



# The Northern Forum: Bridge between the Arctic & Asia





## WALTER HICKEL

Governor of Alaska  
(1990-1994),

Founder of the  
Northern Forum

*"Look at Alaska from the top  
down, and you'll see who  
our market is and who our  
partners are"*



**The Northern Forum was created in 1991. At present: 12 member regions from Russia, Finland, Iceland, USA, Republic of Korea.**



Chairing region: **LAPLAND PROVINCE, FINLAND** (April 2021 – April 2023)

**The Northern Forum is an Observer of the Arctic Council, UN Framework of the Climate Change Convention and is accredited in UNEP. The Northern Forum has wide international partnership network.**



## **MISSION**

*To improve the quality of life and support the regional sustainable development*

## **GOALS**

- *providing tools and opportunities for regional leaders in solving common problems*
- *implementing joint socio-economic initiatives at the regional level*
- *organizing international forums and implementing projects*

## **PRINCIPLES**

- *The principle of public (“grassroots”) diplomacy.*
- *The principle of independence and equality.*
- *The principle of non-discrimination.*
- *The principle of reliance on neighborhood effects and diversity effects.*



**Mika Riipi**

**Chair**

County Governor,  
Lapland Province,  
FINLAND



**Yuri Bezdudny**

**Vice-Chair**

Governor, Nenets  
Autonomous  
Okrug, RUSSIA

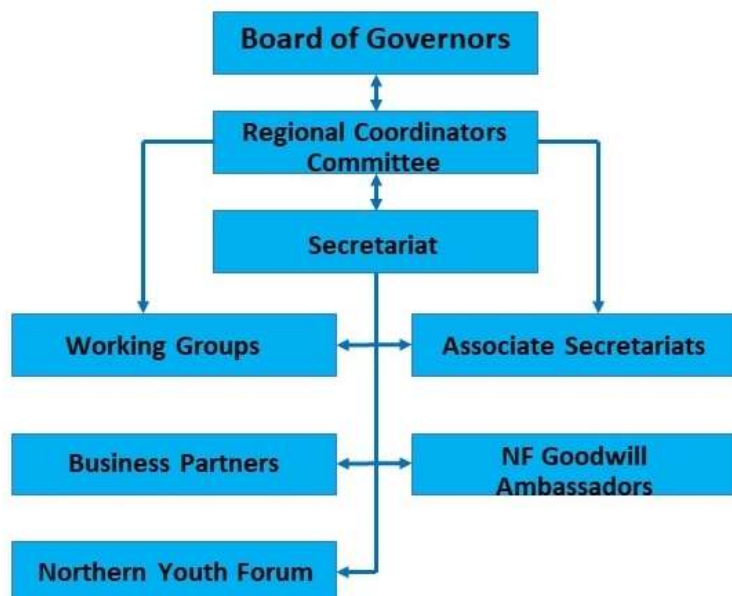


**Ásthildur  
Sturludóttir**

**Vice-Chair**

Mayor of Akureyri,  
ICELAND

## Northern Forum's Structure







**The Board of Governors** is the highest policy-making body of the Northern Forum. The Chairman of the Board is elected during the General Assembly for a two-year term, but can be re-elected and serve for a period of four years.

**Governors Summits** are held to determine the priority areas of cooperation.

The Board of Governors leads the **Regional Coordinators Committee** and the **Northern Forum Secretariat**.



# Northern Forum Offices Network



**Ian Laing**

*Director, Institute  
of the North,  
Anchorage, USA*

## Northern Forum Secretariat in Yakutsk, Russia



**Vladimir  
Vasilev**  
*Executive  
Director*



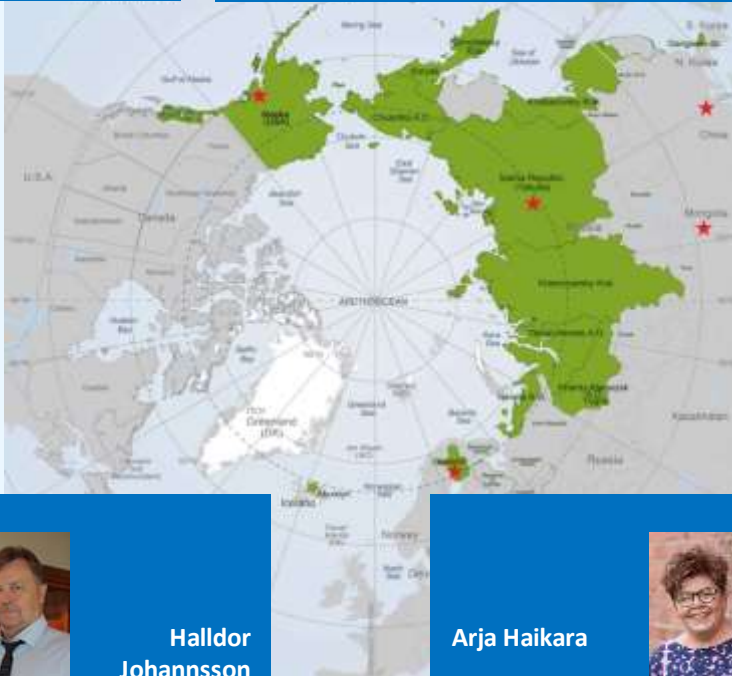
**Daryana  
Maksimova**  
*Deputy  
Director*



**Alexandra  
Ponomareva**  
*Project  
Manager*



**Khristina  
Filippova**  
*Project  
Manager*



**Halldor  
Johannsson**

*Director, Arctic Portal,  
Director, NF Foundation,  
Akurevri, Iceland*



**Arja Haikara**

*Advisor on the Arctic Issues,  
Office of County Governor of  
Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland*

# Membership

## *Membership Category I: Regional Authorities*



The candidate for Regional Membership must be a **governmental entity** from a region meeting basic characteristics of a northern region or a region interested in involvement in international cooperation in the Arctic and the North.

## *Membership Category II: Business Partners*

Business Partner Membership status may be granted to business and corporate institutions, non-profit organizations and NGOs, which demonstrate interest in issues relevant to the Northern Forum and commitment to work in partnership with the Northern Forum.



## *Membership Category III: Associate Regional Members*

*Under consideration*



*Walter Hickel,  
The Northern Forum' Founder*



## ***Why becoming the NF Member?***

*"Because, the nearly 90% of the earth's surface is commonly owned. How do we use and care for the commons for the benefit of all?"*

*Countries and regions with similar problems and conditions work most effectively together..."*

## **1. YOU DON'T WASTE TIME ESTABLISHING DIRECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN REGIONS**

- The informal, non-state nature of the organization's activities, encouraging grassroots and people-to-people initiatives.
- Simple, clear and effective management system of the Chair's Office, Secretariat and Regional Coordinators.
- Offline, hybrid, online formats of communication with using any platforms and technologies.



## **2. NO NEED TO SIGN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION**

It is this bureaucracy-free ease and quickness of decision-making process for which Walter Hickel always stood up.



### 3. POSSIBILITY OF INVOLVING IN THE GLOBAL ARCTIC COOPERATION

The Northern Forum is an Observer Organization at the Arctic Council since 1998.

Member regions and business partners can be involved in the Arctic Council activities.

The Northern Forum is a co-organizer and operator of a number of events under the Russia's chairmanship.





#### 4. POSSIBILITY TO ATTEND AND HOST SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE NORTHERN FORUM

The main events of The Northern Forum are:

- Biennial **General Assembly** – Member region can host the event
- **Summit of Governors** – within the framework of the International Forum “The Arctic – Territory of Dialogue” or Eastern Economic Forum
- **Regional Coordinators Committee meeting** – Member region can host the event
- **Working Groups’ meetings** – by the annual plans
- Annual **Arctic Business Forum** – Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland
- Annual **The Northern Sustainable Development Forum** – Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia

**The Northern Forum organizes presentations and special sessions at all key international Arctic events.**

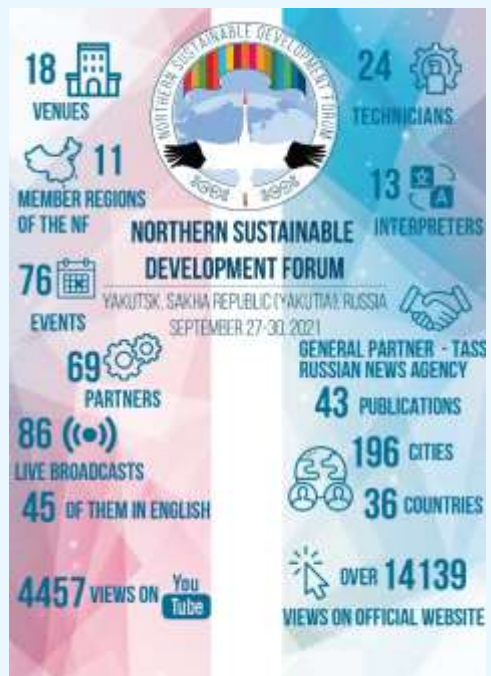


The main topic of NSDF – 2022 is **“The Energy of the Arctic: new challenges – new solutions & technologies”**.

NSDF is an annual event of the Northern Forum always held on September 27-30 in Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia.

The permanent sessions are:

- Human in the Arctic
- Global Partnership for the Sustainable Development
- Bilateral Country Dialogues
- Northern Youth Forum
- Northern Forum side events
- Exhibitions



Forum was initiated as the bridge between the Arctic and Asia.



## 5. POSSIBILITY TO PROMOTE PROJECTS FOR JOINT IMPLEMENTATION

The project activity is coordinated by the working groups in the major areas of the organization's activity.

Regular **Call for Projects** is organized.

Project proposals shall be submitted by the members of any level. The projects may also be offered by the Secretariat, Associate Secretariats and offices.

### **The Northern Forum Working Groups:**

- Assessment of Quality of Life in the Arctic Regions
- Business Cooperation in the North
- Creative Industry
- Culture
- Development of Energy in the North
- Education and Research
- Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity
- Health in the North and Social Issues
- Housing in the Arctic
- Parliamentarian's Cooperation
- Regional Adaption to Climate Change

**The Northern Forum supports several educational and research projects:**

- Children of the Arctic – SDWG project
- School Partnership – NF project
- Youth Eco-Forum – NF project
- Arctic Passion - EU project
- Arctic Resilience Project – SDWG project
- Digitalization of Cultural and Language Heritage of the Arctic Native Peoples – SDWG project
- and others

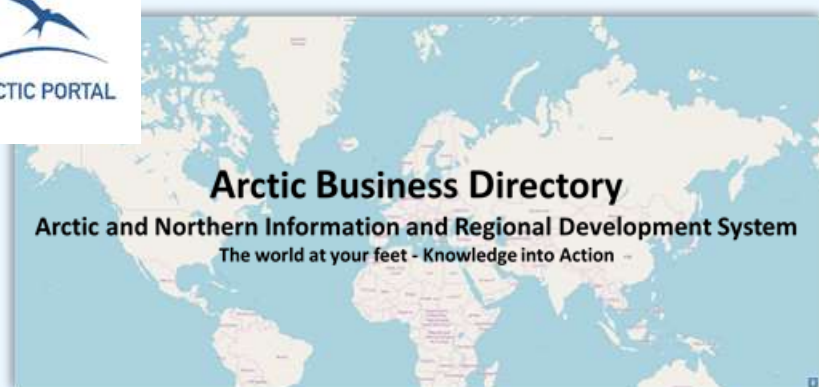
The Northern Forum is a co-founder of the Russian-Asian Consortium on Arctic Research initiated by Ammosov' North-Eastern Federal University.

The Northern Forum has prepared Special Report for the Arctic Council “Regional Contribution in the Arctic Biodiversity Conservation”



## 6. ACCESS TO MASSIVE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE ARCTIC AND THE NORTH

- Re-branding an official website [www.northernforum.org](http://www.northernforum.org)
- Increasing the transparency, communication and information, public relations.
- Mobilizing the potential of member regions and project partners for the exchange of knowledge and best practices of development, management, and life support.



## 7. ACCESS TO THE ARCTIC AND THE NORTHERN MARKET. EASY WAY TO FIND BUSINESS PARTNERS

The Arctic Business Directory is the product of the Arctic Portal (Iceland) and is developed to facilitate knowledge transfer and communication, data overview and exchange, market analysis and regional development.

NF Business Partners can promote products, services via ABD.

## The Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassadors



The Institute is designed to radically expand the external influence of the organization in the regions of the North and the Arctic that are already members of the Northern Forum and, more importantly, the candidate regions that are still considering the possibility of joining the Northern Forum.

### OUR AMBASSADORS

**Amarjargal Baljinnyam**, Chair of Mongolia-Sakha Cooperation Society, Mongolia

**Paul Fuhs**, President, Chairman of the Board at Marine Exchange of Alaska, Member of the Arctic Economic Council, Alaska, USA

**Lassi Heininen**, Professor at the University of Lapland, Editor-in-Chief of the Arctic Yearbook, Finland

**Nadezhda Kharlampieva**, Associate Professor of the Global Politics Department of Saint Petersburg State University, Senior Researcher at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Russia

**Vera Kondratieva**, Member of the Public Chamber of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug – Yugra, a composer, musician, Russia

**Alexander Kugaevsky**, Vice-Rector for Analytical and Expert Activity of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, Russia

**Georgy Nikonov**, Advisor to the Head of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia

**Guo Peixing**, Professor, School of International Affairs and Public Administration, Ocean University of China

**Alexander Pelyasov**, Director General of the Regional Consulting Institute, Doctor of Geography, Professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia

**Timo Rautajoki**, Independent observer and expert, Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland

**Alexander Shestakov**, Director of the WWF Global Arctic Program (2010-2018), Russia

**Anton Vasiliev**, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Vice-President, Head of the Commission for International Activities of the Interregional Public Organization "Association of Polar Explorers", Russia

**Paolo Venturini**, A police officer, an extreme ultramarathon runner. Padova, Italy

## **TO BE AMBASSADORS SOON**

**Terry Callaghan**, Professor of Arctic Ecology, University of Sheffield; Professor of Botany, Tomsk State University, joint award of the Nobel Peace Prize to IPCC in 2007, Great Britain



## The Northern Forum Foundation



The Northern Forum has established a formal association, the Northern Forum Foundation. The Northern Forum Foundation operates according to Icelandic Act no. 119/2019 on non-profit organisations, registered in Akureyri, Iceland, operating across borders. The Northern Forum Foundation is hosted by the Arctic Portal.org at **Radhustorg 7, Akureyri, Iceland.**

The purpose and objectives of Northern Forum Foundation is to raise funding, fund and support activities and projects that benefit sustainable development and better living for the people and peoples of the North and their societies, including in: education; culture; innovation; responsible business development; empowering the youth; health; science and for the environment; as per the objectives and strategy of the Northern Forum and as agreed by its members.

The Northern Forum Foundation intends to achieve its purpose and objectives by raising funds based on its merits from the Global international community, private and public, including: individuals; organisations; associations; companies and governments; through funding applications, fundraising campaigns, sponsoring agreements and partnerships based on active communication, outreach activities and events, executed in coherence with the objectives and strategy of the Northern Forum.

The Chair of the Northern Forum Foundation - Mr. Mika Riipi, Governor of Lapland, Finland, Chair of the Northern Forum.

Director of the Northern Forum Foundation - Mr. Halldor Johannsson, Director, Arctic Portal, Iceland.

## Northern Youth Forum



NYF was created in 2020 within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum. Participants of the NYF can be aged 16 to 40.

The Chair of the Northern Youth Forum – Mrs. Savina Alekseeva, Head of the Department for Partner and Acceleration Programs of JSC Venture Company Yakutia, Russia.

### Objectives of the NYF:

- A platform for international youth cooperation
- Involvement of youth in the decision-making processes
- Formation of youth professional communities, communities by interest and working groups
- Assistance to social, scientific, educational and creative self-realization of youth
- Teaching young people to create and promote various projects





## Main activities of the Northern Youth Forum

Youth Start-Up Forum,  
Start-Up expeditions  
are planned



THE ARCTIC YOUTH NETWORK



Partnership with Youth  
networks and  
organizations are  
established

Youth sessions and  
Models of  
international  
organizations are held

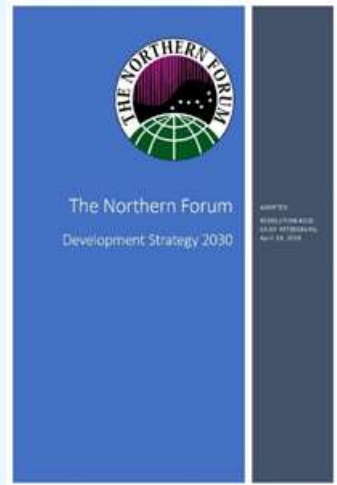


# The Northern Forum Development Strategy - 2030

## ORGANIZATION GOAL

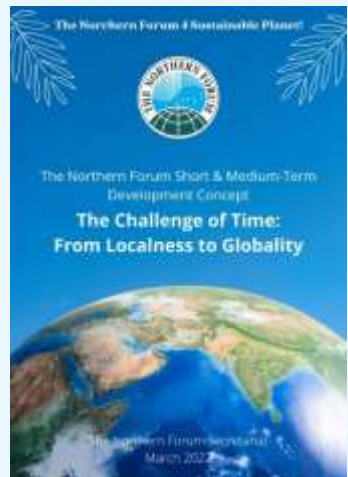
The goal is to turn the Northern Forum into an effective, non-alternative structure for interregional and international cooperation of the regions of the North and the Arctic, which shapes world politics in this area and is an equal partner of international organizations with its own unique niche.

## DEVELOPMENT



## KEY OBJECTIVES

1. to become a world center of Arctic competence
2. to become an effective training and educational organization
3. to become a platform for innovative projects
4. to become a bridge between entrepreneurs and finance institutions
5. to become a smart organization and an expert network



As a follow-up to the Strategy, in June 2022, the Development Concept for the short and medium term was adopted.

## CONTACTS

### The Northern Forum Secretariat

Russian Federation, Sakha Republic (Yakutia),  
Yakutsk, 24 Kurashova Street, office 407  
Tel.: +7 4112 50 84 50  
Email: [secretariat@northernforum.org](mailto:secretariat@northernforum.org)

[www.northernforum.org](http://www.northernforum.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/northernforum>

<https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Forum-30-years-108639057612469>

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthernYouthForumNYF>

Instagram: @thenorthernforum

Twitter: @northern\_forum

<https://t.me/NorthernForum>

<https://vk.com/northernforum>



### Northern Youth Forum

Email: [northernyouthforum2020@gmail.com](mailto:northernyouthforum2020@gmail.com)



### Northern Forum Foundation

Ráðhústorg 7, 600 Akureyri, Iceland  
[halldor@arcticportal.org](mailto:halldor@arcticportal.org)



### Northern Sustainable Development Foundation

[www.nsdf.ru](http://www.nsdf.ru)

<https://www.facebook.com/nsdf.ru>







*Photo: Photobank of Lapland / Rayann Elzein*