



## NORTHERN FORUM ACTIVITIES

### Winter Cities, Anchorage, Alaska

Between February 18 and 21, the Northern Forum Secretariat participated in the International Winter Cities conference in Anchorage. The conference attracted many Northern Forum regions, such as Heilongjiang, Hokkaido, Northern Norway, Alberta, South Korea. As part of the Winter Cities events, an international exhibition was conducted and the Northern Forum participated with a booth. Over 8,000 visitors had the opportunity to learn more about the Northern Forum and purchase NF Children's calendars. The Northern Forum also provided the Winter Cities Association with 300 copies of the Protocol Handbook which were given to the participants in the Conference.



### IV "PR-Week in Nevsky"

The St. Petersburg Associate Secretariat took part in the organization of the event "PR week in Nevsky" February 17 through February 27, 2004. At a round table dedicated to "Problems of Public Relations-specialists training for working in international business", Associate Secretariat staff made presentations on the theme "Fundraising campaign for implementation of Northern Forum projects" and on the theme "Professional and Ethical Principles in PR". Other sessions of interest included round tables on "The Market of students' PR projects", "The idea of public coherence development", "10 rules of effective sponsorship", "PR-effect of different systems of facultative certification in the lumber sector", "The process of adopting laws in Saint-Petersburg Legislative Assembly: possibilities of interaction with deputies and staff".

### Canada Week, Anchorage, Alaska



The Northern Forum co-sponsored the Annual Canada Week events in Alaska. Hosted by the Canadian Consulate in Seattle the events were held during the week of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The Forum hosted a reception on March 11, where Alaska's Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman acted as host for the State of Alaska. The event was attended by Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie, former Governor Walter Hickel, Canadian Consul General Marvin Wodinsky and other V.I.P.'s. An auction of children's drawings from the North was held during the reception, and Canadian Inuit throat singers performed to the delight of the audience. During the weeks events NF representatives met with a number of prominent personalities from Western Canada including the Honorable Glenna Hansen, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and the Honorable Jack Anawak, Canada's Arctic Ambassador.

### Northern Forum Calendar

The Northern Forum 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Children's Calendar was distributed at the start of the year. Students from several regions participated in the art contest. The theme for 2004 was "The North is My Home". Students from Lapland with drawing selected for the calendar were treated to a celebration with their Governor, Northern Forum Chairman Hannele Pokka. The 4 Lapland students whose drawings were featured in the calendar, were awarded special certificates, small

gifts and the calendars. (The preparations for the 2005 calendar will start in late August, and the calendar is planned to be an 18 month calendar.)

### **Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Committee (EPPR), Inuvik, Canada**

The Arctic Council Working Group EPPR held its annual meeting April 20-22 in Inuvik, Canada. The Northern Forum was represented by Walter Parker (Institute of the North). During the meeting it was noted that the Northern Forum was hosting a workshop on flood management in May and participation of EPPR was welcome. In addition the NF requested that EPPR consider expanding its mission to address natural disasters in their workplan. EPPR agreed to review the recommendations on flooding from Northern Forum's Severe Cold Climate Emergency Response Workshop (April 2002) for areas of potential cooperation, and indicated they would welcome a report from the NF from the Workshop on Flood Management. Additionally, it was the consensus of those countries present to recommend to the SAOs that natural disasters be added to the mandate of the EPPR Working Group. If this recommendation is accepted, the first steps will include: clarification of the specific goals; exchange of information; and the addition of natural disasters to the risk assessment matrix.

### **Arctic Council SAO Meeting, Selfoss, Iceland**

The Northern Forum participated in the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials' meeting and Sustainable Development Working Group held in Selfoss, Iceland, May 3-5, 2004. The Forum is active in several Arctic Council projects under the auspices of the Sustainable Development Working Group, including reindeer herding management, sustainable arctic tourism project (SMART), telemedicine and information technologies, and the Children and Youth program. The Northern Forum will continue its active participation in this working group and represent the needs and concerns of regional government within this important group. In addition to the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council, the Northern Forum also participates in the working groups on Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response; the Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group, the Arctic Human Development Report and the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan.

The Northern Forum plays an important role within the Arctic Council, by helping to disseminate information throughout the North to regional governments and residents of the north. At the Senior Arctic Officials' meeting, Russia confirmed its desire to take the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in November 2004, and the Northern Forum looks forward to working cooperatively with them during their chairmanship.

### **Flood Workshop, Khanty-Mansiisk, Russia**

The Northern Forum secured funding from NATO to organize, jointly with the Yugra Institute for Information Technology in Khanty-Mansiisk, a workshop dedicated to flood satellite forecasting and risk assessment. The workshop took place immediately before the Regional Coordinators' Meeting, on May 28-29, and was well attended by flood specialists from all regions.



Presentations were made by key speakers from Yukon, Alaska, Alberta, Colorado, Arkhangelsk, Sakha, Khanty-Mansiisk, Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk and Moscow, on topics such as satellite imaging technologies and data processing, and integrated decision-making systems. At the conclusion of the workshop, a Protocol was signed and a Flood Working Group was formed to continue cooperation between regions, and to study the possibility of extending to other regions the Canadian satellite capability to provide images even in cloudy weather.

The meeting was hosted by the Institute, which features some of the most advanced technology

available in Russia today such as a SunFire supercomputer coupled with a remote earth-sensing system, and a 9 m antenna to receive data at very high speeds. There are several laboratories within the Institute, with high-level specialists working on a variety of topics ranging from 3D mapping to flood and fire monitoring. The Yugra Institute also has a training program for high-school students, focusing on math and physics.

### **Regional Coordinators' Meeting, Khanty-Mansiisk, Russia**

The 2004 Regional Coordinators' Meeting was held between May 31 and June 3 in Khanty-Mansiisk, Russia. The meeting included a careful review of all approved NF projects. Two new projects were presented for consideration - one consisting of a telemedicine pilot project, and the other to develop flood and fire GIS mapping, stemming directly from the previous flood workshop. The Regional Coordinators meeting also focused on traditional business issues of the NF including a financial review, discussions about the structure of the organization, recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee, and a review of the work plan for the coming two years. The regions represented included the cities of Akureyri and St. Petersburg, Alaska, Chukotka, Hokkaido, Heilongjiang, Khanty-Mansiisk, Lapland, Sakha, Vologda, Yamalo-Nenets, and the Yukon. Two business partners were also present, Kometos Oy from Lapland and the Krasnoyarsk State University.



The Regional Coordinators meeting took place concurrently with several other events sponsored by the Administration of the Khanty-Mansiisk Autonomous Okrug. The region sponsored a month-long Environmental Action which included a regional Youth EcoForum, a film festival, and numerous other ecologically focused events. The Northern Forum delegates were provided with the wonderful hospitality of the Okrug, and the delegation was housed at the Yugorskaya Dolina hotel, a brand-new hotel on the outskirts of Khanty-Mansiisk. The weather cooperated all through the stay of the participants, and contributed to make this RCC meeting a particularly memorable one.

### **Executive Committee Meeting and Governors' Summit**

The Executive Committee met on July 23<sup>rd</sup> in Yakutsk (Sakha Republic, Russia). The meeting addressed normal NF operations, financial reporting and other internal management issues. It was followed by a Governors' Summit on Northern Climate Change July 23-24, 2004.

The Summit focused on "Northern Climate Change: Impact on Regional Economies". Featured speakers included Dr. Robert Corell, Chair – Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, who provided an overview on Arctic climate changes issues, Prof. Mark Nutall, University of Alberta, Canada, who talked about climate impact on traditional economies in Northern regions; Mr. Oleg Anisimov from the State Hydrological Institute in St. Petersburg (Russia), whose presentation was "Permafrost and Global Warming: An Assessment of Detrimental Impacts on Infrastructures"; Mr. Teiro Mustonen from the Snow Change Project at Tampere Polytechnic (Finland) who talked about aboriginal perspectives including observations and knowledge of climate changes in aboriginal communities, and Dr. James Berner from the Alaska Native Health Consortium who focused on links between climate change and human health.

Ambassador Vitali Churkin, the Russian Senior Arctic Official joined the Summit to talk about the Russian program for its chairmanship of the Arctic Council. Other speakers included former Sakha President Mikhail Nikolaev, who is presently Deputy Chairman at the Council of the Russian Federation, and former Governor Hickel, Secretary-General of the Northern Forum who addressed economic cooperation in the North.



The meeting coincided with the start of the “Children of Asia” sports competition, attended by over 7,000 participants. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, the Third Interregional Conference “Investment potential of Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)” was also held in Yakutsk.

## NORTHERN FORUM GOVERNORS

**New governor elected in the Arkhangelsk region** - Nikolai Ivanovich Kiselev was elected Governor of the Arkhangelsk Oblast with 75% of the vote.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

The Northern Forum Second Summit on Healthy Lifestyle, held in September 2003 in the Sakha Republic, recommended continued work on alcohol and drug abuse prevention. Activities that have taken place to follow up on the recommendations from the Summit include the following:

- The passage of a Law on Alcohol Abuse Prevention in Sakha.
- Distribution of 150 compact disks, 500 brochures and 30,000 copies of a Special Newspapers “Healthy Russia” on different methods and models of healthy lifestyle.
- The Ministry of Education, Sakha and InterCCAP, Alaska signed an Agreement on joint implementation of *Parents as Teachers* Project. The first steps have been taken in Fairbanks with visiting PAT Program office and discussions of its implementation in practice.
- The South-East Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Alaska and 2 professionals from Sakha participated in training in alcohol treatment and rehabilitation in Sitka, Alaska.
- The Tundrovichka Crisis Center in Sakha organized training courses for 38 people with 4 Chukotka women who are trying to launch a similar center in their region. The volunteers of the Tundrovichka Crisis Center made a detailed presentation on the work and experience of the center, got workshop participants acquainted with organizational bylaws and provided recommendations on the establishment of a crisis center.
- Chukotka and Sakha neighbor regions' women held the First Regional Women’s Lectures on March 4-5, 2004 in the village of Anyuisk, Chukotka. The lectures addressed the issues of women status and strengthening women initiatives in the Arctic Region. Chukotka women are planning to establish a crisis center and a women’s organization
- The Northern Forum Secretariat held a meeting of representatives from different organizations of Alaska and Sakha for sharing ideas and knowledge and worked out a plan of acquaintance with the various systems of treatment and rehabilitation from alcoholism.
- The Northern Forum, in cooperation with the Arctic Council, is planning a 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit on Healthy Lifestyles, in May 2005. The focus of the Summit will be Teen Substance Abuse, and will provide opportunities to examine Best Practices in addressing Teen Substance Abuse in the North.

### BROWN BEAR WORKING GROUP

The Brown Bear Working Group met March 22-27 in Yakutsk. Representatives from Alaska, Kamchatka, Sakha, Sakhalin and Hokkaido ratified the charter of the Group and determined a plan of action. Presentations were made by the representatives of the various regions, and lively discussions ensued regarding brown bear management and hunting. Future activities of the



BBWG will include publication of articles on Bear Management and Living in Harmony with Bears; training in survey techniques and cooperative field work; and continued cooperation in enforcement. At the end of their stay, the participants had the opportunity to visit the city of Yakutsk, and also to pay a visit to a reindeer herder camp in the Verkhoyansk mountains and see the new Orto Doydu zoo near Yakutsk.

### **REINDEER MANAGEMENT**

- **January 2004: Student exchanges begin with the Nunavut Arctic College, Canada.**  
The Educational Center of Sami Area receives two students for four months from the Environmental Technology Program of the Nunavut Arctic College, Canada, who will be learning reindeer husbandry, reindeer by-products and outdoor skills. At the same time the Educational Center of Sami Area sent a student to the Nunavut Arctic College and another one to the Yukon College, Canada to study their spring term abroad.
- **February 2004: Visit by three Lapland representatives to Alaska**  
Project representatives from the Educational Center of Sami Area visited the Reindeer Research Program of the UAF in Nome and Fairbanks, Alaska. Negotiations were held and an agreement of co-operation is in preparation to create a stable ground for future operations. They also visited the Natural Resources Division at the Kawerak Native Corporation, Nome Alaska to negotiate future cooperation and inform the local reindeer herders in the Seward Peninsula about opportunities to organize an excursion from Alaska to Finnish Lapland to learn about the Scandinavian reindeer husbandry.
- **March 2004: A visit from the Yakut State Institute of Art and Culture, Russia.** The Educational Center of Sami Area received two guests from from the Yakut State Institute of Art and Culture with negotiations and an agreement of future co-operation in the field of reindeer husbandry education.
- **April 2004: A reindeer-tourism pilot excursion to Murmansk Oblast.** A group of students from the Educational Center of the Sami Area completed a 5 day long reindeer tourism pilot excursion. The aim was to understand the potentials of reindeer husbandry related tourism in Muurmansk Oblast

### **NORTHERN AVIATION**

#### **RAPP Aviation Working Group - Meeting with FAA and other agencies, February 7, 2004**

A meeting of all concerned parties was held in Anchorage, to discuss the reopening of air routes between Alaska and the Russian Far-East, discuss training opportunities for Russian Far-East airport managers and discuss future activities of the Working Group. A teleconference was organized to include Russian Far-East partners who were not able to travel to Anchorage, and in a conversation between Magadan Airlines and Sakhalin Airlines, it was agreed that the two companies would endeavor to coordinate their flight schedules in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky by the summer of 2004 linking Anchorage and Yuzhno-Sakhalin. In addition, the company RussiaJet Direct announced service from the US through Seattle and Anchorage, to Yuzhno-Sakhalin, starting in October 2004.

#### **FAA Training Program**

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, together with the American-Russian Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage, has conducted in 2003 and the early part of 2004 training sessions on marketing for the Northeast region of the Russian Federation. The following step will be an assessment trip to the Russian Far East to see the results of these training sessions, and then a last round of training for 2004, focusing more specifically on such issues as harmonizing flight schedules between Far East cities. Further funding will be sought to involve other regions in this type of training starting in 2005.

### **TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE NORTH**

At the exhibition “Innovative Potential of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)” in February, 2004 the NF Associate Secretariat in Yakutsk obtained First Diploma for developing a thermoelectric generator “Cholbon”. The Yakutsk Associate Secretariat also has organized a mobile exhibition “New Technologies for the North” which was demonstrated in nine settlements of Yakutia and will be taken to other regions of the Northern Forum in the future. In February-March 2004, soft-tire all-terrain vehicles produced in Belarus were tested on the route Yakutsk – Chokurdakh (2000 km) as first-aid vehicles in sparsely populated and remote areas. The tests were very conclusive, and production of the vehicles could be started in Yakutia in the near future. And finally, assembling a new hydroelectric power station without dam was also part of the projects conducted in Yakutsk in early 2004.

### **TELEMEDICINE COOPERATION**

The Regions of Khanty-Mansiysk, Sakha and Alaska are working together to share telemedicine technology, in a pilot project. The project will create a network of telemedicine specialists who will continue to work and assist each other in providing health services in remote villages in the North. The project involves an exchange of specialists, establishing 4 test sites in Russia, and training of medical specialists in the use of telemedicine technology.



- On March 2-9, 2004, telemedicine specialists from the Sakha Republic and the Khanty-Mansiisk Autonomous Okrug, Russia, visited Alaska. The Russian representatives took part in the International Telehealth Conference organized by the Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network (AFHCAN). Igor Chemezov, Vice-Director at the Yugorski Institute for Information Technologies, and Matvei Nikolaev, the Director of the Telemedicine Department at the National Center for Telemedicine in The Sakha Republic, made presentations on the Russian telemedicine experience at the conference. The representatives participated in a trip to Kotzebue to visit the Maniilaq facilities and the village of Kiana, where the participants familiarized themselves with the Alaskan experience of implementing new technologies in remote villages. Representatives from Alaska (AFHCAN), Sakha and Khanty-Mansiisk also met to discuss the joint project to exchange experiences and deliver Alaska technology for telehealth.
- The second phase of the project was conducted during the Regional Coordinators’ Meeting in Khanty-Mansiisk in June 2004, when Stewart Ferguson from AFHCAN met with his colleagues in Khanty-Mansiisk and visited two villages upriver to assess the telemedicine situation there.
- The next phase will take place in September 2004, when AFHCAN specialists visit two villages in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Khanty-Mansiysk to conduct an assessment of the pilot project villages, and determine the timing and implementation issues associated with the placement of equipment in the villages.



### **DED MOROZ AND SANTA CLAUS**

Between December 15, 2003 and January 15, 2004, the St. Petersburg Secretariat together with Imperia Spb organized in the Russian village “Shuvalovka” an exhibit of children’s drawing dedicated to Santa Claus and Ded Moroz. Forty-nine young artists from a number of art schools in St. Petersburg took part in the exhibit and were given free

passes to the village. The exhibit was displayed in Ded Moroz' house in Shuvalovka.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **June 2005 - 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Harbin, Heilongjiang)**

The next General Assembly of the Northern Forum will be held in Harbin, Heilongjiang (China) and will coincide with the 16th China Harbin Economic and Trade Fair. The Northern Forum will have a booth at the Trade Fair, and member regions and business partners are encouraged to participate. The Trade Fair features 1,000 exhibitors. It offers unprecedented opportunities to investigate the Chinese market and to explore China's production. Harbin is located close to the Russian border, and has a history of extensive trade with Russia, and recently opened a trade office in Vladivostok to facilitate business contacts. For general information visit the web site <http://www.00615.net/e14th/index.php> for information about the 2004 Trade.