

**Summary Reports:
Plenary Sessions, Day of Projects
Sessions, and Participants'
Evaluation Results**

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During the Summary Session of the Second NRF Open Meeting, the young researchers and professionals who had served as rapporteurs delivered oral summary reports, each on his/her respective plenary or project session, expressing personal impressions and describing salient ideas, proposals and initiatives that emerged from presentations and discussions. Extensive discussions followed, where participants expressed their experiences and views of the Second NRF Open Meeting and their aspirations for the NRF as a forum and as a process.

The following individual accounts of different sessions of the Open Meeting are written by the young researchers and professionals, based on their oral presentations in Veliky Novgorod. The participants' evaluation report, included in this chapter as well, is based on the results of a questionnaire that was distributed to all meeting participants during the Summary Session.

First Plenary: Human Capital in the North

Report by Nancy Elliot

It was apparent by the Plenary I: Human Capital in the North session, that people had differing views of what is meant by 'Human Capital'. There are challenges in talking about 'human capital' overall, since

people from different countries expressed concerns that reside at varying levels. This reflects differing cultural backgrounds as well as varying standards of measurement between countries. The Northern Research Forum can play a central role in placing issues within a comparative and meaningful context.

Peter Johnson of Canada chaired the Plenary. The first speaker, Sergei Kharyuchi of Russia, detailed ways in which legislation (national) and policy (national and regional) have been used in Russia to protect the rights of Aboriginal peoples. He stressed that maintaining the relationship with the traditional land is important for identity. It is vital to emphasize this with agencies and industrial companies operating in the north. He concluded by pointing out that each region has its own specificities, and thus the solutions for implementing national policy at the regional level will be different on a region by region basis.

Ingvild Broch discussed national and international issues relating to higher education, noting that in her country (Norway), a relatively high percentage of staff are from abroad, and that many Norwegians leave the countryside to attend educational institutions. She noted the success of having people educated in the North, as then there was a significant chance that they will stay to live and work in the North. She also noted that it is important to have pro-

fessors and students taking part in the development of regions. The Northern Research Forum assists in meeting the goals of higher education.

Nancy Elliot (Young Researcher) from Canada discussed that way that the differing worldviews of Western-based science and traditional environmental knowledge can create barriers to implementing resource management policies which will protect and promote the values of aboriginal peoples. In particular, she discussed the way that maps are used and viewed, and how this reinforces the worldview of western-based science. Her PhD research will examine ways of using Virtual Reality to help bridge this gap by developing better ways of communicating the Aboriginal worldview to non-Aboriginal managers and decision-makers.

Esther Combs of the Alaskan Housing Corporation presented details about the Alaska Healthy Community Project. She noted that community based wellness programs are based in local community values, and that it is not possible to have healthy communities without healthy leaders and people. The Community Project, involving a partnership amongst the private sector, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the government, and local people, was the first time that a comprehensive approach was used.

It was evident from the discussions that a topic of major importance in this plenary was: how do you develop human capital in the north without healthy people?

Peter Johnson of Canada presented information on the demographics of the Canadian Arctic (a population 'snapshot'). He noted that it is important that communities control their own destinies, for example by building and controlling infrastructure, such as airlines. He also noted that sometimes achieving the goal of economic expansion can counter other goals. To illustrate this point he spoke of the oil and gas companies in Yellowknife who had hired high school age students, taking them out of school. He stressed the importance of education and trade development in the role of capacity building in the North. He also

stressed the importance of integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge in school curriculums.

Second Plenary: Innovation in Northern Governance

Report by Susan Crate

This session was chaired by Oran Young, who opened by reminding us all that governance is one of the great issues of our time. There were four themes that emerged as central during this session of papers and discussion.

First, from the case presented by Johnny Adams of the Kativik experience, we pondered the question, "What does it take (to have such successful local/regional governance)?" and also, "Is this a unique case or can it be replicated in other northern contexts?" In short, are successful innovations in northern governance transferable and, if so, what does it take?

A second theme, brought out by Benedikt Jónsson's talk, was the issue of globalization: how it affects the North and how the North can respond to take advantage of the possibilities of globalization so it can be a positive process. Similarly, what strategies or policies are available to Northern regions to ensure that globalization is not a danger but an opportunity.

This concept of transforming problems into opportunities extended into the third central theme of the session, which was the need to reframe the phenomena of borders and trans-boundary regions being divisions and problems to their being opportunities for cooperation and synergy. This concept came up in presentations by Tarja Cronberg, Alvydas Meda-linskas, and Jeroen Dubois.

Lastly, John Round's paper on Magadan, Russia, reminded us that the problems and opportunities of governance occur at all levels-county, province, oblast-from local to global.

Our two concluding points are 1) that governance is

a more and more important issue for the North and for the rest of the world, and 2) that the challenges of governance span all levels, from local to global, with the fate of each level affected by the state of the rest. Accordingly, we need to be sensitive and attuned to what is going on at all levels.

A final comment is that there is an intimation from the steering committee that the questions of globalization may well emerge as a theme for the next NRF - and this session served to underline the extent to which globalization is on people's minds.

Roundtable Discussions: Business Initiatives for a Joint Agenda in the North – Part 1

Report by Elena Savenko

Thorsteinn Gunnarsson, Rector of the University of Akureyri and Carsten Bennike, General Director of ZAO Dirol, were co-chairs of the roundtable discussion. During the discussion of "Business Initiatives for a Joint Agenda in the North," the topics included such significant themes as experiences of the Novgorod region in international business, interaction between business and politics, and the influence of foreign investments on the prosperous development of the region. We heard the presentations of

- Arnold Shalmuev, chairman of the Economic Committee of the Novgorod region And representatives of business:
- Boris Kaplun, General Director of Amcor Rentch Novgorod, and
- Rafik Suleymanov, General Director of NBI Transport Service.

I would like to emphasize the main aspects of the presentations.

The representative of the Administration mentioned that notable success was reached in the economic development of the region. The reason is neither Novgorod's great mineral resources, nor its powerful industrial base but rather the serious, businesslike attitude of its industrial and political leaders.

The strategy of the region's development is aimed at

creating favourable investment conditions, which entails the following:

- Political stability in the region, including low investment risks secured through the system of guarantees by the Oblast Administration
- Cooperation between legislative and executive branches of the local authority
- Developed business support infrastructure
- Developed transport infrastructure: the Novgorod region is crossed by the federal roadway connecting Moscow and St. Petersburg, and the Moscow-St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg-Kiev, and Dno-Yaroslavl railways
- Developed modern communication structure (the region is third in Russia, after Moscow and St. Petersburg, in level and volume of transmission services)
- Free access to a highly-skilled, and low-paid, labor force
- Tax exemptions for organizations carrying out production activities who are investing in, as well as attracting, capital investment for the implementation of concrete projects

Foreign investors have been attracted by the new investment legislation. The most important results of these policies are:

- Consistent economic growth in the region and well-being of the enterprises, with profits exceeding those of similar businesses located outside the region
- Development of local manufacturing, alongside the enterprises based on foreign investments

And also the social aspect:

- Creation of new jobs and the consequent improvement in the standard of living.

But some problems still remain. We can divide them into Political (predominantly bureaucracy) and Economic, the most important of which are:

1. Low purchasing power of the population
2. Customs legislation
3. Currency legislation

The successful Novgorod experience should not remain unique: The administration is ready to pro-

vide information assistance to any interested regions. But in order to adapt this experience it is necessary to realize that changes in people's attitudes towards this problem need to be taken into account. It is necessary that all participants of the international and inter-regional interactions should benefit. Moreover, money injections into the economy are not enough: enormous expenses of time and persistent, fruitful work are also necessary. Simple investment undoubtedly brings benefits, but for achieving positive changes in the economic situation, it is necessary to analyze the known mistakes and to show sustainable interest in establishing new and profitable projects.

Roundtable Discussion: Business Initiatives for a Joint Agenda in the North – Part 2

Report by Fabrizio Tassinari

The second part of the Business session, co-chaired by Thorsteinn Gunnarsson and Carsten Bennike, included presentations by Prof. Lee Huskey, Young Researcher Dr. Joan Nymand Larsen, and Researchers Olga Trofimenko and Prof. Sergei Sutyryn as well as a questions & answers session.

Prof. Lee Huskey, from the University of Alaska Anchorage presented a study entitled: "Limits to Economic Development in the Arctic: Three Hypotheses." At the beginning of his presentation Prof. Huskey states his definition of economic development as "the sustained improvement of people's lives." This concept functions as a sort of introduction to the explanation of the three hypotheses mentioned in the title. The first hypothesis is related to the lack of *information* about Arctic resources and markets. The second focuses on the *remoteness* of the Arctic, which makes the market limited because it is so distant. The third and last idea focuses on the very nature of *ownership* in the Arctic. According to Prof. Huskey, private ownership promotes the economy, whereas the more diffused, common ownership limits market potentials.

The presentation by Joan Nymand Larsen, from the

University of Manitoba, was entitled: "External Dependency in Greenland: Historical and Current Dynamics of a Dependency-Growth Relationship." The wide amount of data and statistics presented during this presentation aimed at demonstrating that Greenland's dependency has fluctuated over the past years. Generally speaking, however, it can be argued that this dependency is due to two factors that operate side by side: the narrowly based economy and the limited stability. In fact external dependency is itself a cause of instability and, in the case of Greenland, this dependency concretizes mainly with respect to technological dependency on Denmark. What is suggested for inverting the trend of Greenland's dependency are flexibility, mobility and education.

The third and last presentation, provided by Olga Trofimenko and Prof. Sergei Sutyryn from St. Petersburg State University, was entitled: "Finnish-Russian Production Alliances: Expectations, Problems, Success Factors". This presentation focused primarily on the obstacles and the potentials of the North West Russian market in relation to Finland. The Russian market is usually considered attractive because of the higher earnings that can be obtained. The most serious problem in this regard is the high level of bureaucracy included in the business transactions. Over the last two or three years, however, the pace of reforms aimed at facilitating bureaucratic procedures has slowed down.

The questions & answers session was led by Carsten Bennike, General Director of ZAO Dirol, who opened the debate by stating that the Russian macroeconomic changes will considerably affect business life. In particular, he stressed the importance of the WTO accession processes, as well as the slow de-bureaucratization. Moreover, the Novgorod success story suggests that thinking 'smaller' may help improve the conditions of doing business in Russia. The discussion reflected, by and large, these major points. During the discussion, moreover, the importance of focusing on human capital was stressed as essential to sustaining development in non-developed countries.

Third Plenary: Applying the Lessons of History

Report by Elisabeth I. Ward

Today at lunch we witnessed at the Novgorod Kremlin a vivid reminder that history is indeed important, not just to academics, but more importantly to the public. The type of history displayed there - with incarnations of famous men paraded before their statues - is the traditional kind, tied to great events and great men, and told in a narrative progression from past to present.

This traditional kind of history is particularly powerful because, as Nils Blomkvist pointed out in his presentation, it serves as a basis for creating a common, shared identity. But in his presentation, he also warned that putting too much faith in this form of historical narrative - which can be utilized as a tool to justify inequality, aggression, and other differential power relationships - can be dangerous. By suggesting a natural state of things, an orderly progression from the past to the present, this type of history suppresses all the other stories to make one history. He illustrated this point with an overview of the relationship between Russia and Sweden, which has traditionally been assumed to be one of "natural enemies." He instead pointed out that the relationship had once been very friendly, and only changed when a prince decided to marry his daughter to a German instead of a Swede. There is then no historical imperative demanding that Sweden and Russia cannot be very cooperative neighbors.

The other presenters at the session suggested alternative, less traditional, approaches to history that allow history to still be meaningful. Anatoly Kirpichnikov suggested archaeological investigations can yield surprising pieces of evidence that make us question the old, traditional history. His excavations around Lake Ladoga of Viking Age sites there have revealed evidence of those often overlooked in historical narratives: the everyday lives of people, especially women. This evidence has the potential to generate new visions about the past. For instance, finds at his

site of artifacts with Islamic writings on them clearly illustrate that the Islamic and Christian worlds have, in the past, had much closer and friendlier relationships than are seen today. Many of these prehistoric relationships were built on complex economic links, and thus a study of economic transactions must be incorporated into our view of history.

Tómas Ingi Olrich suggested that another discipline, environmental science, must be brought to bear if we are to learn anything from history. Rather than looking at the overall history of battles or great men, we can look instead at the human-environmental relationship as it has developed in certain regions at certain times. Such an analysis can provide information about how to develop healthy, sustainable human-environmental relationships. He provided examples from Iceland and Greenland. One Icelandic example of the harvesting of eggs from around Lake Mývatn was seen as especially worthy of emulation. Archaeological excavations have revealed that from the settlement period to the present, locals in the area have been sure to take only the eggs of certain species that are very abundant, and never to take more than one or two eggs from each nest. The example from Greenland, where the Norse failed to adopt new techniques in the face of a changing climate, was suggested as a strong example of the importance of flexibility. Several of the open comments from the floor emphasized how urgent and essential it is that we today try to harvest whatever information we can about sustainable relationships in order to preserve our fragile environment.

Finally, Tuulikki Karjalainen offered a third approach to history. The Arts - music, dance, theatre - all existed in the past, and by re-enacting these traditional art forms, we keep the past alive and teach people alternative ways of viewing the world. She described one such endeavor: a chamber music festival in southeastern Finland that she has been involved in. The remarkable commercial success of this endeavor clearly illustrates that the past is of very real interest to people today: they are willing to pay to learn about it. She also pointed out that the origin of this chamber music festival is from the mind, heart, and dedi-

cation of one individual. She summarized her comments at the end of the session by saying "One person really does make a difference."

This last idea of individual agency is indeed a fourth approach to history, to see it as a series of individual decisions rather than a grand progression of time, as if pre-ordained or destined. Several of the participants on the floor commented on this idea, on history as a complex system of random decisions, and of the need to recognize the haphazard nature of history. Only systems theories and complex modeling could truly portray the nature of historic change, which is sometimes very rapid, and other times very slow. The role of the private individual must be recognized as a player in this system.

More specifically, comments also focused on the need for history to be inclusive of minorities and women if they are to be trusted. Ester Combs illustrated this point from the floor with an example from Alaska, where school children simply no longer believe the stories taught to their parents by Westerners about how their ancestors used to live.

I drew from the papers and the discussion that indeed history can teach us a great deal, but only if we can trust the history that is told to us. As Niels Einarsson said, the creation of history is too important to be left in the hands of the few and we should work to engender a broader historic perspective in as many people as might want to learn about it. Tómas Ingi Olrich suggested technology was important in making this a reality. Tuulikki suggested that cultural programs were another way to make people more interested in the past.

Other proposals focused on the next forum, including a possible session seeking to understand which features of northern culture and society are shared by all, and which are more locally derived. The panel chair, Andrei Golovnev, also proposed that the next forum could present dioramas or computer programs which demonstrate several alternative approaches to history, such as taking a single event from many points of view.

But perhaps Nils Blomkvist summed it up best, saying that we can only learn from history if we add historical examples into our decision making process.

Project Session: Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR)

Report by Carina Keskitalo

The Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) project is built upon an idea that has emerged from the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, inspired by the UNDP's Reports on Sustainable Development. The AHDR is intended to 'assess the state of sustainable development and community viability in the circumpolar region including all Arctic residents' (as Einarsson presented it at the event). The project has been under development for several years in connection with the Arctic Council, along with others, in a small ten-member task force and will most probably be formally accepted by the Arctic Council at its meeting in Finland in October. The secretariat for the AHDR will then be set up in Iceland, at the Stefansson Arctic Institute in Akureyri. The AHDR is scheduled to be presented as a finalized report at the end of the Icelandic chairmanship of the Arctic Council in October 2004, and published in both scientific and popularized versions, similar to the environment-centered State of the Arctic Environment Reports which were developed under the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme AMAP working group (AMAP 1997, 1998). The AHDR is intended to be a kind of 'Social State of the Arctic' report, whose scope will be the same as the earlier environment-centered AMAP report: the area down to the Arctic Circle in northern Europe, and that down to 60 degrees northern latitude in North America.

In their presentation, Oran Young and Niels Einarsson, the organizers of this session, presented the rationale for the report, its scope and content, and procedures for its implementation, as well as inviting further contact from the audience, especially Russian participants, for advice on how to develop the AHDR

project. This summary and comments paper, as per request of the Northern Research Forum, includes a brief description of the AHDR project, comments to the presenters at the event, and comments by the rapporteur.

Scope and Content

As for rationale, scope and content, the AHDR project is based on the assumption that there are some common social denominators and shared concerns in the Arctic area. The report aims to describe the baseline of social situations in the Arctic and by doing so, provide both a macro-level description and micro-level examples such as success stories for evaluating similarities and differences across the areas and identifying gaps in knowledge, networks and cooperation. In that way, it is intended to serve as a tool for identifying issues in the Arctic related to sustainable development, educating the public and providing a handbook for policymakers and a link to existing educational initiatives such as the University of the Arctic (which was also developed in an Arctic Council context).

The AHDR is intended to be based on existing research and information, and the development of the report would thus center on collecting available materials. Those resources - research and information - would be presented by social scientists and by people from the region. The report would also include both qualitative and quantitative data, and, at present, is intended to take up the following broad themes in relation to the Arctic:

- sustainable human development
- demography
- economy
- environment and resource governance
- globalisation
- political systems and legal issues
- cultures and rapid social change
- socio-cultural factors affecting human health
- human and social capital (including links to higher education resources)
- community viability and gender issues
- international cooperation

Questions and Comments to the Presenters

In the following discussion session, questions and comments to the presenters centered on how participation and selection by social scientists and peoples in the region should take place. Several questioned how people would be chosen for writing about all of the Arctic. One person noted that it was unlikely that someone whose specialization was, for example, the Scandinavian north, would be able to write about all of the Arctic. The problem was, as he stated it, that either the selected writers would need to go largely outside their own areas and undertake extensive research into areas on which they were otherwise not specialists, or they would need to set up large research groups. A Russian participant in the session asked how teams for writing could be selected: she saw it as likely, in the Russian case, that the research team or institute appointed by the state would be one from outside the region. Even more problematic, she thought, was the question of how to select the participation of peoples in the region. It was suggested that the Northern Forum would be involved in some way or at least that some regional organization of the north would be addressed. The problem in determining scope and participation though, as the presenters stated in response to a question, was that it was as yet undecided on which level (for example, state, regional, or county) that data would be assembled.

Additional questions and comments focused on ideas such as how the Arctic should be described (mainly, whether descriptively or by using indicators); that natural science could have a role to play, for example in describing sewage treatment capabilities in Arctic communities; that the Russian national consensus data that would be gathered by the end of the year could possibly be utilized in the project; and finally, the suggestion that Russian northern and Arctic-related institutions would most probably support the project after it had been approved by the Russian government. The Association of Canadian Universities of Northern Studies (ACUNS) representative present (Robert Bailey) offered to take the AHDR proposal to ACUNS to find people interested in participating. It became clear however in discussion that - unlike the Canadian situation - there does

not exist any Russian regionally based network of researchers on the north except in relation to the University of the Arctic.

Comments by the Rapporteur

The Young Researchers have been asked to provide their comments on the projects in these reports, and I have some comments in addition to those voiced at the meeting. These primarily relate to the conclusions I have drawn in my recently finalized PhD work at the University of Lapland, which focuses on the construction of an Arctic region and considers especially the Arctic Council development.

In my view, the AHDR is a necessary and important project in that it extends the previously dominant social focus on the indigenous (who are only 13% of the population as a whole in the area defined as Arctic by AMAP, cf. AMAP 1998). There are however some issues that need be especially considered in developing such a project and report.

While the environment has been a focus in Arctic cooperation since the age of exploration and has been well researched thus making it possible in AMAP to compile rather quickly a rather well-researched work, the social has not been a focus in the Arctic for very long. The social characteristics of the regions of the eight states that are the scope of this work have, in an Arctic connection, been described mainly through their indigenous elements. This problem is characteristic of the Arctic Council: the Council includes state and indigenous NGO representation, but no representation of the regions themselves of the eight states. While the AHDR recognizes and embodies a very important attempt to ameliorate this oversight, it may nevertheless be difficult to attain both the expertise and a broader representation of people in the regions capable of providing a representative description of these in this short proposed time of two years to a finalized report. This problem involves several sub-problems when it comes to selection of researchers and participants. First, and perhaps easiest to deal with, is that administrative/statistical delineations in the states about which research may exist do not always relate directly to AMAP delineations of the Arctic. This data can probably be amended to the

AMAP delineation. It may however be important to gather data on this now established delineation, as it would provide a social picture of the environmental image of the Arctic that has already been described in Arctic Council work, and to which cooperatives refer as 'Arctic'.

There remains, however, an important problem in the scaling of data. Secondly, and more seriously, is that in the short time available under the present proposal to assemble existing research, selection would almost inevitably target the present traditionally and historically developed network in Arctic studies. From my point of view, however, this network is not equally descriptive of all of the eight state contexts but relates instead primarily to the issues and areas historically and climatically seen as Arctic, a more limited scope than that now targeted for Arctic cooperation. That would mean that researchers dealing with Arctic issues may not always be aware of expertise that relates to all of the targeted areas, beyond that dealing explicitly with the Arctic and thereby with established Arctic issues and, most often, the indigenous. On this note, the presupposition stated by the presenters, that the Arctic would have some common denominators and shared concerns socially, should perhaps be treated as a possible and qualified result of research rather than an assumption at the outset as it might structure the way assemblage of data is undertaken towards established problem complexes. While the often assumed foci of traditional livelihoods, subsistence and rapid social change are generally seen as common Arctic concerns, it has yet not been estimated to how high a degree the northern areas of the eight states are actually similar on a broader social level - beyond, for example, the general economic development problems associated with the periphery. Thirdly, to then select 'peoples of the region' for providing a representative picture of the region is an even larger problem, as there exist very few links to such groups from the existing Arctic-studies related community beyond those concerned with the indigenous or established Arctic issues. Interaction between policy, research, and lay areas is a common problem, but in the Arctic it is exacerbated by how few established institutional ties exist to sub-regional or local repre-

sentation beyond those related to indigenous or established concerns.

An AHDR developed in a period of two years may thus be seen rather as a politically related work in progress, and as indicating, as Einarsson suggested, a very broad baseline and need for further work, including gaps in knowledge, networks and cooperation. While the publication of a full version and popularized version are crucial, neither of these may be attainable within the planned two years. Data may not be accessible to support a legitimate, accountable description for a full version, and there are some risks with writing up a popular policy-related or population-aimed version of quickly gathered data (especially if these tentative data are stated with some certainty in the language of science and policy). Such quickly gathered data may be taken both in an Arctic-related and in broader international work as an accurate description of the region - which may place Arctic issues into a limited and not fully accurate categorization from which it will then be difficult to proceed. A comprehensive report, at all similar to the AMAP State of the Arctic Environment report, but on the 'state of sustainable development and community viability in the circumpolar region including all Arctic residents' would instead, in my opinion, need to be related to major ground-level research projects in each of the states/areas - work which the AHDR can possibly provide or support the initiation of. The two-year project would thereby be seen as a beginning, setting the policy and research priorities (proceeded upon in following works, e.g. in working groups and in motivating research in state frameworks), rather than as an end result.

Project Session: Health and Well-Being

Report by Alexander Osipov

The organizer of this session, which attracted 9 participants plus a few observers from the media, was Alexander Osipov, Professor at Novgorod State University in Russia. Continents represented by the participants were Australia, Eurasia and Northern America. The participants' fields of professional

expertise were: Medical research and health protection, ecological home construction, SW, genetics, applied sociology, and gender studies. Six presentations were delivered, all based on in-depth regional research. There were wide discussions following each presentation and a closing discussion at the end when the session's recommendations to the NRF were worked out.

1. Mobile Complexes in the Monitoring of Health of the Population in the Far North (Alexey Buganov, Nadya, RF)

- massive technological expansion resulting from the gas and oil extraction causes deep changes in the life conditions of aboriginal populations: their concentration in ethnic settlements, doubling of the rate of illness, the spread of social deviations, unwillingness of a percentage of the youth population to return to their original areas and ways of life;
- mobile complexes utilizing the most advanced telecommunication functions have been designed by the Institute of Medical Problems of the Far North (Russian Academy of Medical Sciences) and will allow smaller groups of physicians to reside for longer periods and to carry out both diagnosis and treatment of patients on site;
- introduction of mobile complexes can cut down the costs in health protection by a factor of 4 compared to the traditional health organization;
- hi-tech off-road mobile complexes are most useful for providing high quality medical services to remote and sparsely populated ethnic settlements in the tundra.

2. The Preservation of the Geno-fund of Small Native Populations in the Far North: Ecological and Social Aspects (Ludmila Osipova, Novosibirsk, RF)

- the northern territories and their populations, including small native populations, are vitally important for the country and its ecological sustainability;
- the negative trends in health conditions of small native populations are determined by a complex of social-ecological and biological factors: cross-ethnic marriages, shifts in genetic struc-

- tures, dealing with the residual radiation traces in the food chain (moss-reindeer meat-man), alcoholism;
- the elaboration of adequate public health protection approaches requires fundamental interdisciplinary research in genetic, medical and social conditions and appropriate funding which is unlikely to be found in the country;
 - practical recommendations concerning the preservation of the geno-fund and health protection in the small native populations suggest the re-establishment of the prophylactic medical examinations system, stronger support to family and children, economic protection of original crafts, investments in maintenance of and improvements to infrastructure in the north, low-cost innovations in the rations of the population.
3. Youth of the Novgorod Region: Social Aspects (Matveev Vyacheslav, Veliky Novgorod, RF)
- the youth population manifestly represents the potential of the regional community, its future perils and hopes, and thus deserves advance attention;
 - the youth population is generally underestimated in many aspects of social governance: in medical and law-enforcement statistics, demographic prognoses, the delivering of social services to the population, institutional strategies and barriers in social policy;
 - one particular aspect of preserving the potential of youth deals with the value of health, which is one of the weakest points in the attitudes and widespread social strategies of young people. This value deserves to become one of real focal points of social governance and institutions in the regional community.
4. The Social Construction of Health: cross-cultural Gender Aspects (Elena Lukovitskaya, Veliky Novgorod, RF)
- Women are generally characterized as having a much more critical and anxious perception of their condition of health, in comparison to men, which is determined by two groups of factors:
 - the traditional inter-gender relations (attitudes
- victimizing women in many aspects of social life: the gender content of public education, gender inequalities in decision-making procedures in public life and employment chances, the real attitudes practiced by male leaders, etc.,
- insufficiency of quality female-focused medical services and social information;
- These will require:
- improvements of the content of educational programs; gender monitoring and stronger gender evaluation of the legislature and current decision-making at the federal/national and regional levels.
5. The Social Costs of "Transition" in the Magadan Oblast (John Round, UK)
- elderly are forced to live on pensions below 50% of state minimum;
 - they survive by growing their own food;
 - from this production social networks develop which provide support during the winter;
 - it is a clear example of a survival strategy which many in the west argue does not exist.
6. A Scenario of Regional Development and Priorities of Youth-focused Policy (Alexander Osipov, Veliky Novgorod, RF)
- observation of objective long-going trends and social indicators in the development of the Novgorod oblast as a basis for a medium-term "critical scenario" in major spheres of the regional community;
 - irrelevance of economic determinism for federal/national and regional governance strategies as destroying the social potential of the community;
 - the need for a scientifically based prognosis for regional governance;
 - the priority of human and social indicators (average life expectancy, population losses, the dynamics of declining health of every new generation in the regional community, etc.) as long-term criteria for evaluation of regional development and political responsibility of leaders;
 - working out particular priorities of youth-focused policy in the region arising from the research results;

- the need for comparative research in social indicators of youth, and the development of efficient approaches in social policy in our countries and regions.

General conclusions and recommendations to the NRF:

- "... Open discussion at the session was interesting";
- "... the NRF should take under consideration the concept of small groups of experts to share/discuss research projects on specific topics";
- "... Social development of all peoples in the North must be at the forefront of discussions on the North. There should be a realization that ethnic Russians in the North are facing similar problems to other ethnic groups, yet they do not have similar levels of representation in the research discourse";
- "... to possibly concentrate further the research efforts of the Northern community on the issues of health, social development and those of specific populations - female, youth, ethnic minorities"

Project Session: Novgorod as part of Northern Europe – History and Political Culture

Report by Joonas Ahola

This session was organized by Professor Vasily Andreiev, Novgorod State University and Lassi Heininen, Docent at the University of Lapland and the Chairman of the Northern Research Forum Steering Committee. The papers presented were as follows:

Paper Vikings - Viking Voyages to the East in Written Accounts

Órnólfur Thorsson, Medieval Scholar, and Director, Office of the President of Iceland

Connections across the area of Northern Europe and the North Atlantic were vivid and lively already in

the Viking Age. The contacts worked on several levels: trade, cultural exchange, and military activity. Practically speaking, Novgorod was part of the Nordic world in that period. In Icelandic saga manuscripts from the 13th century onwards, there are several surprisingly accurate descriptions of Novgorod and the Eastern Route.

Varangians / Vikings in North-West Russia

Dr. Vladimir Konetsky, Novgorod State University, Russia

Archaeological findings suggest that although Slavs lived in the area of the river Volkhov before the Nordic peoples appeared there, the first large settlements at both ends of the river Volkhov (Staraja Ladoga and Ryurik Gorodiche) were founded by both Slavs and Nordic peoples simultaneously. They apparently had mutual interests in the area and opposed intruders together.

North European Popular Heroes: Representing the Past?

Joonas Ahola, University of Helsinki, Finland

In the heroic traditions of North Russia, Finland and Iceland, there are similarities suggesting close cultural contacts in the Viking Age, as well as correspondences on a cultural and social basis.

Relations between Novgorod and the West in the 13th-15th centuries

Professor Vasily Andreev, Novgorod State University, Russia

Relations between Novgorodians and Scandinavians cooled down in the 12th century and warfare between Novgorod and Sweden took place several times during the following centuries, mainly in the territories of Finland and Estonia.

Relations between Novgorod and the West in the 16th-17th Centuries

Docent Gennadi Kovalenko, Novgorod State University, Russia

Though subjected to Moscow from the 15th century, Novgorod still remained a doorway from Russia to

Europe. Novgorodians were aware of their position and leaders in Moscow had to correct them every now and then. In the beginning of the 17th century, Novgorod was under Swedish rule. Even after that, contacts between Russia and the West were mainly through Novgorod, up until the foundation of St. Petersburg in 1703.

Modern Interest in the Vikings: How the History of the Vikings Serves Modern Political Realities

Elisabeth Ward, Smithsonian Institution, USA

The history of the Vikings was written by people other than the Vikings themselves, and their image has been utilized for numerous purposes, from 9th century Christian ones to modern nationalistic ones. In the past, Vikings have served as symbols of globalisation.

Relevance and Lessons of the Viking Age for Northern Regions

Dr. Lassi Heininen, University of Lapland, Finland

The Vikings can serve also as a metaphor for new geopolitics. Interregional and transnational contacts have gained significance since the end of the Cold War and, consequently, the unified-state system lost some of its relevance in North Europe. The long period of close interregional contacts from the Viking Age outweigh the few decades long period of closed borders between East and West, and should not be forgotten. Mental borders in people's minds are the most important to overcome.

Conclusions and Plans for the Future

In order not to forget the Viking Age, several joint projects to be carried out were suggested: A traveling exhibition about Vikings in the East could be established as a cooperative project. Such an exhibition about Vikings in the West was previously constructed by the Smithsonian Institute in the United States. Establishing a research network/project under the NRF umbrella on the eastern dimensions of the Viking Age was suggested. Connected to this goal was mention of the planned project on "Finnish Varangians" which is currently starting.

The NRF could coordinate cooperation with a new

project being started on the history of the North Atlantic.

The need to continue history sessions in the 3rd open meeting was also voiced.

Project Session: Northern Forum Round Table

Report by Nina Häyrynen

Under the fuller title of "The Role of the Northern Forum in Forming the Strategy of Sustainable Development of Northern Regions" this round table discussion took place within the framework of the 2nd NRF at the St. Antonov Monastery campus on the 20th of September from 1 to 6 p.m. The chairman of the round table was Professor Valery Bronislavovich Mitko, Science and Projects Director of St. Petersburg's Associate Secretariat of the Northern Forum. During the afternoon, 10-15 participants took part in the round table session. The main language of the day was Russian, because all presenters were from Russia. Interpretation into English was offered for non-Russian speakers.

Aims of the Round Table

The chairman had written up guidelines for the round table in advance. A couple of important aims were mentioned in the paper. First and foremost, the basic task was to discuss coordination of co-operation efforts in Northern regions and to develop a unity of opinion concerning appropriate documents that realize the concept of sustainable development in the North. Another purpose of the round table was to discuss how the diverse frameworks, policies and councils directed towards Northern issues could be made more compatible. Additionally, one important task was to consider the possibilities for co-operation between the Northeast and Arctic regions of Russia and foreign partners in regard to such questions as how to attract investments to Northern areas and how to improve educational and scientific facilities in the North.

According to the guidelines paper, questions to be considered in the round table were the following:

1. Mission of the Northern Forum in the Arctic region and its interaction with the Northern Research Forum and other organizations such as the Arctic and Barents Councils, the Ministerial Council of Nordic Countries, etc.
2. Organizational forms of activity of the Northern Forum.
3. Basic programs of the Northern Forum: Environment, sustainable economic development, society and culture, government and policy.
4. Priority projects of the Northern Forum: Wildlife management, reindeer management, ecological education in Northern regions, sustainable development of tourism, and research of water birds in the Russian Arctic.
5. Projects of the Northern Forum submitted by St. Petersburg.
6. General Assembly of the Northern Forum in St. Petersburg in 2003.
7. Resolution of the round table.

Realisation of the Round Table

During the session there were eight short (ten minute) presentations by researchers covering diverse fields of science - the themes of the presentations varied from sewing technology to cartography. Even though all presentations were interesting, I would have preferred discussion on the theme of the round table: sustainable development. Only the first three presentations included environmental aspects, and, quite self-evidently, these three presentations were the ones I personally found most fascinating. Only one of them, the presentation of professor M.B. Ignatiev, discussed sustainable development explicitly. It introduced an interesting model of sustainable development, a model that can be used in organising sustainable ways of life in Northern regions.

The first speaker was V.I. Fomitchev, the General Director of the St. Petersburg Associate Secretariat of the Northern Forum. He told us about the role of the Northern Forum in Northern co-operation and invited the NRF to the 6th General Assembly of the Northern Forum, taking place in St. Petersburg next April. He stressed the importance of differentiating these two different institutions, namely, the Northern

Forum and the Northern Research Forum. At present, these two institutions are too often muddled together. Valery Mitko, who was the second speaker, also underlined the importance of understanding the different roles of the Northern Forum and the Northern Research Forum. The Northern Forum is an international non-governmental organization, more oriented towards concrete action and implementation, whereas the NRF is a scientific community, a "laboratory" of new concepts, ideas and models for whose implementation the Northern Forum can, in turn, be used.

Besides these three presentations, one presentation was especially interesting from the point of view of young researchers. Mihail Pogodaev, the chairman of the young scientists of the North League, told about the newly established League and invited the young researchers of the NRF to co-operate with this Russian association of young scientists of the North. In my opinion, this is definitely a challenge, and the NRF should contribute to creating connections between young researchers of the NRF and participants of the respective Russian organisation.

After presentations there was some time for open discussion. In particular, the problem of dispersed co-operation in Northern issues was discussed. The need to enhance co-operation and eliminate overlap in activities was underlined by many speakers.

Resolution of the Round Table

The participants of the round table discussion agreed that the NRF should contribute to increasing the efficiency of co-operation in Northern regions by encouraging direct mutual personal contacts and interaction between counterparts from different countries and different fields of activity: not only scientific but also business, technical, administrative, etc. It should also try to foster open access to information and the use of modern information technology everywhere in the region. The distinction between the Northern Forum and the Northern Research Forum should be preserved. Ideas that were brought up in the 2nd open meeting of the NRF should be presented in the 6th general assembly of the Northern Forum in St. Petersburg in April 2003.

The participants of the round table conveyed the message that the St. Petersburg Institute of Technologies of Indigenous Peoples of Russia propose that the NRF organise an international youth forum in 2004 when the Institute, as well as the International Programme on Indigenous Peoples, will celebrate 10 years of existence. Also that enhanced co-operation between the Russian League of Young Scientists and the young researchers of the NRF is welcomed by the round table.

Last but not least, the round table proposes that, taking into account the historical Northern traditions of the Novgorod oblast, the Oblast Administration could consider joining the Northern Forum.

Project Session: Higher Education in the North – Russia and the University of the Arctic

Report by Scott Forrest

This session - organized by Scott Forrest, Information Manager for the University of the Arctic International Secretariat, and Lars Kullerud, Director of the University of the Arctic - dealt with both general questions of higher education in the Russian North, and specific questions of circumpolar cooperation through the University of the Arctic network. Rather than summarizing the various presentations in the session, this summary provides a short list of the main outcomes and recommendations.

1. There is much to learn on both sides, in Russia and outside it, in order to develop joint approaches to common problems, and to learn from different approaches taken in each region. Those in the western half of the circumpolar North need to learn more about Russian systems of education in order to bridge the gap. Overall, the session was an important step in opening up the dialogue between Russian and non-Russian higher education institutions.
2. It is clear that Russian institutions have much to offer, both in terms of general knowledge and experience, and also facilities and infrastructure. Nordic and North American institutions, and

the University of the Arctic network, need the strong cooperation and participation of Russian institutions to succeed in developing a circumpolar approach to education.

3. For institutions in northern Russia, funding is not necessarily the main obstacle for developing higher education, but rather it is the lack of experience and competencies in key areas, and the time, training and resources needed to develop them.
4. One possible solution to this problem may be mobility programs to bring Russian scholars for training in concrete areas (seminars in developing EU funding proposals, for example), as well as participation in program development and teaching.
5. Language is a fundamental obstacle to greater international cooperation in education with Russia. This applies to not only the development of English competency in Russia, but also more Russian language competency among other international scholars. The University of the Arctic should develop its curriculum and information materials in both English and Russian. The availability of current information materials about UArctic in Russian online is preferable to developing separate coordination capacity in Russia.
6. The state continues to be the primary source of funding in Russia (including both the federal and regional levels), but other private sources do exist. International partners are an important factor in the ability of Russian institutions to secure funding from various sources.

Project Session: Coordination of Reindeer/Caribou Projects

Report by Kirill Istomin

This project session, which focused on the relationships of humans and reindeer, attracted the interest of nine researchers and was organized by Dr. Gail Osherenko, Researcher Scientist at the Marine Science Institute, Bren School of Environmental Sciences and Management, University of California

at Santa Barbara, USA. The working group represented a variety of scientific disciplines: Law (Gail Osherenko), Biology (Margarita Magomedova, Vladimir Loginov), Cultural Anthropology (Konstantin Klokov, Kirill Istomin), Economics (Dr. Beljashev), History (Mrs. Abajakova), Sociology (Mrs. Merikjanova) and even Cybernetics and Mathematical Modelling (Vladimir Mikhajlov). Most of the participants came from different regions of the Russian Federation, ranging from Yakutia (Mrs. Abajakova and Merikjanova) through the Ural region (Magomedova and Loginov) to Moscow and St. Petersburg (Klokov, Mikhajlov and Beljashev). The only exception was the organizer, Dr. Osherenko, who came from the USA.

Six presentations were delivered during this session. First, Gail Osherenko opened with a progress report on the realisation of the project "The Human Role in Reindeer/Caribou systems," outlining the history of the project which began in 1995. Osherenko expressed her general satisfaction with the project's realisation; she specially noted the creation of the Circumpolar Arctic Environmental Studies (CAES) Ph. D. Network, in 1999, with the original aim of bringing together young researchers from different disciplines interested in reindeer studies. Osherenko devoted part of her presentation to describing her own field of interest within the overall project, i. e., the so-called institutional drivers and their effects on reindeer herding systems. The institutional drivers include both the laws and the systems of enforcement in a given region, and very little research has been done on their role in the formation and transformation of herding systems, either on the theoretical level or on the level of concrete cases. This direction of research, however, appears to be quite important for a better understanding of the human role in reindeer systems.

In his presentation, Konstantin Klokov described and attempted to analyse the present state of the reindeer herding industry in Russia. He demonstrated that Russian reindeer herding can be clearly divided, according to the trends of its development in the post-Soviet period, into 3 geographical zones. The first zone includes the Taiga (forest) part of Russia;

the second, the tundra from the Kola peninsula to the lower Yenisey rivers; and the third, the eastern part of the Russian tundra, from the Yenisey rivers to Chukotka. While reindeer herding in the Western tundra zone has remained relatively stable or even, as on the Yamal peninsula, has experienced some growth, it has slipped into deep recession in the Eastern tundra and in the Taiga zone. This recession affects the number of reindeer as well as the number of people involved in reindeer herding. In the Taiga zone, productive reindeer herding has completely disappeared and reindeer are now used only for the purpose of transportation. Since the economic and legal conditions have been more or less the same all over Russia, the reasons for these differences in trends are probably cultural. Indeed, the borders between the zones correspond with to the borders between the ethnic groups of reindeer herders and technological types of reindeer herding (with Saami and Nenets-Izhma types in the Western tundra, Chukchee-Koryak type in the Eastern tundra, and different types of forest reindeer herding in the Taiga zone). Klokov thinks that the reason for the decline in the forest reindeer herding is that traditionally this type of herding had only transport significance for the Taiga peoples. So-called productive reindeer herding was artificially installed among these people under the Soviet regime, and the people preferred to abandon it once they were allowed to do so. The cultural differences leading to the difference in trends between the two tundra zones are more difficult to define, but Klokov suggests that a study of family structure and its transformation could help define them and bring us some answers.

The rest of the presentations were devoted to the study of reindeer and their relationship to humans in specific regions of Russia. Dr. Magomedova described the recent changes in pasturelands for reindeer on the Yamal peninsula, the only region in Russia at the moment where reindeer herding is booming. In her estimation, these pasturelands have begun to show clear signs of overgrazing, including the disappearance of lichens in the northern part of the peninsula without any compensatory spread of green vegetation. The situation is made even worse by the development of the gas and oil industry in the

region, and Magomedova suggests that Yamal reindeer herding is reaching its limit of growth. Finally, she stressed the importance of ongoing ecological monitoring and mapping for obtaining more accurate information on the processes involved.

Vladimir Mikhajlov's presentation focused on the Taimyr herd of wild reindeer. Ongoing efforts to measure the number of reindeer in this herd give very contradictory results, suggesting that these numbers fluctuate quite significantly from year to year. At the same time, however, the computer model of the herd that was created by the St. Petersburg Institute of Informatics and Automation (which Mikhajlov represents) maintains that these pronounced fluctuations are impossible. Mikhajlov therefore proposes a new method of measuring the herd size which would make use of the model. He insists that if the results deviate significantly from those predicted by the model in any particular year, the count should be repeated. If, on the other hand, the new, repeated count shows the same results as the original, the model should be corrected. In this way the methods of measures and the model can be used for correcting each other.

Kirill Istomin presented an analysis of the methods of, and criteria for, choosing pasturelands among Komi-Izhma reindeer herders. He showed that the reindeer herders tend to choose land in accordance with its impact on the workload needed for retaining control over the reindeer herd, rather than in accordance with the amount of food resources acquired. Consequently, some territories with an abundance of food are not utilized because it is too difficult for the herders to control their herds within them. Istomin presented a list of pastureland characteristics that particularly affect the process of herd control and suggested that this information should be used for altering our current approach to estimating the value of land in reindeer herding. The estimation of land value needs to be based on the whole set of factors influencing the process of pasturing, rather than merely taking into account the amount of available food resources.

Finally, in his presentation Mr. Beljashev turned the

attention of the working group back to the theoretical level. He insisted that the human-reindeer relationship can be better understood by means of a comparative social analysis of the different groups of people involved. He expressed special admiration of the Institutional Drivers approach, as developed by Osherenko. As a way of illustrating his thesis, he described the different systems of land tenure devised by different reindeer herding groups, insisting that these land-tenure systems, being themselves defined by natural factors such as landscape, profoundly influence the relationship between the reindeer herders and their animals and explain the important differences that exist between the various relational strategies.

The presentations were followed by a long discussion in which all participants took active part. During this discussion, the presentations delivered and the overall work conducted were praised for their high scientific quality, but there was also criticism voiced concerning how certain topics had been neglected, for example, the wild reindeer and its relationship with humans. Part of the final discussion was devoted to the Institutional Drivers approach and the application of legal studies towards a better understanding of the role of humans in the reindeer/-caribou systems. In general, the approach proposed by Osherenko and defended by Beljashev attracted much interest among the scientists present. The members of the group generally agreed that studies of this kind have great potential and should be among the preferred research topics in the field. The members also agreed that one of the important problems within reindeer/caribou studies is the poor usage of mapping. An important issue at the present time is the strong need for the production of different kinds of maps suitable for comparative studies.

Finally, the members of this project session agreed that a meeting of this kind, bringing together scholars from different fields, is very fruitful and should be repeated or continued.

Project Session: Protected Areas and Human Activity in the North

Report by Christian Hicks

Nine participants from throughout the circumpolar north attended the Northern Research Forum Protected Areas and Human Activity in the North session, which was organized by Leonid Bove, Director of the "Wrangel Island" Reserve, Chukotka, Russia. The topics discussed included tourism, resource use, and external influence.

In Karelia, we are working to find ways to attract foreign tourism. We see this as a viable economic stimulus for this region that needs it so badly. Possibilities include natural springs, stone quarries and historical villages. Our churches and villages are especially valuable as tourist attractions.

Another area where tourism could help us is on the islands of the Northern Sea and throughout the Russian Arctic. Tourism is largely unrealized within the Russian Arctic and could be so much greater. Novaya Zemlya could provide a particularly important tourism site. This island is a rookery for some of the world's most rare birds. Cruises from Scandinavia could provide tourism money to the Russian North. Archaeological resources abound on this island as well.

The Wrangel Island region of Northeastern Siberia is particularly vulnerable to human impact. Local, federal, and international protection are largely ineffective in this area. Another area of concern is the lack of financial resources to maintain the area. Our greatest success has been with foreign scientific and film expeditions into the region. Some notable examples would be the Russian/Canadian expedition for tagging polar bear, and the National Geographic film crews, which have provided income to this region. As it stands now however, since transportation of personnel and supplies to this area are especially expensive, we are in danger of not lasting through the winter.

The Yakutian Oblast had a goal of setting aside 20%

of its land for natural reserves. We have been able to set aside 25%. This is good but again we need more financial resources to protect the area. International scientific expeditions to tag geese in this area have provided income but we need more.

Within the Nenets region, there have been two major areas of concern. We are losing or have lost most of our sacred sites. Oil and natural resource extraction companies have destroyed many sacred sites and environmentally fragile areas. We have tried to protect these sites by keeping their locations a secret but this has actually aided in their loss in some ways. CAFF and other international organizations have been successful in protecting some of these areas but more needs to be done.

The problems of the Chanti people of central Russia mirror those of the Nenets. Oil spills are of primary concern. They have ruined many lakes and rivers. Rivers are vital to our survival since we are fishers of these waters. There are laws for traditional land use and environmental protection but the indigenous people of this area do not know the law and do not know their rights. Others can take advantage of them for this reason.

One final area discussed was Northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula. The Saami in these areas have had to fight in the national courts to protect their traditional lands and resource rights. For the most part they have been successful but even environmentalists from the South, however, have not understood the importance of indigenous land rights.

In conclusion, the natural lands of the North are particularly vulnerable to external impacts. They can and must be protected for the betterment of the entire Arctic. Protection is possible from international and national sources. Also important is an understanding of the laws and rights by indigenous peoples. External financial resources are especially important in these areas. Tourism and science are perhaps the most important income sources for the Arctic. They can provide for the reserves that exist now and new ones in the future.

Project Session: Northern Traveling Film Festival

Report by Rósa Rut Thórisdóttir

This session was organized by Asen Balikci, Professor at the University of Montreal in Bulgaria, and Andrei Golovnev, Professor at the Institute of History and Archaeology in the Ural Branch of RAS, Russia. Before showing the five films selected for this occasion, Andrei Golovnev explained how the Traveling Northern Film Festival came to be, how it evolved from the bi-annual Russian ethnographic film competition to become an independent unit, with a collection of good films from the north.

The methodology behind the Traveling Northern Film Festival is taken from the nomads: never to stop the journey, always to continue, to be on the road and collect new films that fit into the subject of the north. There is no restriction of where to go, any film festival or occasion is an interesting destination.

After traveling through different regions of the Russian North, presentations of the festival will occur in France and after that, in to Germany in the near future. Hopefully, it will continue on to Finland, Iceland, Canada, and the US.

As previously mentioned, five films were chosen for this occasion, spanning the period from the sixties to the present day. A combination of films - fiction, directed documentaries and observational cinema - were on the agenda, from Canada, Russia, Finland and Iceland, showing us Arctic cultures in both the past and present day.

The screening of these films was slightly different from normal past screenings of the festival as it was more conversational and theoretical than usual. The feedback from the audience was excellent and often led to long discussions.

It was obvious from this session how important a medium film is as multidimensional language. It enriches conferences like the NRF, and a suggestion for the 3rd NRF meeting is that maybe a film screen-

ing night should be on the agenda, allowing those interesting works to meet a wider audience than they would normally have when they are only shown during a session.

Another suggestion that came up during the session, addressed to the University of the Arctic, was to make a multimedia collection, storing the films the festival has collected, and possibly accompanying it with a web page.

All together, this session was a great success and very useful for both audience and filmmakers alike.

The Program of the Northern Traveling Film Festival in Veliky Novgorod, 2nd NRF:

At the Caribou Hunting Camp - part of the Netsilik Eskimo Film Series, by Asen Balikci, Canada

Pegtymel, - by Andrei Golovnev, Eastern Siberia

Let's Dance - fiction film, directed by Paul-Anders, Simma, Finland

Henna lau'dd - documentary, directed by Heikki Huttu-Hiltunen, Finland

Sari on Ice - by Rósa Rut Thórisdóttir, Iceland

Participants' Evaluation Results

Report by Yana Alexandrova

Plenary Sessions

The table above shows that, on the scale of 1 to 5, most respondents rated the plenary sessions at 3 to 5 points. A majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with the quality of the plenary sessions in general. Thanks to 17 respondents, who provided written comments, it is possible to evaluate to a certain extent what it was exactly that participants liked and disliked concerning these sessions.

Questions	1	2	3	4	5	Number of respondents
On a scale of one to five, how useful did you find the Plenary Sessions?		1	10	18	11	40
On a scale of one to five, how useful did you find the Project Sessions?		6	11	23	40	
On a scale of one to five, how useful did you find the roundtable discussion, Business Initiatives for a Joint Agenda in the North?	1	4	4	9	9	27
On a scale of one to five, how useful did you find the <i>Veche</i> (Square Hours)?		2	12	8	18	40
Total	1	7	32	46	61	147

Many participants pointed out that the quality of plenary presentations varied: some of presentations were genuinely interesting contributions, other were rather shallow, "festive" speeches. Additionally, there were respondents who thought that some of the plenary sessions lacked a "common denominator," so that the panel debate did not have a distinct focus. Some felt that there had been too little time for in-depth discussions - many important things were only touched upon very briefly, and that there was too little debate about hot current global (corporate) issues, and core-periphery and gender related issues. Other comments included that providing more "real debate" by having people present work from very different ideological perspectives would be desirable, and that more integration of young researchers in these sessions would make for a more cohesive dialogue.

Project Day Sessions

A majority of respondents emphasized that the Northern Traveling Film Festival was a success and proposed that the films should get a wider platform. The film festival should be on a special day, separate from other program events, or, alternatively, there should be a special film-night. Overall, respondents thought that the idea of a Day of Projects was good and that the different project sessions were very useful. In these sessions participants receive a good update and overview of current developments. Some

of the same respondents suggested that it would be better to conduct the project sessions in smaller groups, enabling a better dialogue, and to include fewer presentations and more time for discussions or group work. The most productive and useful project session, according to many respondents, was the Arctic Human Development Report Session, as it focused on a specific project with well-defined goals.

Roundtable Discussion – Business Initiatives for a Joint Agenda in the North

The most contradictory, and also the most informative, evaluation results that were received concern this session. Generally, respondents expressed the opinion that this session should have focused on international perceptions of current development of the North with discussions on how small businesses survive in small northern communities. Some wrote that they would have preferred a session exhibiting a more scientific and economic approach, while others expressed their satisfaction with the session as being down-to-earth, providing a good mixture of Novgorod case studies and general debate which did not leap into pure academic speculation. One opinion stated was that the session had been used in part to promote the Novgorod region for foreign investment and to acquire a better (more liberal) regional investment policy. Some suggested that the applicability of the debates during this session had been limited by the failure to address issues of economics as ideology, and class, gender and the indigenous, and thus an opportunity to bring science and business closer together, facilitating their cooperation, was missed.

Veche (Square Hours) – Presentations by Young Researchers

The respondents generally thought that it is very important to encourage students and to give them a voice. Some of them noted at the same time, however, that the young researchers had often shown their lack of background knowledge. Other comments included:

- The results would have been better if the hall where the discussion took place had been smaller. There were not enough people for such big conference hall; this made communication difficult

- The NRF should try and come up with a new way of organizing *Veche* sessions
- More time should be provided for discussions after the presentations
- It would have been great to hear more debate between young and senior researchers

Most respondents concluded that the *Veche*, or Square Hour, is an excellent idea as it gives young people a unique opportunity for presenting their M.A. and Ph.D. research to an international audience. The Square Hours make the NRF Open Meetings different from conferences, and young researchers have lot to give, fresh ideas and new points of view. All in all, the Square Hour should continue to be a central part of the NRF!

Themes and Topics Proposed for Future Meetings

General topics which respondents proposed are: legal dimensions of the North, including questions of land rights, sovereignty, and indigenous people's rights; cultural heritage and the "value" of culture; sustainability and questions of the environment; gender issues. Respondents also offered the following specific topics and suggestions:

- How will the North deal with globalization?
- Transboundary environmental cooperation, regional integration in the North, state policies towards the North, and the evolution and evaluation of the Northern Dimension of the EU
- Northern aboriginal traditions; problems of labor resources in northern regions; northern educational programs; professional training of youth in northern regions
- The dynamics between the North and the South - in-depth analyses and discussion
- Tourism in the North - its implications, cultural, ecological and other
- Travel and communication in the North - organizational networks and governance issues
- The importance of continuing the Northern Traveling Film Festival and holding it at a time when it can be attended by a the greatest number of participants
- Biological resources as a basis for sustainable development
- The economies of small communities

- Neo-liberal trade policies and their impact on different northern actors including women and native people. The themes of the 2nd NRF Open Meeting were too white, elite and male-oriented
- The need more discussions on contemporary arctic civil society - History has been over-represented
- More good examples of multidisciplinary research, as well as international cooperation projects where Russians and their foreign partners work together

Suggestions for the NRF Process and Possible Future Events or Subfora

- It was/is a good idea to involve politicians in the NRF. It would also be interesting to involve representatives/officials of international organizations, like the EU, NATO, CBSS, BEAR and the Arctic Council, so that researchers could have the chance to "confront" them with critical comments, suggestions and reflections about the policies of these organizations
- The idea of an open and egalitarian forum would work better if the dividing wall between "panelists" and "public" were somewhat lower than it now is
- The crucial thing is to ensure that the NRF works efficiently as a network in the inter-session period. A few proposals: the NRF website must be sufficiently enhanced to serve the task of information exchange and dissemination; the website should contain as many proceedings as possible and a discussion forum where scientists can place their research papers for everybody's "webview;" the website should include the names and contact information for all past and present participants in NRF events; more publicity is needed, especially in Russia
- There is a need for more roundtables and fewer "fixed" conference papers
- We need events that promote social, cultural and ecological sustainability in the North. These should be truly open and diverse, which requires the recognition of asymmetrical power relations and ensuring the democratic representation of all the different northern actors, by

having, for example planning committees that consist of mainstream men, senior and junior scholars, NGOs, women knowledgeable on gender issues, and indigenous people who are knowledgeable about their status. There is no "free open forum" if power relations end up determining the level of openness, set the agenda and decide who has a voice. "Affirmative action" is needed for ensuring democracy

- The NRF should concentrate on a few concrete issues, instead of trying to cover everything

Additional Comments

- The use of mobile phones should be prohibited during NRF sessions

- It would be nice to receive a list of the young researchers who receive NRF funding, showing who they are, where they are from, etc.
- The NRF should increase the number of project sessions, but not plenary sessions
- There need to be "conclusion papers" for all sessions conducted
- There should be fewer presentations, but with more inclusion of media (slides, music, power-point, group work, etc) for stronger visual effect
- More time and respect for the promotion of cultural understanding is needed
- Good luck in preparing the 3rd NRF! You've already done excellent work!

