

## Project Day Reports

### Northern Economy

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**Results and follow-up from the NRF workshop *Economies in the North* (Oulu, 2005) and the ICARP II report on *Arctic Economies and Sustainable Development*.**

The Northern Economy Project Day Session was both a thorough review of recent projects focusing on Arctic economies and a glimpse of future directions by both junior and senior researchers alike. Ongoing international economic monitoring programs and small independent projects were introduced and each highlighted the importance of economic concerns throughout the circumpolar north today.

Economist Lee Husky (University of Alaska, Anchorage) began the session with a review of the *Economies of the North* workshop held in Oulu, Finland in 2005. The primary purpose of this Northern Research Forum workshop was to advance the economic study of the north. Husky discussed the usefulness of the workshop in that researchers were gathered primarily as economists and this allowed a unique focus to the gathering. General findings from the workshop were listed as:

- there is little discussion of the industrial north
- economies in the north tend to be small and remote with a narrow market base
- northern economies depend upon wealth transfers and external markets
- institutions are vital to northern economies – rules influence outcomes
- subsistence economies remain important
- study and understanding of dynamic change is primary.

Husky concluded his review of the workshop by highlighting future directions from the perspective of economists while also pointing out the continued need for

anthropological context within economic research.

The day session continued with Joan Nymand Larsen (Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland) giving overviews of both the International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP II) and Arctic Human Development Report (AHDR) publications. ICARP II was held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2005. Working groups were formed in the year leading up to the conference to draft research plans, address a range of Arctic themes and identify critical research gaps. Working group I produced the report, *Arctic Economies and Sustainable Development* ([http://www.icarp.dk/WGreports/WGI\\_final.PDF](http://www.icarp.dk/WGreports/WGI_final.PDF)) which presented a science plan that addressed the question, "How do Arctic economies work and how are they linked to issues related to sustainable development in general and human development of Arctic residents and communities in particular?" The Arctic Human Development Report (<http://www.svs.is/AHDR/index.htm>) was the priority project of the Icelandic chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2002-2004) and was published in November of 2004. The AHDR presents a broad overview of the state of human development or social well-being in the circumpolar Arctic at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The remainder of the day session included a selection of current research presentations focusing on northern economic topics:

- Lee Husky (University of Alaska, Anchorage, USA), BOREAS Migration Study
- Joan Nymand Larsen (Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland), Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) Project
- Elena Kotyrlo (Syktyvkar State University, Komi Republic, Russia), Influence of Economic Growth on Population Growth in Comparative Analysis of the Russian

#### North and Other Russian Regions

- Sherri Wall (University of Alaska, Fairbanks, USA), Economics Implications of Climate Change and Variability in Alaska
- Mika Aromaki (Saami College, Inari, Finland), Product and Development and Processing in Sustainable Reindeer Husbandry.

Overall, the Northern Economy day session reflected the emerging concern for economic issues that are unique to northern communities and how best to document them. The vast cultural diversity of northern societies provides a challenge for economists wanting to elucidate a Northern economy. One of the continuing challenges faced by those represented at the Northern Economy workshop is how to best characterize the amazing diversity of northern economies and their transformations.