



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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THE NORTHERN FORUM

Author: Vladimir Vasilev, Executive Director of the Northern Forum

Photo: Lapland Photo bank / Markus Kiili



# Table of contents

Greeting by the Northern Forum Chair	4
Mission	6
1. Membership	7
1.1. Member regions	8
1.2. Business partners	10
1.3. Budget performance	13
1.4. New edition of the Bylaws and the Rules of Procedure	15
2. Organizational structure	16
2.1. The Board of Governors	17
2.2. The Regional Coordinators Committee	21
2.3. The Secretariat and the creation of a partner network	23
2.4. The Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassadors	25
2.5. The Northern Youth Forum	28
2.6. The Northern Forum Foundation	32
3. Major events.	33
3.1. The 14 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly	34
3.2. The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum	37
3.3. Youth Eco-Forum	51
3.4. Business cooperation meetings	53
3.5. Final meeting of the Regional Coordinators Committee	54
4. Project activities	56
4.1. Working Groups	57
4.2. Priority Projects	62
4.3. Call for Projects	62
5. The Northern Forum and the Arctic Council	67
5.1. Participation in the events of the Icelandic Chairmanship	68
5.2. Engagement in the implementation of the Russian Chairmanship Program	70
6. Partnerships	78
7. Participation in the events	82
Conclusion	87
Contact information	88



**Dear friends,**

In 2021, the Northern Forum celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Lapland was elected to fulfill the responsibilities of the Chairmanship from April 2021 until April 2023 in the Northern Forum XIV General Assembly held in Naryan-Mar, Nenets Autonomous Okrug in April 2021. It is a great honor for me to follow the footsteps of Hannele Pokka, latest Lappish chairman of the Northern Forum 2001-2005.

The Northern Forum has been a very important part of the Arctic and Northern regional cooperation all 30 years of its existence. The Northern Forum mission of improving the quality of life and supporting the regional sustainable development and the principles of public diplomacy, independence and equality, among the others, are in high priority also for Lapland.

The year 2021 was a second year defined by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which – beyond its health threat – significantly limited the possibilities for cooperation, traveling or meeting each other. However, the Northern Forum had moved into “crisis mode” already in 2020 and managed to develop new solutions to organize events and continue working and interacting with each other online. During this hard period, the Northern Forum member regions have demonstrated a high level of engagement to the cooperation.

During the past 2021 year, the Northern Forum has successfully implemented and organized a large number of events and actions.

The biggest impact was III Northern Sustainable Development Forum, which took place in Yakutsk September 27-30. The Forum was held in a hybrid format, all together 76 events in four days. The events were plenary sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, webinars, scientific conferences, workshops, project presentations, exhibitions, tours, cultural events, and side-events. I express my deepest gratitude to the Secretariat of the Northern Forum for making this possible.

The Northern Forum Development Strategy 2030 provides for the creation of the Institute of Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassadors. The first seven Goodwill Ambassadors were nominated during the III Northern Sustainable Development Forum. Congratulations to all the Goodwill Ambassadors! We look forward to close cooperation.

Project activity is one of the most in-demand activities, which can bring a tangible effect for the participating regions, business partners. There are four projects, the work on which has been carried out during 2021.

Financing of the Northern Forum is based solely on membership dues, which constantly creates some instability. There is a need to create sustainable financial instruments for supporting the most important activities like projects. In the end of 2021 there will be registered foundation in Iceland in order to collect extra funds for northern cooperation.

The Northern Forum has a status of Observer in the Arctic Council and it is the only nongovernmental organization for interregional cooperation in that role. Under the Chairmanship of Russian Federation in the Arctic Council, The Northern Forum has been invited as an organizer and partner of a number of



**MIKA RIIPI**  
***Chair, The Northern Forum***  
***County Governor of***  
***Lapland, Finland***

major international events. These initiatives will increase the role of interregional cooperation and will give a possibility to increase also the role of regions in the Arctic Council.

It is impossible to predict the future – how the pandemic will develop and how it will affect to next years' work. Nevertheless, already this year has shown that the common background for collaboration is strong and we've achieved a lot despite the restrictions and difficulties on traveling.

***I'M VERY CONFIDENT THAT WITH THIS SAME SPIRIT WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL ALSO IN THE FUTURE!***



*Photo: Photobank of Lapland / Rayann Elzein*





## MISSION AND GOALS

The mission of the Northern Forum is 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;

## VISION

Turning the Northern Forum into an effective, non-alternative structure for interregional international cooperation of the regions of the North and the Arctic, which shapes world politics in this area and is an equal partner of the Arctic Council, the Barents Region, the University of the Arctic, with its own unique niche.

1. To become a global competence center for interregional international cooperation of the territories of the Arctic and the North.
2. To become an effective training and educational organization for its members and partners.
3. To become a platform for innovative projects.
4. To become an efficient bridge between the entrepreneurs and development finance institutions.
5. To become a smart organization through a partner and expert network.

## PRINCIPLES

- The principle of public (“grassroots”) diplomacy
- The principle of independence and equality
- The principle of respect for international law
- The principle of non-discrimination
- The principle of reliance on neighborhood effects and diversity effects





# MEMBERSHIP

## 1.1. MEMBER REGIONS

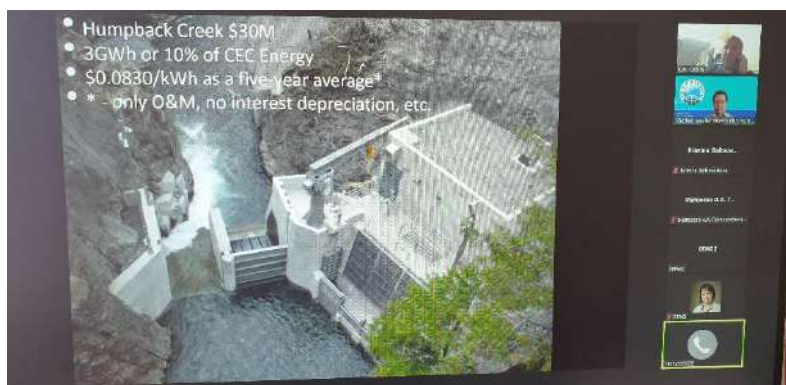
At the beginning of 2021, the Northern Forum had 12 member regions from 5 countries.



- City of Akureyri, Iceland
- Alaska, USA
- Lapland, Finland
- Kamchatka Krai, Russia
- Gangwon, Republic of Korea
- Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia
- Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia
- Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia
- Khabarovsk Krai, Russia
- Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, Russia
- Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Russia
- Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia

Despite significant intensification of the Northern Forum's activities in many areas, we regret to state that in March we received a letter from the Governor of Magadan Oblast Mr. Nosov about the region's withdrawal from the Northern Forum due to the region's tight budget.

The situation is also difficult with the membership of the state of Alaska (USA) and Gangwon Province (Republic of Korea) due to significant arrears in the membership dues payment. The Northern Forum Secretariat is taking all possible measures to establish communication with these regions.



It should be noted that a number of representatives of Alaska are actively involved in the activities of the Northern Forum, and there is a significant interest in interregional cooperation in the State. The State's Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer, Mayor of the City of Cordova Clay Koplin, the representatives of the Department of Commerce, and a number of organizations took part in the online business meetings of the Northern Forum.



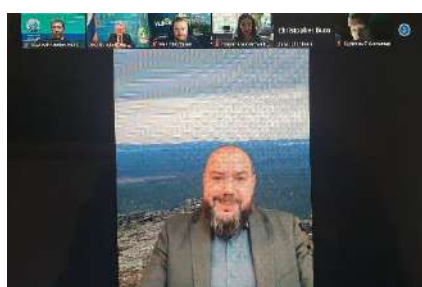


In early November the Advisor to the Governor of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Mr. Klimov met with the representatives of the Global Investment and Trade Bureau of Gangwon Government within the Russia-Korea Forum on Regional Cooperation. Gangwon's delegation expressed their interest maintaining the membership and supported the need for further consultations.

Opening of the NF settlement account in Iceland, facilitated by the Arctic Portal, has solved the problem of membership dues payment by the regions and business partners outside the Russian Federation. Lapland, Akureyri, Lapland Chamber of Commerce, Nord University Business School successfully wire their dues to this account.

Regions with arrears were offered measures to restructure their debts, use the settlement account in Iceland, and raise funds from other sources.

No active measures were taken to attract additional members this year. At the same time, the Northern Forum events generate considerable interest from different regions interested in cooperation in the Arctic and the North. The number of participants of the General Assembly, the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, the Governors' Summit, and various online events is increasing annually.



With the support of the Canadian Embassy to the Russian Federation and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, interaction with Canada has become more active. Paul Murchison, Executive Director of Transportation Engineering of the Department of Highways and Public Works at Yukon Government, coordinated the first online conference "Transport Infrastructure Development in the Conditions of Permafrost" in cooperation with the Northern Forum. Mr. Korchunov, the Senior Arctic Official, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Riipi, the Chair of the Northern Forum, Governor of Lapland spoke at the conference.

The Executive Director of the Northern Forum Mr. Vasilev spoke at the meetings of the working groups on construction and aviation of Canada Eurasia Russia Business Association (CERBA). CERBA has highly



appreciated the NF contribution to the organization of the events and expressed its interest in establishing permanent cooperation.

For this purpose, the Secretariat, together with the newly appointed Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee Arja Haikara, have prepared a multipurpose presentation to work with the potential members and are developing a communication strategy.

The issues of membership will be mentioned in other parts of this report too.

## 1.2. BUSINESS PARTNERS

Since the Northern Forum's establishment, the quantity and quality of business partners have been changing depending on the interests of the companies and organizations. At present, the Northern Forum business partners are:

- Lapland Chamber of Commerce (Finland)
- The Arctic Portal, Akureyri (Iceland)
- The Institute of the North, Alaska (USA)
- ArKtika LLC, Alaska (USA)
- The High North Center for Business and Governance of the Nord University Business School (Norway)
- Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Centre (Japan)
- Energy Saving Technologies LLC, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (Russia)

Despite being few, all business partners are actively engaged or plan to resume their engagement in the NF activities.

### Lapland Chamber of Commerce

<https://www.lapland.chamber.fi/in-english/>

This year, Lapland Chamber of Commerce has changed its leader. Timo Rautajoki, who headed the Chamber for many years and significantly contributed to the development of business cooperation within the Northern Forum, has resigned. The new President of the Chamber is Liisa Ansala, who used to head the Administration of Rovaniemi. She is ready for active consultations starting the year 2022. Under the chairmanship of Lapland, it is planned to revive the Network of Chambers of Trade and Commerce and Business Associations of the Northern Forum and to determine the annual Arctic Business Forum in Rovaniemi as its key platform.



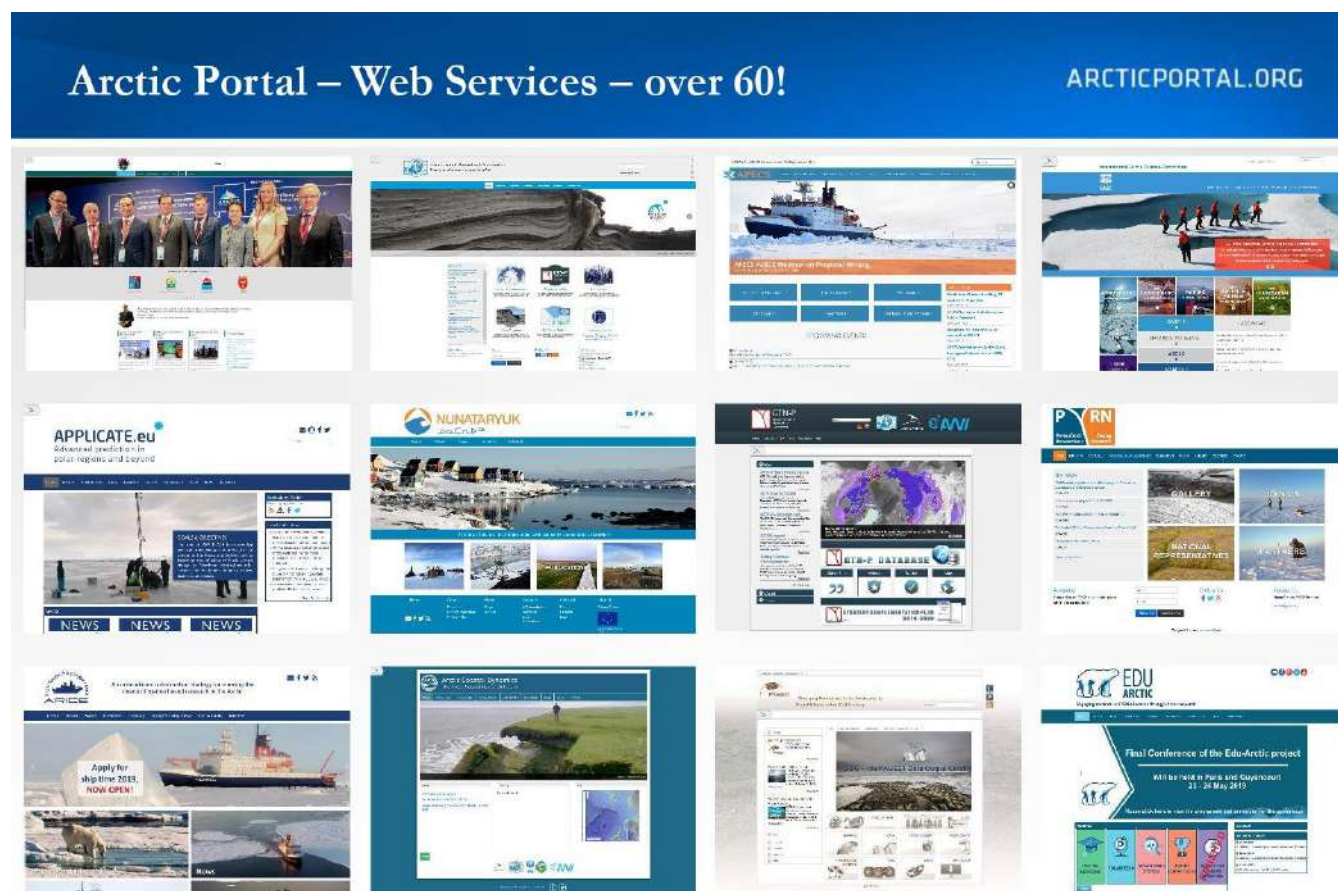
### The Arctic Portal

<https://arcticportal.org>



The Arctic Portal has actively facilitated the Northern Forum in promoting its mission and goals; it maintains the NF official website free of charge. The website's rebranding has begun as well as the preparation for launching the Arctic Business Directory. The Portal maintains the websites of over 60 organizations of the Arctic and the North and is one of

the most visited resources about the Arctic; the fact that the NF website is maintained by the Arctic Portal allows us to widely disseminate information about our activities.



We consult, design and ensure professional and reliable web presence of over 60 large international associations and projects of high relevance to the Arctic and the North.

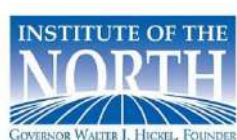
The Arctic Portal opened the NF settlement account and keeps its records. The Portal's Director Halldor Johannsson had initiated the creation of the Northern Forum Foundation, which was supported by the Board of Governors and the Regional Coordinators Committee.

Halldor Johannsson is one of the most active participants of the Northern Forum events and represents it at different forums. For his special merits, he was awarded the Walter Hickel Medal on September 27, 2021.



## The Institute of the North

<https://institutenorth.org/>



in 1991, the Institute of the North was established under the initiative of the Northern Forum founder, Governor of Alaska Walter Hickel, to assist the Northern Forum. At first, the NF Secretariat was located in the Institute's premises. The Institute consistently supported the Northern Forum, and when Alaska left the





organization, it represented the NF in North America. In 2014, when Nils Andreassen was the Institute's Executive Director, the NF Secretariat and the Institute of the North signed a cooperation agreement.

At present, the Institute is headed by Ian Laing, with whom we have been actively consulting on various issues since the beginning of the year. Above all others, we discuss the organization of the Arctic Energy Summit, previously initiated by the Institute, within the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council. In addition, Ian Laing confirms his willingness to represent the NF interests in North America as well as to act as the Regional Coordinator from Alaska, if supported by the State's Governor.

The Institute is actively involved in the activities of the Arctic Council through leading the Sustainable Development Working Group's project Arctic Renewable Energy Atlas.



### ArKtiKa LLC



The company became our business partner in December 2020, and its partner Kristina Baiborodova began to actively assist business cooperation within the NF by initiating a series of online conferences Arctic Business Relations Circle. 6 meetings on various topics have been held this year, involving a significant number of regions not only from the Northern Forum but even from beyond the Northern hemisphere. This work will be continued.



### The High North Center for Business and Governance of the Nord University Business School

<https://www.nord.no/en/about/faculties-and-centres/business-school/research-centres/highnorthcenter>



The High North Center for Business and Governance is an international center for research, education and communication, connected to societal and business development in the Arctic.

Frøde Mellemvik is the Center's Director. The Center was actively involved in the elaboration of the Northern Forum Development Strategy till 2030. The Center's employee Andrei Kazakov regularly attends our organization's events. We hope that the Center becomes one of the NF strongholds in Norway.



### Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Centre

<https://hiecc.or.jp/english/>

The Northern Regions Center, currently HIECC (Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Center), was established to actively promote the economy, culture and academic exchange between Hokkaido and other northern areas and to facilitate appropriate exchanges with other regions. Following its transition into HIECC, the organization has been committed to taking a more active role as the base for comprehensive, international exchange in Hokkaido, which aims to further develop Hokkaido, by creating affluent and vibrant local communities, through global exchange and cooperation.

President: Toshio Sato



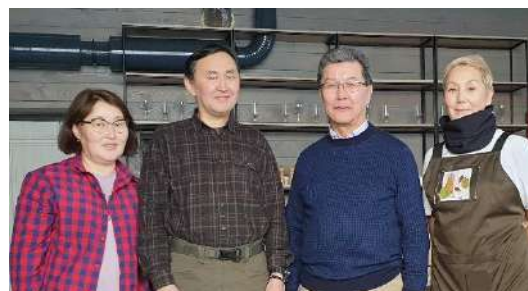
## Energy Saving Technologies LLC

<https://www.ensatech.ru>



The company was established in 2011 and was the Northern Forum's active partner; they visited different regions as part of the NF delegation, attended the RAPP meeting, and actively studied and exchanged other countries' practices in construction and power industry. The company successfully implements these practices in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). They work with energy service contracts, implement projects on MSW separation and pellet production, and establish a modern tourist camp with a hotel "Lena Pillars".

The company is considering the resumption of its business partner status in the nearest future.



The number of business partners has to grow considerably when the Arctic Business Directory is launched, where information about each business partner, their products and services will be posted. They will have access to various materials and analytics on entrepreneurship in the Arctic and the North, business news, webinars, trainings, lectures, and different educational tools.

### 1.3. BUDGET PERFORMANCE

As of January 1, 2021, the balance of the account of the Northern Forum Academy, on which basis the NF Secretariat operates, made 1 200 649 rubles 16 kopeks ~ USD 16 252,28 (USD exchange rate – RUB 73,8757).

As of January 1, 2021, the Northern Forum balance in the account of the Arctic Portal made USD 11 000,00.

The opening of the account in Iceland allowed Lapland, Akureyri, Lapland Chamber of Commerce and the High North Center for Business and Governance of the Nord University Business School to pay their dues. At that, the Center wired USD 5000 in February and March 2021.

Thus, by April 2021, USD 26 943,00 has been received to the account. As per the agreement between the NF secretariat and the Arctic Portal, 10% of this amount is given to the Arctic Portal for operating expense.

Alaska and Gangwon have had a sizeable debt since 2017. The annual membership due of Alaska is USD 20 000,00, of Gangwon – USD 25 000,00. We will continue working on this issue and are grateful to these regions for maintaining their membership. We hope for a speedy solution that will satisfy all parties. Various options are considered and there are some good prospects in view of the NF Foundation establishment.

In 2021, Magadan Oblast didn't pay its membership due because of its resignation from the Northern Forum. As per Article 3.8 "Resignation" of the NF Bylaws, members willing to resign shall pay a

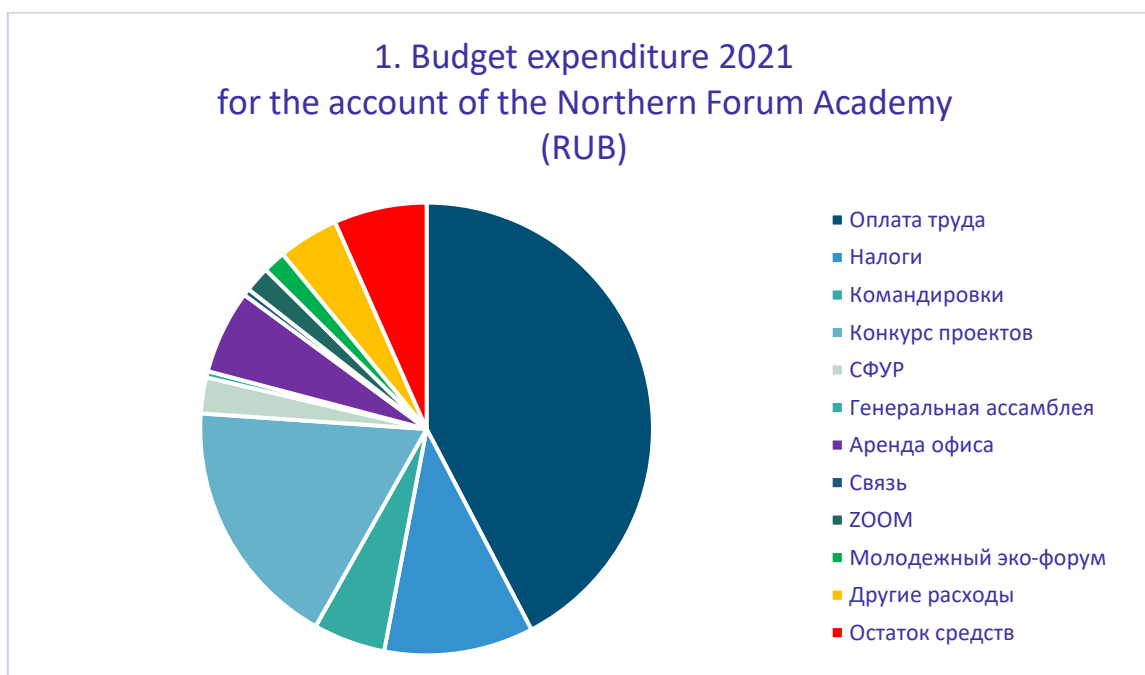
membership due for the current fiscal year. To this end, an invoice for the 2021 membership due was sent to the Governor of Magadan Oblast.

We are grateful to all other member regions from the Russian Federation for timely payment of their membership dues, which allowed to secure stable operation of not only the Secretariat but of the entire organization. We are grateful to Krasnoyarsk Krai for being able to pay the debt for 2020 and pay the 2021 membership due.

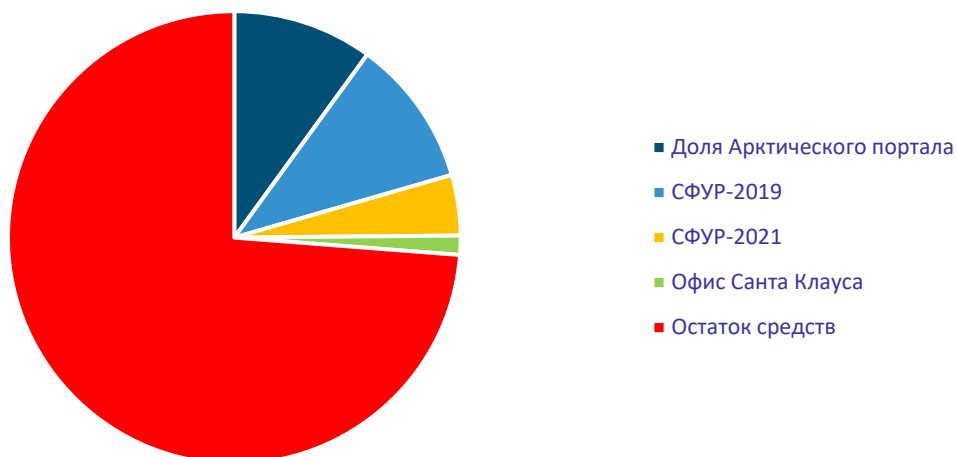
I would like to note that the regions use different approaches when determining the due amount in Russian rubles. Regions that transfer funds at the rate of the Russian Central Bank on the day of transfer do not allow any discrepancies. At the same time, a number of regional budgets provide for a fixed amount of the NF due in rubles, which does not take into account the fluctuations in the RUB-USD exchange rate and, taking into account the annual increase in this rate, the amount transferred in dollar terms is less than the annual due established for a particular region. In this regard, the Secretariat sent a request to adjust the methodology for calculating the membership due in Russian rubles in the regional regulatory acts.

In total, RUB 10 121 147,00 ~ USD 142 158,13 (at the USD exchange rate at 12.11.2021 = RUB 71,1964) was received from the Russian regions in 2021.

The expenditure for 2021 is given in two graphs by shares by the main expenditure items.



## 2. Budget expenditure 2021 for the account of the Arctic Portal (USD)



The resulting cost-cutting will allow to secure smooth operation of the Secretariat in Quarter 1 of 2022, before the first dues are received, as well as to use part of the funds to prepare the Northern Forum Governors' Summit and support participation in the most significant events.

### 1.4. NEW EDITION OF THE BYLAWS AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

At the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2015, the Resolution of the Board of Governors on the need to improve the statutory documents was signed, but the process was delayed due to the elaboration of the organization's Development Strategy, approved in 2019, as well as the change of the executive director.

This year, new editions of the Bylaws and the Rules of Procedure of the Northern Forum have been prepared and approved at the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

The main changes concerned the structure of the organization. New components have been added to the structure: Working Groups, Goodwill Ambassadors, Northern Youth Forum. The number of Vice-Chairs has changed due to a decrease in the number of member regions.

Also, some articles of the documents have been edited in accordance with the present-day developments.

The work on the statutory documents will be continued further, since there are proposals on membership categories, financial instruments, project activities, and decision-making process at meetings of various levels.

In addition, the Regulations of each working group and of the Northern Youth Forum should be developed, which can also amend the texts of the Bylaws and the Rules of Procedure.

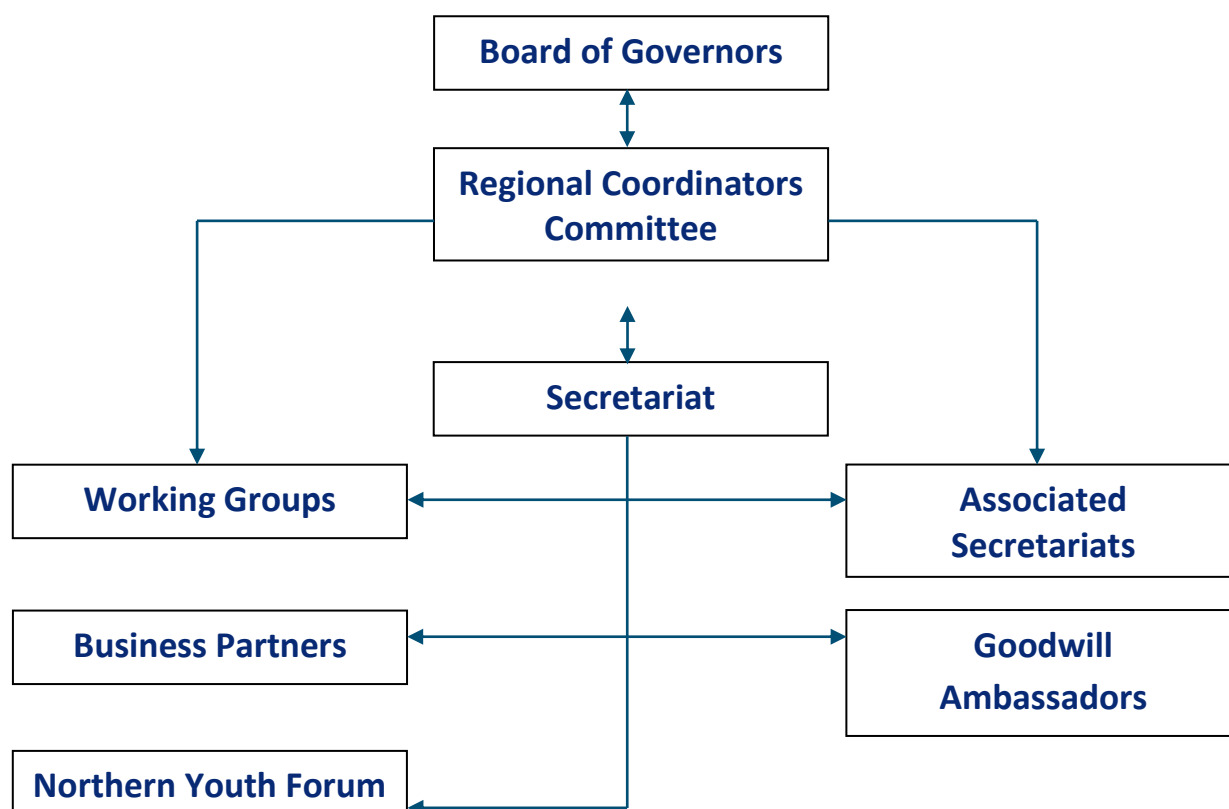


# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In compliance with the NF Development Strategy till 2030, the new Bylaws and Rules of Procedure have added new components to the organizational structure, which aim to significantly enlarge the scope of the organization's activities and promote its transfer to a new level of development.



This organizational structure will allow to improve the coordination of work between the regions, involve pro-active and well-known people in the activities to support the Northern Forum and promote its mission all over the world.

### 2.1. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is a supreme management body and makes major decisions on supporting the organization's activities and on its development strategy. The Board consists of the regions' leaders with a deciding vote. The Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee and the Executive Director are responsible for preparing the Board meetings and attend them with a consultative vote.

As a rule, the Board is convened during the General Assembly. In 2021, the Board of Governors met within the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, where a new Chair of the Northern Forum was elected – the County

Governor of the Regional Council of Lapland Mika Riipi. Between the General Assemblies, the Governors Summits are held within large international forums.

At present, the members of the Board of Governors are:



### **Mika Riipi**

**County Governor of the Regional Council of Lapland (Finland) since March 1, 2013**

#### **Chair of the Northern Forum**

Previously he was a Municipality Director in Posio, Town Secretary in Haapavesi and Senior Advisor at the Municipality Department at the Ministry of the Interior of Finland.



### **Yuri Bezdudny**

**Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Russia) since September 13, 2020, Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum**

Previously he was a Deputy Head of Administration of Odintsovo Municipal District of Moscow Oblast, Vice-Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Acting Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug.



### **Asthildur Sturludottir**

**Mayor of Akureyri Municipality (Iceland) since August 1, 2018, Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum**

Previously she served as the Mayor of Vesturbyggð in the Westfjords of Iceland.



### **Dmitry Artyukhov**

**Governor of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Russia) since September 9, 2018**

Previously he worked in the investment and banking sector; he was an Assistant to the Governor, Vice-Governor, Acting Governor of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.



## Michael James Dunleavy

### **Governor of Alaska (USA) since December 3, 2018**

Previously he worked at public schools; he served on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Board, including two years as its president.  
Senator of Alaska in 2013-2018.



## Mikhail Degtyarev

### **Governor of Khabarovsk Krai (Russia) since September 24, 2021**

Previously he was elected to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> convocations of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; he was a Chair of the State Duma Committee on Physical Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth, and the Acting Governor of Khabarovsk Krai.



## Natalia Komarova

### **Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug - Yugra (Russia) since March 1, 2010**

Previously she was elected to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> convocations of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; she was a Chair of the State Duma Committee on Natural Resources and Nature Use.



## Roman Kopin

### **Governor of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug (Russia) since July 13, 2008**

Previously he worked at Kostroma Customs, Kostroma Regional Branch of SBS-Agro JSB; he was an Advisor to the Governor of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Head of Chaunsky and Bilibinsky Districts, Vice-Governor of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.



### Aisen Nikolaev

**Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (Russia) since September 27, 2018**

Previously he worked as a Finance Minister, Chief of Staff of the Head and Government, First Deputy Chair of the Government of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Mayor of the City of Yakutsk.



### Vladimir Solodov

**Governor of Kamchatka Krai (Russia) since September 21, 2020**

Previously he worked as a Deputy Envoy of the President of the Russian Federation in the Far Eastern Federal District; he served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Far East Development Fund, Chair of the Government of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).



### Alexander Uss

**Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai (Russia) since September 21, 2018**

Previously he worked as a lecturer, senior researcher at Krasnoyarsk State University; he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Krasnoyarsk Krai and served as its Chair; he was a member of the Council of Federation in the Committee on International Affairs.



### Choi Moon-soon

**Governor of Gangwon Province (Republic of Korea) since April 28, 2011**

Previously he worked as an investigative journalist and a CEO at Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation. He served as a Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.



## 2.2. THE REGIONAL COORDINATORS COMMITTEE

The Regional Coordinators Committee is the main collegial body coordinating the ongoing activities of the Northern Forum.

As per the Bylaws and the Rules of Procedure, the Committee has to meet at least twice a year. In 2021, the Committee held 3 meetings: during the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Naryan-Mar, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum in Yakutsk, and in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

A significant number of issues were considered and decisions were made, which ensured the smooth and dynamic work of the organization.

The Committee contributes to the timely preparation of meetings, the Governors Summit, provides significant support to project activities, the Northern Youth Forum. The members of the Committee are actively involved in the events of not only the Northern Forum, but also its partner organizations.

At the same time, the main problem in ensuring the stable work of the Committee is the absence of designated regional coordinators in a number of regions for various reasons. When the current regional coordinator moves to another job, the appointment of a new one takes quite a long time, which complicates the required quorum at the meetings.

At present, there are no appointed regional coordinators from Krasnoyarsk Krai, Khabarovsk Krai, the State of Alaska, and Gangwon Province.

We are very grateful to the NF Chair Mika Riipi for hiring a permanent employee on the NF issues from September 27, 2021 – Ms. Arja Haikara, who heads the Regional Coordinators Committee. She started her work very actively by doing a substantial scope of work and providing significant assistance to the Secretariat.

At present, the Regional Coordinators from the regions are:



**Arja Haikara**

**Advisor to Lapland County Governor in Arctic Relations, NF RCC Chair**

Previously she worked at the Consulate General of Finland in Saint-Petersburg and was an international expert on Russia and Russian-speaking countries at the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences.



**Sergei Kungurtsev**

**Chair of the Committee for International and Interregional Relations, the Department of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of Nenets Autonomous Okrug, NF RCC Vice-Chair**



### **Hulda Sif Hermansdottir**

**Adviser to the Mayor of Akureyri, NF RCC Vice-Chair**



### **Eduard Isakov**

**Representative of the Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug – Yugra in the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Chair of the NF Working Group on Creative Industries Development**



### **Viktor Kalashnikov**

**Deputy Chair of the Government of Khabarovsk Krai – Minister on Economic Development of Khabarovsk Krai**



### **Gavril Kirillin**

**Minister for External Relations and Ethnic Affairs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)**



**Dmitry Korostelev**

**Vice-Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Kamchatka Krai, President of Kamchatka Krai Chamber of Commerce**



**Alexander Mazharov**

**Vice-Governor of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Director of External Relations Department of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug**



**Natalia Slugina**

**Deputy Chief of the Governor's Office, Head of the Office for International Cooperation and the Arctic of the Governor and Government Office of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug**

### **2.3. THE SECRETARIAT AND THE CREATION OF A PARTNER NETWORK**

Since the outbreak of the new coronavirus pandemic, the Secretariat has been operating in a completely new environment. On the one hand, there are a lot of tools for online events at any time and for faster decision-making.

On the other hand, the volume of work and workload increased significantly due to the organization of numerous online events and significant time difference between the countries and regions. For example, almost all the events of the Arctic Council take place at night, Yakutsk time.

In addition, the increased number of events significantly reduces the time for their preparation, which can affect the quality of materials. The pace and scale of information exchange have increased many times over, it is necessary to process serious amounts of information in a very short time. When preparing major events, the Secretariat engages volunteers and student trainees who carry out work

with the materials at the initial stage, make lists, coordinate and accompany the participants, and provide technical support.

We are grateful to the Ministry of External Relations and Ethnic Affairs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) for their assistance in providing the extra office space, which makes it possible to accommodate the attracted specialists, volunteers, and interns as comfortably as possible. In the future, it is planned to use this space to ensure proper operation of the Northern Youth Forum and as a co-working center, where the events of the NF working groups and partners, and educational courses, master classes, etc. can be held.

For the first time in the history of the organization, the Chair of the Northern Forum, Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi is directly involved in the management and maintains active communication with the Secretariat. Since May, he has been organizing monthly online meetings with the Secretariat staff, which greatly helps in solving all tasks. The Secretariat expresses our sincere gratitude to the distinguished Chair for his invaluable support.

The Secretariat which functions on basis of the Northern Forum Academy, as in previous years, has 4 employees and an outsourced accountant.



**Vladimir Vasilev**  
*Executive Director,  
President,  
Northern Forum  
Academy*



**Daryana Maximova**  
*Deputy Executive  
Director*



**Alyona Kolosova**  
*Specialist*



**Alexandra  
Ponomareva**  
*Specialist*

In February 2021, the Executive Director was elected President of the Northern Forum Academy, which made it possible to concentrate all management of the current activities of the Northern Forum in one hand. In the future, it is advisable to expand the staff by 1 or 2 people and to raise wages, which have not been revised since the day the Secretariat was transferred to Yakutsk. It is necessary to constantly improve the material and technical base.

The Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee Arja Haikara has virtually become the fifth employee of the Secretariat, working in the office of the Governor of Lapland, which will greatly facilitate the work on supporting the partnership, representation and participation of the Northern Forum in various events, preparing and holding events and negotiations in the European countries. If this practice becomes traditional, each Chairing region could hire staff to work solely on the NF issues. In Lapland, the basis has been formed for the establishment of an Associate Secretariat in the future.



Her work, as well as pro-active business partners, who considerably assist the organization's development, lead us to the idea of creating a partner network of offices in different regions. By now, we have a well-established cooperation on a wide range of issues with the Arctic Portal (Akureyri, Iceland) and the Institute of the North (Alaska, USA), which allows to conclude about the appearance of the NF Offices Network.

It appears that this network will expand, facilitating the increased activity at all levels of the organization. In this regard, we lay hopes on the working groups, the Northern Forum Fund, the Northern Youth Forum, Goodwill Ambassadors and partners.

## 2.4. THE NORTHERN FORUM GOODWILL AMBASSADORS



The NF Development Strategy until 2030 provides for the creation of the Institute of Goodwill Ambassadors of the Northern Forum. The Secretariat has developed the Regulations on Goodwill Ambassadors, which was approved by the Board of Governors at the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

As per paragraph 2.1. of the Regulations "On the status and powers of the Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassador", the status of the Goodwill Ambassador is assigned to enhance the efficiency of global promotion of the Northern Forum's goals and objectives. The main tasks include highlighting the activities of the organization aimed to promote and preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the Arctic and northern regions, stimulating environmental, educational, research and other activities, highlighting to the problems of northern and Arctic regions, and tourism development.

In September, the NF Executive Director, who has the right to nominate candidates for obtaining the status of the Ambassador, proposed the first nominees to Goodwill Ambassadors for the RCC's consideration; the nominees included people who make a significant contribution to the international, interregional cooperation not only in the Arctic, but almost all over the world.

On September 27, the RCC Resolutions awarded them a title of the Goodwill Ambassadors:



### Paolo Venturini

A police officer from Padova, Italy, an extreme ultramarathon runner. Paolo Venturini is a world-famous athlete, who has set several world records in ultramarathons at the lowest and the highest air temperatures in deserts, mountains, jungle on all continents.



### Vera Kondratieva

Member of the Public Chamber of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug – Yugra, a composer, musician, Chair of the public organization of culture of the indigenous peoples of the North “Ma Mekhem” (My Land). Chair of Lyantor City Branch of the Public Organization “Saving of Yugra”, Surgut District.



### Alexander Kugaevsky

Vice-Rector for Analytical and Expert Activity of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, Candidate of Economics, Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russian Federation.

He is a recognized expert in the regional socio-economic development and one of the founders of the Northern Sustainable Development Forum.



### Georgy Nikonov

Advisor to the Head of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). He was the Minister of External Relations, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) in the Far Eastern Federal District.

The author of the idea and the leader of a large historical project "Ways of Great Achievements".



### Alexander Pilyasov

Director General of the Regional Consulting Institute, Doctor of Geography, Professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russian Federation. He is one of the top experts on the development of the Arctic and international cooperation. He has significantly contributed to the development of the NF Development Strategy.



### Timo Rautajoki

Independent observer and expert, Rovaniemi, Lapland, Finland.

For a long time he was a President of Lapland Chamber of Commerce; he initiated the creation of the Network of the NF Chambers of Commerce; he is a founder of the international platform in Rovaniemi – the Arctic Business Forum, which is still working successfully.



### **Paul Fuhs**

President, Chairman of the Board at Marine Exchange of Alaska, Member of the Arctic Economic Council commissions, Anchorage, Alaska, the USA. He was the first Corporate Secretary Treasurer of the Northern Forum in 1991-1993. He is actively promoting the interests of the Northern Forum in Alaska and supports the development of effective cooperation between the regions of the USA and the Russian Federation.



### **Nadezhda Kharlampieva**

Associate Professor of the Global Politics Department of Saint Petersburg State University, Senior Researcher at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, PhD student at the University of Lapland (Finland), Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation. In 2001-2005, she worked at the NF Associate Secretariat in Saint Petersburg.

It should be noted that our Goodwill Ambassadors are people with a pro-active attitude and a great desire to benefit people; they make efforts to highlight the activities of the Northern Forum.

Paolo Venturini personally attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum; he also organized a visit of Eurasian Travel Company director Pietro di Febo, held a lot of meetings, visited the fair of tourist projects, Lena Pillars National Park, and agreed with the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Tourism Development and Trade of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) on developing tourism between Yakutia and Italy.

In 2022, Paolo will run an ultramarathon on the ice of Lake Baikal and, while preparing for it, he promoted the Northern Forum among the representatives of the government of the Republic of Buryatia, arranged negotiations between the NF Executive Director and the Minister of Tourism of Buryatia Aldar Dorzhiev. He began consultations with the leadership of his Province of Veneto (Italy) on joining the Northern Forum.

Vera Kondratieva is now starting to participate in the activities of the Northern Forum, but she supported the creation of the NF Working Group on Creative Industries.

Alexander Kugaevsky is one of the main coordinators of the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, involving many well-known experts; he works a lot with youth and actively participates in the NF events on Business Cooperation.



Georgy Nikonov made a significant contribution to the development of the Northern Forum while working at the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). He is ready to contribute to the strengthening of the Northern Forum in the Far East and the Asia-Pacific region.

Alexander Pilyasov actively participated in the elaboration of the NF Development Strategy until 2030, he constantly participates in our events with specific recommendations, and has become one of the leading speakers of the Northern Sustainable Development Forum. He is currently working on a book about the Northern Forum, which will definitely adorn the NF 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Timo Rautajoki expresses his willingness to provide all possible assistance to the development of business cooperation, as the founder of the Arctic Business Forum, which can be the main platform for meetings and communication of business partners.

This year, Paul Fuhs held a series of consultations with the leadership of the State of Alaska to enhance their participation in the activities of the Northern Forum and represented the NF interests at the meetings of the Arctic Economic Council commissions. At the same time, he is an architect of a new proposal - the creation of the Bering-Pacific Arctic Council, which requires reflection and discussion to avoid overlapping with the activities of the Northern Forum and the Russian-American Pacific Partnership.

Nadezhda Kharlampieva is actively promoting the mission of the Northern Forum at the conferences with partners from China and in Saint Petersburg. Under the auspices of the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, this year she held the 10<sup>th</sup> Russian-Chinese Meeting on the Arctic. At her invitation, the NF Executive Director began to lecture the students of Saint Petersburg State University.

Thus, attracting active experts from various fields as Goodwill Ambassadors allows us to actively promote the mission and expand the spheres of influence of the Northern Forum. This practice will certainly be continued. In accordance with the NF Development Strategy, the status of the Ambassador can be awarded up to 100 experts.

## 2.5. THE NORTHERN YOUTH FORUM



in 2020, the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev initiated the establishment of the organization's youth branch – the Northern Youth Forum. Savina Danilova (now Alexeeva) and Sardana Zhendrinskaya were invited as the organizers; they managed to form a core group and organize interesting sessions under the Northern Youth Forum brand at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum. Total 14 sessions were organized, involving over 300 representatives from 8 countries. That year they also held a Model Northern Forum with over 200 participants from 12 countries.

Productive cooperation was established with the Arctic Club of MGIMO University, the Project Office of international youth cooperation “Russia-Arctic Council” (initiated by the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs and the Government of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug), the Arctic Youth Network and other organizations, youth leaders of the NF regions and Arctic countries.

In 2021, the Regulations on the Northern Youth Forum were elaborated and approved at the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The NYF logo was designed in cooperation with the Arctic Portal.

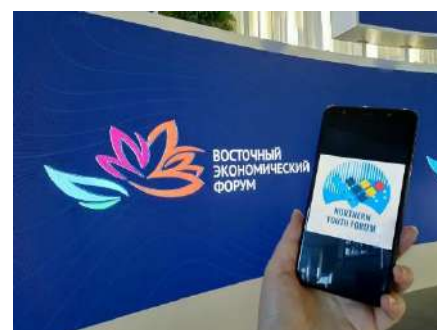
At the initial stage, the NYF main areas of activity were as follows:





This year, the young people have done a considerable amount of work: the Arctic School on Food Security (Arctic State Agro-Technological University), meetings on recruiting new members to the NYF, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Model Northern Forum.

The coordinators of the Northern Youth Forum attended the Eastern Economic Forum, which resulted in making new partnerships. There is a permanent youth platform at the Eastern Economic Forum, where a variety of events are held; studying of this experience will help the Northern Youth Forum to build their work, taking into account the current trends and priorities of regional development





The founder of MGIMO Arctic Club Valeria Ruzakova did an internship at the NF Secretariat in February-April.

The club organized a special session to engage youth in the UN Climate Change COP in Glasgow (Great Britain) within Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council, where the NYF coordinator Ekaterina Sofroneyeva made a presentation.

A kick-off meeting, where the leaders of the NYF will be elected and the new edition of the Regulations and the structure will be approved, will be held at the end of the year.

14 sessions were organized in September during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum. It should be noted that startup-supporting events were arranged during the 3<sup>rd</sup> NSDF:

- Special discussion platform “Startups and Technologies for the Arctic and the North”, proposed by the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Committee, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikolai Korchunov, who attended it online and gave his recommendations on promoting the youth startups in the Arctic.
- Startup pitch session supported by the GoGlobal expert team.
- Master classes on startups.



Following the discussions at the Forum and consultations with the NF Secretariat and the Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikolai Korchunov, the Northern Youth Forum became a co-organizer of Startup Expeditions that are planned to be organized in the NF member regions starting 2022.



## II NORTHERN FORUM MODEL

On December 1-2, the Northern Forum Model took place online, with pupils, students from Russian and foreign universities, young researchers and experts from a number of Russian regions and foreign countries. The event was held in English.

Agenda of the Model Northern Forum 2021 was "Current climate challenges in the Arctic and Northern regions".

The event was organized by:

- Northern Forum;
- Northern Youth Forum;
- MGIMO Arctic Student Research Club,
- North-Eastern Federal University named after MK Ammosov,
- MGIMO MFA of Russia, International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy (MIEP) MGIMO;
- Public organization "Intersphere".



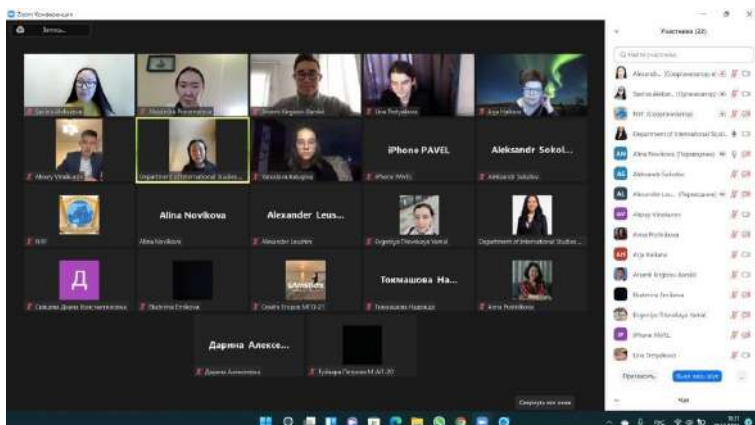
Moderation of the sessions of the Model Northern Forum was carried out by Ekaterina Vinzhego, chairperson of the MGIMO Arctic Student Research Club.

On the first day of the MNF program, guests of honor and experts made speeches and lectures

During the second day of the Northern Forum Model, the participants worked on the agenda and had fruitful discussions within the framework of the modeling of

two Northern Forum bodies: the Council of Governors and the Working Group on Regional Adaptation to Climate Change. The results of the participants' work within the framework of the Northern Forum Model were presented to the Committee of Regional Coordinators of the Northern Forum.

As Savina Alekseeva noted, the Northern Forum Model is a unique opportunity to implement ideas. The project is aimed at popularizing knowledge about the prospects for the development of the Arctic, sharing experience and knowledge in the format of modeling the activities of the bodies of an





international organization, developing proposals and projects to solve the problems of the Northern regions.

## 2.6. THE NORTHERN FORUM FOUNDATION



At the end of 2020, the Director of the Arctic Portal Halldor Johannsson proposed to create the Northern Forum Foundation. Almost all international organizations face financial problems and the need to create sustainable financial instruments to support project activities and events; they try to establish partnerships with foundations and other development institutions.

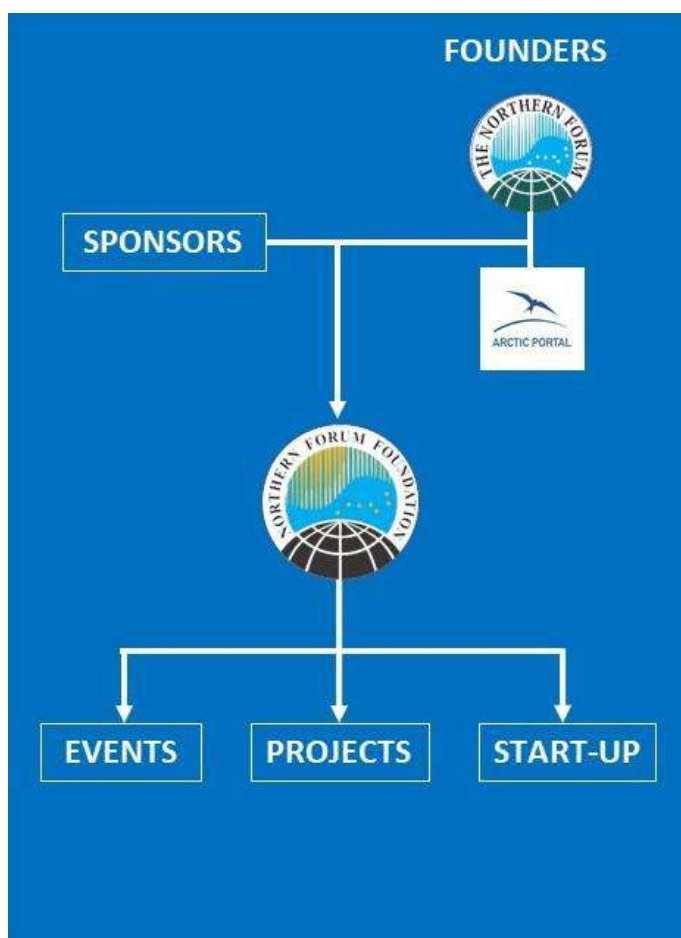
Membership fees are introduced to support current operating activities. Sometimes a country or region where an organization's head office is located bear the cost of its maintenance.

The budget of the Northern Forum is formed exclusively from the membership dues, which constantly creates some unstable situation, since the dependence on changes in the situation in the regions is very high. The transfer of the Secretariat to the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) allowed to significantly reduce the costs of its maintenance, but at present, due to wider areas and scope of activities, the available funds are not sufficient. Therefore, the idea of creating the Foundation caught on and was supported by the regions. At the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Board of Governors principally supported the idea and proposed to finalize the concept, and the regional Coordinators Committee in September approved the start of the registration procedure for the Foundation in Akureyri.

The registration of the Foundation and rapid resources accumulation will increase the revenue of the Northern Forum. It is planned to use the received funds to support project activities, NF events, various income-generating activities, such as the Startup Expedition.

Fundraising requires interesting projects in which potential sponsors, financial institutions, regional administrations, business partners and other organizations may be interested.

The Fund will be managed by the Board of Directors headed by the NF Chair, Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi. The Director of the Arctic Portal will act as financial manager, while the NF Executive Director will serve on the Board of Directors. At the first stage, the Board of Directors will consist of 3 members; as the Foundation develops, it will expand through the representatives of the member regions and business partners.





## Ненецкий автономный округ



# MAJOR EVENTS

### 3. MAJOR EVENTS

#### 3.1. The 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**Naryan-Mar, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, April 28-29, 2021**

The two-year term of Nenets Autonomous Okrug's chairmanship expired in April 2020, but the global COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed all plans, making it impossible to travel between countries and difficult to travel within the country. In addition, a change of power took place in Nenets Autonomous Okrug, when Alexander Tsybulsky was moved to the position of the Acting Governor of Arkhangelsk Oblast, and Yuri Bezdudny was appointed the Acting Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Accordingly, a new Regional Coordinator was appointed - Chair of the International and Interregional Relations Committee Sergei Kungurtsev. They needed time to become fully acquainted with not only of the Okrug, but also of the Northern Forum, which caused some delay in deciding about the Assembly.

At the same time, changes occurred in the NF Secretariat as well. The Head the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Aisen Nikolaev proposed to appoint the First Deputy Minister for External Relations and Ethnic Affairs of the Republic Vladimir Vasiliev the Acting Executive Director of the Northern Forum.

Thus, a number of objective and subjective factors influenced the decision to postpone the NF General Assembly to 2021, which proved absolutely reasonable as it allowed to streamline the organization's operations and mainstream actions in a number of areas.

The Heads of 5 member regions (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Nenets and Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrugs, Lapland and Akureyri), the heads of working and project groups, and partners attended the General Assembly in person.



The participants of the Assembly were greeted by the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Committee, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikolai Korchunov, Deputy Minister for the Far East and the Arctic Development of Russia Anatoly Bobrakov, SDWG Chair Oleg Solyakov; a number of the leading experts on the Arctic development and youth representatives spoke at the Assembly.







At the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, all participants agreed that, despite all the difficulties, the chairmanship of Nenets Autonomous Okrug was successful and the Northern Forum moved to a higher level: the organization's Development Strategy was adopted, all major events and a Call for Projects were organized, collaboration with the Arctic Council was significantly enhanced, and the Northern Youth Forum was created.

The regions expressed their gratitude to Nenets Autonomous Okrug for its excellent chairmanship and the dynamic development of the organization.

The NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev presented the Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug Yuri Bezudny a newly created certificate and symbol of the NF Chairmanship, as well as the Northern Forum flag with a new logo. We hope that presenting these three symbols will become a good tradition in the coming years. The same symbols were made for the new Chairing region - the Province of Lapland.



The Vice-Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee, Chair of the Committee for International and Interregional Relations of the Department of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of Nenets Autonomous Okrug Sergei Kungurtsev presented them to the Northern Forum Chair, Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi on November 17, within the framework of the Arctic Spirit international conference in Rovaniemi.

At the General Assembly, the RCC meetings and the meeting of the Board of Governors were organized, as well as a roundtable "Geocultural Identity of Northern Regions", held by the Culture Working Group. The participants of the Assembly had the opportunity to get acquainted with the activities of the Arctic Tourism Center.



The General Assembly adopted the Naryan-Mar Declaration and made important decisions that established framework for a breakthrough. The RCC and the Board of Governors approved the following Resolutions:

1. Resolution №221 of the Board of Governors "On approval of new editions of the Northern Forum's Bylaws and Rules of Procedure"
2. Resolution №222 of the Board of "On approval of the Action Plan on the implementation of the Northern Forum Strategy for the period of 2021-2023"
3. Resolution №223 of the Board of Governors "On the approval of the report on the execution of the 2020 budget and the budget for 2021"
4. Resolution №224 of the Board of Governors "On the Board of Governors of the Northern Forum"
5. Resolution №225 of the Board of Governors "On the Regional Coordinators Committee of the Northern Forum"
6. Resolution №226 of the Board of Governors "On appointment of the officers"
7. Resolution №227 of the Board of Governors "On creating the Northern Forum Foundation"
8. Resolution №228 of the Board of Governors "On the Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassadors"
9. Resolution №229 of the Board of Governors "On the Northern Youth Forum"
10. Resolution №230 of the Board of Governors "On supporting the Russian federation's Chairmanship in the Arctic Council"
11. Resolution №231 of the Regional Coordinators Committee "On approval of the new logo of the Northern Forum"
12. Resolution №232 of the Regional Coordinators Committee "On approval of the list of working groups and their chairs"
13. Resolution №233 of the Regional Coordinators Committee "On approval of the list of the Northern Forum priority projects"





### 3.2. THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NORTHERN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), September 27-30, 2021



The Northern Sustainable Development Forum (the Forum) is a permanent international expert platform for discussing the issues and prospects of sustainable development of the Arctic and the North.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that included 17 Sustainable Development Goals and which implementation should involve not only governments but also transnational companies, charity foundations, community, NGOs and academia worldwide.

**The Forum's main idea is to join the creative forces of the whole world in solving the problems of the regions of the Arctic and the North.**

Currently, the concept of sustainable development has become central to the Arctic region as well. On the one hand, the exploration of the Arctic region can become promising. On the other hand, the Arctic has a fragile ecosystem, which should be taken care of now not only by the Arctic countries, but also by the non-Arctic ones, interested in the region's development.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum was held offline and online. Total **76 events were arranged** (46 in a mixed format and 30 online in Zoom). The events were arranged as plenary sessions, panel discussions, roundtables, webinars, research and practice conferences, working meeting, project presentations, exhibitions, excursions, cultural events and side events. Intercountry platforms have become permanent: Russia-China, Russia-South Korea, Russia-Japan.

The Forum's program had 5 thematic blocks:

1. Main theme "Climate Change and Permafrost Response"
2. Human in the Arctic
3. Global partnership for the sustainable development of the Arctic and the North
4. Northern Youth Forum
5. The Northern Forum: 30 years of cooperation



The Forum's main topic in 2021 was "Climate Change and Permafrost Response". Climate change and the response of permafrost are global problems that are closely interconnected. The state of the environment around the world and the ongoing global climate change are influenced by the processes occurring in the Arctic. In its turn, permafrost occupies at least 25% of the world's entire land area. The Arctic is one of the most fragile ecological systems on the planet. Decreased ice thickness and the area of ice cover significantly change the characteristics of the sea ice-associated ecosystems. Climate change is becoming the most significant long-term stressor for biodiversity. Some unique habitats of the Arctic flora and fauna have been disappearing over the past decades. On land, tree vegetation is moving into the traditional tundra ecosystems, including grasses, mosses, and lichens, whose area is shrinking. Reduced ice cover may also adversely affect the Arctic marine animals. The time intervals and migration routes of birds are likely to change. Climate warming will increase the activity of pests and parasites, as well as the frequency of various diseases. Migration of fish from southern seas to northern seas is expected, which will create competition for the Arctic fish species. The problem of permafrost degradation is of particular importance; its thawing can negatively impact the infrastructure on the permafrost, as well as affect the emission of greenhouse gases. Climate-induced thawing of permafrost can drastically affect the vital activity of the population, which, due to the ongoing changes, will need to adapt to the newly emerged conditions. The situation in the Arctic is a visual example of how climate change affects geopolitics. This entire gigantic region, formerly permanently ice-bound, is now opening up to commercial shipping and natural resource development. The international community has a number of new opportunities, but it also faces challenges that need to be resolved.

The following aspects were discussed within the main theme "Climate Change and Permafrost Response":

- Influence of global climate change on the ecosystems;
- Climate-induced permafrost degradation;
- Climate change influence of the territories' socio-economic development.

## Organizers

### Main organizers

- ✓ International organization of northern regions The Northern Forum
- ✓ Government of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)
- ✓ Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University

### **General partner**

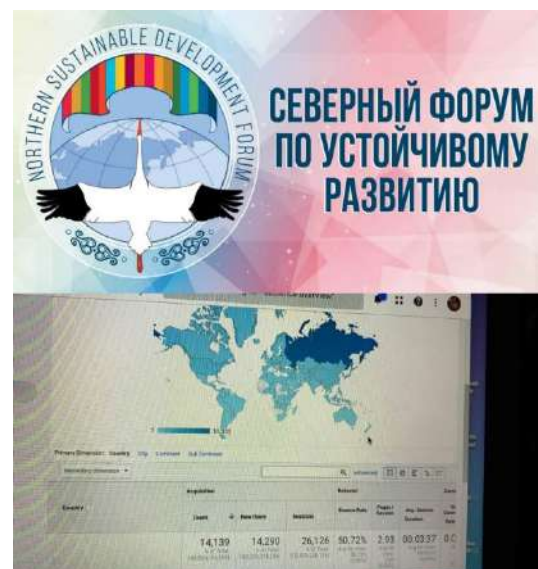
- ✓ TASS News Agency

### Information partners

1. The Russian network publication First National
2. Regional Power Industry and Energy Saving Magazine
3. UN Global Compact in Russia
4. PortNews
5. Rossiyskaya Gazeta Newspaper

### **General information**

- Number of events: 76
- Number of mixed format events (offline/online): 46
- Number of online events: 30
- Total registered NSDF participants – 643 people
- Total guest in person in Yakutsk: 51 people
- Number of international guests in person in Yakutsk: 12 people
- Number of guests from other Russian regions: 39 people
- Number of visits to [www.nsdf.ru](http://www.nsdf.ru) – 14 139 visits
- Number of YouTube views – 4 457 views
- NF member regions – 11 regions
- Venues in Yakutsk – 18
- Live broadcasts in Russian – 86
- Live broadcasts in English – 45
- Technical staff – 24 people
- Interpreters – 13 people
- Volunteers – 14 people





– Number of countries: 52 countries, including the circumpolar countries (Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Canada, USA, Russia) and the countries of North-East Asia (China, South Korea and Japan), as well as the Netherlands, Germany, France, Great Britain, Austria, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, Ukraine, Brazil, Turkey, Australia, Belarus, India, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Israel, Nigeria, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Andorra, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hong Kong, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Moldavia, Peru, Poland, Paraguay, Serbia, Taiwan, South Africa.

In this report, we would like to highlight some events of the Forum, where the Northern Forum was directly involved. The full NSDF-2021 Report is available on [www.nsdf.ru](http://www.nsdf.ru)

General partner – TASS News Agency – has created a special section on its official website: <https://tass.ru/severnnyy-forum-po-ustoychivomu-razvitiyu>

Hundreds of publications about the NSDF work were made in various mass media and in the Internet.

### NSDF major events

**Gala event dedicated to the NF 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “The Living Arctic”. The opening ceremony of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum, dedicated to the Day of Statehood of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)**



The opening ceremony took place in the Historical Park "Russia - My History" on September 27, the Day of Statehood of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). The idea of the performance was produced by the Chair of the NF Culture Working Group, State Counselor of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), famous theater director Andrei Borisov. In 2019, the Andrei Borisov's performance "Light over the Arctic", staged at the 1<sup>st</sup> NSDF, won the national award "The Theater of Masses". The Theater of Masses Professional Award is awarded through competition for creative achievements in the field of mass forms of performing arts.



The guests and participants of the Forum saw the performers and representatives of the indigenous communities of the North of Yakutia. The exhibition of traditional folk crafts was organized at Kulakovsky House of Peoples' Friendship.

In sign of involvement in this event, the participants passed through the sacred *chychypkan*, tied a colored ribbon *delbirge*, which, according to the northern tradition, is a symbol of purity of motives, a sign of openness and involvement in our common destiny.

"The Living Arctic" theatrical performance was held, staging the performers from the State Theater of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, the Olonkho Theater, creative teams of Kulakovsky House of Peoples' Friendship and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North.



The performance staged "Ode to Life". In sign of sincere respect, the ancient sacred symbol of support - the *nyoro* staff was presented to Arja Haikara, Chair of the NF Regional Coordinators Committee.

At the opening ceremony, badges and certificates were presented to the first Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassadors, and the Northern Forum Walter Hickel Medal.



### Plenary session "Climate Change and Permafrost Response"

On September 28, a plenary session was held, the main organizer of which was TASS New Agency, the Forum's general partner. The topical issues of the global environmental agenda were considered, the main approaches to understanding and solving the global issues of ecology and climate change were reflected.

The plenary session was moderated by the Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasilev.

The Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Aisen Nikolaev highlighted that "climate change and degradation of permafrost are the problems of here and now". He emphasized the special role of Yakutia, which occupies a significant part of the Russian and the world's Arctic zone, in the processes of formation and change of the planet's climate and indicated the need to implement new approaches to monitoring and forecasting the changes taking place. Thus, a national system for permafrost monitoring has to be launched by instruction of Russian President Vladimir Putin before the end of the year. In 2023, as part of Russia's chairmanship of the Arctic Council, Yakutsk will host the World Summit on Climate Change and Permafrost Thawing.

Nikolai Korchunov, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Committee, outlined the tasks faced by Russia as part of its chairmanship in the Arctic Council in 2021-2023, noted the special role of the Northern Forum as a key platform for discussing the topical issues of the Arctic territories' development and northern nature preservation.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Russian Federation Toyohisa Kozuki highlighted the great importance of fruitful cooperation between the Russian Federation and Japan, including the development of the "green economy".

Nikolai Kharitonov, Chair of the Russian State Duma Committee on Regional Policy and Problems of the North and the Far East, emphasized the importance and relevance of developing and expanding the Russian environmental legislation. The parliamentarian highlighted Yakutia's advanced experience in adopting the laws aimed at resolving environmental issues.



The Chair of the Northern Forum, Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi shared the best practices of living and doing economic activities in the North from his region.

President of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, member of the Council of Federation's Committee on Federal Structure, Regional Policy, Local Self-Government and Northern Affairs Grigory Ledkov focused on the impact of climate change on the lifestyle of the indigenous peoples of the North, on doing traditional activities, and preservation of biological resources.

Paolo Venturini, an Italian extreme athlete, who ran 40 km at the Pole of Cold at -52 ° C in winter, spoke about the limitless possibilities of a human body.

Director of Melnikov Permafrost Institute of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Mikhail Zheleznyak outlined the special importance and necessity of creating a monitoring system for

climate change. The scientist emphasized that the modern world can find adequate solutions for sustainable development in a changing climate, if the nature and prospects of these changes are understood properly.

Summing up the results of the plenary session, the Head of Yakutia Aisen Nikolaev noted that the discussion touched upon a wide range of issues. He stressed that the Northern Sustainable Development Forum can become a platform through which the ideas for the development of the Arctic will be communicated and upscaled through the prism of harmony between Man and Nature.

### **Meeting of the Northern Forum Regional Coordinators Committee**

The second meeting of the Committee this year discussed the preliminary results of the organization's activity for 9 months and the issue of creating the Northern Forum Foundation, approved the list of people awarded with the status of Goodwill Ambassador and with the NF Walter Hickel Medal.

The new RCC Chair, Arja Haikara was introduced at this meeting. Colleagues also congratulated Dmitry Korostelev, President of Kamchatka Chamber of Commerce, on his investiture as the NF Regional Coordinator and supported his proposal to hold the final meeting of the Committee in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky on December 9-10.

For the first time in the history of the organization, some decisions were made by protocol, while the decisions on Goodwill Ambassadors and medal awards were made by the traditional resolutions. The adoption of the protocol, signed by the RCC Chair, greatly facilitates the work and the decision-making process, especially in the context of a pandemic and online work. The collection of signatures on the resolutions currently takes from 1 to 3 months, while the approval of the protocol only by the RCC Chair allows all decisions to enter into force *de jure* almost instantly. In the future, it is planned to introduce such a procedure on an ongoing basis.

### **30 Years of Cooperation Conference**

To celebrate the NF anniversary, a special conference was held, attended by the pioneers who worked with the NF at the very beginning, active project coordinators, leaders of the working groups, business partners, and representatives of partner organizations.

The conference was moderated by the Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasilev.

In more than 30 speeches, many interesting and constructive proposals were made that will be used in the current activities and enrich the range of the areas of work, as well as involve all regions in active cooperation. There were a lot of people willing to speak, so the practice of the NF conference on various topics within the NSDF framework will continue.

Alexander Pilyasov announced a book dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northern Forum, and we hope that it will be released in the near future and will make a wonderful gift for both the veterans and the younger generation.



I am glad that partnerships with various organizations are rapidly expanding, and the Northern Forum is becoming an attractive organization, involving more and more forces.



## Russian Federation's Chairmanship in the Arctic Council

At the suggestion of Nikolai Korchunov, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Committee, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a panel discussion was held to highlight the main priorities of the Russian chairmanship and the opportunities for involving youth in the activities of the Arctic Council.

Moderator: Daryana Maximova, Deputy Executive Director of the Northern Forum.



The Northern Forum was invited as a co-organizer and operator of a number of events of the Russian Chairmanship; we were invited to develop projects on the Arctic theme, and the panel discussion gave a lot of new ideas and proposals that will be in demand in the future.

Competent experts spoke at the discussion: Lars Kullerud, President of the University of the Arctic, Andrei Krivorotov, Associate Professor of the Innovation Management Department at MGIMO University, Guo Peiqing,



Professor of the Ocean University of China, Rob Huebert, Professor of the University of Calgary, Mikhail Uksusov, Russian Chairmanship Youth Envoy, etc.

## Parliamentary session

### “Climate change and legal framework of adaptation measures at the regional level”

The newly established NF Working Group on Parliamentary Cooperation headed by Victor Gubarev, Vice-Speaker of the State Assembly (Il Tumen) of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), has been very active since its establishment in 2020. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> NSDF they held the second parliamentary session in tune with the Forum’s main theme from the legislative perspective. The composition of the participants was quite representative.

The session was moderated by the Working Group Chair Victor Gubarev.



The parliamentary session was attended by the senators of the Russian Federation, deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputies of the legislative bodies of Russian regions, representatives of the UN and the Arctic Council, scientific institutions, local government bodies and experts.

They discussed the topical issues of the climate and environmental agenda, modern challenges, a proposal for the development of national and regional legislation in view of faster climate change, primarily in northern regions. They also touched upon the regulation of forest relations (in terms of protecting forests from fires and firefighting), considered the impact of climate change on the socio-economic development of the territories.



The working group has extensive plans, its composition is constantly updated and soon the voice of regional parliamentarians will be heard on the major international platforms of the Arctic and the North.

## Roundtable “Environmental Education”

The NF Working Group on Education and Science organized a roundtable on environmental education – one of the most important areas in view of climate change and adaptation.



The discussion was moderated by the Chair of the Working Group, the Chair of the Standing Committee of the State Assembly (Il Tumen) of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) on Science, Education, Culture, Mass Media and Public Organizations Feodosia Gabysheva and the Rector of Ammosov NEFU Anatoly Nikolaev.

The roundtable convened such speakers as Professor Emeritus of the University of Alaska Terry Chapin, President of the University of the Arctic Lard Kullerud, Rector of the Junior Academy of Sciences of Yakutia Vasily Pavlov, Director of Taimyr College Vera Cherkasova, and others.

The Working Group has done a lot to promote the establishment of the International Arctic School and the Children of the Arctic Project. Three projects of Taimyr College and Yugra State University became the winners of the NF 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Projects.

### Project presentation

One of the main ideas behind the Forum's establishment was to present and select the projects that could have a practical effect for the regions engaged. To this end, such action was organized at the 1<sup>st</sup> NSDF and was met with great interest.

It was decided to resume the presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> NSDF.

The presentation was moderated by Daryana Maximova, the NF Deputy Executive Director.

The projects of ROSATOM, WWF, Kyndykan creative group, Khanty-Mansyisk AO, Chukotka AO, etc.

Among others, the NF priority project was presented – popular science journal of the Arctic State Institute of Culture and Art “Culture and Art Journal”. The implementation of the idea began in 2015. It was met with great interest by the academic community of the Russian Arctic: by today, three issues have been published, which involved the ASICA partners from Russia, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

The ASICA Rector Sargylana Ignatieva emphasized that in the future, under the auspices of the Northern forum, the journal may be included in the list of scientific journals of the Higher Attestation Commission and then get the status of the Web of Science and Scopus journal.



## Sessions of the Northern Youth Forum



The youth of the Northern Forum have been active in all the processes of the organization; they prepared and held over 10 interesting events within the 3<sup>rd</sup> NSDF, some of which have been mentioned before:

- Discussion session “Startups and technologies for the Arctic and the North”
- Master classes for startups
- Pitch session ImpactStartups
- Special issue of the special project “Research journal club” on the topic of “Sustainable development of the North”
- Special issue of the special project “Science: Beyond the Known” on the topic “Horizons of the North”
- Student conference on the development of agro-industrial complex under climate change and permafrost preservation
- Student symposium on circumpolar research
- Panel discussion “Hearing our voices: active work and cooperation with young researchers from the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)”
- Environmental volunteering and environmental protection
- Webinars “Climate change: scientific view”
- Contest of video clips in the social media (eco-challenge)
- Youth Eco-Forum



- Presentation of the project of the international school research and practice conference “Arctic – Territory of Cooperation” for the schools of the NF member regions
- A series of meetings with interesting people

The events were moderated by Savina Alexeeva, Sardana Zhendrinskaya, Ekaterina Sofroneeva, Darya Burnasheva, Irina Dranaeva, Antony Speka, Konstantin Nifontov, Elena Petrova, Mikhail Cherosov.

43 speakers from 11 countries - Russia, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark, USA, Canada, Norway, Great Britain, Brazil, China – took part in the sessions.



Every year, new forms of communication and youth involvement are introduced into the events of the Northern Youth Forum. Meetings with leading experts in various fields are becoming traditional, which, in addition to traditional meetings, were also organized in the format of special issues. The ecological domain has expanded significantly and we hope for the development of its applied part with a year-round work.

Subsequently, it is advisable to include a dialogue between young people and heads of the regions, representatives of large companies, small and medium businesses in the program of the NSDF Youth Block. It is very important to consider the issues of personnel and viability of enterprises and settlements in the Arctic and the North.

Although the NSDF dates at the end of September will remain unchanged, open-air events could be held for young people. Environmental events, a good cultural program, a sports component that promotes a healthy lifestyle, traditional sports of the peoples of the Arctic and the North would be good.

## SIDE EVENTS

This year, the screenings of two wonderful films were organized within the NSDF, which aroused great interest among the audience.

In 2019, the Italian ultramarathon runner Paolo Venturini ran a marathon at the Pole of Cold in Yakutia at -52 ° C; Monster Frozen documentary was produced as a follow-up, which tells not only about the run, but also about Yakutia. The premiere screening was postponed for a long time due to the pandemic, but the fact that it was shown during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum, which discussed climate change, became a clear illustration of the need to preserve cold and permafrost. Paolo Venturini, who became the NF Goodwill Ambassador and ran on all continents, shared very interesting observations of the state of the planet as a whole.





A well-known film director, producer Alexei Vakhrushev from Chukotka AO presented a wonderful animated film the Book of Sea, telling about the life, myths, and legends of Chukchi – the brave whale hunters. Similarly titled book was published based on the film, which complements the knowledge about the customs and traditions of Chukchi people. The film’s presentation in Yakutia became possible with the support of the NF Regional Coordinator from Chukotka AO Natalia Slugina, who was awarded the NF Walter Hickel medal.



Simultaneously with the NSDF, the city of Anadyr hosted the conference “Polar Bear Universe”, which brought together well-known experts - polar explorers who study the populations of polar bears in different parts of the Arctic. The event is also included in the Plan of the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council.

Since last year, the NSDF has frameworked an ecological action to preserve rare species of flora and fauna. Whereas the 2020 action was dedicated to a white Siberian crane, the NSDF symbol put on its logo, in 2021 polar bear was chosen as one of the main indicators of climate change in the Arctic. Together with the General Partner - TASS - a special interactive project “The Life of Polar Bears” was created on the TASS website

In this regard, the proposal of the NF Regional Coordinator from Chukotka Autonomous Okrug Natalia Slugina, supported by the Governor of the Okrug Roman Kopin, on organizing a video conference



between the two events of the Russian Chairmanship was welcomed, and on September 30 a productive dialogue took place between Chukotka and Yakutia. We agreed to continue discussions on the opportunities for cooperation and organizing similar projects in the future.



THE FULL REPORT OF ALL THE EVENTS OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NORTHERN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM, AS WELL AS ITS FINAL RESOLUTION, MATERIALS, AND PHOTO ARCHIVE ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NSDF.RU](http://WWW.NSDF.RU)  
THE RECORDINGS OF MOST EVENTS CAN BE VIEWED AT THE NF YOUTUBE CHANNEL.



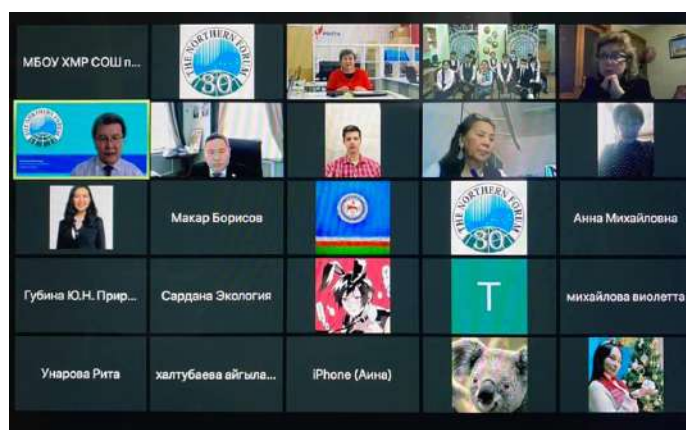
### 3.3. YOUTH ECO-FORUM

Due to the pandemic, the Youth Eco-Forum was canceled in 2020. This year, the situation was also uncertain, various options were considered. In summer, it was agreed that the Forum will be held in Gorny District of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) offline and online.

Nevertheless, after the beginning of the academic year, it became clear that the epidemiological situation would not improve and it was decided to organize it only online as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum. It should be noted that Youth Eco-Forum, initiated by Hokkaido Prefecture (Japan), was for the first time held in Canada 20 years ago. And this year, within the NSDF framework, we celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Northern Forum and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Youth Eco-Forum.

Thus, the 11<sup>th</sup> International Youth Environmental Forum "Climate Change and Permafrost Response" was held on October 14-15, 2021 at Berdigestyakh Secondary School. The choice of the YEF-2021 venue was no accident, since this school has participated in the international environmental forums in the recent years. The school represented the Sakha Republic at the following Eco-Forums: in Anchorage (Alaska, USA), 2011, in Salekhard (Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug), 2017, in Rovaniemi (Finland), 2018, and in Akureyri (Iceland), 2019.

The Forum was attended by schoolchildren and students from the regions of Russia - Belgorod Oblast, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug, Kamchatka Krai, Khabarovsk Krai and the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).



The Forum's program was extensive. A traditional meeting with interesting people was one of the Forum's significant events. The Forum's participants had a unique opportunity to meet with the eminent scientists from the field of natural science. The children listened to the lectures by Doctor of Biology, Head of the Laboratory of the Institute of Biological Problems of Cryolithozone of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences Arkady Isaev, Doctor of Geology and Mineralogy, Director of Melnikov Institute of Permafrost SB RAS Mikhail

Zheleznyak, and Doctor of Biology, Rector of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University Anatoly Nikolaev. The participants of the meeting not only listened to the lectures, but had active discussions. There is no doubt that at this meeting, the young people received an invaluable wealth of knowledge in understanding the nature of the Arctic.

For the creative presentation of the regions "We are Part of the Vast Arctic", the Forum participants told about the culture and traditions of the indigenous people and the natural peculiarities of their native land.

Online excursions were held during the Forum, where its participants could get acquainted with the sights of our republic and with the culture of the Sakha people. Also, the school teachers gave master, helping to become personally acquainted with our people's culture.

Project defense was the most important part of the Forum. The participants presented different works, united by the theme of the Forum "Climate Change and Permafrost Response". The kids were divided into 3 groups and winners were determined in each group.

The Ministry of Ecology, Nature Management and Forestry of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) organized a photo contest "Natural Disasters".

The Northern Forum Secretariat provided the prize-fund of RUB 190 thousand. The winners of the project competition received the gift certificates of Eldorado retail chain: for the 1<sup>st</sup> place – RUB 30 thousand, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place – RUB 20 thousand, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place – RUB 10 thousand. The winners of the photo contest received the certificates for RUB 5, 3, and 2 thousand.

The results of the project competition:



#### GROUP 1:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Albert Maximov, Berdigestyakh Secondary School, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) – "Iskra instrument of version 1 and 2 to detect harmful gases"

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Kamil Dzhumabaev, Vyacheslav Zarovnyaev, Berdigestyakh Secondary School, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) – "Permafrost-associated land forms on the territory of Berdigestyakh area"

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Anna Zhilina, Regional Youth Social Environmental Movement of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug - Yugra "The Third Planet From the Sun", Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug - Yugra – "Microplastic - an invisible threat"

#### GROUP 2:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Nadir Ashurov, Gornopravdinsk Secondary School, Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug – Yugra – "Study of the deicing chemicals used in Gornopravdinsk settlement"

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Erhan Lukin, Berdigestyakh Secondary School, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) – "Climate change impact on the avifauna of Yakutia (the case of Gorny District)"



3<sup>rd</sup> place – Aigylana Konstantinova, Sangar Gymnasium, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) – “Some forest pests in the vicinity of Sangar settlement”

#### GROUP 3:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Olga Mikhailova, Kristina Fedorova, Berdigestyakh Secondary School, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) – “Weed of phytoplankton and phytoperiphyton of the Sinyaya River basin in the area of Gorny District”

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Pairuz Bairavova, Gornopravdinsk Secondary School, Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug – Yugra – “Comparative analysis of water of Gorny Sor Lake and potable water of Gornopravdinsk settlement”

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Anzhelina Petrova, Sangar Gymnasium, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) – “The problems of preservation of the endemic plant Yakut dragonhead (*Dracocephalum jacutense* Peschkova) under a high anthropogenic load”

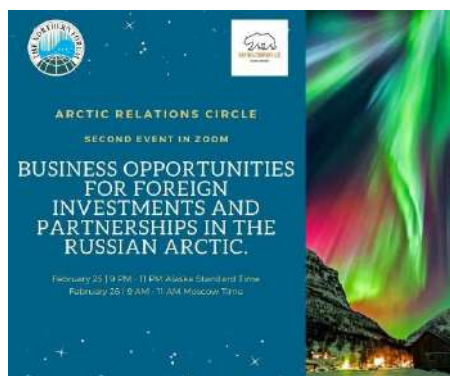
Results of photo contest “Natural Disasters”:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Nikita Okhlopkov, Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Artem Shekhovtsov, Belgorod Oblast

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Nadir Ashurov, Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug – Yugra.

### 3.4. A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON BUSINESS COOPERATION



By the initiative of the NF business partner ArKtika LLC, 6 online seminars on business cooperation development within the Northern Forum were organized in 2021. They discussed attraction of investments, reputation support and establishment of partnerships, development of tourism, Arctic infrastructure, winter delivery of cargos, and others. The seminar’s constant moderator is Kristina Baiborodova, ArKtika LLC partner. The recording of all seminars is available on the NF YouTube channel.

Well-known experts in their fields were invited as the seminars’ speakers. The most active discussions took place in June, when the development of tourism and related infrastructure were discussed. The topic turned out to be one of the most relevant at the present time, given the pandemic that caused a crisis in this industry. All regions and countries are concerned with preserving tourism as an industry, finding solutions to the current situation.

In general, online seminars should be continued. At the same time, it became obvious that in July-August it is better to take a break, because in most countries this is the period of holidays and it is difficult to bring together not only the speakers, but also the audience. It might be worth reconsidering the regularity of the event. Business life is full of online events and there are some difficulties in preparing monthly seminars, given the increased workload on the Secretariat’s small staff.

### 3.5. FINAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATORS COMMITTEE

#### Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Kamchatka Krai, December 9-10, 2021

The RCC Meeting was held as part of the International Research and Practice Conference **“Regional Problems of the Russian Far East and the Arctic Development” (2<sup>nd</sup> Moiseyev Readings) in memory of Kamchatka researcher R.S. Moiseyev.**

The NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke at the plenary session of the conference and presented the major results and plans of the organization for the year to come. The Governor of Kamchatka Krai Vladimir Solodov highlighted the region’s dedication to the NF mission and informed that in August 2022 Kamchatka will host the 1<sup>st</sup> All-Russian Youth Ecological Forum.

Because of great timing difference between Kamchatka and Europe, as well as to make it more convenient for the online participants, the RCC meeting was held in the evening.

The Governor of Kamchatka Vladimir Solodov welcomed the participants at the opening of the Meeting. Taking into account the growing climate change impact, the Governor expressed the Krai’s willingness to chair the Regional Adaptation to Climate Change Working Group. The Northern Forum has been holding the Youth Eco Forum for 20 years, and in 2022 it will be held as part of the planned the 1<sup>st</sup> All-Russian Youth Ecological Forum. The NF flag, that can be used at the NF-related events, was presented to Governor Solodov.

A wide range of issues has been discussed. Reports, work plan and budget for the year 2022 have been approved, as well as the leaders and coordinators of the Northern Youth Forum. Decisions have been made on the Governors Summit, signing the agreements with a number of partners, strengthening the NF position within the Arctic Council, in particular, on the Arctic youth movement.

To forms of the RCC decision making have now become official: by a protocol and by a resolution.

A delegation of teachers from the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) took an active part in the events in Kamchatka; the teachers are engaged in the school partnership projects; they had meetings at the Ministry of Education and the schools of the city. The schools of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky will be involved in the School of Life in the North Project.









# PROJECT ACTIVITY



#### 4.1. WORKING GROUPS

Project activity is one of the most popular areas of activity, which can bring tangible effect for the participating regions and business partners. In this regard, in the Northern Forum, various attempts have been made to establish this type of activity in the right direction. Whereas earlier all the work was carried out within 4-5 programs, in 2018 10 working groups were created to prepare, select and support the projects. In 2021, two more groups were added to them.



### The Northern Forum Working Groups:

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

In general, the idea of creating working groups by the areas, by analogy with other international organizations, is attractive, but at the same time it's associated with some problems.

A lot depends on the leaders of the groups and, in the absence of such, the group does not fulfill its functions and practically stops working. Frequent change of group leaders has similar result. Therefore, it is desirable that the groups create a core of dedicated and active participants who could maintain stable work under any circumstances.

Together with the newly appointed RCC Chair Arja Haikara, the activities of all working groups were analyzed; this analysis was presented to the Chair of the Northern Forum. Mika Riipi proposed to divide them into two categories: permanent and non-permanent. Permanent groups are proposed to include the groups that carry out work, have or develop the Group's Regulations and work plans, and participate in the activities of the Northern Forum. Non-permanent working groups can meet as needed to solve some specific, time-limited tasks. They can be transferred to the permanent ones when forming a permanent composition and demonstrating intentions to conduct regular work.

Among the created working groups, the most active and stable ones should be highlighted; although they have not reached a level of quality, they do certain work and can be attributed to the permanent working groups.

## 1. Culture Working Group

Chair – Andrei Borisov, State Counselor of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

Andrei Borisov became the Group's Chair in 2021; their first event was a roundtable "Geocultural identity of northern regions" during the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Naryan-Mar.

The Group was actively involved in project selection during the Call for Projects; a project of the Museum Association of Nenets Autonomous Okrug "New Cities in the Old Land" became a winner in Culture Section.

The Group's Chair coordinated the opening ceremony of the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, dedicated to the NF 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Day of Statehood of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).



## 2. Creative Industry Working Group

Chair – Eduard Isakov, Representative of the Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk AO – Yugra in the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

This Group was proposed by the Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk AO – Yugra Natalia Komarova and supported by the Board of Governors.

During the year, the Group has developed its Regulations, a work plan and a priority project on shaping a creative segment of economy of the NF regions and their integration into the global market for sustainable development.

On November 12, the first meeting of the Working Group was held as part of the Creative Industries Development Festival in Khanty-Mansyisk, where the basic documents and the work plan have been approved.



### 3. Education and Research Working Group

Chair – Feodosia Gabysheva, Chair of the Standing Committee of the State Assembly (Il Tumen) of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) on Science, Education, Culture, Mass Media and Public Organizations.

As was mentioned above, this Group has done a lot to promote the International Arctic School and the Children of the Arctic Project. Last year, it was actively involved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> NF Call for Projects, and 2 projects of Taimyr College became the winners. A project of Yugra State University, that could as well be attributed to the Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity WG, became the winner too.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> NSDF, the Working Group held a roundtable on environmental education.

**School Partnership** is one of the most successful NF projects in the field of education. The project's leader is Anastasia Bozhedonova, a former Deputy Director of the Northern Forum; the project's coordinator is Dora Egorova, an English teacher at Yakutsk City National Gymnasium.



The project has been working for 10 years; various olympiads, festivals, contests and meetings with interesting people have been organized during this time.

This year, the project has been rebranded and is now called **School of Living in the North**; teachers and students have created a website: <http://north-school.com/ru/>

On October 12 - December 12, 2021, a contest “The image of a teacher-creator” is held, which aims to highlight a profession of teacher. Creative works about your opinion, interviews, prosaic essays, featuring a vision with a free interpretation of some pedagogical problem, dignified and noble images of dedicated teachers, are welcomed.

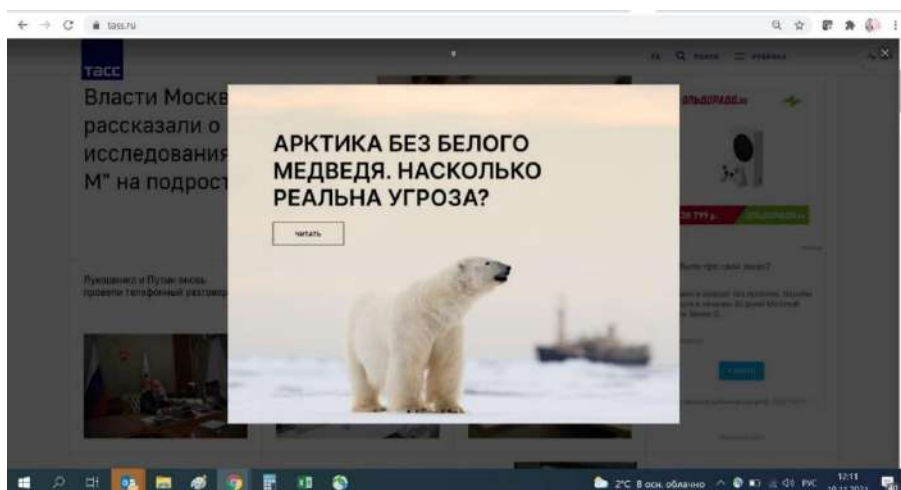
On November 17, a working meeting of the project’s participants with the NF Executive Director took place, where they have discussed the progress of work and the plans for the years to come. The project is developing dynamically and expands the scope of its activities.



#### 4. Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity Working Group

Chair – Sakhamin Afanasiev, Minister of Ecology, Nature Use and Forestry of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), at present – Chair of the Standing Committee of the State Assembly (Il Tumen) of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) on land relations, Natural Resources and Ecology.

Sakhamin Afanasiev has been elected a peoples’ deputy and the issue of the Group’s chairmanship has to be resolved.

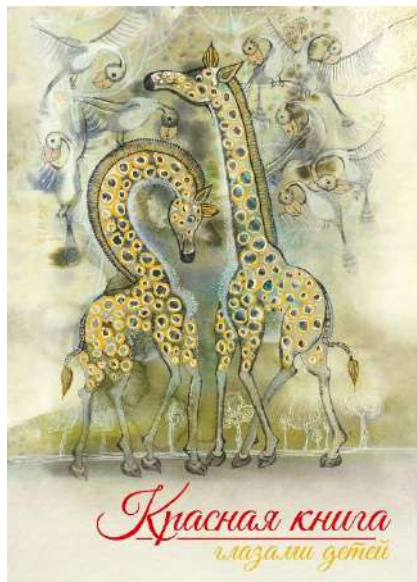


This Group used to be one of the most active, organizing seminars on the protected areas and supporting the large-scale actions “Save and Preserve” in Khanty-Mansyisk AO – Yugra and “Nature and We” in Yakutia.

In general, in 2021 the Group has also conducted certain work: they have developed the Group’s Regulations and had a meeting in April to discuss the

areas of activity and the work plans. The Group's members are actively involved in the Northern Sustainable Development Forum; they have participated in the events on the development of tourism and protected areas and the Arctic migratory birds.

A lot of materials (photo, video, diaries, reports, brochures) on the preservation of polar bear populations and the work of the Bear Patrol project have been submitted for a joint TASS special project "Life of polar bears".



At present, a project **"Red Book Through the Eyes of Children"**, initiated by Khanty-Mansyisk AO – Yugra over 10 years ago, is now working successfully within the Group. The project's permanent leader is Olga Stytsyuk, a chief curator of *Otrazheniye* Museum and Education Center.

Yet another book is published this year. The collection features the creative works of the laureates of the International project – exhibition contest "Red Book Through the Eyes of Children" in the following nominations: graphic arts, painting, decorative and applied arts, sculpture, photography, poetry and essay. The goal of the project is to shape environmental culture and proactive attitude of the younger generation towards the reduction of flora and fauna species diversity in specific regions and on the entire planet.

## 5. Regional Adaptation to Climate Change Working Group

Chair – Nikita Tananaev, leading researcher at the Permafrost Institute SB RAS.

The Group has not been formed completely yet, its Chair being the most active; with his support and consulting, MultiDiTech LLC from the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (director – Taisia Tarabukina) has published a book for children The Mystery of Permafrost.



Nikita Tananaev was very active in preparing and holding the events of the 3rd NSDF, the Northern Youth Forum and the Youth Eco-Forum.

The topics of climate change, permafrost response and adaptation are very relevant now, so it is planned to make this Group most active and efficient with a wide range of activities.

## 6. Working Group on Parliamentary Cooperation

Chair – Victor Gubarev, Vice Chair of the State Assembly (Il Tumen) of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

Since being initiated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum, the proposal on the Group's establishment has been actively supported by the legislative bodies in the regions, the State Duma, and



the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. We are confident that the Group will develop and enter the international arena quite fast to bring the voice of the regional deputies to the Conference of Arctic Parliamentarians.

In 2021, the Group was formed; they have developed their documents and a working plan. A meeting of the regions' representatives took place in June, where the Chair was elected.

A representative parliamentary session was held at the 3<sup>rd</sup> NSDF; more information it is available in the section about the NSDF.

Other working groups were not active and are transferred to the non-permanent category. When we have clear information about their composition and plans, they can be returned to the permanent category.

#### 4.2. PRIORITY PROJECTS

As per Resolution №233 of the Regional Coordinators Committee, the following projects are now on the list of the NF priority projects:

No	Name of the project	Leading regions	Notes
1	Northern Sustainable Development Forum	Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia	
2	Youth Eco-Forum	The Northern forum Secretariat	
3	Arctic Children	Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia	SDWG project
4	Digitalization of Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic	Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia	SDWG project
5	Arctic Culture and Art Journal	Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia	
6	Arctic Juniors	Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia	Winner of the Call for Projects - 2020
7	Ecological Ark	Krasnoyarsk Krai, Russia	Winner of the Call for Projects - 2020
8	Restoring natural ecosystems and ecosystem services for adaptation climate change	Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra, Russia	Winner of the Call for Projects - 2020
9	New Cities in the Old Land	Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia	Winner of the Call for Projects - 2020

#### 4.3. CALL FOR PROJECTS

As you can see from the above Section, 4 projects are the winners of the 2020 Call for Projects; works under the project have been conducted throughout 2021.

Due to COVID-10 pandemic, there are some delays in implementing the projects, that is why they will be completed in 2022.



## 1. New Cities in the Old Land

Source: [https://naomuseum.ru/about-us/our-projects/?ELEMENT\\_ID=456](https://naomuseum.ru/about-us/our-projects/?ELEMENT_ID=456)

The Dutch-Russian project “New Cities in the Old Land” has won the grants of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands to the Russian Federation and the Northern Forum.



Naryan-Mar, the cities of Yamal, Almere (in the Netherlands) - these are the so-called "new cities" based on the "old land" with its complex and rich history. There are many such cities in Russia and all over the world.

Almost all of these new cities in different parts of the world are united by the fact that during their creation, the utopian thinking typical for the 20th century played an important role. Today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these cities, having lost their ideological orientations, are in search of their identity (in fact, every resident in such a city is a migrant, often with the consciousness of a temporary worker), ways and methods to improve the quality of life, as well as the opportunities to restore ties with the territory where they are located, its history and landscape.



In 2019, during an internship in the Netherlands, the museum workers from Nenets Autonomous Okrug met with the curators of socio-cultural and art projects from Amsterdam and the province of Flevoland. It turned out that the problems of using the spaces of the youngest province of the Netherlands, as well as finding their own local characteristics and "anchors" for people living in these territories, are in tune with the problems faced the NAO and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

All this became the starting point for the idea of organizing an art residence in Naryan-Mar and Pustozersk - the first Russian city in the Arctic (Nenets Autonomous Okrug) in 2021 and holding a number of public events such as exhibitions, lectures, presentations, etc. in the NF - Nenets Autonomous Okrug and the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, where artists, curators, and scientists will communicate with the local residents, get acquainted with various aspects of the territory's life, reflect on the modern manifestation/visualization of historical heritage in the life of new cities, and propose the ideas for improving the quality of life in these regions.

Artists from the Northern Forum regions - Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug and the Netherlands will be invited to the residence. Within the framework of the residence, the artists will create works exploring the problems of "new cities in the old land", as well as, together with the local historians and the local community, will present their views on the ways to solve it. The art

residence will result in an interregional exhibition, which will display the artwork created under the impressions from Naryan-Mar and Pustozersk, and the items from the collection of the Museum Association of Nenets Autonomous Okrug, as well as in a series of public events (master classes, meetings, publications and others) in the cities of the Northern Forum regions (Naryan-Mar, Salekhard).

## Производство работ художниками по итогам арт-резиденции (сентябрь – ноябрь 2021)



Чикако Ватанабэ, Альмере,  
Нидерланды



Синди Морман, Альмере,  
Нидерланды



Лилия Тайбарей,  
Нарьян-Мар, НАО



Виктор Вылко, Нарьян-Мар, НАО



Татьяна Кипко,  
Салехард, ЯНАО



Андрей Вахрушев, Лабытнанги,  
ЯНАО

### The art residence artists at work (September-November, 2021)

Chikako Watanabe, Almere, Netherlands

Sindi Morman, Almere, Netherlands

Lilia Taibarey, Naryan-Mar, NAO

Viktor Vylko, Naryan-Mar, NAO

Tatiana Kipko, Salekhard, YNAO

Andrey Vakhrushev, Labytnangi, YNAO

### 2. Restoring natural ecosystems and ecosystem services for adaptation climate change

Source: <https://russiagermany.ru/events/seminar-vosstanovlenie-prirodnikh-ekosistem-i-ekosistemnykh-uslug-dlya-tseley-smyagcheniya-izmeneniy-klimata-i-adaptatsii-opyt-vosstanovleniya-bolot-i-bolotnykh-ekosistem-60decfb477e18/>



On July 3, 2021, the NF project “Restoring natural ecosystems and ecosystem services for adaptation climate change”, in collaboration with the project “Restoring peatland in Russia – for fire prevention and climate change mitigation (PeatRus)” held a workshop “Restoring ecosystems and ecosystem services for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Experience in the restoration of peatlands and mire ecosystems”.

During the year, the work was carried out in 4 stages, maps of disturbed lands, background maps of greenhouse gas emissions were compiled. The project is educational in nature and can be extrapolated to other regions.



### 3. Arctic Juniors Project

For early vocational training and career guidance of schoolchildren, identification and stimulation of talented youth, as well as to promote vocational professions through involving youth in Juniors professional skills competitions within the WorldSkills and Arcticskills international movement, a project on creating the Arctic Juniors Training Center was developed.

The Arctic Juniors is a new movement that will all to promote vocational professions among schoolchildren and raise the level of professional training in accordance with international standards.

To date, in accordance with the project implementation plan, the following have been developed: the Concept of the Arctic Juniors Training Center, the Regulations on the Juniors Competition, and competition tasks for 13 competencies.

As part of the Profi-2021-Arctic: Today and the Future International Forum and the Arcticskills International Competition, the Arctic Juniors Training Center was opened on April 6-8, 2021, and the Juniors competitions were held in these competencies.



To develop interregional cooperation within the Northern Forum, the Arctic Network of Vocational Educational Institutions has been created, where you can exchange materials and engage online.



#### 4. Ecological Ark Project

Goal of the project: develop domestic, ecological and educational tourism in Taymyr District.

Objectives of the project: 1. Develop the territory of the future ecological trail. 2. Install mobile dwellings. 3. Clear the territory out. 4. Lay a safe tourist route certified by the Russian Tourism Agency.

Implementation of the project.

Stage 1: 1. The meeting of the steering committee has been held, key functions of the stakeholders and partners have been allocated. 2. The acquisition of a styled yurt and materials has been arranged. 3. The project's logo has been developed and approved. 4. In April-early May, construction materials were delivered and the ecological trail and dwellings were designed.

At the Stage 2 (June-July), the developed ecological trail was territorially planned and approved, and the route was certified; the territory of the ecological trail was improved and the styled yurt was installed.

Stage 3 (August-September): Presentation of the ecological trail. Organizing the tourist visits. Welcome and accommodation of tourists.





ОТВЕТСТВЕННОЕ  
УПРАВЛЕНИЕ  
ДЛЯ УСТОЙЧИВОЙ  
АРКТИКИ

2021–2023

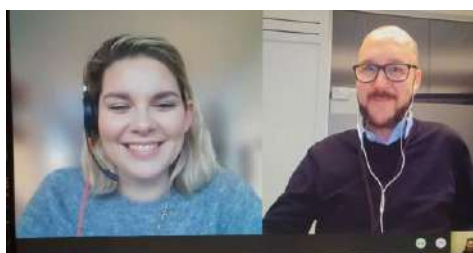
АРКТИЧЕСКИЙ СОВЕТ  
ПРЕДСЕДАТЕЛЬСТВО РОССИИ



# THE NORTHERN FORUM AND THE ARCTIC COUNCIL



## 5.1. PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS OF THE ICELANDIC CHAIRMANSHIP



During its chairmanship in the Arctic Council, Iceland paid special attention to a more active involvement of observers in the events, projects and discussions. Many meetings were organized. In addition to the traditional business lunches of the Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Committee, Iceland hosted a number of special events.



Countries and organizations - the Arctic Council observers - regularly confirm their status by sending reports on their activities to the Secretariat of the Arctic Council, which was enough before. But Iceland, in order to strengthen the interaction of the Arctic Council with the observers, has initiated a new form - an interview of an authorized employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Iceland, Selma Oskarsdottir, and a representative of the Secretariat of the Arctic Council, Joël Plouffe, with the representatives of the countries and the heads of the observer organizations. On January 20, the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasiliev represented the Northern Forum at such special meeting, which was also attended by the US and Finnish Senior Officials. An interested exchange of views took place on the activities of the Northern Forum and its contribution to the development of the Arctic Council. The authorized representatives of the Icelandic Chairmanship were satisfied to note the high activity and potential of the Northern Forum.

On 15 March, Einar Gunnarsson, the Chair of the Arctic Council's Senior Officials, met with the heads of the Arctic Council observer delegations. Mr. Gunnarsson said they planned to organize a panel discussion with the observers on Arctic governance in April. Within the framework of the Ministerial Meeting, a special online room will be organized for observers who cannot come to Reykjavik to discuss the issues of interaction with the Arctic Council. In addition, it was proposed to prepare 2-3-minute videos or written statements to the Ministerial meeting on the development of international cooperation in the Arctic.



The Northern Forum Acting Executive Director Vladimir Vasiliev told about the plans of engagement in the implementation of the Program of Russia's Chairmanship in the Arctic Council. He also noted that the Northern Forum could be one of the key speakers at the upcoming panel discussion on Arctic governance, being the international organization of the northern and Arctic regions. This proposal was accepted, which may indicate the growing role of the Northern Forum in the global international cooperation in the Arctic.

On April 21, Iceland held the Arctic Council panel discussion with the observers on Arctic governance. Of the 38 observers, only the leaders of three were invited as speakers. We are very pleased that the Northern Forum was included in the list of speakers. Acting Executive Director Vladimir Vasiliev spoke in detail about the contribution of the Northern Forum to the activities of the Arctic Council. At the same



time, he highlighted the Arctic Council's support of our organization's activities. Such events allow the observers to be actively involved in the cooperation in the Arctic, make proposals and raise specific issues for finding joint solutions. We are confident that Russia will continue its practice of dialogue with the observers.



On May 20, at the Ministerial meeting, the Russian Federation took over the chairmanship in the Arctic Council. Unfortunately, the pandemic did not allow the observers to directly participate in the meeting, but Iceland tried to create the most comfortable conditions by developing a special online platform where observers could watch the entire process live and gain access to all materials. Videos and written messages from the observers were also posted on this platform. The Northern Forum has submitted a written statement to have a document to be referred to in the future.



#### THE NORTHERN FORUM STATEMENT FOR THE ARCTIC COUNCIL MINISTERIAL MEETING

Congratulations to the Arctic Council on the 25th anniversary of its successful work for the benefit of all residents of the Arctic and the planet!

We express our sincere gratitude to Iceland for its multifaceted and interesting work with the observers that helped define the areas in which our organization can bring most value to strengthening and development of constructive international cooperation in the Arctic, as well as for the invitation to present the vision of the Northern Forum at a very important Arctic Council's panel discussion with the observers on governance in the Arctic.

The Northern Forum has been an observer at the Arctic Council since 1998 and has consistently supported its activities, ensuring the organization's participation in almost all major events of the Arctic Council, both at the level of the foreign ministers and Senior Arctic Officials and the working groups and projects.

Under Iceland's chairmanship, the Northern Forum has been active in promoting the mission, goals and objectives of the Arctic Council at the regional level. We intend to continue this activity under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation.

We express our appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and personally to the Ambassador-at-Large, the Senior Arctic Official of the Russian Federation Nikolai Korchunov, the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic, and personally to the Deputy Director of the Department of Technology Development and International Cooperation in Regions of the Far East and of the Arctic of the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic, Representative of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group Oleg Solyakov for proposing the Northern Forum to become a partner of the Russian Chairmanship at organizing such major events as the Arctic Resilience Forum, Arctic Energy Summit, Conference of Chambers of Trade and Commerce and Business Associations of the Arctic and Northern Regions, Youth Startup Forum and others.

We are committed to make every effort to efficiently hold the proposed events and being actively involved in the implementation of the Major Action Plan of the Russian Federation's Chairmanship in the Arctic Council in 2021-2023.

At the 14<sup>th</sup> Northern Forum General Assembly, held on April 28-29, 2021 in Naryn-Mar (Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Russia), the Board of Governors

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adopted Resolution # 229 "On the Northern Youth Forum", as well as Resolution # 230 "On supporting the Russian Federation's Chairmanship in the Arctic Council", which will allow to significantly contribute to the activities of the Arctic Council.

We highlight the need to intensify efforts to ensure the engagement of the Northern Forum member regions in the ongoing Arctic Council projects, primarily in the *Arctic Children: Preschool and School Education and Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic* projects. As per Resolution # 233 signed on April 28, 2021 by the Northern Forum Regional Coordinators Committee, the above projects have been included in the list of the Northern Forum priority projects.

Taking into account the increasing importance of the Arctic and the need to maintain peace and stability, strengthen and expand international cooperation in the Arctic and in the world, support the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, the Northern Forum addresses the distinguished foreign ministers of the Arctic states with the following proposals:

1. We consider it viable for the Arctic Council to address the United Nations Organization with a proposal to establish the International Decade of the Arctic and the International Day of the Arctic.
2. We note the need for more active involvement of the Senior Arctic Officials, leaders and representatives of the Arctic Council working groups in the events of the Arctic Council observer organizations.
3. We propose to conduct planned training of young specialists - future leaders of international cooperation in the Arctic, using the potential of international organizations that have their own youth associations and are professionally involved in specialist training.
4. We propose to organize not only popular models of the Arctic Council, but also the models of interaction between the Arctic Council and the observers. The Northern Forum is ready to organize a model of interaction between the Northern Forum and the Arctic Council.
5. We invite you to take part in the celebrations dedicated to the Northern Forum's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be held within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum on September 27-30, 2021 in Yakutsk (Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia).

Sincerely,  
Executive Director  
Vladimir Vasilev



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## 5.2. ENGAGEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RUSSIAN CHAIRMANSHIP PROGRAM

As can be seen from the previous Section, the Northern Forum has done a significant amount of preparatory work for the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council ahead of the changeover from Iceland to Russia. In addition to the presentations at the meetings with the Senior Officials, numerous consultations were held with various experts on a number of areas of the Russian Chairmanship Program.

At the beginning of the year, Russia's representative to the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council (SDWG) Oleg Solyakov informed us that at a joint meeting of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic, it was recommended to involve the Northern Forum in organizing the Arctic Resilience Forum (ARF) and the Arctic Energy Summit. The proposal was accepted with great appreciation.

The Senior Arctic Council Official from Russia, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikolai Korchunov proposed a number of other events to the Northern Forum. Thus, we began to prepare in the following areas:



The graphic features a blue background with a grid of small white dots. At the top, there are three logos: the Northern Forum logo on the left, the Arctic Council logo in the center (labeled 'RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCTIC 2021-2023 ARCTIC COUNCIL RUSSIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP'), and the Northern Forum logo on the right. Below the logos is a list of events. To the right of the list are two photographs: the top one shows a group of people's hands holding a whiteboard with 'Start Up' written on it, and the bottom one shows two men in hard hats standing next to solar panels. At the bottom right is a circular logo for the Northern Sustainable Development Forum.

- 1st Conference of Arctic Regions Chamber of Commerce, Komi Republic, November 23-25, 2021
- Youth Start-Up Forum, 2022
- Youth Start-Up Expedition, 2022-2023
- Arctic Resilience Forum, Fall, 2022
- Arctic Energy Summit, 2023
- Northern Sustainable Development Forum, Yakutsk, September 27-30, 2021-2023
- International Brand "Made in the Arctic"

### 1<sup>st</sup> CONFERENCE OF THE CAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS OF THE ARCTIC REGIONS

The main organizer is the Chamber of Commerce of the Komi Republic. Co-organizers: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, SDWG, The Northern Forum.

The Conference was scheduled for November 23-25, 2021 in Syktyvkar, but due to a worsening epidemiological situation it was rescheduled for 2022. The dates will be announced later.

At the initial stage, the Northern Forum was involved in preparing the information materials and informing its member regions and the regions of the Arctic Council.

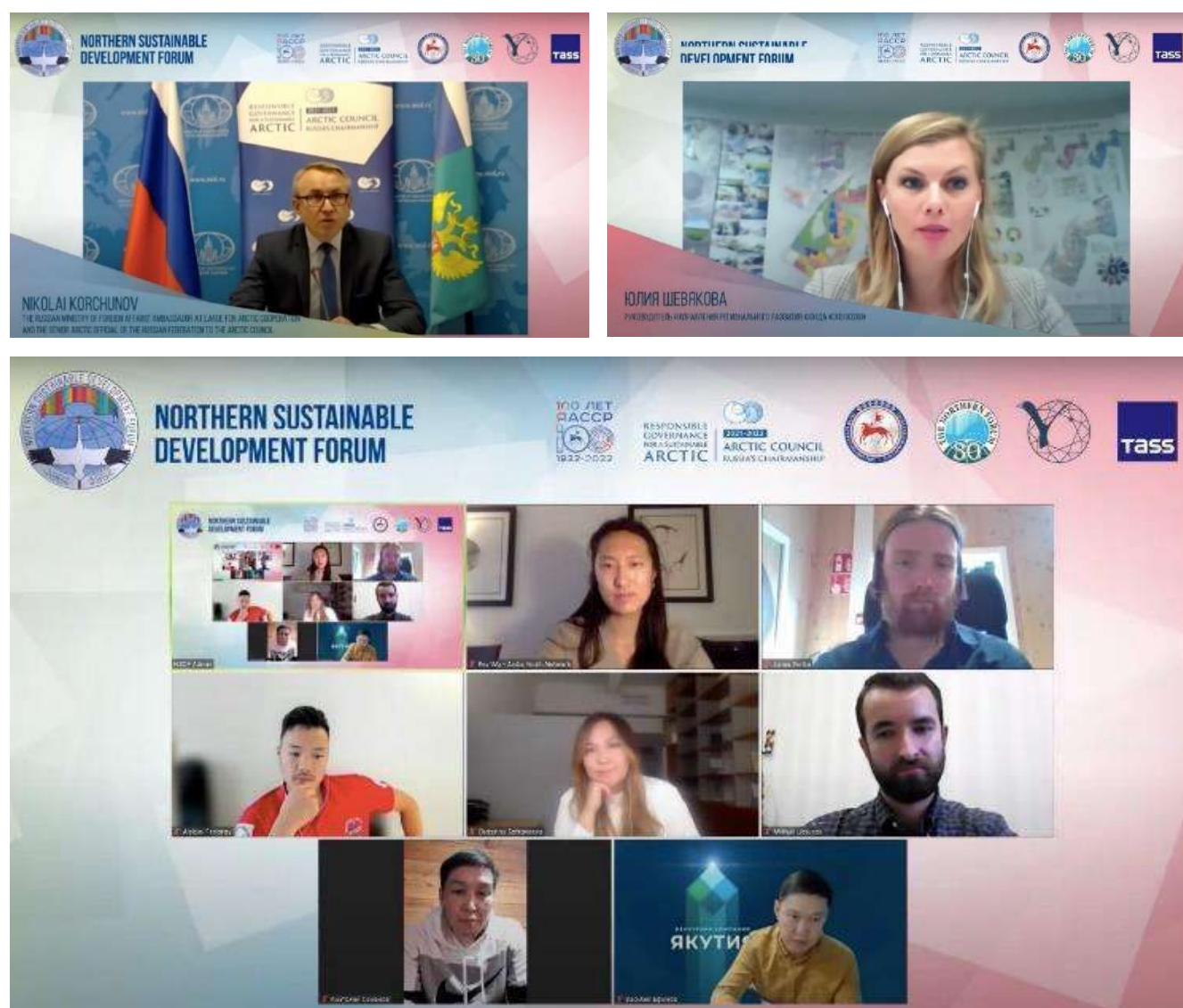


## YOUTH STARTUP FORUM

The Youth Startup Forum was held as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum as a discussion session of the Northern Youth Forum and the Innovative Development Fund of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) “Startups and Technologies for the Arctic and the North”.

Go Global World international techpreneur community is the event’s partner. At the session, the representatives of government, business and science from different countries discussed the issues of technological development of the Arctic and the North.

The Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Committee, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikolai Korchunov gave a welcome speech.



The speakers of the discussion session – President of the Marine Exchanges of Alaska, member of the commissions of the Arctic Economic Council, the NF Goodwill Ambassador Paul Fuhs, Area manager of the Skolkovo Regional Development Department Yulia Shevyakova, Minister of Innovation, Digital Development and IT of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Anatoly Semyonov, Director of the Innovative





Development Fund of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Vasily Efimov, Russian Chairmanship Youth Envoy Mikhail Uksusov, and the experts from Canada, Great Britain, Finland, Denmark, Sweden: Eva Wu, Director of the Arctic Youth Network (Canada), Janne Perttu, Vaasa Innovation Center (Finland), Celine Emma la Cour, Copenhagen University (Denmark), Zhenming Wu, Researcher at the Reading University (England), and Alexei Fyodorov, Researcher at Lund University (Sweden),

Moderators and initiators: Savina Alexeeva, Head of Partnership and Accelerator Programs Department, Yakutia Venture Company, and Ekaterina Sofroneeva, Researcher at Vaasa University.

In the discussions' follow-up, it was agreed to organize the **STARTUP EXPEDITIONS** to the Arctic and northern regions, starting 2022.

## ARCTIC RESILIENCE FORUM



On January 23, a meeting was held with the SDWG Executive Secretary Jennifer Spence and the ARF international organizing team, where the results of ARF-2020, held online (10 sessions over 10 weeks), were presented. The Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasilev presented a preliminary vision of the ARF format under the Russian Chairmanship, when sessions are organized in different regions of the Northern Forum and the final meeting is held in Moscow, where the Forum's Moscow Declaration is signed.

Until September, various options for holding the Forum, the main topics for the sessions, as well as the places and dates of the Forum were discussed. During the discussions, we agreed on developing a project proposal for the SDWG, so that the Forum would continue in practice.

The Arctic Resilience Project, based on the proposals from the members of the international organizing group, was developed and approved at the end of October by SDWG.

Accordingly, the Northern Forum becomes one of the leaders of the project as an observer organization and will engage in the implementation of all three components of the project:

1. Field research of the communities' resilience
2. Resilience monitoring and clarification of indicators
3. Arctic Resilience Forum.

The action group proposed to hold the Forum in the region where the Senior Officials and the SDWG would meet. In this regard, the Northern Forum held negotiations with the Vice Governor of Murmansk Oblast Olga Kuznetsova and the management of Murmansk State Technical University, as in the fall of 2022, the aforementioned meetings of the Arctic Council will be held in Murmansk. A preliminary agreement was reached with the Government of Murmansk Oblast to hold the Forum on their territory. The consultations will continue until the end of the year, following which an application will be made to include the Arctic Resilience Forum in the Program of the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council.

### SDWG PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Title:	Lead Country/Project leader(s):
Advancing Arctic Resilience: Information, capacity, and networks for navigating impacts of permafrost thaw	Arctic States: Russian Federation, Iceland, United States
	Permanent Participants: AAC (TBC), Saami Council (TBC)
	Observers: Northern Forum, Association of World Reindeer Herders, IASSA, WWF, UArctic
	Other Partners: Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center Arctic Initiative, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, The Woodrow Wilson Center – Polar Institute, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, Permafrost Institute of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences
	<b>Project co-leads welcome additional project co-leads, partners and participants.</b>

## ARCTIC ENERGY SUMMIT

The Summit was initiated by the Institute of the North (Alaska, USA), which later became a business partner of the Northern Forum. During the Summit in Iceland, the Arctic Portal became one of the co-organizers.



In this regard, consultations were held with the Institute's Director of the Ian Laing and the Director of the Arctic Portal Halldor Johannsson. The preliminary concept of the Summit was developed. It was agreed to hold it in one of the NF regions in the first quarter of 2023. Negotiations were held with a number of energy experts who expressed their willingness to join the international organizing group.

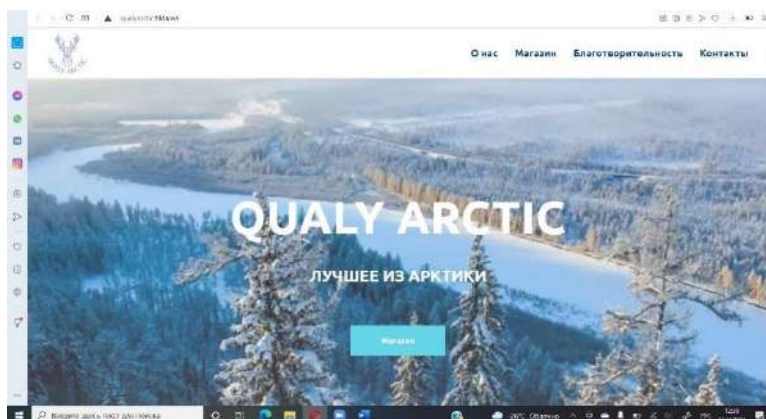
Nevertheless, at present, some uncertainties remain in place; when they have been overcome, an application will be made to include the Arctic Energy Summit in the Program of the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council.

## NORTHERN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

For more information, please see Section 6.2.

## INTERNATIONAL BRAND "MADE IN THE ARCTIC"

Nikolai Korchunov, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Committee, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry, suggested that the Northern Forum develop a single international brand for the Arctic products. The project is wide, ambitious and, at the same time, difficult from the technical and logistic point of view. Nevertheless, consultations were held with various experts both at the online meetings of the Arctic Business Relations Circle and at the Northern Forum events.



For example, within the framework of the personnel competition of the Higher School of Innovative Management under the Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) "Talents of Yakutia", there is a team of representatives of different organizations, which took up the development of a similar brand named "Qualy Arctic", under which entrepreneurs of Yakutia are consolidated; they created a website <http://qualyartctic.tilda.ws>

Besides, there is a copyright holder of the *Made in the Arctic* word combination Vladimir Miloslavsky, Deputy Head for Social Affairs of Bulun District of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia); he was also negotiated with and a preliminary agreement of cooperation was achieved.

The issue of the brand's creation will be discussed at the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations of the Arctic regions.

## ATTENDANCE OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL MEETINGS

As an observer, the Northern Forum has a permanent quota to attend the Arctic Council meetings at any level. We take part in the Ministerial meeting, in all meetings of the Senior Arctic Officials, and the Sustainable Development Working Group, which this year were mainly held online. As far as possible, we take part in the meetings of other working groups and invite them to our events.



On September 8, the Northern Forum took part in the Interdepartmental Experimental Research Exercise of the Russian Ministry of Emergencies, which took place in 8 Arctic regions of Russia simultaneously. The NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke at a roundtable on ensuring the resilience of enterprises and communities in the Arctic. These exercises are part of the Program of the Russian Chairmanship and the Arctic Council EPPR Working Group.



## SENIOR ARCTIC OFFICIALS MEETING



**Salekhard, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, November 30 – December 2**

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, the Meeting was organized as a hybrid event. It convened about 100 representatives of the Arctic countries, permanent participants, working groups, countries and observer organizations.

The Northern Forum delegation included the NF Chair, Governor of Lapland Mika Riipi, Executive

Director Vladimir Vasilev, and Vice-Governor, Director of the External Relations Department of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug Alexander Mazharov.

Before meeting, the Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev met with President of the Association of World Reindeer Herders Sergei Kharyuchi, the Chair of the Legislative Assembly Sergei Yamkin, his Deputy Viktor Kazarin, and the representative of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug in the Regional Duma of Tyumen Oblast Vladimir Pushkarev. He visited a Multidisciplinary College and the Education Development Institute. Meetings were also held in the Department of Health and the Department of Indigenous Peoples.



For the first time after a long break, the floor was given to the observer organization - the Northern Forum - as part of the discussion on the regional cooperation development: Vladimir Vasilev informed about the Northern Forum's involvement in the implementation of the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council, and Mika Riipi proposed to establish a temporary working group of the Arctic Council on regional cooperation, which was supported by the SAO Chair Nikolay Korchunov.



## THE FORUM OF YOUNG LEADERS OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL COUNTRIES - ICE

**Salekhard, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, December 6-8**

ICE stands for Inspiration. Communication. Efforts.

The ICE Forum has convened 100 young leaders from different countries, mostly from the Arctic Council member countries. All participants worked in four laboratories:

- Creative Industries
- Volunteering
- Business Acceleration
- Development of Youth Media

On the third day of the event, the participants presented their projects to the organizers and experts. The results of the implemented projects will be summed up at the next ICE Forum in 2023.

On December 8, 2021, Daryana Maximova, the NF Deputy Executive Director, spoke about the history of the Northern Forum and its current activities on the main stage of the ICE Forum of Young Leaders of the Arctic Council Countries.

Following her, the Chair of the Northern Youth Forum Savina Alexeeva made a presentation on the Northern Youth Forum and the Arctic Startup Expedition, which will cover 8 Arctic countries: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States of America.

The Forum was organized by the Russian Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh), the Government of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug and the "Russia - Arctic Council" International Youth Cooperation Project Office.

The Northern Youth Forum was a partner of the ICE Forum.









# PARTNERSHIPS

## 6. PARTNERSHIPS

The Northern Forum is constantly working to expand the partner network not only by signing agreements, but also using the potential of its member regions, involved in the activities of other international, national organizations, associations and unions.

After passing the chairmanship of the Northern Forum to Lapland, **Nenets Autonomous Okrug**, became a **Chair of the Barents Regional Council** on October 25, 2021, and on October 26, Finland took over the chairmanship of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, which lays a good basis for strengthening cooperation between the two regional organizations and, in general, drawing attention to the Northern Forum in the regions of Scandinavia and North-West Russia.

On March 3-4, 2021, the International Conference "The Arctic: Offshore Projects and Sustainable Development of the Regions" ("Arctic-2021") took place.



The issues of solving key investment projects, developing entrepreneurship, improving transport infrastructure, creating a comfortable urban environment in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation were the main topics of the conference. Heads of the regions, Senators of the Council of Federation and deputies of the State Duma, representatives of federal and regional branch departments, heads of enterprises and institutions, rectors of universities, Russian and foreign experts in various areas of development of the Russian Arctic took part in the discussion of these and other topics, relevant for the Russian Arctic.

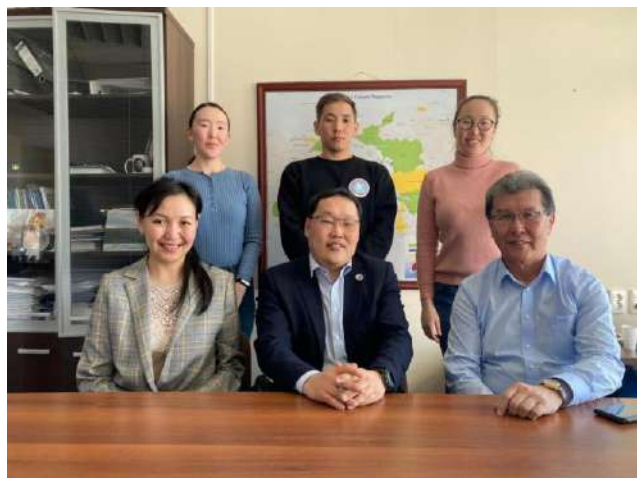


At the conference, the **Agreement on Cooperation between the Interregional Scientific, Technological, Business and Educational Partnership "Sustainable Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation" and the Northern Forum** was signed. It should be noted that the parties began active interaction in various areas. The head of the Partnership Tamara Mordasova attended the NF 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum, organized the visit of Oleg Lezhnev, Director for Occupational Medicine of SOGAZ PROFMEDICINA to Yakutia, which resulted in the implementation of a pilot project on health protection of the industrial enterprises' employees. The potential of the Partnership will be used in preparing and holding the Arctic Energy Summit, co-organized by the Northern Forum.





Since the relocation of the Northern Forum Secretariat to the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in 2014, Vladimir Vasilev, Mikhail Pogodaev and Daryana Maximova were the approved and acting executive directors. Using the potential of all leaders brings tangible benefits to the organization. Currently, Vladimir Vasilev and Daryana Maximova continue to work with the Northern Forum, whereas Mikhail Pogodaev is the Deputy Minister for the Development of the Arctic and Indigenous Affairs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia); this year, he was appointed Special Envoy on Indigenous Peoples and Regional Cooperation of the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council, which allows to unite efforts and strengthen the Northern Forum as the main international organization of the Arctic and northern regions.



The Northern Forum expresses its gratitude to Tatyana Domilovskaya, Director of the Regional Office of the Canada-Eurasia-Russia Business Association in Vancouver, for inviting to cooperation and to the meetings of CERBA working groups on construction and aerospace and transport infrastructure, where we had the opportunity of presenting the Northern Forum. Gilles Breton, CERBA National Board Chairman, regretted the absence of Canadian regions in the Northern Forum and hoped that their membership would be resumed soon. Participation in these meetings allowed us to draw the attention of the Canadian business community to the activities of the Northern Forum. As a result, we have received a proposal to develop and sign a cooperation agreement between the Northern Forum and CERBA, which will be signed in the near future. CERBA is ready to provide all possible assistance in highlighting the NF activities in Canadian regions.







Within the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum, the Northern Forum and the international network of Tomsk State University SecNet, engaged in studying Siberia and the Arctic, signed a memorandum of understanding and agreed to implement joint scientific and educational projects. The signing of a memorandum of understanding opens up new opportunities for interaction between the two parties. In particular, SecNet and the Northern Forum agreed to jointly prepare and conduct the

International Arctic Year “Voice of the Arctic” in 2023, dedicated to the key problems of the indigenous peoples of the circumpolar region. Solving the social and economic problems of this population group is one of the priority areas of the Northern Forum's work. The efforts of the parties can also be combined within the projects on studying the environmental transformation and social phenomena caused by climate change. For example, SecNet participants investigate changes in the diet of the indigenous peoples of the North and the impact of these changes on public health.

Productive cooperation with Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University continues. On February 22 - March 5, a winter session of the Arctic School, a joint project of the university and the Northern Forum, was held. We are glad that this year the representatives of the NF member regions (Chukotka AO, Yamal-Nenets AO, Kamchatka Krai) delivered lectures as well.

On March 22-31, 2021, the Northern Forum Secretariat and the Northern Youth Forum, together with the universities of Yakutia - Arctic State Agrotechnological University, Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts, Churapcha State Institute of Physical Culture and Sports and North-Eastern Federal University held a Winter School on Food Security.

Due to worsened epidemiological situation, the autumn school, prepared in collaboration with the Gorchakov Foundation, which was supposed to be held offline, was postponed to the next year.



The NF specialist, Vice-Chair of the Northern Youth Forum Alexandra Ponomareva was approved as a Board Member of the Arctic Youth Network (AYN).

Arctic Youth Network (AYN) is a youth-founded and headed non-profit organization supporting the global network of young Arctic leaders through international cooperation and capacity building.



# PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS



## 7. PARTICIPATION OF THE NORTHERN FORUM IN THE EVENTS

In addition to the events of the Northern Forum, the Arctic Council, and our partners, the NF Secretariat tries to take part in other events to promote the organization's mission and expand the network of potential partners.

On March 3-4, 2021, the International Conference “The Arctic: Offshore Projects and Sustainable Development of Regions” (“Arctic-2021”) was held in Moscow, where the Acting Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke at the round table on international cooperation.



On March 9, 2021, in Yakutsk, a roundtable was held on the topic "Traditions and innovations: preserving the linguistic and cultural heritage of the indigenous peoples of the North in digital format", dedicated to the Day of the Arctic in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), to discuss projects aimed at developing and preserving the native language through digital innovative technologies in Yakutia and in the context of international cooperation within the framework of the Arctic Council and UNESCO. The roundtable was organized by the Ministry for the Development of the Arctic and Indigenous Affairs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

On March 18-19, the Acting Deputy Executive Director Daryana Maximova took part in a number of events, where she delivered presentations:

- Forum “Universities and development of geostrategic territories of Russia”, where NEFU was one of the main organizers. The President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexander Sergeyev was the Forum’s key guest.
- Roundtable “Topical issues of humanitarian research in the Arctic zone of Yakutia”, organized by the Department of History and Arctic Research of the Institute Humanities and Indigenous Peoples of the North SB RAS – with a presentation about the international project “Children of the Arctic: local knowledge and sustainable development”.
- International roundtable “Traditional knowledge in the modern world”, organized by Professor of McGill University (Canada) Marianne Steinbeck – with a presentation about the project “Children of the Arctic” and the ND activities. The President of the University of the Arctic Lars Kullerud announced the creation of the UArctic thematic network “Children of the Arctic”.



On April 6-7, St. Petersburg State University and the Center for Canadian Studies, with the support of the Canadian Embassy to Russia, held an international conference "Cooperation between Russia and Canada in the Arctic at the federal and regional levels: infrastructure, economic opportunities and welfare of the northerners", where the Acting Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev moderated online a roundtable “Opportunities for getting education and full employment in the Arctic regions of Russia and Canada.

On June 13-19, 2021, Deputy Executive Director Daryana Maximova took part in the IT Forum in Khanty-Mansyisk.



During her visit, she met with the heads of the key departments and organizations.



1. The Department of Social and External Relations of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra. A meeting with the Head of the Department Elena Shumakova and the Deputy Director – Head of External Relations Unit Inna Arkanova. They discussed the creation of the Creative Industries Working Group, parks, art residencies, the NF media school and foundation of a scholarship for the art residents.
2. The Department of education and Youth of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra. A meeting with the Department's Director Alexei Drenin. They discussed a gifted children center on the example of the International Arctic School in Yakutsk, the implementation of a project on raising financial awareness for the indigenous peoples of the North, creation of conditions for women in the North, the Children of the Arctic project.
3. Department of Physical Culture and Sports of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-



Yugra. A meeting with the Department's Head Sergei Artamonov. Discussed the possibility of holding a hockey tournament (for adults and kids), northern regions' biathlon (including hunting biathlon), Yugra Ski Marathon under the aegis of the Northern Forum, continued support for the Oblasa Races.

4. Department of Culture of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra. A meeting with the First Deputy Director of the Department Vladimir Frisen. Discussed the project "The 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel" that could join the regions, an Assembly of Ded Morozes, possibility of Santa Claus participation, The Spirit of Fire Film Festival.

5. Yugra State University. A meeting with the Associate Professor of Yugra State University, Senior Researcher of the Center for Preservation and Restoration of Marsh ecosystems of the Branch of the RAS Forestry Institute Tatiana Minaeva on the project "The 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel", the winner of the NF Call for Projects 2020.

Besides, the progress in the project, the following topics were discussed: YSU Youth Council of the Arctic Cooperation, cooperation with the YSU UNESCO Chair and the University of the Arctic.

6. Yugra IT Scientific and Research Institute. A meeting with the Director Andrei Melnikov and the First Deputy Director Alexander Tsaregorodtsev. They discussed a project of an IT-campsite, a possibility of its implementation under the aegis of the Northern forum, a possibility of creating the NF working group on IT.

On September 7-8, Murmansk hosted the Interdepartmental Experimental research Exercise of the Russian Ministry of Emergencies with the participation of the representatives of the Arctic Council countries, which were attended by the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev.



On December 2-4, 2021, the Northern Forum took part in *The Arctic: Today and the Future* International Forum.

#### 1. Interregional Cooperation of the arctic Council Countries: Priorities and Practices

- Mika Riipi, NF Chair, Governor of Lapland (Finland) spoke about the opportunities for interregional cooperation of northern regions;



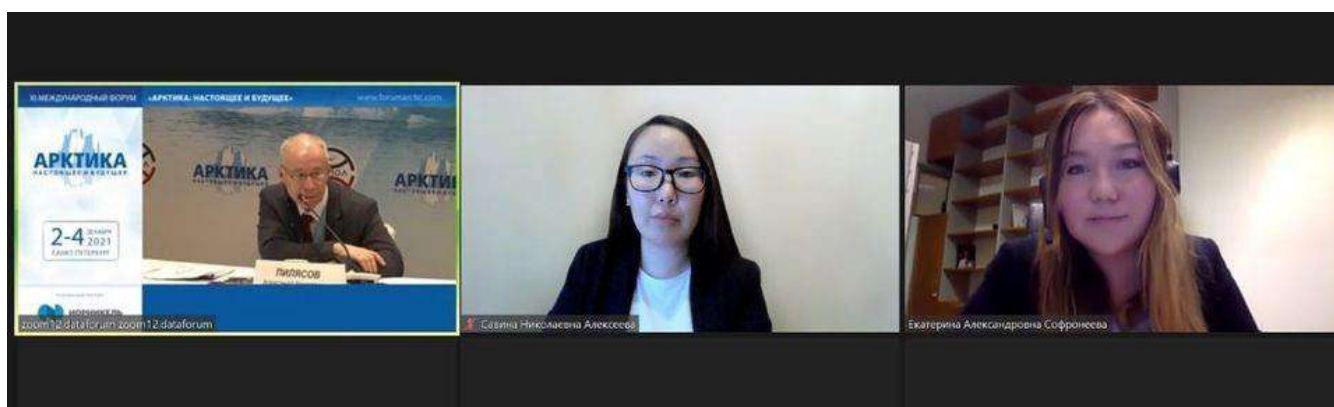
- Daryana Maximova, NF Deputy Executive Director, spoke about the NF activities;
- Viktor Gubarev, Chair of the NF working Group on Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Arctic and the North, Deputy Chair of the State Assembly (Il Tumen) of Yakutia spoke about the initiatives of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and the WG plans.

## 2. Arctic Cultural Code: development of the Creative Industries

- Eduard Isakov, Chair of the NF Creative Industries Working Group, Representative of the Executive Authority of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra in the Council of Federation of the RF Federal Assembly presented the initiatives of KHMAO and the WG plans;
- Sargylana Ignatieva, member of the NF Culture Working Group, NF project manager (Arctic Culture and Art Magazine), Rector of the Arctic State Institute of Culture and Art presented the ASICA initiatives.

## 3. Future Arctic: Startups and Innovative Projects for the Arctic

- Alexander Pilyasov, Director of the Regional Consulting Institute, NF Goodwill Ambassador;
- Savina Alexeeva, Ekaterina Sofroneeva, coordinators of the Northern Youth Forum.





## CONCLUSION

Despite the restrictive measures and the impossibility of organizing most of the face-to-face events, which create significant difficulties in operational activities, the Northern Forum made every effort to consistently implement its Development Strategy until 2030, and made major gains in various areas in 2021.

- Two major events have been successfully held: the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Sustainable Development Forum.
- The organization's basic documents have been updated (the Bylaws and the Rules of Procedure), the Action Plan for the implementation of the Development Strategy was approved.
- The organizational structure has been supplemented with the new components: Goodwill Ambassadors, Northern Youth Forum, Northern Forum Foundation.
- The network of growth points has expanded, communication with the Charing region has significantly improved.
- The Northern Forum is becoming a noticeable player in the international Arctic cooperation, having taken on serious obligations to participate in the implementation of the Program of the Russian Chairmanship in the Arctic Council.
- The formalization of the Northern Youth Forum as a new active youth movement in the Arctic is almost completed.
- The Northern Forum actively participates in many international, national, and regional events, and the Northern Forum's events began to attract the attention of almost the entire world.
- Business ties have intensified, a basis has been created for the development of effective business cooperation.
- Project activities are being streamlined, the created working groups have begun to give substance to their activities.
- The partner network has expanded, which starts working for real projects and ventures, which, in turn, begins to attract other interested organizations and companies.

Many positive results have been achieved over the year, but more work is to be done in the coming years. First of all, we aim to have almost all Arctic regions of the world as the Northern Forum members, to expand business partnerships, to establish the work of a newly created financial instrument - the Northern Forum Foundation. It is necessary to pay special attention to the media coverage of our activities, to create our own media sphere. It is necessary to strengthen the voice of the regions at the global level, to be recognized at the level of the UN and its structures, and other recognized international associations, and to become a real partner of the Arctic Council.

We are confident that combined efforts of all regions of the Arctic and the North will help achieve all the goals and create a real community at the regional level!



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