

Barents Eamiálbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



Annual report 2013

Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region

Chair: Mr. Lars-Anders Baer, Sweden (elected 15.12.2010)

1. *The period* of this annual report is from 01.01-31.12.2013. This annual report concerns status and activity for the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples (WGIP) in the BEAR.
2. *WGIP* held four (4) *meetings* during 2013.
 - 24. January, Tromsø, Norway
 - 14. March, Skype
 - 4.-5. June, Kirkenes, Norway
 - 28. October, Tromsø, Norway

Altogether 50 items have been discussed.

3. *WGIP* consisted in 2013 of the following six (6) members:

The Saami members from Finland, Sweden and Norway are formally appointed by the Saami Parliamentary Council, after decisions from the respective Saami parliaments. The Nenets member is appointed by Yasavey (The Regional Association of Nenets people in Nenets AO), the Saami member from Russia is appointed by Guelnegk Neark Sami Sobbar, and the Veps member is appointed by the Vepsian Culture Society – Vepsän Kultursebr.

Mr. Lars Anders Baer, Saami Parliament of Sweden.

Ms Inger Ann Omma is the substitute member.

Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen, Saami Parliament of Norway.

Ms. Kirsti Guvsám is the substitute member.

Ms. Tiina Sanila-Aikio, Saami Parliament of Finland.

Ms. Maria Sofia Aikio is the substitute member.

Ms. Elizaveta Kharitonova, Vepsän kultursebr/Vepsian Cultural Organisation.

Ms. Zinaida Strogalschikova is the substitute member.

Mr. Alexander E. Belugin, Yasavey/Public Association of Nenets people in NAO.

Ms. Galina A. Arteeva is the substitute member.

Ms. Valentina V. Sovkina, Guelnegk Neark Sami Sobbar (established 2010).

Mr. Andrey Ageev

WGIP has six (6) observers:

- Resource Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples “Gáldu”
- Association of World Reindeer herders “WRH”
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East “RAIPON”

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- Sámi Council
- Sami Women Forum (decision 46/13)
- International Barents Secretariat (IBS)

4. *The WGIP representation in the formal structure of the Barents cooperation*

Committee of Senior Officials: Mr Lars-Anders Baer represented the WGIP in the meeting of the BEAC Committee of Senior Officials. Representatives for the Nenets and Veps peoples have also participated.

Barents Regional Council: Ms Aili Keskitalo represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Council.

Barents Regional Committee: Ms Anja Salo (secretary of the WGIP) represented the WGIP in the Barents Regional Committee.

Barents Regional Working Group for Youth Issues: Ms Nadezhda Laptander (Nenets, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative (decision 08/13).

Barents Regional Youth Council (BRYC): Ms Olga Egorova (Saami, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative (Decided through email correspondence. Will be approved on the next WGIP meeting in February 2014)

Barents Joint Working Group on Culture: Ms Matrëna Taleeva (Nenets, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative and Ms Valentina Zganich (Nenets, Russia) is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

Barents Joint Working Group on Health and Related Social Issues: Ms Galina Arteeva (Nenets, Russia) is appointed WGIP's representative and Maria Filippova (Nenets, Russia) is the substitute member (decision 11/08).

BEAC Working Group on Environment: Ms Anna Prakhova (Saami, Russia) was appointed WGIP representative to the BEAC WGE (decision 26/11).

Steering Committee on Children and Youth at risk: Ms Jenny Laiti (Saami, Finland) is appointed WGIP's representative (decision 26/13).

5. *Secretariat*

Two (2) secretaries serve the WGIP; Ms Anja Salo, adviser at the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes and Ms Tatiana Egorova, Head of Barents Indigenous Peoples Office (BIPO) in Murmansk.

6. *WGIP representation*

Mr Lars-Anders Baer:

CSO-meetings

- 20-21. March, Bodø, Norway
- 14.-16. April, Oslo, Norway
- 3- 4. June, Kirkenes, Norway
- 4.-5. September, Oslo, Norway
- 27.-28. October, Tromsø, Norway
- 12.-13. December, Helsinki, Norway

Regional committee meetings

- 13.-14. February, Rovaniemi, Finland

Seminars, conferences and official meetings

- Arctic Frontiers,
21.-24. January, Tromsø, Norway

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- Side event “Arctic is HOT, indigenous peoples are NOT?” organized by WGIP, Center for Sami studies and Gáldu, 23. January, Tromsø, Norway
- Arctic peoples Conference, 21.-23. November, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Barents Summit (Prime minister meeting) 3.-4. June, Kirkenes, Norway
- International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, 3. June, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Revitalizing minority cultures in the Nordic countries, 27. August, Oulu, Finland
- Barents Foreign Ministers meeting, 29. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Mini-seminar “To mine or not to mine?” 29. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Opening of the Norwegian Saami Parliament 15.-16. October, Karasjok, Norway
- Speech for the Barents youth working group 18. October, Luleå, Sweden
- Arctic Peoples’ Conference 22.-23. November, Copenhagen, Denmark

Mr. Bjarne Store-Jakobsen:

Seminars, conferences and official meetings

- Arctic Frontiers, 21-24. January, Tromsø, Norway
- Side event “Arctic is HOT, indigenous peoples are NOT?” organized by WGIP, Center for Sami studies and Gáldu 23. January, Tromsø, Norway
- Trip to Naryan-mar to follow-up on the media project in Nenets 8.-11. February, Nenets, Russia
- Sami Conference (Sami Council) 1-5. May, Murmansk, Russia
- Barents Summit (Prime minister meeting) 3-4. June, Kirkenes, Norway
- Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference 9-12. June 2013, Alta, Norway
- WGIP-side event in cooperation with Sami church Council and Gáldu: “Tar sand problems in Canada and extractive industries in Scandinavia” 11. June 2013, Alta, Norway
- Sami Women’s Forum 25.-27. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Barents Foreign Ministers meeting 29. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Mini-seminar “To mine or not to mine?” 29. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Forum conference at Center for Sami studies 30.-31. October, Tromsø, Norway

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Ms Anja Salo

CSO- meetings:

- 20-21. March, Bodø, Norway
- 3- 4. June, Kirkenes, Norway
- 4-5. September, Oslo, Norway

Regional Committee meetings:

- 3- 4. June, Kirkenes, Norway
- 10-11. September, Arkhangelsk, Russia

Conferences and meetings:

- Arctic Frontiers conference
21.-24. January, Tromsø, Norway
- Side event “Arctic is HOT, indigenous peoples are NOT?” organized by WGIP, Center for Sami studies and Galdu
23. January 2013, Tromsø, Norway
- Meetings with Chair and representatives of «Vepsän Kultur Sebr»
17-19. April, Petrozavodsk, Russia
- Meeting with organizers of Riddu-Riddu Festival, Riddu Concert
23. April, Moscow, Russia
- Sami Council Meeting
1-5. May, Murmansk, Russia
- Barents Summit
3-4. June, Kirkenes, Norway
- Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference
9-12. June 2013, Alta, Norway
- Various meetings with cooperation partners in Lovozero
2-4. September, Lovozero, Russia
- Barents Foreign Ministers meeting
29. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Mini-seminar “To mine or not to mine?”
29. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Forum conference at Center for Sami studies
30-31. October, Tromsø, Norway

Ms Tatiana Egorova

- The conference Arctic Frontiers
21-24. January, Tromsø, Norway
- Side event “Arctic is HOT, indigenous peoples are NOT?” organized by WGIP, Center for Sami studies and Galdu
23. January 2013, Tromsø, Norway
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- Various meetings with cooperation partners in Lovozero
2-4. September, Lovozero, Russia
- Barents Foreign Ministers meeting
29. October, Tromsø, Norway
- Mini-seminar “To mine or not to mine?”
29. October, Tromsø, Norway

Ms Anna Prakhova

WGE-meetings

- 25-26. April, Rovaniemi, Finland
- 4-6. September, Oulu, Finland
- 13-14. November, Helsinki, Finland

Seminars, conferences and official meetings

- International Conference on Best Environmental Practices (BEP) in the mining industry in the Barents Region,
23-24 April 2013, Rovaniemi, Finland
- Barents Environmental Ministers meeting
5. December, Inari, Finland

Ms Olga Egorova

- BRYC-meeting
13-15. December 2013, Helsinki, Finland

Ms Aili Keskitalo

Regional Council Meetings:

- 4-5. June, Kirkenes, Norway
- 28. October, Tromsø, Norway

Barents Parliamentary Conference:

- April 22-24, Harstad, Norway

WGIP meeting and seminars organized by WGIP:

- 24. January, Tromsø, Norway
- 29. October, Tromsø, Norway (in the panel at the side event “to mine or not to mine”)

7. Activities

In accordance with the *Action Plan of indigenous peoples 2013-2016*, WGIP has focused on the following issues in the period:

Statement at the Arctic Frontiers 2013 Conference

WGIP read a statement at the policy section at the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromsø on January 22th 2013. The aim was to merge all topics vital to indigenous peoples in the Barents Region. A working group was beforehand established to point out hot spot issues for indigenous peoples in the region. The special rapporteur on indigenous peoples Rights, Mr. James Anaya's recommendations were mentioned in particular. WGIP welcomes that the conference organizers finally gave the indigenous peoples in the Barents region an opportunity to speak out.

Seminar: “Arctic is hot, indigenous peoples are not?”

On January 23 WGIP, together with Center for Sámi studies at the University of Tromsø and Gáldu organized a side-event in accordance with the Arctic Frontiers Conference. The seminar focused on industrial development in the Barents region. Carsten Smith, chair of the Coastal

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Fishing Commission and former Chief Justice of Norway, was invited to elaborate on fishery rights as they were deduced by the Coastal Fishing Commission. The seminar included contradicting and coinciding indigenous and industry perspectives on northern resource development motivated by economic opportunities involving commercial shipping, oil and gas development, mining, and fishing. The side event attracted a great deal of attention and WGIP found it to be a good platform for professional interaction and discussions. The event was a follow-up on the seminar arranged by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign affairs in Tromsø (September 2012).

20th anniversary of the indigenous cooperation in the Barents Region

The Barents Euro-Arctic Region celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013. To secure a proper indigenous approach WGIP, together with Kautokeino municipality and the Norwegian Barents Secretariat, decided to host a seminar on indigenous peoples, business and human rights in the week preceding Norwegian Easter. Unfortunately, the celebration was cancelled due to practical reasons.

Nenets broadcasting project

The aim of the project is to provide permanent radio broadcasting in Nenets language to the Nenets people inhabiting the tundra of Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Yasavey initiated the project idea to the WGIP in 2008 and is the cooperation partner in Russia. Mr Lewis Cardinal is the cooperation partner in Canada. From the Norwegian side Bjarne Store Jakobsen was appointed project coordinator on behalf of the WGIP in 2012 (decision 5/12).

By February 2013 nine (9) students were taking the journalist course. In April a study trip and a workshop was arranged in Kautokeino and Karasjok, Norway, and in May the students started an intensive Nenets language-training course. By December the Norwegian project has officially come to an end, but the Norwegian partners will take part in activities planned and funded by the Canadian and Nenets partners.

The Kirkenes 2-declaration

On June 3-4 2013 in Kirkenes Prime Ministers and other high-level representatives of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council adopted the Kirkenes declaration. WGIP is pleased that all member states stressed the importance of indigenous participation on all levels of the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation. The declaration says that "indigenous peoples, with their invaluable traditional knowledge, must continue to play an active role in the development of the region. We support a further strengthening of indigenous peoples' representation in the Barents cooperation." During the 14th BEAC Foreign Ministers Session, 28-29 October 2013, in Tromsø, Norway, the Council also invited the Chair of the Working Group of Indigenous Peoples as a permanent observer to the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

Side-event during the UN World Conference pre-session in Alta, Norway

During the pre-session that was conducted in the period between June 8 and 13, WGIP organized a side-event together with the Sámi Church Council and Gáldu. The theme was extractive industries and its impact on indigenous peoples' health and environment. A first nation representative from River Creek talked about the health impacts of Tar sand extraction. International center for reindeer husbandry talked about mining in Sápmi and the impact on the husbandry. WGIP was pleased with the result. More than 60 people visited the event. We even had to be moved to another venue because the conference room was too small.

Indigenous Entrepreneurship

WGIP supports the project Indigee – Indigenous Entrepreneurship, which gathered 60 indigenous entrepreneurs from the whole Barents region for its first conference in November 2010. The aim is to support and advice indigenous youth in establishing enterprises and business ideas closely

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related to indigenous culture and traditions. Indigee 2 ends in June 2014 and the secondment of Indigenous peoples Advisor ends in August 2014. WGIP recommends the Indigee owners to support a continuation of Indigee and urge them to find a solution to the question of employments, to ensure the continuation of the present project period (48/13).

Seminar: “To mine or not to mine”

On October 29 WGIP organized a mini seminar in accordance with the Barents Foreign Minister meeting in Tromsø. During 2013 the Barents region experienced several conflicts between the mining industry and indigenous people. In particular the extraction plans in Kallak in Northern Sweden got worldwide attention. The working group arranged this seminar in order to put the following question on the agenda: Is co-existence possible? Over 60 people found their way to the seminar. Unfortunately no stakeholders from the mining industry were able to participate.