The representatives shall be nominated by regional coordinators.
2. To the expert group to develop a draft strategy and bring it to discussion during International Forum “Arctic: Today and the Future” in Saint Petersburg in December 2016, as a side event of the Northern Forum. Shall be done before December 1, 2016.
3. To the Northern Forum member regions to take an active part in major international Arctic events and to conduct the Northern Forum events (thematic forums and roundtables, ministerial meetings, working group meetings).
4. To expand the network of the Northern Forum representatives in the regions.
5. To consider the possibility of involvement of the Russian Federation Council members into the work of the Northern Forum to discuss the national legislation.
6. To acknowledge the role of the Russian Federation in the Northern Forum. Chairmanship of the Russian Federation in the Northern Forum is a guarantee of unbiased, open, equal dialogue on the Arctic issues.

The Russian Federation pursues independent foreign policy with involvement of all interested parties, what contributes to maintenance of the Northern Forum as a leading interregional cooperation platform to address a search for distribution markets and new partners, conciliation of the commercial issues and attracting investments in the Arctic.

7. On forms of work. To strengthen efforts on specific issues (for instance, Krasnoyarsk Krai Polar Committee, which addresses the aviation issues in the northern area of Krasnoyarsk Krai, seaport development in Dudinka, Dikson and etc.).
8. There should be no geographic restriction in membership.
9. To engage local government authorities to the Northern Forum activities.
10. To hold a ministerial meeting of the Northern Forum or the Governors' Summit at the 2017 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

II. On the Northern Forum Working Groups

1. To recommend to form the working groups as an independent group of people, which has resources for projects implementation. Furthermore, to recommend to include the government authorities to the working groups.
2. To consider the possibility of holding the working groups meeting during Regional Coordinators Committee meetings.
3. To conclude the election of the working group Chairs until October 1, 2016.
4. In order to avoid the use of unreliable data (retrieved from unverified and incompetent sources) on protection of Alaska-Chukotka Polar bear population in the territory of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, to provide interaction among involved parties in Alaska (Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Voice of the Arctic Inupiat) and Chukotka (Umka Patrol, Chukotka Traditional Nature Use Committee under the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East) for sharing information, which reflects the actual state of things.

III. On the Northern Forum Work Plan

1. To consider development of the 3-year work plan beginning with 2017.
2. To consider holding the Northern Forum thematic roundtable (forum, working groups meeting) at 2017 Krasnoyarsk Economic Forum.

3. To schedule the next Regional Coordinators Committee meeting in June 2017 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra.
4. To consider holding the Northern Forum Governors’ Summit during Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in May 2017 (Alaska).

IV. On the General Assembly of the Northern Forum

1. To hold the General Assembly of the Northern Forum in November 2017 in Krasnoyarsk, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russian Federation.

V. On Project Activities

1. To the Northern Forum Secretariat to develop a draft terms and conditions of the Northern Forum Projects Grant with due regard to the projects selection criteria in accordance with the Northern Forum Bylaws and regions co-financing. Shall be done before October 1, 2016.
2. To US National Park Service in Alaska and other interested parties from the USA in collaboration with Chukotka Autonomous okrug authorities to resume the Beringia Days International Conference, and to continue the cooperation between Chukotka and Alaska on Visa Waiver program in the field of nature conservation, traditional knowledge of indigenous people, culture, sports and tourism.

Membership

The membership expanding is a one of the priority tasks of the Northern Forum Secretariat. Throughout the year, a great deal of effort had been devoted to attracting new members to the Northern Forum.

Throughout the year, a great deal of effort had been devoted to attracting new members to the Northern Forum. Thus, State of Alaska and Lapland have restored their membership. Currently, Busan Metropolitan City, Heilongjiang Province and a number of Norwegian counties, namely Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, are showing interest in joining the Northern Forum. Furthermore, during his official visit to Yakutsk at the end of the year, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway in Russia Leidulv Namtvedt had a meeting with the Chairman of Sakha Republic Government Evgeniy Chekin where he assured that the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will assist in accession of those counties to the Northern Forum membership. However, he noted that Norwegian counties are quite autonomous administrative regions, and their decisions are independent of the government.

Moreover, the Northern Forum Business Partnership has increased. In July 2016, Board of Governors of the Northern Forum resolved to grant status of a Business Partner to the High North Center for Business and Governance of the Business School at Nord University, which currently represents the interests of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark. In September, an application from Energy-Saving Technologies LLC has been received.

The accession of a number of Russian regions, State of Alaska, and Lapland was made possible through the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Minister Sergey Lavrov, joint efforts of the Head of Sakha Republic Egor Borisov, who served as a Chair of the Northern Forum for two terms, and Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai Viktor Tolokonskiy, who has been putting great efforts into bringing together the Northern regions and revitalizing international and interregional cooperation in the North. Continuous efforts are being made to bring Russian regions to the Northern Forum: Arkhangelsk Oblast, Murmansk Oblast, Sakhalin Oblast, Komi Republic and etc. In 2017 efforts in this direction will continue.

Thus, as of the end of 2016 the Northern Forum membership comprises:

1. Akureyri, Iceland
2. Kamchatka Krai, Russian Federation
3. Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russian Federation
4. Magadan Oblast, Russian Federation
5. Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation
6. Primorsky Krai, Russian Federation
7. Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea
8. Lapland, Finland
9. Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation
10. Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation
11. Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation
12. State of Alaska, USA
13. Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation

Business Partners of the Northern Forum:

1. The Northern Forum Academy
2. Instute of the north, Alaska, USA
3. SaNoKi Peasant Farm Enterprise
4. Arigote LLC, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation
5. SuluS LLC, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
6. Clean Water LLC, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation

7. Orsa Gronklitt Predator Center, Sweden
8. Tirekh Agricultural Co-operative, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation
9. Lapland Chamber of Commerce, Finland
10. French Polar Cluster, France
11. High North Center for Business and Governance of the Business School at Nord University
12. Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center, Japan
13. Alaska Native Heritage Center, USA

ARCTIC COUNCIL

The Northern Forum takes an active part in the Arctic Council activities. The Northern Forum, with its Observer status since 1998, along with other Observers undergoes periodically an assessment of its contribution to the work of the Council. In 2016 the Northern Forum Secretariat have prepared a report on the Northern Forum activities and its engagement in the Arctic Council. As a result, Senior Arctic Officials decided that the Northern Forum should maintain its Observer status in the Arctic Council. This decision will be reported to the Ministers, and will be reflected in the main records of the U.S. Chairmanship.

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The Northern Forum participates extensively in the Arctic Council events. In 2016 the Northern Forum representatives attended the following events:

I. Arctic Council Senior Arctic officials (SAO) meeting

At SAO meetings, held twice a year, Senior Arctic officials, Permanent Participants, Observers, Working Groups and subsidiary bodies of the Council address ongoing efforts on a range of topics of high importance of the Arctic, as well as organizational matters and other business.

During SAO meetings, the Northern Forum Executive director had a number of meetings with SAO for the Russian Federation, Norway, Sweden, Finland, to discuss matters related to the Northern Forum activities. The discussion with SAOs for Scandinavian countries was initiated in order to engage them into interregional cooperation within the Forum. SAO for Finland stated that he has a favourable view of Finland's reinstatement in the Forum. SAOs for Norway and Sweden also expressed their support for greater involvement of their regions in the Northern Forum activities.

The first meeting in 2016 took place on 16-17 March in Fairbanks, USA. Most of the discussion was focused on the Arctic Council actions on climate change and

resilience of the Arctic communities, including Black Carbon and Methane Expert group activities, several projects aimed at increasing resilience to climate change of the Arctic communities, implementation of the One Health project, as well as the Arctic Council contribution to climate change adaptation in the context of the intergovernmental agreement on climate change (COP21) adopted in Paris in last December.

The second meeting was held on October 5-6 in Portland, USA. The meeting agenda included the discussion of the Council' work in such areas as climate change and sustainable development, reduce of black carbon and methane emission, the Arctic Council strategic plan with a long-term view, response to the oil pollution and prevention, as well as scientific cooperation. Also, the presentation of the Finnish Chairmanship Program for 2017-2019 took place.

II. Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)

Sustainable Development Working Group meeting was held on March 11-12, 2016, in Barrow, Alaska. The Northern Forum Executive Director Mikhail Pogodaev and the Northern Forum Authorized Representative to the North America, Executive Director of the Institute of the North Nils Andreassen attended the meeting on behalf of the Northern Forum.

Mikhail Pogodaev delivered a presentation on the Northern Forum activities and implementation of the regional cooperation projects, and called for active cooperation with the Arctic Council, particularly with the Sustainable Development Working Group, as this working group projects address issues related to human dimension and socioeconomic development in the Arctic.

The meeting reviewed outcomes of the current projects: EALLU: Reindeer Herding Youth, Adaptation to Climate Change and Food Culture; Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal; Arctic Energy Summit; Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA); Assessing, Monitoring and promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages, and etc.

The new project proposals were also reviewed. Pursuant to the discussion, the following projects have been approved: The Arctic as a Food Production Region (Canada, Norway), Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA), Improving Health in Arctic Communities through Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer: Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH).

The Arctic Human Health Expert Group (AHHEG) and Social, Economic and Cultural Expert Group (SECEG) presented the review reports.

III. Arctic Science Summit Week

The Arctic Science Summit Week was held on March 12 – 18, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, USA.

Mikhail Pogodaev made a presentation entitled “Role of scientific research in sustainable development of the Arctic communities” at the International Arctic Assembly plenary session. In his speech, as well as presenting the NF activities and projects, he outlined its cooperation with academia and the Northern indigenous peoples’ organizations.

During the Arctic Science Summit Week, the Northern Forum had meetings with the representatives of research organizations, which are specialized in the Arctic research to discuss possible cooperation projects within the Northern Forum. For instance, a lead of the NF Water & Climate change project Nikita Tananaev and representatives of the M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University took part in events organised within the framework of the P2P “Reducing Spring Flood Impacts for Wellbeing of Communities of the North”, where they had an opportunity to share their experience with Alaskan colleagues and discuss further cooperation in preventing and reducing spring flood damage in the Northern regions.

The Northern Forum is actively involved in the Arctic Council activities:

I. Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)

This is a project of the Working Group on Sustainable Development of the Arctic Council, which aims to increase the capabilities and potential of the Arctic population and to promote leadership by creating knowledge-sharing programs, focusing on the development, operation and management of remote energy networks (microgrids), including renewable resources. This program is focused on the current and future leaders in the development of energy and serves to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas in the Arctic, as well as between the Arctic and developing countries.

II. Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)

The aim of the project is the development and maintenance of the first Atlas of renewable energy sources in the Arctic as a resource of free access for the wide audience to raise awareness about opportunities in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in remote and sparsely populated areas of the Arctic. Produced using a geographic information system (GIS) technology. Atlas brings together maps of renewable energy, data and various success stories in a single comprehensive public document.

III. EALLU: Reindeer herding youth, adaptation to climate change and food culture

The project is implemented with the cooperation of RAIPON and FE, Russian Union of Reindeer Herders, Northern Forum and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry with support from the Embassy of the kingdom of Norway in Moscow. A main goal – creation of a platform within the Arctic Council for development and implementation of new strategies, which include focus on the youth and reindeer herders’ traditional knowledge, as well as technical innovations and new approaches of meat processing and other of reindeer herding, and their marketing. New strategies shall contribute to the public awareness of the reindeer herding as a traditional way of life of indigenous peoples and a source of unique and useful products, and shall ensure the possibilities for economic development at the local and regional levels. In May and November, the Northern Forum participated in organization of the workshops on this project (see Events). A main outcome of the project is creation of the Culinary Institute of the Arctic indigenous peoples.

WORKING GROUPS

The working groups of the Northern Forum have been established in order to engage regional governments to development of concrete actions for resolving challenges of northern regions in different fields and achieve measurable results of the project work in the Northern Forum in terms of identifying a mechanism of selection, implementation and assessment of the projects. Pursuant to Resolution #177 a new operational structure of the Northern Forum was approved, within which 10 working groups have been established:

- Education and Research
- Culture
- Business Cooperation in the North
- Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity
- Regional Adaptation to Climate Change
- Development of Energy in the North
- Assessment of Quality of Life in the Arctic Regions
- Transportation in the North
- Health in the North and Social Issues
- Housing in the Arctic

The work on assembling the working groups from among representatives of the Northern Forum member regions have been concluded, the working groups compositions have been approved, the draft guidelines for the Northern Forum working groups have been adopted.

Currently work on the election of the working groups' chairs is being done. The Northern Forum working groups' chairs with the assistance of the Northern Forum Secretariat have to approve the work plan; assess and select the projects, including the ongoing projects of the Northern Forum; to identify the funding sources; to carry out work on attracting the special advisers, experts and observers to the working groups composition; and provide the progress report to the Board of Governors.

The Regional Coordinators have been assigned to continue work on attracting the regional and municipal representatives and business partners to the working groups. Thus, it is expected that the new members from State of Alaska and Gangwon Province will join the working groups.

The Northern Forum Secretariat is examining ways of engaging the working groups in planned events according to the plan for 2017.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

At present, the region members under the auspices of the Northern Forum are implementing 19 projects on various fronts including:

1. Renewable energy sources. Power supply for isolated settlements of northern regions. (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Gangwon Province, State of Alaska).
2. Prevention of addictions. (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Yukon)
3. Infectious diseases control (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, State of Alaska, Saint Petersburg).
4. Suicide prevention. (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia)).
5. Telemedicine (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Gangwon Province).
6. Schools Partnership (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, State of Alaska, Lapland).

7. Brown Bear Working Group (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Dalarna, State of Alaska, Vologda, Kamchatka Krai, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug,).
8. Youth Ecological Forum (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Hokkaido).
9. Working Group on Water and Climate Change (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), State of Alaska, Krasnoyarsk Krai).
10. Northern Zoos Cooperation (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Dalarna, Lapland, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Heilongjiang, Saint Petersburg, Khabarovsk Krai).
11. Development of Specially Protected Areas (Sakha Republic (Yakutia); Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug; Leningrad oblast; Khabarovsk Krai; Krasnoyarsk Krai; Zabaykalsky Krai; Saint Petersburg; WWF Russia; Natural heritage protection Fund).
12. Festival of Northern Fishing Traditions (Lapland, Sakha Republic (Yakutia); Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Kamchatka Krai, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug).
13. International Ecological Action «To save and to preserve» (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia)).
14. Human in the Arctic (Sakha Republic (Yakutia); Krasnoyarsk Krai, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug).
15. International Arctic School (Sakha Republic (Yakutia); Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug).
16. International Arctic Center of Culture and Arts (Sakha Republic (Yakutia); Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Krasnoyarsk Krai).
17. Bears in The Rites and Traditions of the indigenous peoples of the North (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Dalarna (Sweden))
18. Red Book Through the Eyes of Children (Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug; Sakha Republic (Yakutia))
19. Website Modernization (All Northern Forum Member Regions).

EVENTS

Participation of the Northern Forum representatives in the events on not only Arctic agenda, but also other areas, is an important part of the work on attracting new members. During 2016, the Northern Forum was represented at numerous international and Russian platforms. Major efforts have been made to promote

the Northern Forum and to present its activities. As a result, a number of regions expressed their interest to possibly joining the Northern Forum.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “ARCTIC FRONTIERS – 2016”. INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

24-29 JANUARY 2016, TROMSØ, NORTHERN NORWAY

Arctic Frontiers is a major annual conference devoted to a wide range of issues on the Arctic development. It brings together politicians, scientists, representatives of business and general public.

The Northern Forum took part in various sections. Particularly, Mikhail Pogodaev attended the session devoted to participation of the Asian countries in the Arctic cooperation - observers to the Arctic Council, including issues of indigenous peoples in the Arctic. Mikhail Pogodaev presented the Northern Forum activities and mentioned participation of regional governments from Asia-Pacific region in its activities - Gangwon Province (South Korea), Hokkaido (Japan), and Heilongjiang (China).

The Northern Forum» held a roundtable discussion entitled «Role of regional governments and local communities in sustainable development of the Arctic» during the conference, and brought together representatives of regional governments, international organizations, and indigenous peoples.

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The following issues have been discussed:

- What is the role of regional governments in international cooperation and sustainable development in the Arctic?
- How to improve cooperation within the Northern Forum and make it more effective and fruitful for people inhabiting the northern regions?
- How to strengthen the voice of northern regions in the Arctic Council, which sets the international agenda and develops solutions on the Arctic sustainable development with the participation of Arctic nations and Arctic indigenous peoples?

The roundtable participants agreed that there is a lack of regional dimension in Arctic cooperation. There is a need to create a mechanism for regional governments to participate in decision-making on the Arctic development and implementation of the Arctic policy through the Northern Forum, which has observer status to the Arctic Council. There were ideas about the need to unite and greater representation in the northern regions of the Northern Forum, to develop active project activities and solutions for common challenges through the

sharing of experiences and best practices. To achieve this it is necessary to improve the organizational work in the Northern Forum. In this regard, it was decided to establish a small task force of experts, which will develop a concept of strategic development of the Northern Forum.

The roundtable participants presented reports on regional projects and initiatives. Chukotka Autonomous Okrug delegation gave a detailed presentation on activities of Chukotka Government in the field of indigenous peoples of the North, interaction with industrial enterprises, elimination of environmental damages and people and polar bears conflicts prevention in the territory of Chukotka.

Norway representatives also delivered presentations, particularly Director of the High North Centre at the University of Nord of Norway Frode Mellemvik shared information on research and implementation of projects aimed at the study of various aspects of sustainable development in the Arctic. Anton Kejlaas spoke about the activities of the newly established Norwegian Science Academy for Polar Research, which is located in Svalbard.

The Northern Forum in collaboration with the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and the Arctic University of Norway in Tromso organized a visit of delegation from the Territorial Health Insurance Fund of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) to Norway to study experience of the Nordic country in the area of health services for remote settlements in the Arctic as a part of the concept development for Arctic Medicine in Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

Participation in the international conference "Arctic Frontiers" gave an opportunity for representatives of northern regions to discuss the prospects of further development of inter-regional cooperation in the North and in the Arctic, to share and learn best practices of the Arctic states in the field of sustainable development in this unique region.

THE 4TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTER-REGIONAL AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RUSSIAN-NORWEGIAN COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION

26 JANUARY 2016, KIRKENES, NORWAY

The Russian delegations was headed by the and Deputy Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Aleksandr Cybulskiy, and the Norwegian delegation was headed by the State Secretary of Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries of Norway Dilek Ayhan.

The participants discussed results of the Action Plan for creation of favourable legal, trade, economic and other conditions for intensification of Russian-Norwegian border cooperation for 2011 – 2015.

Mikhail Pogodaev presented the Northern Forum activities, and invited Norwegian regions to join the Forum and to participate actively in interregional cooperation in Arctic.

XIII KRASNOYARSK ECONOMIC FORUM (KEF)

18-20 FEBRUARY 2016, KRASNOYARSK, RUSSIA

In 2016 KEF sites were visited by more than six thousand people from 28 countries and 60 regions of Russia. The key issue of KEF-2016 was the discussion of Russian development strategy until 2030. Also, the forum participants addressed issues of Russia development, including its discussion from the perspective of new urban development policies. Deputy At the final press conference Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation Oleg Fomichev said that within three days of KEF-2016 the valuable and useful information have been received from the experts.

The Northern Forum was one of the organizers of “New horizons. Developing the Arctic region” roundtable, which was attended by representatives of the northern regions of the Russian Federation and foreign countries as well as representatives of the Federation Council, State дума of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Government of the Russian Federation, businesses circles and public organizations.

The roundtable participants viewed the Arctic as a territory of dialogue and cooperation, which is open to joint implementation of large-scale projects. The partnership should determine the future of the Arctic, assist in raising investment attractiveness and launching new projects.

“INTERNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION, PRESERVATION OF CULTURE AND SPORTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE NORTH” ROUNDTABLE

6 APRIL 2016, KRASNOYARSK, RUSSIA

The roundtable brought together representatives of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Krasnoyarsk Krai, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug - Ugra, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Sakhalin Oblast, Magadan Oblast, Republic of Komi, Khabarovsk Krai, Kamchatka Krai.

The roundtable participants discussed issues related to the condition creation and successful implementation of international and interregional cooperation on development of education, preservation of culture and ethnic sports of indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

The presentations of the roundtable participants were focused on search for solutions and development of recommendations on three main blocks of tasks and challenges specific to the Arctic and North: ethnic sports development, preservation of the unique culture of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East, vocational education quality improvement on the northern territories, including education of children of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East.

ARCTIC COUNCIL EALLU PROJECT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP “A FUTURE VISION FOR THE REINDEER MEAT INDUSTRY: THE ROLE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE”

16-17 MAY 2016, EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA

The seminar was initiated by the Arctic Council project "EALLU: reindeer herding youth, adaptation to climate change and traditional food" in cooperation with the Association of indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation, Reindeer Herders Union of Russia, Northern Forum and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry with the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Moscow.

The workshop was attended by representatives of federal ministries and departments, authorities from reindeer herding regions, reindeer herders and representatives of reindeer herding enterprises from Murmansk Oblast, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, representatives of public organizations and associations of reindeer herders.

The main objective of the seminar was to establish a platform for the development and implementation of new strategies in the reindeer meat industry based on cooperation within the Arctic Council. These strategies include an emphasis on reindeer herding youth and herders' traditional knowledge, as well as on technical innovation and new approaches to producing meat and other reindeer products and how to market them. The new strategy will contribute to informing the public about reindeer herding as a traditional way of life of indigenous peoples, which

produces unique and useful products and provides opportunities for economic development at local and regional levels.

The workshop highlighted a number of important anniversaries: 20th anniversary of the Arctic Council, and under its auspices, the international cooperation of the Arctic states and indigenous peoples, 25th anniversary of cooperation between reindeer herders in Scandinavia and Russia, 10th anniversary of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, and 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Northern Forum.

The first results of the EALLU project were presented at the seminar. The participants discussed challenges and opportunities for economic development of reindeer herding peoples, technical innovations and new approaches to producing reindeer meat and other reindeer products. In addition, discussion highlighted the need for strengthened interregional and international collaboration for infrastructure development, share of modern technologies and vocational training on processing and promoting reindeer herding products.

The reindeer herders and heads of reindeer herding enterprises shared their experience in mean productions, described their achievements and future plans, as well as challenges and problems specific to their regions.

As a result of the workshop, recommendations have been developed to improve reindeer husbandry development policies both in Russia and in the Scandinavian countries

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On May 17 – the second day, a reception on the occasion of the Constitution Day of Norway was held. This year's annual reception in the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway gathered about 300 guests, including distinguished guests from the embassies of various countries, regional governments, federal ministries and departments. A very rich menu was proposed to all the invited guests, most of which included traditional dishes of the Arctic reindeer herding peoples cooked by representatives of those peoples: Saami, Nenets, Even and Evenk.

This event was one of the Arctic Council EALLU workshops (2015-2019). One of the EALLU project outcomes will be the creation of the Culinary Institute of Arctic indigenous peoples.

**ARCTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE ST. PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC FORUM (SPIEF 2016)**

18 JUNE 2016, SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

The aim of the Conference was to create an open platform for discussion of topical issues of socio-economic development of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and international cooperation in the region.

The key issues of the conference focused on investment opportunities and their expansion, modernization of the transport system infrastructure in the Arctic regions, tourism development in the Arctic, ensuring environmental security of the region and measures for preservation of cultural heritage in the Russian Arctic.

The Conference was attended by more than 300 people, including Russian and foreign representatives of authorities and business community.

The main event was the plenary session entitled "International cooperation for the realization of the economic potential of the Arctic", at which the participants discussed the prospects for expansion of the business cooperation between the Arctic states, as well as implementation of joint projects in cooperation with the business partners from non-Arctic countries.

The representatives of the Northern Forum member regions participated in the conference. Thus, Head of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Egor Borisov, Governor-Chairman of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug Government Roman Kopin, President of the Lapland Chamber of Commerce Timo Rautajoki delivered presentations on a panel session entitled "Effective management of the Arctic territories. Anchor zone. Investment potential of regions ".

The Chair of the Northern Forum, Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai Viktor Tolokonskiy took part in "Arctic invites regions" panel session, where also the Executive Director of the Northern Forum Mikhail Pogodaev gave presentation on international cooperation of the northern regions in the best interest of the Arctic socio-economic development.

Also, the Government of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug and the Australian "Tigers Realm Coal Limited» (TIG) signed an agreement on cooperation, which covers the open methods of coking coal extraction and accessibility of maritime transport in the Chukotka region.

“ENERGY TRANSITIONS AND A GLOBALIZED ARCTIC: THE ROLE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNANCE” INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

19 AUGUST 2016, SINGAPORE

Executive Director of the Northern Forum Mikhail Pogodaev was invited by the Institute of Energy Studies at the National University of Singapore to attend the conference.

The conference brings together experts on energy development in the Arctic and Southeast Asia to discuss a range of issues related to energy access for the Arctic sustainable development.

Covered topics included comparison of the Arctic and Southeast Asian Energy Transition Landscapes, energy access in remote locations, renewable energy for maritime infrastructures and shipping, sustainable development of remote communities and operations, the role of science and technology

“APPLIED SKILLS FOR THE ARCTIC – ARCTICSKILLS” ROUNDTABLE WITHIN THE FIRST UARCTIC CONGRESS

12 SEPTEMBER 2016, SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

The roundtable was attended by representatives of Russian and foreign educational institutions.

The roundtable participants discussed issues related to building capacity in local societies of the Arctic and to enhance the role of working professions, which are necessary for Arctic economy, developing regional standards for personnel training in the Arctic, in accordance with international standards, and at the same time taking into account features of Northern regions.

As a result of the roundtable, the proposed initiative received support from the UArctic President Lars Kullerud, who expressed his readiness to create UArctic thematic network (standing body) for bundling interests of vocational schools in the field of personnel training in the Arctic.

ARCTIC CIRCLE INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY – 2016

7-9 OCTOBER 2016, REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

The Assembly is a major annual event on the Arctic agenda, which brings together heads of states and governments, officials, experts, scientists, business leaders, indigenous representatives, and other interested parties.

The Assembly covers a wide range of issues on environment, policy, law, investments, tourism, shipping, art and etc.

During the Assembly, Lapland signed the agreement to join the Northern Forum at the signing ceremony, which took place at a breakout session entitled “From Alaska to Lapland – Local voices strengthening Arctic Council Chairmanships”.

The ceremony among others participants was attended by the Arctic policy adviser to the Governor of Alaska Craig Fleener and Mayor of Akureyri Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC: NEW CHALLENGES AND VECTORS OF DEVELOPMENT

12-13 OCTOBER 2016, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

The conference was held by the Russian International Affairs Council with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. The event was coincided with the Arctic Council 20th Anniversary.

The participants discussed such issues as interests of indigenous peoples and environmental safety, research institutions cooperation, shipping regulation in the Bering Strait, military presence in the Arctic, role of the Arctic Council in international and interregional relations, legal regulation of activities in the Arctic, economic potential and Arctic territories development projects.

XV ALL-RUSSIA FORUM “STRATEGIC PLANNING IN THE REGIONS AND CITIES OF RUSSIA: BUILDING ALIGNMENT THROUGH DIALOGUE”

24-25 OCTOBER 2016, SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

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The Forum was organized the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Government of Saint Petersburg, Center for Strategic Research and Leontief Centre. The Forum was attended by more than 1000 Russian and foreign specialists.

The key topic of the Forum was Strategy-2035, participants also discussed the growth poles, spatial and territorial planning, international cooperation, regions' experience and best practices of socioeconomic development forecasting of the Russian federal subjects.

Mikhail Pogodaev upon the invitation of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation took part in the International Cooperation for Regional Development roundtable, which discussed cross-border and international cooperation with European countries. In his presentation, Mikhail Pogodaev proposed to pay particular attention to strategic planning of Russian Arctic zone development, and to hold a separate session devoted to Arctic development strategy and coordination of authorities' activities, which are included in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation, at the next Forum.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY LED BY AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY LEIDULV NAMTVEDT.

26 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER 2016, YAKUTSK, RUSSIA

The Northern Forum was involved in the organization of the visit of a delegation from the Kingdom of Norway jointly with the Ministry for Federal Relations and External Affairs of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University.

The delegation comprised of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway Leidulv Namtvedt, his Adviser on Education, Science and Technologies Radina Trengereid, President of the University of the Arctic Lars Kullerud, representatives of UiT – the Arctic University of Norway, including Rector Anne Husebekk, representatives of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, and reindeer herders from Greenland.

An aim of the visit was to strengthen contacts between universities and research institutes, as well as to explore the possible trade and economic relations.

The program of the visit was eventful. The delegation visited research and educational institutions and signed a number of cooperation agreements, attended cultural events, got acquainted with Yakutian traditional culture, and had numerous meetings to discuss possible cooperation.

Particularly, at the meeting with the Chair of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Government parties discussed various issues in which development of further cooperation is possible, including Human in the Arctic project initiated by Sakha Republic (Yakutia), which aims to develop a mechanism of quality of life assessment in the Arctic; Nomadic Herders project aimed at developing the mechanism of assessment of quality of life in the Arctic; Nomadic Herders project aimed at preservation of biodiversity, reduction of land degradation and creation of environmentally, socially and economically sustainable community of indigenous peoples, the project was supported by UN agencies, including UNEP and GEF.

Following the roundtable on international project in the area of reindeer meat delivery from the Arctic zone to Asia Pacific region's countries, which took place at the international forum "Arctic Circle" in Reykjavik, Iceland, in October 2015, parties discussed the opportunities for cooperation on delivery of the reindeer herding products to Asia Pacific region with participation of Norwegian shipping and reindeer enterprises, including possible investments. In the long view, it would be possible to establish a joint Norwegian-Russian enterprise on

slaughtering and deep processing of the reindeer herding products, as well as marketing in the Asia Pacific region.

Furthermore, prospects for Norwegian regions to join the Northern Forum were also discussed. A number of Norwegian counties, namely Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, expressed readiness to work with the organization. Currently the High North Center for Business and Governance of the Business School at Nord University, which was granted a status of a Business Partner by the Board of Governors in July 2016, represents their interests. Ambassador Leidulv Namtvedt assured that the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will assist in accession of those counties to the Northern Forum membership. However, he noted that Norwegian counties are quite autonomous administrative regions, and their decisions are independent of the government.

In conclusion, the parties noted that influence of the consequences of the complex international situation should be avoided, and to develop cooperation through dialogue despite of the complex global situation.

ARCTIC COUNCIL EALLU PROJECT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP “A FUTURE VISION FOR THE REINDEER EMAT INDUSTRY: THE ROLE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE”

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26 NOVEMBER 2016, YAKUTSK, RUSSIA

The international workshop on the Arctic Council EALLU project: reindeer herding youth, adaptation to climate change and traditional food was organized in collaboration with the Northern Forum, Association of World Reindeer Herders, Ministry of Federal Relations and External Affairs of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Center for Strategic Research of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), UArctic EALAT Institute, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and the University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to Russia Leidulv Namtvedt in his opening remarks noted the need to maintain the sustainable development and effective cooperation in the industry, and paid particular attention to youth engagement and sales of reindeer herding production. He also noted that in order to achieve high results, traditional knowledge should be combined with modern technologies.

The workshop participants discussed the challenges and opportunities of economic development of the indigenous peoples of the North, proposals for the development of the indigenous peoples of the North traditional activities, creation

of new directions in education based on the traditional way of life of the Northern peoples.

В результате работы семинара участники отметили, что международное сотрудничество является важным инструментом развития и улучшения экономических условий хозяйственных единиц оленеводства.

In this regard, participants recommended:

- To strengthen international ties between the Fennoscandinavia and Russia on the development of cooperation in sphere of processing of reindeer herding products;
- To support international cooperation in the framework of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry as an organization designed to strengthen international cooperation between reindeer peoples through exchange of information;
- To develop an interregional cooperation through the Northern Forum, which has the implementation of initiatives in the field of socio - economic cooperation between the northern regions among one of its objectives;
- To establish an international organization or a discussion platform, that would unite various units and enterprises engaged in the processing of reindeer herding products.

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In addition, participants recognized that there is a need to exchange experiences between the reindeer peoples. Furthermore, additional attention should be given to education and training in the field of processing of reindeer herding products. The participants recommend:

- To implement an exchange between the professionals of the slaughterhouses, as well as processing companies, with a special focus on youth exchange;
- To develop a series of training courses on business development, improvement of reindeer meat quality (including herders' traditional knowledge), as well as on the development of the possible ways of transporting reindeer products and creating added value locally;
- To support educational courses and programs of the Institute of Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (UArctic EALAT Institute, and the Arctic Indigenous Peoples Culinary Institute, as part of the UArctic Winter School program.

- To organize exchange between the restaurant chefs, who specialize on the Arctic food culture and reindeer meat dishes and chef students;
- To support events that focus on knowledge exchange between the restaurant chefs, chef students and representatives of reindeer herding peoples regarding and promote dishes based on reindeer herding products and indigenous food culture in the Arctic.

Currently different technologies for processing of meat and other products from reindeer herding exist. In this respect the following was recommended:

- To carry out an exchange of technologies of meat and other reindeer products processing at the international level;
- To facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience about deep processing of reindeer meat between various enterprises and units of Norway and Russia;
- To invest in new technology of reindeer meat processing.
- Today the marketing is an important component of running a successful business, as well as such traditional economic activity as reindeer husbandry. Taking into account this fact, the seminar participants recommend:
 - To establish a network of restaurants that focuses on the cuisine of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic region;
 - To ensure availability of reindeer meat and products on the market;
 - To facilitate reindeer herders' access to the market;
 - To make efforts to promote the reindeer meat among the mainstream society;
 - To develop and establish new brands of reindeer herding products;
 - To conduct market research to determine the needs of society in particular reindeer herding products.

The participants were informed of the results of activities and future plans of the project of the Arctic Council EALLU project: reindeer herding youth, adaptation to climate change and traditional food, the purpose of which is to examine food systems through the lens of traditional knowledge of reindeer herders and herders' adaptation to climate change.

As a result, the following recommendations were made:

- To take into account the EALLU project as a platform for cooperation and partnership between the regions, restaurants, and organizations of indigenous peoples of the Arctic on the issues of processing of reindeer herding products;
- To include as many reindeer herding regions as possible into EALLU project;
- Maintain cooperation within the EALLU project on creating a cookbook of Arctic indigenous;
- To support a partner project of EALLU - UNEP / GEF Nomadic Herders project;
- To support the work of partner project "Nosegcher", carried out by Foundation for the Support and Development of indigenous communities of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) "Nomadic Herders".

ARCTIC RECEPTION

28 NOVEMBER 2016, YAKUTSK, RUSSIA

The reception was organised as a follow-up to the Arctic Council EALLU Project International Workshop, where guests had an opportunity to taste traditional dishes of Sakha Republic indigenous peoples of the North – Evenki, Even, Chukchi, Yukaghirs and Dolgans, as well as Saami from Norway.

Among the guests were the workshop participants, representatives of Norwegian delegation, and also representatives of associations, public organization and unions of indigenous peoples of the North.

45 dishes made from reindeer meat, northern fish, berries, reindeer milk and other northern products have been presented at the reception.

Saami reindeer herders Inger Anita Smuk, Elna Sara and Nils Tony Bransfjell prepared for guests Saami traditional dishes and brought from Norway smoked reindeer meat, sausages, dried reindeer tongue and cloudberries. Evenki cuisine was presented by Nadezhda Gerasimova, and it was mainly represented by dishes made from reindeer meal. Yukaghir dishes were presented by a guest from Magadan oblast – Lilia Cherbakova. Chukotka traditional dishes were originally served by chef Tatiana Nutendli, Even dishes were presented by Aytalina Baisheva, who came from Topolinoye (Tomponsky District, Yakutia), and Nadezhda Putyatina and Lidia Klyaus prepared Dolgan dishes.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN FORUM CIVIL INITIATIVES OF THE 60TH PARALLEL REGIONS

1-2 DECEMBER 2016, KHANTY-MANSIYSK, RUSSIA

The Forum was organised by the Government of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra, Department of Public and External Affairs of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug and Open Region Centre. The Northern Forum was a partner of event.

The goal of the Forum was to promote the development of civil society and formation of a unique international humanitarian platform for interaction between science and practice on civil participation in the development of the Arctic regions and the North.

The regional representatives discussed development of the social services in Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, proactive budgeting, volunteering, common digital space to support civil initiatives, local lore, NPO's marketing and etc.

The best regional practices identified within the Forum will be developed in the northern territories – 60th parallel regions.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ARCTIC: TODAY AND THE FUTURE

5-7 DECEMBER 2016, SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

The Forum is held under the auspices of the Association of Polar Explorers headed by Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation on international cooperation in the Arctic and Antarctic Artur Chilingarov.

Executive director of the Northern Forum Mikhail Pogodaev took part in a panel session entitled “Priority projects for socio-economic development of indigenous peoples of the North”, which took place on the first day of the Forum.

The session addressed issues of education system enhancement, modernization of legislation concerning indigenous peoples' rights, development of traditional industries and protection of indigenous livelihood. Mikhail Pogodaev brought up the issues related to reindeer herding and delivered the presentation on the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group project “EALLIN – The voice of reindeer herding youth” aiming to maintain and further develop a sustainable and resilient reindeer husbandry in the Arctic.

In addition, the Northern Forum convened a working meeting of the member regions' representatives to discuss upcoming events, such as International Arctic Forum “Arctic – Territory of dialogue”, which will be held in Arkhangelsk in March 2017 and will be attended by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, and XIII General Assembly of the Northern Forum.

The main outcome of the forum was a resolution – public proposals and initiatives on the Russian Arctic zone development, which annually are sent to the public authorities.

NEWLY ANNOUNCED PROJECTS FOR 2017

1. INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REINDEER CROSSING

The “International annual reindeer crossing of the Verkhoyansk Range” was initiated by the business partner of the Northern Forum - “Clean Water”Ltd. The first transition is planned to take place in February and March 2017 by the route Sakkyryyr - Zhigansk in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

Organizers:

- The Northern Forum
- Pure Water Ltd.
- Kochevnik Tribal Community Ltd.
- Nordstream LLC.
- Emergency service of Sakha (Yakutia) Republic
- Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism Development of Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

The first project meeting took place on February 11. The meeting was attended by representatives of public authorities, public and business structures. Subsequent meetings of the organizers of the first annual international reindeer crossing were held on May 27 and 30 September in Yakutsk.

The objectives of the crossing are the development and improvement of tourism infrastructure in the regions of the Russian Arctic, the popularization of the traditional culture of the peoples of the North and the Arctic, preservation and development of traditions of northern sled reindeer, promoting healthy lifestyles and leisure activities, and other.

The transition will be made on traditional reindeer, on two deer teams, with total of 10 sleds. The organizers will attract the reindeer herders for the expedition, who will act as professional mushers.

Approval of Crossing as a regular annual event should help to promote a healthy lifestyle; attract attention, especially of the youth, to the culture and customs of indigenous peoples; development of tourism and the formation of a positive image of the Far North and the Arctic zone.

2. EU ARCTIC POLICY ASSESSMENT

This project is an initiative of the consortium, which consists of different organizations, which includes the University of Lapland (Finland), the Arctic Portal (Iceland), the Alfred Wegener Institute (Denmark) and others. The Northern Forum acts in the consortium as a subcontractor. The application for tender was approved in December 2016. Implementation will start in 2017.

MAIN RESULTS OF 2016

Work was carried out during the reported period to raise the potential of regions and business partners to membership in the Northern Forum. Alaska and Lapland have resumed their membership in the Northern Forum. A number of Norwegian regions - Troms, Nordland and Finnmark are considering membership in the Northern Forum. Their interests are represented by the High North Center for Business and Governance of the Business School at Nord University, which was granted a status of a Business Partner by the Board of Governors in July 2016.

In September 2016, an application for a business partnership has been received from Energy-Saving Technologies LLC.

An official letter from Busan, Republic of Korea of its intention to become a member of the Northern Forum was also received.

As a result of the work carried out during 2016, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Magadan Oblast, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Primorsky Krai, which made the decision to join the Northern Forum with the support and letters of the Russian Federation Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov - have increased their efforts in projects and activities of the Northern Forum.

The Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug are the most active members of the Northern Forum, with systematic work on the projects, activities and working groups.

Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, despite the suspension of membership fee in 2016, is also actively working on the projects and activities of the Northern Forum.

Kamchatka Krai in 2016, because of the difficult socio-economic situation in the region has suspended the payment of the membership fee, however, they still show interest in the activities of the Northern Forum.

Akureyri and Gangwon Province are also regular and active members of the Northern Forum.

Sakhalin and Murmansk regions are showing great interest in the activities of the Northern Forum, it seems possible in a short time that the question of their membership will be resolved positively.

Still in the process of decision-making is the Khabarovsk Krai. Other regions of the Russian North have not made any attempts to establish links with the Northern Forum.

Lapland, Finland and Alaska, USA, having renewed their memberships, outlined the main directions of their activity on the international and interregional cooperation in the Arctic.

State of Alaska offered the main priorities for a broad international discussion within the Northern Forum:

1. Working together - in each subregional province or state, community, business and political leaders must work together by principle of “with us, and not for us”. Opportunity for business must be available for all the companies, including small and medium-size enterprises, as well as enterprises belonging to indigenous peoples;
2. Infrastructure problems – the aim is the solution of infrastructure and industrial base problems, and also development of natural resources. Investments into navigation system, and also into facilities ensuring security must be increased to ensure reliability, availability and security of marine navigation.
3. Cautious development - maintaining a balance between the need for economic development, environmental conservation and development of natural economy is the highest importance. It is necessary to develop educational courses to enhance competitiveness. We are proud of the successful experience of Alaska in sustainable fisheries management, reducing the impact of oil and gas production on the environment and a responsible approach to the management of mineral resources.

The Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi in May 2016 informed the Northern Forum Secretariat that at the meeting of the Regional Council of Lapland there was a unanimous decision on restoration of membership in the international organization of governors of the northern regions “Northern Forum”.

Resolution #182 of the Board of Governors of the Northern Forum of July 25, 2016 approved the membership of Lapland.

As part of the International Assembly of the “Arctic Circle” in Reykjavik, Iceland of October 8, 2016 from 15:30 to 17:00 in the framework of the breakout session “From Alaska to Lapland - local activists strengthening the chairmanship of the

Arctic Council”, a signing ceremony of the membership agreement with Lapland, Finland was held.

Lapland for years has been a key region in the international circumpolar cooperation, and played a prominent role in bringing together the governors of the northern regions.

It was in Lapland in the early 90’s the process of enhancing international cooperation in the North had first started. Environmental Protection Strategy of the Arctic, also known as "Rovaniemi Process", since its adoption in 1991 was aimed at overcoming differences and conversion of zones of military tensions of the Cold War era into regions of peace and cooperation. Through these joint efforts to protect the environment, and later - on sustainable development, the Arctic countries, with the support of indigenous peoples' organizations, laid the groundwork for cooperation and the formation of regional identity in the Arctic. Subsequently, the Arctic Council, which brought together eight Arctic countries and 6 organizations of indigenous peoples of the Arctic were established on the basis of this strategy.

Restoring Alaska’s and Lapland’s memberships in the Northern Forum has become a new impetus to the intensification of interregional cooperation in the North and marked a new stage in the development of the Northern Forum.

Attraction of northern regions to the Northern Forum is an important direction of the Secretariat of the Northern Forum. Introduction of a number of Russian regions, Alaska and Lapland to the Northern Forum is largely made possible thanks to the support of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Minister Sergey Lavrov’s letters, the joint efforts of the Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Egor Borisov, who for two terms was the chairman of the Northern Forum, and Krasnoyarsk Krai Governor Viktor Tolokonskiy, who are making great efforts to consolidate the northern regions and the revitalize the international and interregional cooperation in the North.

PERSPECTIVES FOR 2017

1. Execution of the Northern Forum Board of Governors decisions on enhancing the project activities.
2. Activization of the Northern Forum working groups activities and adjustment of a mechanism for interregional interaction
3. Continuation of work on engagement of new member regions and business partners for a membership in the Northern Forum: accession

of Arkhangelsk Oblast and the Republic of Komi. Continuation of negotiations with Canadian territories and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greenland (Denmark).

4. Preparation and conduction of the Governors' meeting in Arkhangelsk, 30 March 2017.
5. Preparation and conduction of the Regional Coordinators Committee meeting in June in Khanty-Mansiysk.
6. Preparation and conduction of the General Assembly of the Northern Forum in November 2017 in Krasnoyarsk.
7. Enhancement of the Northern Forum website
8. Participation in the Arctic Council Working groups meetings (in accordance with the Arctic Council Work Plans) pursuant to the execution of item G.1. of Moscow Declaration and Yakutsk Declaration.
9. Development of cooperation with the Arctic Economic Council.
10. Continuation of joint efforts with the Arctic Portal to develop and maintain the business portal of the Northern Forum. At the XI General Assembly in Moscow, International Business Week in Murmansk, Arctic Circle in Reykjavik, Iceland, a discussion with the Arctic Portal has been carried out, work on business portal development has begun. The portal is a joint project of the Northern Forum and Arctic Portal
11. Establishment of the Northern Forum archive.
12. Teleconferences with regional coordinators on the projects, regional events within the Northern Forum.
13. Organization of visits of the Chair, Vice-Chairs, Executive Director of the Northern Forum to different regions.
14. Participation in meetings and events of the UN bodies, agencies and mechanisms on fields relevant to the Northern Forum (UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNPFII)
15. Participation of the Northern Forum representatives in various international events according to the events calendar:
 - Arctic Frontiers – 2017. Conduction of a separate session of the Northern Forum, 22-25 January, Tromsø, Norway.
 - The Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials meeting, March 07-09, Juneau, Alaska, USA.
 - Workshop on Human in the Arctic project, March 16, Yakutsk, Russian Federation.
 - The Northern Forum Governors' meeting, March 30, Arkhangelsk, Russian Federation.

- XIV Krasnoyarsk Economic Forum. Conduction of a separate session of the Northern Forum or plenary session on international interregional cooperation within the framework of the Northern Forum, April, Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation.
- Ugra Industrial Forum, April, Khanty-Mansiysk, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation.
- Youth Eco Forum, April 13-16, Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation.
- The Arctic Council Ministerial meeting, May, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA.
- Week of the Arctic, May 8-14, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA.
- VI Arctic Business Forum, May 17-18, Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland
- International Ecological Action “To Save and to Preserve” under the auspices of the Northern Forum, May-June, Khanty-Mansiysk, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation.
- International Conference “Development of Renewable Energy in the Russian Far East”, June 22-24, Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation.
- Regional Coordinators Committee, June 29-30, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation.
- Championship in Boat Racing on oblas for the Cup of the Governor of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, July 1-2, Nefteyugansk, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation.
- XXI St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. International Conference “Economic Development of the Arctic”, June, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.
- 9th International IT-Forum with participation of BRICS and SOC, June, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation.
- 22th session of the Russian-American Pacific Partnership (RAPP), July, Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation.
- “Nature and Us” Action under the auspices of the Northern Forum, April-June, Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation.
- Arctic Energy Summit, September 18-20, Helsinki, Finland.
- The Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials meeting, October, Finland.
- Arctic Circle. Conduction of a separate session of the Northern Forum with the Arctic Portal. October 13-15, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- XV Tourism Exhibition-Fair “Ugra Tour 2017”, November, Khanty-Mansiysk, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russian Federation.
- General Assembly of the Northern Forum, November, Krasnoyarsk, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russian Federation.

- Days of the Arctic in Moscow, Moscow, December, Russian Federation.
- Arctic: Today and the Future, December, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.

2017

NF MEMBERSHIP

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is the highest policy-making body of the Northern Forum. The Board comprises of NF member-regions' senior officials. By the end of 2017 the Board of Governors was as follows:

- **Aleksand Uss**, Acting Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai (Russia), Chair of the Northern Forum
- **Yegor Borisov**, Head of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (Russia), Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northeast Russia
- **Natalia Komarova**, Governor of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Urga (Russia), Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northwest Russia
- **Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson**, Mayor of Akureyri (Iceland), Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northern Europe
- **Choi Moonsoon**, Governor of Gangwon Province (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northeast Asia
- **Bill Walker**, Governor of Alaska (USA)
- **Vladimir Ilyukhin**, Governor of Kamchatka Krai (Russia)
- **Vladimir Pechyony**, Governor of Magadan Oblast (Russia)
- **Dmitry Kobylkin**, Governor of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Russia)
- **Mika Riipi**, Governor of Lapland (Finland)
- **Roman Kopin**, Governor of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug (Russia)
- **Aleksandr Tsybulsky**, Acting Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Russia)
- **Andrey Tarasenko**, Acting Governor of Primorsky Krai (Russia)

Regional Coordinators Committee

The Regional Coordinators Committee is a collegial executive body and shall be composed of regional delegates who are designated by each member of the Board of Governors from their home regions. The RCC shall be chaired by the Regional Coordinator from the Chairing region. By the end of 2017 the Regional Coordinators Committee was as follows:

- **Yuriy Zakharinsky**, Vice-Chairman of the Krasnoyarsk Krai Government, Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee (Russia)
- **Vladimir Vasilyev**, Head, Department for External Relations of Sakha Republic (Yakutia)
- **Eduard Isakov**, Member of the Federation Council of Russian Federal Assembly, Representative of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug Executive Authority (Russia)
- **Hulda Sif Hermannsdóttir**, Assistant to the Mayor of Akureyri (Iceland)
- **Kang Heesung**, Director, Japan, Europe and America Division, Global Investment & Trade Bureau, Gangwon Province Government (Republic of Korea)
- **Aleksandr Mazharov**, Vice-Governor of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Director, Department of International and External Economic Relations of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Russia)
- **Dmitry Korostelev**, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Kamchatka Krai (Russia)
- **Irina Penievsckaya**, Minister of Economic Development, Investment Policy and Innovations of Magadan Oblast (Russia)
- **Kristiina Jokelainen**, Director, International Cooperation, Lapin Liitto/Regional Council of Lapland (Finland)
- **Natalia Slugina**, Head, Department of International Relations, Office of Governor and Government of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug (Russia)
- **Pavel Rakhmievich**, Head, Department of Municipal Affairs and External Relations of Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Russia)
- **Nikoosh Carlo**, Senior Advisor, Climate and Arctic Policy, Office of the Governor, State of Alaska (US)
- **Primorsky Krai** (Russia) – Coordinator has changed, Contact person: Korshenko Aleksandr Igorevich, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Primorsky Krai

Regional Membership

As of the end of 2017 the Northern Forum has 13 member regions:

- Krasnoyarsk Krai, Chair
- Akureyri (Iceland), Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northern Europe

- Gangwon Province (Republic of Korea), Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northeast Asia
- Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northeast Russia
- Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Unga, Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum from Northwest Russia
- Kamchatka Krai
- Lapland (Finland)
- Magadan Oblast
- Nenets Autonomous Okrug
- Primorsky Krai
- Chukotka Autonomous Okrug
- State of Alaska (USA)
- Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug

During the reporting period, the Krasnoyarsk Krai, the NF Chair, the NF members and the Secretariat of the Northern Forum have been engaging new regions and expanding the Northern Forum membership.

At this point, **Arkhangelsk Oblast, Khabarovsk Krai and Murmansk Oblast** are considering accession to the Northern Forum. The possibility of formal signing NF accession agreements are being considered during the forthcoming XIII General Assembly of the Northern Forum in Krasnoyarsk in 2018. During the NF Governors meeting, held within the framework of “Arctic: Territory of Dialogue” International Arctic Forum in Arkhangelsk, March 30, 2017 (for more details about the Governors’ meeting see page 11). The Governor of Arkhangelsk Oblast Igor Orlov announced the request to start the procedure of Arkhangelsk Oblast’s accession to the Northern Forum. The Governor of Khabarovsk Krai Vyacheslav Shport, who also took part in the meeting, ended his address saying that he will make this proposal, after which Khabarovsk Krai’s NF membership will be decided.

Besides, the Northern Forum expansion work continues in **Sakhalin Oblast, Komi Republic and others regions**. In addition, **the metropolitan city of Busan (Republic of Korea) , Heilongjiang (PRC) , Greenland (Denmark) and a number of regions of Norway** are interested in the Northern Forum’s activities.

Heilongjiang, represented by the Foreign Affairs Office of Heilongjiang Province and the Academy of Sciences of Heilongjiang Province, also participated the NF Governors’ meeting in Arkhangelsk.

At the end of 2016, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Norway to Russia Leiduly Namtvedt, officially headed the first visit of a delegation from Norway to Yakutsk, expressed his support for the possibility of accession of counties of **Nordland, Troms and Finnmark** to the Northern Forum.

Support for international cooperation between the regions of Russia and Norway within the framework of the Northern Forum is included in the Russian-Norwegian Work Plan for strengthening interregional and cross-border cooperation 2017-2022, within the Interregional and Cross-border Cooperation Working Group of the Russian-Norwegian Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The responsible executors of this plan from Norway are the administrations of the counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark. We hope that this plan will help to establish close relations with the Norwegian regions within the Northern Forum framework.

In addition, the **county of Troms** took part in the NF Governors meeting in Arkhangelsk. The province was represented by Cecilie Myrseth, who at that time held the post of Governor. In her address to the Governors, Cecilie Myrseth noted that the northern regions of Norway are members of the Barents Regional Council, and therefore it is necessary to find methods of cooperation within these two organizations. Also, Sesily Mirset expressed the thought of addressing this issue in future.

Greenland shows interest in the work of the Northern Forum and is considering Greenland's participation opportunities in our activities. The discussion of the possible accession of Greenland was initiated at the NF Governors meeting, where Greenland was represented by the Special Adviser to the Department of International Affairs, the representative of Greenland in the Arctic Council, Mira Kleist. In her speech, Mira Kleist noted that Greenland is actively involved in Arctic regional cooperation. Then the dialogue was continued on the sidelines of the Arctic Council Ministerial meeting, where the executive director of the Northern Forum, Mikhail Pogodaev met with the Minister of Independence, Foreign Affairs and Agriculture of Greenland Ms. Suka K. Frederiksen and Mira Kleist. In connection with Greenland's desire for independence, there is a possibility of accession of some municipality of Greenland into the Northern Forum. Following the meeting, the Greenland offered to organize a teleconference with representatives of the Northern Forum, the Ministry of

Independence, Foreign Affairs and Agriculture of Greenland and representatives of the municipalities of Greenland. Mira Kleist was appointed as the coordinator from Greenland.

Over the reporting period, the prospects of restoring the membership of **the Canadian province of Quebec** have been discussed. During the Arctic Circle Assembly session “An Arctic of Regions: the Role of Subnational States in Arctic Governance” held in Reykjavik there was a conversation with Éric Thérout, Assistant Deputy Minister for Policy in Québec's Ministry of International Relationships and Francophonie. According to Éric Thérout, today, in order to develop international relations in the Arctic according to the Plan Nord, Quebec is focusing its efforts by participating in the Arctic Circle, which implies the participation in the annual assemblies, and also by hosting the Arctic Circle Québec Forum, held in December 2016. In turn, in our opinion the participation of Québec in the Northern Forum, will strengthen its cooperation with the Russian High North.

Business Partnership

In 2017 four organizations joined the Northern Forum business partnership:

- Arctic Portal (Akureyri, Iceland)
- UIC Arctic Business Relations LLC (Alaska, USA)
- CMYK Master Polygraphy LLC (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia)
- Energy Saving Technologies LLC (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia)

Arctic Portal has been supporting the NF website, also it cooperates in the Arctic Business Portal project, which will be implemented in collaboration with the Arctic Economic Council.

UIC is interested in establishing business contacts with the northern regions of Russia, especially with the organizations of indigenous peoples. At this point, we are preparing a joint reindeer breeding reintroduction project in Barrow, Alaska. The main partners in this project are the Association of World Reindeer Herders and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry.

Together with **Energy-Saving Technologies LLC**, which is member of the editorial board, a joint edition of Energy Saving in Yakutia magazine was published, dedicated to Arctic energy and environment issues. The magazine was presented at the Arctic Energy Summit in Helsinki, Finland, September 18-20,

and at the VII International Forum “Arctic: Today and the Future” in St. Petersburg, December 4-6, 2017. In addition, the Northern Forum news is highlighted in every regular edition’s separate section.

Orsa Grönklitt Predator Center continues to act as “ambassadors” of the Northern Forum. Anders Björklund and Ingvor Ljung made a speech in the Ajtte museum during Jokkmokk Winter Festival, which was held on February 2-4, 2017. They talked about the activities of the Northern Forum, indigenous peoples, Siberia from the Ural Mountains to Chukotka and from the polar regions to the southern highlands. The audience in the museum was highly interested, and a group of students stated that “this was the most interesting report of all that they ever heard”.

Representatives of **SuluS LLC** took part in the VII International Forum “Arctic: Today and the Future” in St. Petersburg as experts of the Northern Forum.

Thus, as of the end of 2017, there are 14 business partners of the Northern Forum:

- Academy of the Northern Forum (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia)
- Arctic Portal (Akureyri, Iceland)
- Orsa Grönklitt Predator Center (Dalarna, Sweden)
- Institute of the North (Alaska, USA)
- Arctic Business Relations LLC of Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation »(UIC) (Alaska, USA)
- CMYK Master Polygraphy LLC (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia)
- SuluS LLC (St. Petersburg, Russia)
- Pure Water LLC (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia)
- Energy Saving Technologies LLC (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia)
- Lapland Chamber of Commerce (Finland)
- Cluster Polaire Français (France)
- High North Center for Business and Governance of the Business School at Nord University (Norway)
- Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center (Japan)
- Alaska Native Heritage Center (Alaska, USA)

MEETINGS AND WORKING SESSIONS

Northern Forum Governors' Meeting

Arkhangelsk, March 30, 2017

The main event of 2017 was the Northern Forum Governors' Meeting, dedicated to the topic "Strengthening the Role of the Northern Forum in the Arctic Cooperation" which was held within the framework of the International Arctic Forum "Arctic - Territory of Dialogue", which is a key platform for discussing topical issues of socio-economic development in the Arctic, developing multi-level and multilateral mechanisms for joint unleashing and effective development of the powerful resource potential of the Arctic region.

The Governors' meeting was attended by governors and representatives of the NF member regions, regional leaders and officials, interested in the activities of the organization, experts and other stakeholders.

The NF member regions were represented by:

1. Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia
2. Alaska, USA
3. Akureyri, Iceland
4. Kamchatka Krai, Russia
5. Lapland, Finland
6. Magadan Oblast, Russia
7. Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia
8. Primorsky Krai, Russia
9. Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia
10. Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russia
11. Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia
12. Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia

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And potential member regions:

1. Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia
2. Greenland, Denmark
3. Troms County, Norway
4. Heilongjiang Province, China
5. Republic of Komi, Russia
6. Khabarovsk Krai, Russia

The meeting was moderated by **the Northern Forum Chair, Krasnoyarsk Krai Governor Viktor Tolokonkiy.**

Welcoming speeches were made by **Viktor Tolokonkiy, Arkhangelsk Oblast Governor Igor Orlov and Director of the Department of Interregional and**

Cross-Border Cooperation of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development, Rafael Abramian.

The Executive Director of the Northern Forum, Mikhail Pogodaev started the meeting with the NF current activity report.

Once again the meeting confirmed the importance and complexity of issues we face in the Arctic. Particular importance of integrated efforts by different countries, regions of the Arctic, expert and public communities to solve these tasks more effectively was emphasized.

As a result, Viktor Tolokonskiy concluded that the position, expressed by Lapland, that the Northern Forum is not a cooperation of authorities, but a cooperation of people, should be a basic principle of the organization. It is necessary to involve our citizens, general public to this cooperation through various conferences, round tables, workshops, sports events, cultural festivals and forums. This will give stability to the Northern Forum and will enrich our expertise to meet various challenges. The Northern Forum's agenda should be much larger and more diverse, involving experts and public figures from various spheres.

In addition, exchange of best practices and better preparation of expert discussions are also objectives of the Northern Forum.

Number of regions expressed their support for the Northern Forum's work. Also, some regions expressed their willingness to join the Northern Forum. **Arkhangelsk Oblast Governor Igor Orlov** announced his request to start the procedure of full-scale accession of Arkhangelsk Oblast to the Northern Forum. **Khabarovsk Krai Governor Vyacheslav Shport**, who also took part in the meeting, completed his speech saying, that he will make the proposal, after which Khabarovsk Krai's membership in Northern Forum will be decided.

Arkhangelsk Oblast Governor **Igor Orlov** stressed the need to consolidate efforts for Arctic Ocean offshore and coastal development, and that new horizons of cooperation make a full use of the economic potential of northern regions, creating the most comfortable conditions.

Director of the Department of Interregional and Cross-Border Cooperation of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development **Rafael Abramian** noted the significant contribution of the Northern Forum in promoting the most important initiatives, in developing interregional cooperation and constructive cooperation agenda. He stressed that the Northern Forum's main task is to make the Arctic more human-friendly, enabling the possibilities for well-being and prosperity.

Head of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) **Yegor Borisov** focused on the development and use of the Northern Sea Route's trans-shipping capabilities to introduce local indigenous products into the world market and to increase tourist opportunities

of Arctic regions, including expeditionary, ethnographic, ecological, historical, educational, research, sports, water and event tourism. Also he added that we have to intensify the Arctic research and exploration in specific areas.

Governor of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra **Natalia Komarova** expressed her wishes to develop Northern indigenous sports and conclude a Memorandum of Understanding between the Northern Forum and the World Ethnosport Society. She also proposed the establishment of a permanent advisory council on indigenous games and a unified register of bear worshippers, taking into account local varieties and features.

Lapland Governor **Mika Riipi** stressed the need for further expansion of the Northern Forum membership in the Nordic region, as well as in the North America. In addition, he proposed the Northern Forum to jointly develop a document describing new methods of work , which must be adopted at the next General Assembly. Lapland is ready for active work and will lead the document's drafting, together with the regional coordinators and experts.

Governor and Chairman of the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug **Roman Kopin** spoke about the main energy issues in Chukotka, about the launch of world's first 70 megawatt floating nuclear power plant in Pevek in 2019, announced plans to merge Chukotka and Magadan isolated electric grids into the North-Eastern power framework. This will reduce electricity tariffs by 2.5 times, which will reduce the burden on small and medium businesses, improve the quality of life of local and indigenous people, as a whole, will not only resolve substitutional issues, but also issues of integrated and sustainable development of the Arctic region in the long term.

Governor of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug **Igor Koshin** indicated the most promising areas of cooperation: exchange of technology, development of telemedicine, training of social workers, introduction of medical software and equipment, renewable energy and reindeer skin salting technology.

Alaska Governor's Arctic policy adviser **Craig Fleener** stressed that while it's sometimes difficult for national governments to resolve issues at the highest level, subnational leaders of the North, which includes indigenous peoples, can demonstrate to the world that they can lead the Arctic in peaceful dialogue with clear and specific successes to resolve or address the many problems that are common only to Northern and Arctic regions, highlighting the following priorities: sharing best practices on the development of infrastructure, improving the living conditions of people, working on climate research, improving education, providing a future for youth with that education and the jobs we can

provide, communications, healthcare, indigenous language and culture, general quality of life, and food security.

Governor of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug **Dmitriy Kobylkin** stressed that the successful development of resources is the main potential of the region, that Russian Arctic's competitiveness is directly associated with a development of infrastructure, and such major infrastructural projects that are being carried out in the region, such as Yamalo-Nenets support zone, Obskaya-Bovanenkovo-Sabetta railway line, can become points of growth of the entire Arctic macro-region and other regions of the country.

Primorsky Krai's Vice-Governor **Yevgeniy Vishnyakov** proposed all the Northern Forum members to make a full use of Primorsky Krai's scientific, educational and economic potential for sustainable development of the Arctic. He stressed that the Primorsky Krai Administration in collaboration with businesses and science communities are ready to develop cooperation on a wide range of Arctic development issues in the framework of the Northern Forum. Primorsky Krai is always ready to share its experience, open to communication with potential partners, investors and all parties interested in Arctic cooperation. International cooperation plays an important role in the development priorities of the Primorsky Krai, and leads to mutual understanding between partners on a wide range of issues, including environmental protection.

Cecilie Myrseth, the Governor of Trøms, Norway proposed to find the methods of cooperation between the Northern Forum and the Barents Regional Council. Also she noted that the Arctic Mayors' Roundtable in the framework of the Arctic Council is a possible way of further international cooperation. Probably it is worth holding Arctic governors' meetings at various international venues.

Special Adviser to the Department of International Affairs, the representative of Greenland in the Arctic Council **Mira Kleist** told about how Greenland uses the regional cooperation to spur the diversification in economy, indicating that regional cooperation can be a way to find other ways and support each other in developing regional economies. Also she noted that we have to do our bit in order to sustain and strengthen the bilateral relationships. Greenland is increasing cooperation with Iceland to get more flights and cheaper flights to and from Greenland. Also, as the sea routes are opening, administrative cooperation should be established before these sea routes are further developed. Again, economic development for us is to secure the inhabitants of the Arctic. Regional cooperation can strengthen indigenous people's rights and lives, and sustain the livelihood that they have now.

Mikhail Gmyrin, Mayor of Severodvinsk, Chairman of the Arctic Municipalities Association told about his organization. To date, the Association includes about 60 municipalities located in the Russian Arctic. The most important issues for cooperation with the Northern Forum are environmental safety, tourism, energy and transportation.

Khabarovsk Krai Governor **Vyacheslav Shport** noted that the Northern Sea Route should not just carry oil and gas, but give life to the northern territories in all fronts. Khabarovsk Krai is ready to submit their site and share experience with other regions in the field of industry, telemedicine, fish processing etc.

Finally, Viktor Tolokonskiy urged the participants to be more open, to integrate, cooperate and collaborate in order to improve the quality and pace of Arctic development and to solve common issues.

During the event, **the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Finland Hannele Pokka** was awarded Walter Hickel Medal (founder of the Northern Forum), for her contribution to the organization and development of inter-regional cooperation in the North. Hannele Pokka served as Governor of Lapland from 1994 to 2008, and Chaired the Northern Forum from 2001 to 2005.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a joint communiqué of the Northern Forum governors. The communiqué welcomed the expansion of the Northern Forum's membership, it emphasizes the need for a fruitful and constructive representation and strengthening the role of the Northern Forum in the Arctic Council, the need to participate in international exchanges on current problems and prospects of development of the Arctic region and the need to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations.

Regional Coordinators Committee Meeting

Arkhangelsk, March 29, 2017

The meeting was held in the Arkhangelsk Oblast Government Building moderated by **the RCC Chair, the Deputy Chairman of the Krasnoyarsk Krai Yuri Zakharinsky**.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Krasnoyarsk Krai, Akureyri, Alaska, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Lapland, Magadan Oblast, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Chukotka Autonomous Okrug and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

The meeting discussed the upcoming Northern Forum's Governors Meeting in Arkhangelsk and other operational issues. The 2016 outcomes were reviewed and the joint communiqué of Northern Forum governors was agreed.

The discussions resulted by signing the Resolution #188 on approving the Northern Forum's Working Groups Chairs.

Khanty-Mansiysk, June 29 - July 1, 2017

The regular RCC meeting was organized by the Krasnoyarsk Krai and the Northern Forum Secretariat in collaboration with the Office of External Relations of the Department of Public and External Relations of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug - Ugra. A meeting was combined with the international Ugra Governor's Oblast [*hollowed log boat*] Rowing Cup within Vit-Khon Khatl festival in Nefteyugansk district, which took place July 1, 2017.

The meeting was attended by 8 regional coordinators from Krasnoyarsk Krai, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Akureyri, Lapland, Kamchatka Krai, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug and Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Besides there was a potential NF member Arkhangelsk Oblast. In addition to Regional Coordinators the meeting was attended by representatives of the NF member regions, experts and NF project members, chairs and members of NF working groups.

The meeting's agenda consisted of two main issues: the strategy and project activities of the Northern Forum. The strategy section was carried out as an Innovation Camp group workshop, moderated by Lapland. Project activities section in form of a round table of NF Working Groups' Chairs and NF Projects Members.

The closed RCC session discussed an upcoming XIII General Assembly of the Northern Forum in Krasnoyarsk, as well as the adoption of resolutions. As a result, based on Regional Coordinators' comments and revisions, the following resolutions were adopted:

- Resolution #189 On approving Work Plan of the Northern Forum for 2018;
- Resolution #190 On approving the Northern Forum budget for 2017;
- Resolution #191 On approving the Terms and Conditions of Call for Projects;
- Resolution #192 On the Northern Forum strategy;
- Resolution #193 On report on the Northern Forum project activities;
- Resolution #194 On Admittance of New Business Partners to the Members of the Northern Forum.

On the last day of the event, participants met the Governor of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug - Ugra Natalia Komarova. Besides, the Northern Forum and the Federation of Ethnosport of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug - Ugra signed an agreement on Development of Ethnosports in Northern Regions.

As part of the event, participants visited various institutions of Khanty-Mansiysk. Therefore, the Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi and Federation Council Member from Chukotka Autonomous Okrug Anna Otke visited the Ugra Adaptive Sports Centre, where the adaptive sports were presented to them. In addition, Mika Riipi met the Deputy Governor of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug - Ugra Alexey Zabozaev. Besides, the Director of the Arctic Portal Halldór Jóhannsson and Professor at the University of Lapland Lassi Heininen paid a visit to Ugra State University. Thus, participants were given the opportunity to establish contacts and possible cooperation in the future, which is one of the positive and promising results of the event.

A more detailed report on this event is available in Russian at [the Northern Forum website](https://www.northernforum.org/images/documens/2017.compressed.pdf) (<https://www.northernforum.org/images/documens/2017.compressed.pdf>).

Working Sessions

During the reporting period, a number of working sessions with various international organizations were held, discussing possible areas of cooperation.

On the sidelines of the Arctic Council's Ministerial Meeting held in May **the Northern Forum met with the leaders of Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation**, which is interested in establishing business contacts with the regions of Northern Russia, in particular with organizations of indigenous peoples. The Corporation has expressed interest in the revival of reindeer husbandry in Barrow, Alaska, and sought the help of the Northern Forum to establish contacts with the leaders of the northern regions of Russia. The Corporation is ready to purchase reindeers and attract reindeer husbandry experts in order to reintroduce this kind of indigenous traditional economic activities in Alaska. The main partners of this project are the Association of World Reindeer Herders and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry. Following the meeting, the UIC Arctic Business Relations LLC became a business partner of the Northern Forum.

During the Arctic Energy Summit in Helsinki (September 18-20) the project was further discussed with **Anthony E. Edwardsen, President and CEO** (now - the Director) of **Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation**.

Within the Arctic Energy Summit several side meetings were carried out, including with **Gwen Holdman of Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) and Greg Polzer of University of Saskatchewan** on the NF participation in the Arctic Council SDWG approved Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA) project. The project requires greater participation and data exchange from regions of Russia.

In addition, there was a meeting with **Halldór Jóhannsson, Director of the Arctic Portal** to discuss further action on the Arctic Business Portal project and the development of the NF website.

Besides, in September in Yakutsk, a meeting with representatives of the Embassy of Finland in Russia was held: **the Second Secretary of Economic Relations Unit Aliisa Thornberg and Counsellor on Cultural Affairs of Publicity Unit Henriikka Ahtiainen**. The meeting focused on Lapland's participation in the Northern Forum's activities. In October there was a second meeting in the Embassy of Finland in Russia, where the parties discussed the prospects for cooperation on specific areas and projects between the regions during Finland's Chairmanship in the Arctic Council. In particular, the possibility of holding joint events within the premises of the Embassy of Finland in Moscow, for example, in fields of interests of Northern Forum member regions - responsible use of natural resources and environmental protection, sustainable economic development of the northern territories and the development of education and science in the Arctic.

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On the sidelines of the Arctic Circle Assembly (October 13-15), there was a meeting with **Yekaterina Kontar, a postdoctoral scholar and coordinator of the Pan-Arctic Options Project, Tufts University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy**. The meeting discussed the idea of holding a joint high-level meetings with the heads of the northern regions on the topic "Regional Investment for Sustainable Development in the Arctic" (provisional working title) in 2018. As a possible venue, the option of Lapland was discussed. The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy received a grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct such an event with the participation of regional governments. Therefore, we were asked to hold this meeting jointly, taking into account the great experience of the Northern Forum in organizing meetings of regional leaders.

With the assistance of the Assistant to the Mayor of Akureyri **Katrín Ríkarðsdóttir** (now – the Director of the Center for Gender Equality) a meeting with **the President of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Susan Barr and the Executive Secretary Allen Pope** was held. The meeting discussed the prospects of cooperation between the Northern Forum and the IASC on

development of international scientific cooperation in the Arctic and ensuring the scientifically based decision-making in the Arctic.

As suggested by the Director of the Arctic Portal Halldór Jóhannsson, the Executive Director of the Northern Forum Mikhail Pogodaev took part in an **APPLICATE project workshop**, which is financed under the “Horizon 2020” EU program. The Northern Forum is invited as a project’s end-user of information, which will be provided as a result of the project. The overarching goal of APPLICATE is to develop enhanced predictive capacity for weather and climate in the Arctic and beyond, and to determine the influence of Arctic climate change on Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes, for the benefit of policy makers, businesses and society.

Working Sessions on NF Strategy Development

Following the Regional Coordinators Committee meeting in Khanty-Mansiysk, Lapland was requested to draft a Strategy of the Northern Forum. During the second half of the year a joint drafting of this document was carried out. The draft Strategy includes the principles, values and key areas of the new Northern Forum.

Two working sessions were held in Helsinki and Reykjavik, also day-to-day discussions via e-mail are being conducted.

September 20, 2017 on the margins of the Arctic Energy Summit there was a NF working meeting between Executive Director of Northern Forum Mikhail Pogodaev, County Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi, International Cooperation Manager of the Regional Council of Lapland Kristiina Jokelainen and Executive Director of the Institute of the North Nils Andreassen – to discuss the first draft of a new NF strategy proposed by Lapland. Following the meeting, it was agreed to further develop a paper, taking into account all remarks and proposals by the NF member regions, and further discuss it at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik.

The final draft strategy will be presented to NF Board of Governors for discussion and approval at the XIII NF General Assembly in Krasnoyarsk on November 23-25, 2017.

In October 15, 2017 during the Arctic Circle Assembly the Northern Forum continued the discussion of the draft strategy developed by Lapland. The workshop was attended by the Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi, Mayor of Akureyri Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, International Cooperation Manager of the

Regional Council of Lapland Kristiina Jokelainen, Assistant to the Mayor of Akureyri Katrín Björg Ríkarðsdóttir (now - Director of the Center for Gender Equality), Executive Director of the Institute of the North Nils Andreassen, Professor of Arctic Politics at the University of Lapland Lassi Heininen, Director of the Russian Centre of Arctic and High North Economy Aleksandr Pilyasov, Director of the Arctic Portal Halldór Jóhannsson, Executive Director of the Northern Forum, Mikhail Pogodaev, UIC Arctic Business Relations Director Kristina Baiborodova, International Cooperation Adviser to the Head of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Eduard Klimov and others.

By the end of 2017, the NF Strategy is still being drafted. The final Strategy will be presented to NF Board of Governors for discussion and approval at the XIII NF General Assembly in Krasnoyarsk.

THE NORTHERN FORUM IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

The Northern Forum, having observer status in the Arctic Council, actively involves in its activities representing regional voices on the Arctic's leading intergovernmental forum. In the reporting period, the Northern Forum was represented at the following events.

CAFF meeting in Kautokeino, February 1-2, 2017

Executive Director of the Northern Forum, Mikhail Pogodaev and NF Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity working group Chair, the Minister of Nature Protection of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Sakhamin Afanasyev presented the Northern Forum at the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group meeting. The meeting discussed the CAFF working plan and Arctic biodiversity implementation priorities, as well as CAFF achievements for the biennium.

Sakhamin Afanasyev made a presentation on "The System of Protected Areas in Sakha Republic (Yakutia): from the local system to a contribution to the World Natural Heritage" and also provided information on the NF activities in environmental monitoring, biodiversity conservation, cooperation of Northern zoos and environmental education.

AMAP meeting in Yakutsk, February 15-16, 2017

The first day of the conference discussed a public health monitoring in the Arctic, the AMAP group research work, the second day's agenda was cold injury in the Arctic, as well as international cooperation and exchange of experience in the treatment of cold injury.

AMAP was represented by:

- Jon Odland, Professor of Department of Community Medicine, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway
- Turid Austin Wæhler, Senior Advisor of Centre for Arctic and Global Health, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway
- Erik Sveberg Dietrichs, Professor of Department of Clinical Medicine, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway, resident doctor, University Hospital of Northern Norway
- Timofei V. Kondratiev, Leading Expert of Emergency Anesthesiology Research Group of Department of Clinical Medicine, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway

- Vitaly A. Postoev, MD, Vice Dean of the International Department of General Practice of the Northern State Medical University, Head of the Arkhangelsk International School of Public Health

Week of the Arctic within the framework of Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, May 8-14, 2017

In accordance with the NF work plan, and in order to implement an observer status, the Northern Forum participated in the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, as well as in a series of major events devoted to the completion of the US chairmanship of the Arctic Council. The Northern Forum was represented in InterChange program by the Executive Director of the Northern Forum, Mikhail Pogodaev and Executive Director of the Institute of the North Nils Andreassen. After that, Yegor Makarov, a NF business partner/director of Clean Water LLC and Nikolai Gabyshev, Muus Khaia Restaurant Chief from Yakutsk joined them during the North by North program.

It is worth mentioning that in all platforms of the Week of the Arctic the idea of increasing the role of local and regional governments was voiced, indeed at this level all life decisions are taken and Arctic policies are implemented. Representatives of sub-national governments need to be involved in shaping the international agenda and Arctic policies. Delegations from countries such as the USA, Canada and Denmark included regional representatives at this Ministerial Meeting.

Therefore, the Northern Forum has to do a lot of work to develop an effective mechanism for regional government's involvement in international Arctic cooperation and strengthening the role of regions in the Arctic Council.

As a major outcome of the Ministerial meetings can be identified that the countries and permanent members have agreed to continue working together and to maintain the Arctic as an area of peace and cooperation.

The Northern Forum participated in the following events:

- Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, May 11
The foreign ministers of the eight Arctic States and the leaders from the six indigenous Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council convened at the 10th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting to mark the conclusion of the two-year U.S. Chairmanship and to herald the beginning of the Finnish Chairmanship, which will run from 2017 to 2019.
The ministers signed the third binding agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Arctic Council, the "Agreement on Enhancing International Arctic Scientific Cooperation", which will help to facilitate entry and exit of persons, equipment, and material; access to research infrastructure and facilities; access to research areas; the use of traditional and local

knowledge; and education, career development, and training opportunities for students and early-career scientists.

Ministers also signed the Fairbanks Declaration, which reviews the work of the Council during the outgoing U.S. Chairmanship and provides guidance for the Council's work during the incoming Finnish Chairmanship.

The four priorities for the Finnish Chairmanship's two years are: environmental protection; connectivity; meteorological cooperation; and education.

- International Arctic Assembly, May 9

Assembly was a plenary panel discussion with the participation of various experts. It consisted of 4 sessions on enhancing Arctic scientific cooperation, promoting co-production of knowledge, Arctic infrastructure and the Arctic from a global perspective.

- Summing up the results of the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, May 10

The results of the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council were presented in the form of reports and presentations of the Arctic Council working groups' projects.

- Seminar on Arctic Council EALLU: Arctic Indigenous Youth, Arctic Change and Food Culture

The Northern Forum is one of the project participants. As part of the US Arctic Council Chairmanship conclusion, EALLU final report presented in a form of a cookbook with participation of indigenous Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council

- Arctic Council Observers' Breakfast, May 11,

The meeting focused on ways to improve the work of observers in the Arctic Council. Many participants noted the need to strengthen the role of observers. For this purpose, it was decided to create a small working group from among the observers' representatives to develop a vision or a concept of further and more effective engagement of observers in the Arctic Council.

- Arctic Mayors' Roundtable, May 11

Municipal representatives gathered at the Roundtable to discuss common challenges and to join hands for cooperation and to share experience in the Arctic settlements' management. A member of the Northern Forum, Mayor of Akureyri Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson and Regional Coordinator Katrín Ríkarðsdóttir also participated in the Roundtable.

The Arctic Mayoral Declaration was adopted as a result of the Roundtable

- Northern Local Food Tasting, May 13

Head Chefs from across the Arctic gathered together to make their favourite dishes from Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia at the festival of Northern peoples' food culture. Head Chef of Muus Khaia restaurant Nikolai Gabyshev took part in the festival on behalf of the Northern Forum.

- Arctic Film Festival, May 14

A film called "24 Snows" by the Northern Forum business partner, Director of Clean Water LLC Egor Makarov, "Sien Eker" by Sergei Yermolaev, and "When Gods Come Closer" by Eduard Novikov were presented with great success.

- The panel discussion on US-Russia cooperation in the Arctic, May 14

The major issues discussed were the barriers and new opportunities for strengthening the cooperation of US and Russia in the Arctic. Discussion mostly focused on the history of interaction within the Northern Forum, as well as the new opportunities to strengthen the cooperation in light of Alaska's return to the Northern Forum.

SDWG meeting in Inari, September 21-22, 2017

This was the first Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) meeting under Finnish Chairmanship. The meeting reviewed SDWG Work Plan for 2017-2019, project proposals, and status reports on ongoing projects.

The delegation of the Northern Forum was represented by the Executive Director of the Northern Forum, Mikhail Pogodaev, Director of the Institute of the North Nils Andreassen, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Feodosiya Gabysheva, Director of International Baccalaureate Educational Program of International Arctic School Natalia Sitnikova.

Feodosiya Gabysheva presented the International Arctic School project initiated by the Head of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Yegor Borisov. The School aimed at the integration of federal and international education standards to preserve and develop a human capacity in the Arctic and High North will be established in Yakutia in 2019. Currently, School preconstruction activities and future faculty staff training are in progress.

Mikhail Pogodaev presented the current actions on the EALLU: Arctic Indigenous Youth, Arctic Change and Food Culture.

The Northern Forum's "Human in the Arctic", a project initiated by Sakha Republic (Yakutia), promotional work was continued and it was agreed to perform a more detailed study with participation of Sweden, Norway, Canada and the United States. The Arctic Council's possible support of the project is being discussed. In particular, AC's SLiCA (Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic) project members are discussing the possibility of joining efforts with the "Human in the Arctic" project, to study the quality of life in arctic regions and are very interested in Yakutia's experience at sociological surveys and studies in this area.

AC SAO meeting in Oulu, October 25-26, 2017

Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Officials meeting held in Oulu, Finland, on 25-26 October 2017, was attended by representatives of the eight Arctic states and six indigenous Permanent Participant organizations, as well as the Arctic Council's six Working Groups and more than thirty Observers. The Northern Forum was represented by the Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi and NF Executive Director, Mikhail Pogodaev.

The meeting opened with the announcement of the appointment of Nina Buvang Vaaja as the new director of the Arctic Council Secretariat.

Delegates then addressed overarching issues for the Arctic Council, such as pollution prevention, education, and the Council's strategic focus for the years ahead. Much of the Council's work in these areas is carried out by its six Working Groups — ACAP, AMAP, CAFF, EPPR, PAME, and SDWG — as well as its Task Forces and Expert Groups. In addition to these broad thematic discussions, the Council also received progress reports from the Working Groups and specific updates.

Also, the special session devoted to the current and potential future contributions of Arctic Council's Observers' in Arctic pollution prevention took place. The Northern Forum was represented by the Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi, who presented information on NF member-regions' activities, and on main achievements and challenges faced by regional governments on pollution prevention in the Arctic. Upon NF Secretariat's request, the following regions have sent their proposals on this matter: Alaska, Akureyri, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous

Okrug and Magadan Oblast. All these proposals were submitted to the Arctic Council also in writing.

Another item broadly discussed by Senior Arctic Officials and Permanent Participants was the education. The discussion noted the experience of Russian regions (Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug) in a development of the Nomadic Schools System and an implementation of the project “Arctic Children: Preschool Education”. In addition, the representative of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation (RAIPON) Vladimir Klimov spoke about a joint initiative of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in preparing to the Congress of Teachers of Native Languages, Literature and Culture of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East Russia, which will be held on November 21-22, 2017 in St. Petersburg within the premises of Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia.

NF REPRESENTATION AT EVENTS

The Northern Forum representation at events of the Arctic agenda and related issues is an important part of work to promote our actions and attract new members and partners into our activities. During the reporting period, the Northern Forum has been represented at various international and Russian platforms.

- “Arctic Frontiers 2017 – White Space – Blue Future” International Conference, Tromsø, Norway, January 22-27, 2017
- “Arctic: Territory of Dialogue” International Arctic Forum, Arkhangelsk, Russia, March 29-30, 2017
- The 2nd Congress of Environmentalist of Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Yakutsk, Russia, April 4-7, 2017
- “Polar Bear Universe” Conference, Egvekinot, Russia, April 28, 2017
- XV “Save and Preserve” International Environmental Campaign, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra, Russia, May 19 – June 9, 2017
- 9th International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS IX), Umeå, Sweden, June 8-12, 2017
- International Oblas (hollowed log boat) Rowing Competition – the Governor of Ugra Cup within Vit Khon Khatl festival, Nefteyugansk Region, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra, Russia, July 1, 2017
- “Ugra Salvation” Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug Indigenous Association Coordination Committee Expanded Meeting, Nefteyugansk District, Russia, July 1, 2017
- “Protected Areas: Current Situation and Prospects” Interregional Conference with International Participation, Yakutsk, Russia, August 8-10, 2017
- 6th World Reindeer Herders Congress, Jokkmokk, Sweden, August 16-20, 2017
- Arctic Energy Summit, Helsinki, Finland, September 18-20, 2017
- Arctic Circle Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland, October 13-15, 2017
- The III International Congress of Traditional Art & Culture: the Issues of Fundamental Research of Folk Art, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, October 23-25, 2017
- The II International Research Conference “Siberian Ugric People in a Necklace of Subarctic Cultures: Common and Unique”, Khanty-Mansiysk,

Russia, October 30-31, 2017 (A Letter of Intent was signed with Torum Maa Ethnographic Open-Air Museum)

- The II Siberian Environmental Change Network (SecNet) annual international Workshop “Siberia in a global context. Winter Weather and Climate Extremes: how can researchers, authorities and local peoples work together to record, predict and adapt?”, Salekhard, October 31 – November 05, 2017
- International Workshop Conference “Reality of Ethnos”, St.Petersburg, Russia, November 22-23, 2017
- UN Expert Seminar on free, prior and informed consent, Santiago, Chile, December 4-5, 2017
- “Arctic: Today and the Future” International Forum, St.Petersburg, Russia, December 4-6, 2017
- All-Russian Workshop Conference “Far-East Russia Development Issues”, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia, December 6-7, 2017

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Currently the Northern Forum carries out the following project activities:

1. Renewable energy sources. Power supply for isolated settlements of northern regions
2. Prevention of addictions
3. Infectious diseases control
4. Drug resistant TB monitoring in circumpolar Russia
5. Suicide prevention
6. Telemedicine
7. Schools Partnership
8. Brown Bear Working Group
9. Youth Ecological Forum
10. Working Group on Water and Climate Change
11. Northern Zoos Cooperation
12. Development of Specially Protected Areas
13. Bears in The Rites and Traditions of the indigenous peoples of the North
14. Festival of Northern Fishing
15. International Ecological Action “To save and to preserve”
16. Human in the Arctic
17. International Arctic School
18. International Arctic Center of Culture and Arts
19. Red Book Through the Eyes of Children

The regular Youth Environmental Forum took place from 13 to 16 April in Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Schoolchildren of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Japan took part in the Forum. As usual main issues of the event were environmental safety in the Arctic, the preservation of indigenous culture and traditional way of life, as well as the organization of volunteer movements to ensure environmental stability in the Arctic ecosystem. The next Forum is planned to be held in Lapland.

The XV “To Save and Preserve” International Environmental Campaign was held in the Khanty Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra from May 19 to June 9, 2017 under the motto “By Preserving Nature, We Define the Future”. During the Campaign a total of 9429 events were held in Ugra, involving 601’865 people from 22 municipalities of Ugra, 72 regions of Russia and 87 foreign countries. As a result of the Campaign’s program activities, a number of resolutions were

adopted, recommendations were sent, competition results were announced, winners were awarded and the outcome of the 15-year project was summed up.

The “Red Book Through the Eyes of Children” project, implemented within the framework of the “To Save and Preserve” International Environmental Campaign under the auspices of the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Northern Forum, develops cooperation between 74 regions of the Russian Federation and 13 countries participating in the project. During the reporting period, mobile exhibitions, excursions, project presentations were organized, a book of the creative works of contest winners was published.

The International Arctic School project, initiated by the Head of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Yegor Borisov, was represented at the SDWG meeting in Inari in September by the First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Feodosiya Gabysheva.

In addition, SDWG Inari meeting was a perfect platform to promote the NF Human in the Arctic project, initiated by Sakha Republic (Yakutia). A possibility of Arctic Council’s support of the project was discussed with the representatives of Sweden, Norway, Canada and the USA. In particular, representatives of the Arctic Council SLiCA project expressed their interest in joining efforts in quality of life studies in the Arctic.

The “Partnership of Schools” project under the leadership of the Yakutsk City National Gymnasium was implemented in the following areas: Correspondence, Skype communication, online Olympiad in English, meta-subject Olympiad, rubbish sorting, eco-bag, science conference in English, northern clothing, northern sports, Polar Explorers’ Day. Activities under the project are included in general educational plan of schools and involve students and local youth.

The participants of the “Development of Specially Protected Areas” project show strong engagement in addressing PAs’ functional and efficiency issues. In August 8-9 in Yakutsk, the working group held a science conference with international participation “Specially Protected Areas: Present and Future Status”. The conference was included in the Plan of Action 2017 of the Russian Year of Protected Areas, approved by the decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No.2720-r dated December 26, 2015 and is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Protected Areas system in Russia.

Over the reporting period, the Northern Forum participated in the publication of a book on the Arctic Council EALLU: Arctic Indigenous Youth, Arctic Change and Food Culture project, where the Arctic Council permanent indigenous organizations also were engaged. The project was initiated by the Association of World Reindeer Herders and implemented in close collaboration with the

International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry. You can have a look at this book at www.reindeerherding.org .

The reintroduction of reindeer husbandry in Barrow, Alaska, USA project discussions have been initiated with the UIC. The main partners in this project will be the Association of World Reindeer Herders and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry.

The sidelines of the Arctic Circle Assembly in Iceland hosted a working meeting of APPLICATE project, funded from the European Union Horizon 2020 programme. The Northern Forum is invited to participate in this project as an end user.

The Northern Forum gave assistance to the International Spiritual and Educational Relay Swims devoted to the path of St. Innocent (Veniaminov) “Uniting the Continents”, jointly organized by the Association of Polar Explorers, the Russian Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR), the US Winter Swimming Association, the Kamchatka Center of Winter Swimming and Cold-Hardening, the Klondike Travel Agency. As part of the relay a number of events were held: a Divine Liturgy, carrying prayers and mourning, holding processions, candles of memory, swims along the places, where St. Innocent (Veniaminov) served from the shores of Lake Baikal to the Pacific Ocean.

Throughout the year, the Arctic Business Portal project promotion have been carried out. The project is a joint initiative of the Northern Forum and the Arctic Portal, and will be implemented jointly with the Arctic Economic Council and other concerned organizations from the Arctic. The portal will function within the Northern Forum’s website in order to promote investment, socio-economic, cultural and tourist potential of Northern regions.

YEAR-END PROPOSALS

On organization's activities:

- To intensify the new NF member attraction efforts, including Greenland, Scandinavia and territories of Canada.
- To intensify the Northern Forum project activities improvement efforts
- To strengthen the Northern Forum's involvement in the activities of other international organizations: the Arctic Economic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and others.
- To examine the possibility of participation of the Northern Forum member-regions' municipalities in the Arctic Mayors Forum.
- Support the project proposal of the Ministry of Environment of Finland in SDWG ZERO ARCTIC for construction in the Arctic and actively involve the regions in the implementation of this initiative.

On participation in the Arctic Council:

- To develop the Northern Forum's policy for participation in the Arctic Council
- To create a regular data collection mechanism on the NF member regions' proposals and information on topical issues, which are discussed in the Arctic Council. Thus we will be able to create a communication channel and gradually synchronize our activities with the activities of the Arctic Council, as well as to show the participants of the Arctic Council that we can contribute to the debate on Sustainable Development of the High North
- To strengthen the Northern Forum member regions' involvement in the Arctic Council projects
- To keep the Northern Forum member region officials fully informed about projects and general work of the Arctic Council by providing Russian translations and distributing information from the Arctic Council
- To create an effective mechanism of regional government participation in the international Arctic cooperation and strengthening the regions' role in the Arctic Council.
- To continue the promotion of "Human in the Arctic" project application and the involvement of partners from other Arctic countries in order to 90 days before the next SDWG meeting to submit for approval as a project of the Arctic Council
- Urge the Northern Forum member regions to take part, if possible, in the following projects of the Arctic Council:

- SDWG EALLU Project (EALLU: Arctic Indigenous Youth, Climate Change and Food Culture)
- Arctic Adaptation Exchange Portal
- Arctic Energy Summit
- Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy (ARENA)
- Assessing, Monitoring and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages
- The Arctic as a Food Producing Region
- Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas (AREA)
- Arctic Children – Preschool Education.
- Improving Health in Arctic Communities through Safe and Affordable Access to Household Running Water and Sewer: Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH)
- Circumpolar Local Environmental Observer Network (CLEO)
- A new report on the Arctic Freshwater System in a Changing Climate
- The Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) Strategy and Action Plan
- Enhanced interaction on Search and Rescue (SAR) in the Arctic
- Efforts to support a pan-Arctic network of marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Capacity-building and facilitating Arctic regional leaders and communities to develop renewable power micro-grids.

2018 EVENTS PLAN

JANUARY

- APPLICATE General Assembly, Barcelona, Spain, January 15-17
- Arctic Frontiers 2018 – Connecting the Arctic conference, Tromsø, Norway, January 21-26

FEBRUARY

- CAFF Board Executive Meeting, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, February 5-8
- WorldSkills Russia 2018 – “Young Professionals” Krasnoyarsk Krai Regional Championship, Krasnoyarsk, Russia, February 11 -16
- “School of Life in the North” Schoolchildren’s Science Conference, Namtsy, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia, February 15
- Model of the Northern Forum, M.K.Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russia, February 26-28
- The 3rd Arctic Business Development Tour, Barrow, Alaska, USA, February 27 – March 2

MARCH

- Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Regular Meeting , Levi/Kittilä, Finland, March 19-20
- Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials’ (SAO) Meeting, Levi/Kittilä, Finland, March 22-23

APRIL

- International Seminar “Reindeer Husbandry – a Cornerstone of Indigenous Life in the Arctic”, held in the framework of ARCTIC SKILLS promotion initiatives, Neryungri, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia, April 1-4
- The 9th Arctic Business Forum, Kemi, Finland, April 11-12
- The VII Yugra Industrial Forum, Khanty-mansiysk, Russia, April 11-12
- The XIII General Assembly of the Northern Forum, Krasnoyarsk, Russia, April 11-12
- The XV Krasnoyarsk Economic Forum, Krasnoyarsk, Russia, April 12-14
- High North Dialogue Conference, Bodø, Norway, April 18-19
- “Nature and Us” Campaign under the aegis of the Northern Forum, Yakutsk, Russia

MAY

- The XXII St.Petersburg International Economic Forum, Saint Petersburg, Russia, May 24-26
- “Polar Bear Universe” International Conference, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia
- “Save and Preserve” International Environmental Campaign under the aegis of the Northern Forum, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia
- “Nature and Us” Campaign under the aegis of the Northern Forum, Yakutsk, Russia

JUNE

- “Save and Preserve” International Environmental Campaign under the aegis of the Northern Forum, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia
- “Development of Renewable Energy in the Russian Far East” International Conference, Yakutsk, Russia
- “Nature and Us” Campaign under the aegis of the Northern Forum, Yakutsk, Russia

JULY

- Khanty-Mansiysk AO Governor’s Oblas (hollowed log boat) Rowing Cup, Nefteyugansk, Russia
- “Nature and Us” Campaign under the aegis of the Northern Forum, Yakutsk, Russia

SEPTEMBER

- The III Festival of Northern Fishing Traditions, Tornio, Finland, September 5/6-9
- UArctic Congress, Oulu, Helsinki, Finland, September 3-7
- “Nature and Us” Campaign under the aegis of the Northern Forum, Yakutsk, Russia

OCTOBER

- The 2nd Arctic Biodiversity Congress, Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-11
- Youth Environmental Forum on the sidelines of the 2nd Arctic Biodiversity Congress, Rovaniemi, Finland
- Arctic Cicle, Reykjavik, Iceland, October 19-21
- Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) Regular Meeting, Rovaniemi, Finland, October 29-30

NOVEMBER

- Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials' (SAO) Meeting, Rovaniemi, Finland, November 1-2
- XVII "Ugra Tour 2018" Tourism Trade Show, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia
- U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission, place to be confirmed

DECEMBER

- Arctic Days in Moscow
- "Arctic: Today and the Future" International Forum, Saint Petersburg, Russia

DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

- Northern Forum Regional Coordinators Committee meeting, Chair region
- Northern Forum Governors' Summit, Lapland, Finland