

Closing Remarks

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Rapporteur: Russell Fielding

Lassi Heininen began the closing remarks by showing the new NRF.IS website. This site includes information from the 5th open assembly, links to the webcasts on ArcticPortal.org, links to many sites and organizations of interest, and a new design. He remarked that the themed groups, an innovation for this year's open assembly, were a good idea and expects to see more events structured that way at future open assemblies. The next meeting will be in 2010 in Oslo with the theme, "Our Ice-Dependent World." This is a geographically diverse topic that involves the arctic as well as any low-lying area that could become inundated by rising sea levels. It is trans-disciplinary and fittingly discussed in Oslo, a "bi-polar" city (reference to Amundsen and Nansen). For all presenters at this year's open assembly: there is a 30 November deadline for submitting papers and summaries to the NRF secretariat. Dr. Heininen concluded by thanking the local hosts in Anchorage for a job well done—a sentiment echoed by all in attendance.

Patricia Cochran spoke next. She informed the group that \$200 had been raised as contribution to the Elders' Lunch program in Chickaloon and invited more donations from anyone interested. The conference's theme of "seeking balance" was invoked in reference to the multigenerational attendance at the open assembly. Lessons were learned from elders (even from ancestors) and plans were made to deal with issues that will only come about in "our grandchildren's" world.

The floor was then opened for comments. Here is a list of highlights:

- "Seeking balance" should include a balance between research and politics.

- More traditional knowledge should be included (balance between traditional and scientific knowledge).
- There should be a balance with economics in seeking applied solutions to the problems we discussed.
- The NRF has a good balance of older and younger researchers.
- Many thanks were given to the Icelandic staff who made the open assembly happen.