

Barents Eamiálbmogiid Lávdegoddi

Arbeidsgruppen for urfolk i Barentsregionen

Рабочая Группа по Коренным Народам Баренцева региона

The Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in BEAR



WGIP MEETING,

March 12th-13th, 2018

Murmansk

Part 1. Introduction 9-12.00

The WGIP prepared the first information part of the meeting in order to tell new members of the working group and invited guests about BEAR, BEAC and WGIP. We believe that any opportunity and platform should be used to inform about the activities of the WGIP and the promotion and development of indigenous peoples' cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

The program and list of participants of the first part is attached.

Part 2. Internal meeting of WGIP members and observers. 14-18.00

Attended by:

Members of the WGIP:

Domna Khomiuk, Sami, Russia

Galina Platova, Nenets, Russia

Evgenii Foteev, Veps, Russia

Pentti Pieski, Sami, Finland

Piera Heaika Muotka, Sami, Norway

Inger Eline Eriksen Fjellgren, Sami, Norway. Substitute member for P.H. Muotka

WGIP Secretariat:

Ida Holm Hansen, Norwegian Barents Sekretariat

Tatiana Egorova, Barents Indigenous Peoples Office

WGIP observers:

Elna Sara, Sami, Norway. World Reindeer Herders Association.

Natalia Vaskova, Sami, Russia. Sami Council.

Others:

Andrei Dubovtsev, indigenous representative in JWGT

1/18 Approval of call-up

Decision: The call-up is approved

2/18 Approval of agenda

Decision: Agenda approved, Piera Heaika suggests to chose the new chair on a Skype meeting when all can be present

3/18 Approval of protocol from the last meeting in Kirkenes

All members of the WGIP have received the protocol before the meeting

Decision: Protocol approved

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4/18 Short information from WGIP members about situation in regions

Sami, Finland:

Finnish Saami Parliament at the moment in the process of developing of a new Saami legislation, which should hopefully be ready by the end of this year, when people sending applications for registration before the parliamentary elections next year.

Last week we received information on the Arctic Railway, which we care about very much, of course, as it will pass through 5 different regions of the Sapmi on Finnish side and also split the Skolte sami territory. Of course, this can mean difficulties in the development of reindeer husbandry.

We see many issues with the railway, for example on the Swedish side, where many reindeers die because of the railway. We do not have information yet when it is planned to start the construction of the railroad, but it should be ready by 2020.

Work began on the reconciliation process and we held an open seminar on how to carry out the reconciliation process.

Sami, Norway:

At the moment, there are several Sami cases in the Norwegian High Court, but unfortunately, the Sami do not receive support from the state, such as Jovsset Ante Sara and his reindeerherding case against the state.

Also the case of the village of Nesseby against FeFo and their right to manage their natural resources, like fishing and hunting. The High Court concluded that the Sami have the right to the land, but they do not have the right to administrate it.

The Finnmark's law should have eliminated the problems after the colonization of the Sami, but now we have a solution that says that you have rights, but you can not administrate these rights.

There was also a process on the budget of the Saami Parliament in Norway.

The question on the railroad is also a question concerning the Sami on the Norwegian side. The Saami Parliament is now considering the rights for consultations on this issue, as it is cross-border cooperation.

Last summer, there were changes on the issue of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. After the elections to the Norwegian parliament, Sami Parliament of Norway began work on the mandate of this commission. The Sami parliament of Norway held many meetings with the Sami villages to find out people's opinion.

The issue of violence against women is a big problem over which the Saami Parliament in Norway is working on.

Sami, Kola Peninsula, Russia:

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The Sami meeting "Sahrrnep mine bajas" - "We speak about us" took place in Lovozero, in which the deputy chairman of the MOD, as well as representatives of the administration of the Lovozero region, cultural institutions and the Sami community took part.

Following solutions were worked out:

- To send an appeal to the administration of the Lovozero with a proposal to duplicate the name of the village of Lovozero, as well as the name of the streets and municipal institutions in the Sami language.
- To draw the attention of the public and administration of Lovozero for the absence of a grocery store in the village of Sosnovka.
- Lately, the Sami - local indigenous people, in fact, do not have the opportunity to purchase preferential vouchers for salmon fishing. It was decided to send an appeal to the regional authorities in connection with restricting the access of the indigenous peoples- Sami, to water bioresources in inland waters in places of their compact residence.
- On granting the Sami people land in the forest zone for the preservation of buildings (fishing lodges) on the shores of Lake Lovozero.

The 4th Congress of the Kola Sami should be held in November 2018 in Murmansk.

On February 14, 2018, in the village of Lovozero, in the framework of working meetings of members of the Sami Sobbar with representatives of the executive authorities of the Murmansk region, a meeting was held on the issue of free receipt of medicines on the prescription of a doctor to indigenous peoples at the place of residence.

In the Murmansk region, the title of "Veteran of Labor in the Murmansk region" was given to the Saami who worked as reindeer herders, reindeer veterinarians, reindeer husbandry workers, fishermen, hunters at least 25 years for men and 20 years for women and appropriate social support measures.

Nenets:

At the Federal level: in November the specialty "chum-laborer" was introduced into the register of professions of the Russian Federation. This is a very positive moment, as before, women were registered as a reindeer herders of the third category to get an official salary.

At the end of January, the State Duma adopted a draft law on the small numbered indigenous peoples on amendments to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation. It is proposed to use single terms for indigenous peoples, such as traditional places of residence and traditional economic activities. Now these terms will be required to use, so that there will be no confusion.

Nenets Autonomous Okrug, declared year 2018 as a year of reindeer herding. On March 17-18, the next congress of reindeer herders will be held. Within its framework, for the first time

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in the NAO, on the basis of the technical school, training will be organized on the specialty of the reindeer herder, 2 years 10 months of training. 25 budget places will be provided for young people who now live in the tundra and who want to work in reindeer husbandry.

A decision was made to build new buildings of the school-garden in the village of Nelmin-Nos, since the existing ones are very old and do not meet the requirements of the teaching process. This school-garden will provide 135 places for students in the school, and 68 places in the children garden. This means that teachers and educators will go there and we hope that the village will receive an incentive for development.

Veps:

On March 3-25, 2017 in the capital of Yamal, Salekhard, the International Forum and the VIII Congress of RAIPON were held, in which the Veps delegation took part. The Society of Veps Culture is the representative of the Association in Karelia. We joined the Association in 2001, after including Veps people in 2000 in the Federal List of small numbered Indigenous peoples of Russia. Our representatives took part in all the activities of the Association since its inception. We can rightly say that the Vepsian Society from the very beginning of its work was closely connected with the overall activities in the country on the problems of the small-numbered indigenous peoples. The Forum organizers set the task, together with experts, to discuss the most acute problems of the present situation of small-numbered indigenous peoples.

The delegation from our Republic also took part in the First Summit of the Indigenous Peoples of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, which was held on April 28 in Moscow. The summit was timed to coincide with the opening in Moscow of the exhibition-fair "Treasures of the North" at which the Vepsian culture was also presented.

At the end of May, a workshop on the rights of small-numbered indigenous peoples was held in Karelia. For two days, indigenous residents of different regions of Russia and experts discussed environmental problems and ways to address them at the legislative level. One of the most discussed was the issue of compensation for damage caused by mining companies to vepsian villages.

In the summer, another significant event took place. In the Estonian city of Tartu, the IV Congress of Finno-Ugric writers was held. This year the forum was devoted to a historical theme in the literature of Finno-Ugric peoples. It is gratifying that among the participants there were Karelian and Vepsian poets, prose writers and playwrights.

The department of the Baltic-Finnish philology of Petrozavodsk State University turned 70 years. It is the only university in Russia that prepares specialists in Karelian, Vepsian and Finnish languages. Graduates of the department work as journalists, translators, researchers and teachers of the republic's schools.

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The Veps Culture Society has a new chairman. Almost 30 years the Society was led by the candidate of historical sciences, ethnologist Zinaida Ivanovna Strogalshikova. Her work was of great importance in the revival of the Vepsian language and culture. Under her leadership, it was possible to establish cooperation between the Vepsians living in different territories. Zinaida Ivanovna left her post at her own request. The new chair of the Society is Natalia Silakova.

The famous Vepsian poet Nikolai Abramov was posthumously awarded the title of "People's Writer of the Republic of Karelia".

Decision: information is included in Protocol

5/18 Information about the meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials in Stockholm and Luleå

Last December, the first meeting of the CSO chaired by Sweden was held, which was attended by the Swedish Foreign Minister and she confirmed that the indigenous peoples of the region are one of the priorities of the Swedish Chairmanship.

At the meeting in Luleå, Lars-Anders Baer and the WGIP secretariat were present. They gave information about the plans of the WGIP and the Action Plan for the WGIP.

Decision: Information is included in Protocol.

6/18 Election of new WGIP chair

Decision: to conduct a Skype meeting with all members participating

7/18 Participation in other WG

Members of WGIP need to decide which WGs should be prioritised to take part in. A full list of BEAC WGs can be found at: <http://www.barentscooperation.org/en/Working-Groups>, and they are also listed here:

Anna Prahova – Working Group on Environment

August Sjøvoll – Barents Regional Youth Council

Andrey Dubovtsev – Joint Working Group on Tourism

Tatiana Egorova – Joint Working Group on Youth

Also there are the following groups where there for the moment are no representatives, the members of WGIP must appoint new representatives for these groups. According to the protocol from the last meeting, WGIP have decided to appoint a new member to the Joint Working Group on Environment and the Joint Working Group on Culture, WGIP member Galina Platova have suggested Nadezhda Laptander to represent the indigenous people in the

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WG for environment and Alexandra Imena to represent the indigenous people in WG for culture.

- Steering comitee on children and youth at risk*
- Joint Working Group on Health and Social Issues*
- Joint Working Group on Culture*

Decision: to discuss possible candidates via e-mail.

8/18 Other issues

- Karelians to WGIP

The WGIP invited a representative of the Council of Commisioners of the Eighth Congress of the Karelians of the Republic of Karelia, Alexei Tsykarev, to Murmansk to discuss the desire of the Karelians to become part of the WGIP.

Decision: members of the WGIP heard the report of Alexei Tsykarev. It was decided to discuss this issue in the presence of all members of the WGIP at the next meeting.

9/18 Next meeting

Decision: the next meeting of the WGIP was decided to be held on June 6 in Brussels, back to back with the Day of the Barents Cooperation on June 5.