ANNUAL REPORT



THE NORTHERN FORUM

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www.northernforum.org



OR THERN ROLL

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Dear friends,

We can confidently say that we have properly passed through the year 2023, taking a considerable step forward, thanks to the full support of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and personally Minister Sergey Lavrov, who accepted the proposal of the Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Aisen Nikolaev and signed an appeal to the heads of a number of regions of the Russian Arctic, Siberia and the Far East recommending to join the Northern Forum.

The year began with the withdrawal of the Chairing Region - the Province of Lapland (Finland) and the Municipality of Akureyri (Iceland) from the organization, which put us in a somewhat difficult position. It should be noted that those regions left the Northern Forum in compliance with all the procedures stipulated in the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure.

At the same time, the recommendations of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs played a positive role: three regions returned to the organization and some more regions intend to join in the coming year.

I would like to once again thank Nenets Autonomous Okrug, personally Governor Yuri Bezdudny and Chair of the Okrug's International and Interregional Relations Committee, Vice-Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee Sergey Kungurtsev, who did not let the flag of



VLADIMIR VASILEV Executive Director of the Northern Forum, President of the Northern Forum Academy

the Northern Forum fall and supported the organization until Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra took over the chairmanship, announcing quite ambitious plans for the organization's development, the most significant one being the support of project activities, which can dramatically increase the Northern Forum's appeal.

We can say that this year we are gradually establishing planned and consistent work. The scope and geography of our activity are clearly visible, we have started to actively move eastwards, the structure of the organization can be added with a Project Office, which will coordinate the activities of the Working Groups and organize regular Calls for Projects.

We are pleased with the increased engagement of the regions and their desire to support and promote new initiatives. We traditionally highlight enormous support from the Goodwill Ambassadors, thanks to whom significant events are held and the visibility of the Northern Forum in the international and interregional space is growing.

The Northern Forum has all the way supported Russia's chairship in the Arctic Council and intends to increase the level of involvement under Norway's chairship, taking into account the Arctic Council's reSoumed activities at the Working Groups level.

In general, through joint efforts we have maintained momentum and made good progress towards strengthening the organization, expanding partnerships, and increasing attractiveness and visibility.

We express our sincere gratitude to all regions, business partners, partners, Working Groups, Goodwill Ambassadors, the Northern Youth Forum, and the Russian-Asian Consortium for the Arctic Research for their active work and support.

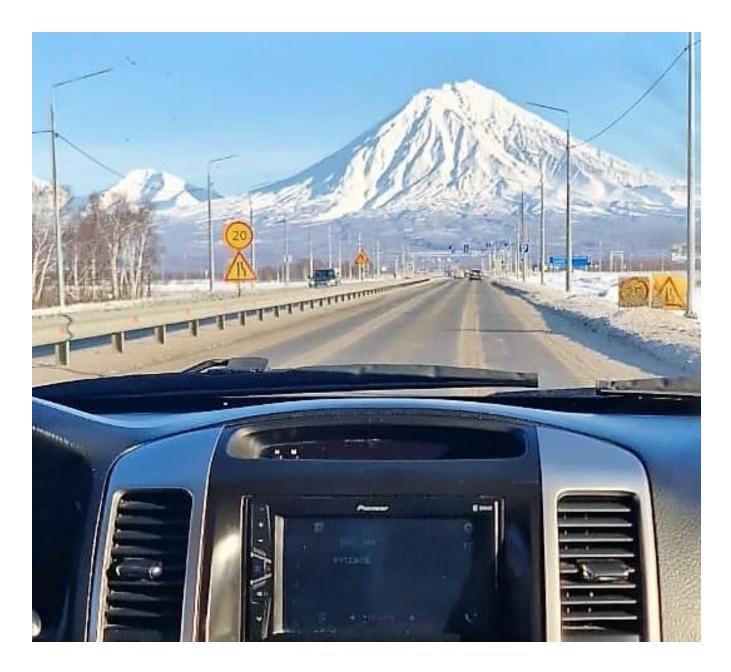
A huge amount of work lies ahead on expanding the Northern Forum's engagement in the global organizations and events and implementing projects not only in the Russian Federation, but in



other countries as well. We will contunue creating new structures aimed at the younger generation and personnel training. Particular attention will be paid to the development of cooperation in the field of information technology, creative industries, climate change, environmental and biodiversity conservation, support for traditional sectors of economy, and preservation of the linguistic and cultural diversity of indigenous peoples.

Ahead of us are the new peaks to conquer and the new horizons to open.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN AND ARCTIC REGIONS WITH THE ENTIRE WORLD!





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 to regional leaders and representatives in exchanging knowledge and experience and solving common problems;
- Implementing joint socio-economic initiatives at the regional level;
- Organizing international forums and implementing projects.

VISION

To turn 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 UN structures, the Arctic Council, BRICS and other reputable international organizations, 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 of neighborhood effects and diversity effects





MEMBERSHIP



1.1. MEMBER REGIONS

Current membership status

At the beginning of the year, the situation with regional membership was rather critical; at January 1, 2023, 7 Russian regions maintained their membership; the State of Alaska (USA) and Gangwon Province (Republic of Korea) preserved their membership formally:

- 1. Sakha Republic (Yakutia);
- 2. Kamchatka Krai;
- 3. Krasnoyarsk Krai;
- 4. Nenets Autonomous Okrug;
- 5. Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra;
- 6. Chukotka Autonomous Okrug;
- 7. Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug;
- 8. State of Alaska, USA;
- 9. Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea.

There was certain concern about the upcoming elections of heads in 4 member regions. We were quite confident that the nominated candidates would be elected; more expectations were associated with the renewed teams and, accordingly, new regional coordinators, which could affect the promptness of decision-making.

It should be immediately noted that the elections in all the regions were successful and the elected heads confirmed their strong support for the Northern Forum.

In early April, recommendations from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, proposing to reSoume membership or join the Northern Forum, were sent to a number of regions of the Arctic, Siberia and the Far East of Russia. Three regions of the Far East that used to be the NF members were the first to respond:

- 1. Khabarovsk Krai;
- 2. Magadan Oblast;
- 3. Jewish Autonomous Oblast.

It should be noted that all those regions were among the founders of the Northern Forum in 1991. At that, Jewish Autonomous Oblast left the Northern Forum in 1995, Magadan Oblast was the NF member in 1991-2004, then in 2015-2021. The interesting point is that after signing the foundation agreement in 1991, Khabarovsk Krai didn't formalize its membership at that time, but was a member of the organization in 2018-2022.

We are especially pleased to have these regions back after acknowledging the growing potential of the Northern Forum in such a difficult international situation. Our organization is demonstrating the highest flexibility and maneuverability, applying new approaches and methods of work and expanding partnerships at an accelerated pace.

A number of regions of the Russian Federation have a strong interest in interacting with the Northern Forum, but they are requesting associate membership or observer status. The Board of Governors rejected the proposal to introduce these membership classes. We will continue to work with the promising regions in accordance with the approved Bylaws and Rules of Procedure.

Seeing the active involvement in the Northern Forum activities of Tomsk State University, which became part of the newly created Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research and headed the NF Expert Group on the Assessment of the Quality of Life, as well as the involvement of Tomsk School Nº 16 in the Northern Forum events in Mongolia and the participation of the region in



the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, the leadership of Tomsk Oblast expressed their interest and announced their intention to investigate the possibility of joining the Northern Forum in 2024 at the meeting of the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev with Governor Vladimir Mazur in Tomsk in April and during the visit of Tomsk Oblast delegation, headed by the Governor, to the NF 15th General Assembly in Khanty-Mansyisk in July.

Following the recommendations of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Governor of Arkhangelsk Oblast Alexander Tsybulsky decided to join the Northern Forum. The main reason for this decision could be Russia's withdrawal from the Barents/Euro-Arctic Council, but the decision of the region's head can only be welcomed without prejudice.

In May 2023, the Northern Forum arranged productive events in Mongolia, which had great resonance and attracted positive attention from the Administration of the President of Mongolia. Following the events, Uvurkhangai Province decided to formalize membership in 2024, which was announced by the newly elected Governor Ishdorj Dorjsuren during the online meeting with the Secretariat of the Northern Forum this October.

Governor of Khuvsugul Province P. Lkhagvajav also expressed strong interest in cooperating with the Northern Forum. At his invitation, the NF Goodwill Ambassador Amarzhargal Baljinnyam met with the Governor and informed him in detail about the activities of the Northern Forum.

The Administration of the President of Mongolia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia supported the engagement of the Provinces and Soums in the activities of the Northern Forum.



Meeting of Tomsk Oblast Governor Vladimir Mazur with NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev



Online meeting of Governor of Uvurkhangai Province Ishdorj Dorjsuren with the NF Secretariat



The Northern Forum Secretariat and the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research are actively establishing relationships with various organizations of the People's Republic of China. There is certain interest from the administrations of Heilongjiang, Shandong and Inner Mongolia, but so far the regions of China have not clearly decided on their position on cooperation with the Northern Forum, although they are actively establishing relations with various regions of Russia. Chinese experts note that their country has a strict top-down command structure, saying that regions need to obtain approval from the country's leadership



to participate in any international structures. Involving Chinese regions in the Northern Forum will take time and may accelerate if governors receive recommendations from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, similar to those from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Also, various Chinese experts have proposed to organize the Northern Forum events in China to establish effective communication and increase the organization's attractiveness and recognition.

1.2. BUSINESS PARTNERS

Since the Northern Forum's establishment, the number and quality of business partners have been changing, depending on the interests of the companies and organizations. At the beginning of the year 2023, Lapland Chamber of Commerce (Finland) resigned from the Northern Forum. The Executive Director of the Institute of the North (Alaska, USA) Ian Laing informed of the Board of Directors' decision to suspend its cooperation with Russian organizations

Active cooperation is maintained by the following foreign business partners:

- The Arctic Portal, Akureyri (Iceland)
- The High North Center for Business and Governance of the Nord University Business School (Norway)

ArKtika LLC, Alaska (USA) and Hokkaido International Exchange and Cooperation Centre (Japan) have taken a passive stand without resignation from the organization.

Energy Saving Technologies LLC, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (Russia), can also be classified as inactive.

The following organizations became business partners in 2023:



JSB Almazergienbank, Yakutsk

Chair of the Management Board – Nikolai Dolgunov www.albank.ru

Almazergienbank was established in 1993 and is the leading bank of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia). The modern conSoumer is becoming increasingly knowledgeable and demanding. Customers and employees choose not just a product, service or employer, but also a company that shares their values and principles. Social responsibility of business today is a key factor to determine a company's success. Sustainable development, responsible attitude towards society, environment and employees - this is what conSoumers are looking for in the modern brands.



Almazergienbank adheres to these principles, being one of the first companies in Yakutia to introduce sustainable development in its operations. The Bank shares responsibility for the wellbeing and prosperity of our society, care for ecology and preservation of fragile ecosystems. The Bank has its offices in Khabarovsk and Vladivostok and a representative office in Moscow. The Bank has developed Yakutia Resident Card and Muravyov-Amursky Card for the residents of Khabarovsk Krai.



The Bank heads a consolidated group that includes AEB Capital LLC (100%), MFC AEB Partner LLC (100%), SAYBM LLC (100%), AEB IT LLC (98%), and YC Properties LLC (100%).

Nord Power LLC – Urdel Activity Park, Yakutsk



Managing Director – Alexey Vasilev

The year-round Activity Park opened in Yakutsk in February 2021 and immediately gained popularity thanks to the new concept of combining a traditional leisure park with a tourist facility and offering not only entertainment, but also sports and outside activities. The Park regularly organizes festivals of music, ice and wood sculptures, and mass sporting events. Here you can stay in the guest houses and hold your family and corporate events in the event houses.

In the same year, the Park became the winner in the Discovery of the Year and Best Outdoor Amusement Park with 100 to 250 thousand

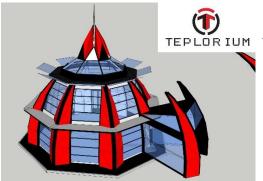
visitors per year categories of the *Crystal Wheel* competition of the XX International Forum of Entertainment Industry in Sochi.

() теплориум

Teplorium LLC, Cheboksary

Director General – Anatoly Fedorov

The company is engaged in the development and implementation of innovative methods in construction. Experience in the construction industry since 2003. Member of the SKOLKOVO Innovation Center since 2015. It has its own aluminum processing facility. One of the company's main activities is facade glazing of shopping centers and residential buildings.



The company is a member of the *Innovators' Association for the purposes of the Russian Ministry of Defense* Innovation Club. The developments are included in the List of innovative, high-tech products and technologies of Moscow.

The company developed a new Arctic Standard technology, being a standard for the quickly erected energy efficient housing for northern conditions.





1.3. BUDGET PERFORMANCE

The dues of the current member regions have been received fully, in compliance with the resolution on the dues payment in the amounts established in the budget of the year 2022.

INCOME

N⁰	Regions	Amount of due per the Bylaws			
IN≌		\$	RUB		
1.	Kamchatka Krai	7 500,00	552 000,00		
2.	Krasnoyarsk Krai	25 000,00	1 840 000,00		
3.	Nenets AO	5 000,00	368 000,00		
4.	Sakha Republic (Yakutia)	25 000,00	1 830 000,00		
5.	Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra	22 500,00	1 656 000,00		
6.	Chukotka AO	5 000,00	368 000,00		
7.	Yamal-Nenets AO	12 500,00	920 000,00		
	TOTAL	102 500,00	7 534 000,00		
	New business partners				
8.	JSB Almazergienbank	3 400,00	250 000,00		
9.	Nord Power LLC	1 000,00	73 600,00		
	Total	5 400,00	323 600,00		
	Balance as of 01.01.2023		- 12 581,10		
	TOTAL	107 900,00	7 845 018,90		

The Northern Forum Secretariat expresses its sincere gratitude to Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug, Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, the Chamber of Commerce of Kamchatka Krai, the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Polar Research Center of the Ocean University of China for supporting and covering the costs of travel, accommodation, and meals for the Secretariat staff, representatives of the Northern Youth Forum, Goodwill Ambassadors, leaders of the Working Groups to ensure participation in the following events:

- International Arctic Forum of Young Diplomats in Salekhard in March;
- Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council and *Arctic: Edges of the Future* Youth Conference in Salekhard in May;
- Workshop of the Sino-Russian Joint Survey on Bird Mercury in Beijing in May;
- The Northern Forum 15th General Assembly in Khanty-Mansyisk in July;
- Visit of the NF Executive Director to China (Qingdao, Beijing, Harbin) in October-November;
- 3rd Moiseev Conference and the NF Regional Coordinators Committee Meeting in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in December.



EXPENSES

Nº	Item of expense	Planned
1.	Compensation to the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director	3 298 770,00
2.	Wages charge 30,2%	996 228,54
3.	Hiring a self-employed person as a project manager - projects and events coordination services	308 200,00
4.	Private entrepreneur Nadezhda Vashchenko – accounting services	670 790,40
5.	Travel expenses, including travel and accommodation expenses of Goodwill Ambassadors and Working Group members	981 549,17
6.	Support for the Northern Youth Forum	29 815,00
7.	Translation and interpreting services	175 473,00
8.	Rent of premises	705 694,23
9.	Communications	98 067,28
10.	Banking services	52 489,55
11.	Other (administrative, stationery, hospitality expenses, expenses for souvenirs and printed media materials)	240 153,40
	TOTAL EXPENSES:	7 557 230,57
	Balance at 31.12.2023	287 788,33

In 2023, we managed to meet the budget parameters by saving on wages and, accordingly, the charges: instead of 2 full-time employees, a self-employed NEFU Master's student and a part-time NEFU assistant were hired. We also gave up the second room and cut the expenses to support the Northern Youth Forum.

1.4. IMPROVEMENT OF FOUNDATION DOCUMENTS

Due to the changed geopolitical situation and the need to unify and simplify the procedure for settlements with the regions and business partners from the Russian Federation, the 3rd Governors' Soummit supported the Secretariat's proposal on switching to settlements in Russian rubles and establishing fixed amounts of membership dues for the regions and organizations from the Russian Federation, preserving the same due amounts for the foreign regions and organizations. At the 15th General Assembly, the Board of Governors adopted Resolution N^o 245, which amended the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure in terms of the membership dues amount. Also, formal revision was made to the foundation documents. The notion of "protocol", equal to the resolutions in the decision-making process, was introduced.

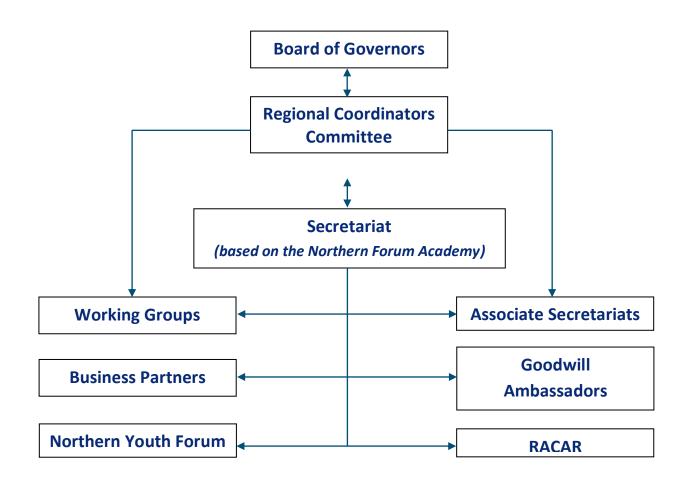


ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



2.1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In accordance with the Northern Forum Development Strategy until 2030, the new Bylaws and Rules of Procedure, we continued to improve the organizational structure. After its official establishment, the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR) was added to the structure. Along with Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, the Northern Forum is a co-founder and co-chair of RACAR, as well as Yugra State University, which became the third co-chair in July 2023.



The new Chairing Region – Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra – took the initiative to create a Project Office of the Northern Forum to intensify project activities.

In addition, Kamchatka Krai has decided to create a working group to coordinate the region's participation in the Northern Forum activities.

In 2023, discussions also began on the possibility of creating the Northern Forum International School Network, taking into account positive experience of school projects within the ongoing projects and establishment of productive contacts with Mongolian schools.

If the creation of these structures is approved, they will also be integrated into the organizational structure of the Northern Forum.



2.2. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is a supreme management body making 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. Between the General Assemblies, the Governors Soummits are held within large international forums.

In 2023, the members of the Board of Governors were as follows:



Dmitry Artyukhov Governor of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug



Yuri Bezdudny

Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug Vice-Chair of the Northern Forum



Rostislav Goldstein Governor of Jewish Autonomous Oblast



Mikhail Degtyarev Governor of Khabarovsk Krai

Mikhail Kotyukov



Natalia Komarova Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra Chair of the Northern Forum



Vladislav Kuznetsov Governor of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug



Aisen Nikolaev Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia)

Governor of Krasnoyarsk Krai



Sergey Nosov Governor of Magadan Oblast



Vladimir Solodov Governor of Kamchatka Krai



Michael Dunleavy Governor of the State of Alaska, USA



Kim Jin-tae

Governor of Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea



2.3. THE REGIONAL COORDINATORS COMMITTEE

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

The Committee contributes to the timely preparation of the meetings and Governors Soummit, provides significant support to project activities and 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.

In 2023, the Regional Coordinators from the regions were as follows:



Eduard Isakov

RCC Chair – Representative of executive authorities of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra in the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation



Sergey Vereshchagin

First Vice-Governor – Chair of Government of Krasnoyarsk Krai



Sergey Kungurtsev

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



Gavril Kirillin

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



Dmitry Korostelev

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



Dmitry Portnov Deputy Chair of Government of Magadan Oblast



Alexander Podoroga

Vice-Governor of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug



Anna Tarasenko

Deputy Chair of Government of Jewish Autonomous Oblast



Valentina Filonenko First Deputy Minister for Economic Development of Khabarovsk Krai

By the end of the year, no Regional Coordinator was appointed from Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. The key contact person is Erkin Zakirov, Head of the Office for International Cooperation and the Arctic of the Governor and Government Office of Chukotka Autonomous Okrug. Alaska and Gangwon are inactive.



THE SECRETARIAT

In 2022, the Secretariat operated as usual, despite extremely difficult working conditions. The Secretariat's continuous operation was primarily ensured by the timely payment of the membership dues.

Because of the revised action plans, the Secretariat held quite a lot of consultations and meetings at various levels, worked to expand the partnership network and to reSoume or establish communication with the Asian organizations and regions. The Secretariat staff took part in quite a lot of events.

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



Vladimir Vasilev Executive Director, President, Northern Forum Academy

Daryana Maximova Deputy Executive Director



Tatiana Nikolaeva Project Manager



Dzhuluskhan Ivanov Project Manager



Nadezhda Vashchenko *Chief* Accountant

The Northern Forum Secretariat collaborates with a group of translators, but the main translators working at all events and providing translation services are individual entrepreneur Maria Krivtsova and a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Modern Languages and International Studies of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University Sofya Kholmogorova.

Nadezhda Vashchenko has been our Chief Accountant since the establishment of the Northern Forum Academy and the relocation of the Northern Forum Secretariat to Yakutsk.







2.4. GOODWILL AMBASSADORS OF THE NORTHERN FORUM



The NF Development Strategy until 2030 provides for the creation of the Institute of Goodwill Ambassadors of the Northern Forum. The Regulations on the Goodwill Ambassadors were approved by the Board of Governors at the 14th General Assembly. 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, facilitating environmental, educational, research and other activities, highlighting the problems of northern and Arctic regions, and tourism development.

In 2023, 5 more renowned experts became the NF Goodwill Ambassadors, bringing the total number to 18 promoters and facilitators of the organization's activities:



Amarzhargal Baljinnyam

President, Mongol-Sakha Cooperation Society; CEO, Unique Travel LLC; Board Member, Chinggis Films LLC; linguist



Anton Vasiliev

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation; Vice-President, Russian Association of Polar Explorers



Paolo Venturini

Police superintendent, Padova, Italy; extreme ultramarathon runner; multiple world record holder



Guo Peiqing

Executive Director of the Arctic Research Center, Ocean University of China, Professor



Yulia Zaika

Head of International Relations Department, Federal Research Center Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences



Yulia Zvorykina

Professor, MGIMO University, Russian Foreign Trade Academy



Yuri Zakharinsky

Deputy Head of the Natural Resources and Ecology Committee, Krasnoyarsk Krai Legislative Assembly; Senior Researcher, Siberian Federal University and Sukachev Forest Institute SB RAS

Vera Kondratieva

Chair, Public Organization of Indigenous Peoples "Ma Mekhem" (My Land), composer, musician





Alexander Kugaevsky

Vice-Rector for Analytical and Expert Activity, Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University



Advisor to the Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia); Author and leader of *The Ways* of Great Achievements project



Timo Rautajoki

Georgy Nikonov

Independent observer and expert; Former President of Lapland Chamber of Commerce (Finland)



Lassi Heininen

Professor, University of Lapland (Finland), Editor-in-Chief, Arctic Yearbook



Valery Kryukov

Director, Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering SB RAS, Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Alexander Pelyasov

Director General, Regional Consulting Institute; Doctor of Geography; Professor, Lomonosov Moscow State University

Paul Fuhs

President Emeritus, Marine Exchange of Alaska; Member of the Arctic Economic Council commissions; Member of the International Northern Sea Route Expert Group



Nadezhda Kharlampieva

Associate Professor, Global Politics Department, St. Petersburg State University; Senior Researcher, Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute



Alexander Shestakov

Expert in environmental protection, biodiversity and sustainable development; Former Director, WWF Global Arctic Program; Former Director (D1), Department of Science, Society and Sustainable Future, Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biodiversity



Oran Young

Professor Emeritus, Co-director of the Program on Governance and Sustainable Development at the Brent School of Environmental Science & Management, University of California, USA

2.5. THE NORTHERN YOUTH FORUM



Northern Youth Forum is the NF youth association. The NYF goal is to promote youth interests and ideas at solving the tasks faced by the Northern Forum through the international youth cooperation.

In December 2021, the Regional Coordinators Committee resolved on the Chairs, Regional Coordinators and Coordinators for the areas of activities of the Northern Youth Forum.

Savina Alexeeva, Head of Partnership and Accelerator Programs Department, Yakutia Venture Company, has productively worked as the NYF Chair.

The leadership of the NYF was changing during the year due to changes in the places of residence, jobs and family circumstances of several coordinators.

As per Resolution Nº238 of the Regional Coordinators Committee, the NYF leaders and coordinators have served their full term in office in December 2023. The new officers are to be identified.



WORKING GROUPS

Project activities are coordinated by the Working Groups in the key areas of the organization's activities.

Some WG leaders changed in 2023; others changed their status. Two new Working Groups started to work actively, and the restoration of two more was initiated. Thus, the list of the Working and Expert Grous and their leaders is as follows:

APPROVED WORKING AND EXPERT GROUPS:

1. Education and Research



Chair – Feodosia Gabysheva, Head of Native Languages Research, Preservation and Development Center, Academy of Sciences of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia); Doctor of Pedagogics

2. Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity



Chair – Sakhamin Afanasiev, Representative from the legislative authority of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation; Member, Council of Federation Committee for Federal Structure, Regional Policies, Local Self-Governance and Affairs of the North

3. Culture



Chair – Sargylana Ignatieva, Rector, Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts; Candidate of Pedagogics

4. Creative Industries



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, Regional Coordinator of the Northern Forum



5. Development of Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Arctic and the North

In the newly elected State Assembly of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (Il Tumen), Victor Gubarev was elected Chair of the Standing Committee for Culture. The Chair of the State Assembly recommended to include Mr. Gubarev in the Culture WG. The new WG Chair will be identified later.

6. Arctic Tourism Development



Chair – Tatiana Menshikova, Deputy Head of Staff, Commission of the State Council of the Russian Federation for Tourism, Physical Culture and Sport, Expert and Coordination Center of Commissions of the State Council of the Russian Federation

7. Expert Group on the Assessment of the Quality of Life



Head – Lyudmila Borilo, Chief Academic Secretary, National Research Tomsk State University

WORKING GROUPS BEING SET UP:

1. Transport and Logistics



Coordinator – Nadezhda Filippova, Professor, Moscow Road Institute





MAJOR EVENTS OF THE NORTHERN FORUM





3. MAJOR EVENTS

3.1. 15TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Khanty-Mansyisk, Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra, July 7-8, 2023

At the 14th General Assembly in 2021, Lapland was elected Chairing Region and the next General Assembly was supposed to take place in Finland, but drastic change in the international situation, suspension of Lapland's Chairship and subsequent resignation from the Northern Forum forced us to start negotiations with other regions regarding chairship in the following period.

In September 2022, Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra expressed its interest in the chairship. The proposal was supported at the Regional Coordinators' consultative meeting at the Eastern Economic Forum and the Governors Soummit.

Thus, Yugra obliged to host the 15th General Assembly that took place on July 7-8.

The Assembly's agenda included the traditional meetings of the Regional Coordinators Committee and Board of Governors aimed to make decisions on the organization's development. Resultful roundtables on tourism and quality of life were organized by the newly formed Working Group on Arctic Tourism Development and Expert Group on the Assessment of the Quality of Life, as well as a roundtable of the Russian-Asian Consortium on Arctic Research.

Regular international KHMAO-Yugra Governor's Oblas Rowing Cup was confined to the Assembly.

ROUNDTABLE OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

The concept of the NF Group's expert community on the assessment of the quality of life is based on viewing the "quality of life" as an institutional issue of preserving the population, particularly in the regions where extreme climate defines all other aspects of human life, and improvement of the quality of life is considered the ultimate task of the country's development. For this purpose, the dialogue within the expert community involves academic economists, ecologists, medical professionals and sociologists, healthcare and education professionals, entrepreneurs, representatives of state and municipal governance authorities, representatives of cultural autonomous organizations of northern territories, and other social groups.



The roundtable was moderated by the Head of the Expert Group, Lyudmila Borilo, who noted that in 2015 they began to analyze and study the quality of life in Tomsk, and a laboratory was created to develop a local prosperity index (this includes analysis of city management, ecology, equality and social inclusion, productivity, infrastructure development, quality of life). The results of Tomsk Prosperity Index were presented at the UN event in Kenya, where Tomsk indicators equaled the level of the developed Western European cities.

The discussions were very active, as they touched upon the topical issues of the population's social situation, ensuring sustainable development of the regions, and promising areas for the Expert Group's activities.



The following experts can be noted:

Yulia Zvorykina, Professor at the International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy of MGIMO University, presented the VEB City Life Index. She highlighted the problems emerging in the cities built by industrialists, where the needs of the residents were poorly taken into account, and suggested considering the possibility of introducing a universal Arctic standard when planning and developing settlements in the Arctic zone, taking into account the climatic, geographical and logistical features of the territories.

Elena Kranzeeva, Head of Sociological Sciences Department at the Institute of Sociology and Psychology of Kemerovo State University, noted the emergence of new factors determining development prospects in Siberia: resource dependence of social development, human-induced natural and climatic changes, risks associated with the introduction of complex systems into our lives, appearance of new boundaries, polarization and exclusion.

She indicated the need for elaborating a comprehensive development index combining all dimensions of the quality of life.

Daryana Maximova, Head of International Studies Department at North-Eastern Federal University, Deputy Executive Director of the Northern Forum, and Vera Cherkasova, Director of Taimyr College, shared their vision of the new models of international cooperation in the Arctic - Asia direction and identified six trends allowing to study the quality life of the younger generation: increasing complexity, digitalization of all spheres of life, automation and robotization of labor, environmentalization, networkization, and demographic changes.

Maria Pitukhina, Professor of Foreign History, Political Science and International Relations Department at the Institute of History, Political and Social Sciences of Petrozavodsk State University, focused on the features of migrants' adaptation in the Arctic, creation of interethnic relations' map and the need to formulate a migration model in the Arctic.

Irina Petrova, Head of Industrial and Applied Sociology Department of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lobachevsky Nizhny Novgorod State University, demonstrated a scheme for the

development and implementation of a quality and safety management system for medical activities.

Arthur Gayulsky, President of the Regional Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North of Krasnoyarsk Krai, Vice-President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, noted the problem of the lack of statistics on the traditional economy (reindeer husbandry, fishing, hunting, cattle breeding) and expressed confidence in active cooperation with the Northern Forum.

The roundtable convened a significant number of speakers, which proves high interest of the participants in constructive cooperation and the relevance of the topic raised. The NF Working Group on the Assessment of the Quality of Life held a session at the Northern Territories Associations and Consortiums Forum in Tomsk in April of this year, where the core of the group was defined.









We hope for the Group to build effective work, develop regional quality of life indices using generally accepted methods, introduce new approaches, and prepare thematic reports to be used by the regional administrations.

ROUNDTABLE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ARCTIC TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Tourism is a sector of economy that uses resources unused in other areas, and with proper organization of tourist travel, it doesn't cause damage to the natural environment, while having a huge impact on all spheres of society, as it creates jobs, gives positive emotions, provides quality leisure time for tourists, who, in turn, make serious financial investments into the economy.

In other words, tourism, like no other sphere of economic activity, can ensure "sustainable development", the meaning of which is development for the benefit of the living people without harming future generations, and scientific and technological progress without harming the environment.

But most importantly, tourism is able to unite people and give people positive emotions, which is the main thing in our challenging times.

The roundtable was moderated by the WG Chair Tatiana Menshikova.

The following issues were discussed:

- tourism development system, major directions;
- industrial tourism, industrial reserve school;
- gastrodiplomacy (as an integrated program aimed to change the country's (region's) image and their positioning (repositioning) through the national (regional) cuisine;
- personnel training for tourism;
- projects for small and medium businesses in tourism;

The following in-person presentations can be noted:

• Natalia Volynets, Head, *White Rosehip* Center for Tourism, Sports, Education, Culture and Recreation Projects Development, presented the concept of the newly created NF Arctic Tourism Working Group and possible forms of tourism activity, as in the case of theme parks operating in St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast.

• Alexey Vasiliev, Managing Director, Nord Power LLC - Urdel Leisure Park, presented the Park's activities and a new initiative that could be supported by the regions - a project to promote regional tourism brands - fairy-tale characters united as the Guardians of the World Cold.

• Leonid Gelibterman, President, International Center of Wine and Gastronomy, presented such a form of tourism development as gastrodiplomacy, which always resonates with everybody, noting that in 60% of cases national cuisine is the main reason for visiting a particular territory. He also proposed











organizing a Gastro Week of the Northern Forum regions in Mongolia, taking into account positive response from our Mongolian partners.

• Yuri Zakharinsky, Deputy Chair of Natural Resources and Ecology Committee, Krasnoyarsk Krai Legislative Assembly, Senior Researcher at Siberian Federal University and Sukachev Forest Institute, highlighted the points requiring decisions from the federal and regional authorities and entrepreneurs involved in the tourism sector.

• Evgeny Nikora, Vice-Speaker, Murmansk Regional Duma, spoke about the development of tourism industry in the region, noting that special attention is paid to this sector of economy, various support measures are in place, including provision of free land for the construction of tourism infrastructure, strategic sessions and seminars on tourism development, as well as training of guides and ecotourists.

A number of experts attended the roundtable online. Valery Kruzhalin, Vice-President of the National Academy of Tourism, Head of Recreational Geography and Tourism Department at Lomonosov Moscow State University and Elena Gadzhieva, Dean of Natural Sciences, Geography and Tourism Faculty at Pushkin Leningrad State University, noted an acute shortage of personnel in the tourism industry.







RACAR ROUNDTABLE ON RIVER POLLUTION IN NORTHERN REGIONS

The ecology of rivers in the modern world arouses concern due to gross pollution of river systems (being part of a more serious problem - global water pollution). The ecological status of most of the world's rivers is critical, and the situation is only getting worse over time.

Water is an important and necessary resource on Earth. It is impossible to imagine human life without water. It literally permeates the whole life of a person. In the modern world, with the development of industrialization and urbanization, people began to pay great attention to integrated environmental monitoring of the water bodies status, since the health of the population depends on the quality of water resources and their rational use.

The *Systems of Ecological Transects of Russia* project was proposed as part of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR) activities in March 2023. The study of river pollution may become one of the priorities of this global project, which would cover the territory of the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation and northern regions with the river systems that need such studies due to environmental challenges.



Moderator: Daryana Maximova, NF Deputy Executive Director, Executive Secretary of the International Arctic Research Center (Secretariat of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research)

The roundtable participants heard quite a lot of presentations and discussed a number of proposals in such an important field as reducing river pollution and, hence,



sustainable provision of clean water to the population and preservation of river ecosystems.



Rector of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, RACAR Chair Anatoly Nikolaev noted the main difference between RACAR and the existing associations and consortiums: "...The highlight of RACAR is that it brings together not only scientific organizations, universities and colleges, but also public organizations that would like to explore the Arctic with us and are passionate about the Arctic issues".

Rector of Yugra State University Roman Kuchin touched upon the topics of the previous roundtable on tourism,

suggesting to pay attention to the university's events in the field of event tourism, for example, *Student Spring* All-Russian event. As part of interactive training, YuSU has a course on transboundary water use; significant results have been achieved on the scientific agenda in terms of wetland resources. Today, two federal projects are being implemented:

- 1) *Carbon Supersites* of the RF Ministry of Education and Science a federal climate program until 2030.
- 2) *Carbon Data Center*. Over the past two years, the University has managed to raise about RUB 400 million for the research agenda in this domain, for the purchase of modern equipment, and providing financial support for research infrastructure and personnel.

Associate Professor of Environmental Dynamics and Global Climate Change UNESCO Chair at Yugra State University Irina Akhmedova and the Chair's researcher E. Zarov added to the Rector's speech, speaking about the creation of the Ob River digital twin and the achievements of the *Russia-Kazakhstan Institutional Partnership for Sustainability of Transboundary Water Use* educational project.

Director of the Project Management Center of *North* Research and Education Center Evgeny Kolganov presented the Center's activities, whose main goal is to boost technology transfer from science directly to business. *North* Research and Education Center can develop new technologies in various areas as ordered from the regional governments and the Northern Forum.



Vice-Rector of Russian State Hydrometeorological University Denis Leontiev highlighted the need for organizing a system of sediment transport monitoring in the largest northern rivers. At the same time, this system has to be improved to cover the entire range of transport particles, including submicron. The assessment of sediment contamination should also be carried out differentiated, taking into account their size. Only in this case can truly scientifically based proposals be developed to elaborate the appropriate management decisions and to understand the ecological status of the water pipelines and the quality of the water in them.

Director of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Russian State Hydrometeorological University Igor Myasnikov added that water systems are not only rivers, but all water outflows that develop around water bodies, that is, large water bodies. Ultimately,



the condition of large rivers themselves depends on their condition. The issue is very important because in the future there will be two important and critical or strategic assets - air and water. Water resources in many countries are either exhausted or beginning to deplete. Water is the main source of life for everyone.

Alexey Kovalevsky, Head of the Service for Control and Supervision in Environmental Protection, Fauna and Forest Relations of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra, noted that the symbiosis of science and executive authorities produces results - digitalization, which is included in the state regulation, and state control give an effective result. The Service initially developed the practice of early detection and restraint of violations in the forestry sector. The same practice will be introduced for the protection of water bodies.



Sergey Nikonorov, Director of the Center for Economic Problems of Arctic Development, proposed paying attention to cleaning industrial wastewater, in particular, waste from electronic electrotechnical products, which has become a major problem in the ASEAN countries.



Director of Yugra Research Institute of Information Technologies Andrey Melnikov highlighted the importance of satellite monitoring. The Institute is a leader in regional satellite monitoring projects for forest management. It won the competition of the Russian Federal Space Agency, and also works with partners from China who are ready to provide their satellite images.



Larisa Bikmukhametova, lecturer at the Ecology and Biophysics Department of the Natural and Technical Sciences Institute of Surgut State University, proposed to initiate the development of regional water quality standards and include the monitoring of ecological status of small rivers, tributaries and channels of the Ob River in the monitoring program.

Vladislav Zasypkin, Rector of Surgut State Pedagogical University, presented the areas of personnel training, including in the field of tourism and hotel industry, as well as ecology and geography. In 2021-2022, the University held two all-Russian conferences with international participation *The Land of Water: Resource, Threat, Image* and *The Land of Water: Anthropocene Rivers of Siberia*, which can become a good platform for continuing the discussions on the topic of the roundtable.



MEETING OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATORS COMMITTEE

Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke about the work to ensure the organization's sustainable operation and the plans for the second half of the year. From January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, despite extremely complicated international situation and complete stop of interaction in the Arctic, the Northern Forum and all its structures worked smartly, coordinately and with great efficiency, understanding their full responsibility for the fate of the organization and support for interregional cooperation.

Timely adoption of the NF Short and Midterm Development Concept, strict adherence to the adopted plans and expansion of the scope of work, as well as a turn eastwards, creation of new structures and reSoumed participation in the global forums, allowed not only to maintain quick pace of development, but also to expand membership and partner network and prevent losing the status of a reputable international organization of the Arctic and the North, despite the resignation of the key western regions.

The Institute of Goodwill Ambassadors and the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research became the effective tools for maintaining a high level of the NF appeal and a base for further active progress.



At the open session, information was heard about the activities of several Working Groups, Northern Youth Forum, new proposals from Goodwill Ambassadors and partners. All speakers were unanimous in the opinion that the Northern Forum, with its limited budget, but thanks to its passionate team not only from the member regions, showed an example of effective work in any conditions.



At the end of the open session, the NF Executive Director awarded Walter Hickel medals to the most distinguished experts from Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra and Alexander Mazharov, Regional Coordinator from Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.





At the closed session, Regional Coordinators discussed the draft Resolutions to be approved by the Board of Governors, reviewed the activities of the Working Groups, as well as the applications from the companies that expressed interest in becoming business partners.

The coordinators reviewed the draft Khanty-Mansyisk Declaration, the Chairship Program of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra, the Resolutions of the Board of Governors, including those defining the organization's sustainable funding, the admittance of new Ambassadors, and support for the activities of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research.

The initiative of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra on creating the NF Project Office was generally supported, and it was decided to recommend that the Board of Governors support the creation of the office in principle.

All members of the Committee unanimously and thankfully accepted the proposal of Kamchatka Krai Regional Coordinator Dmitry Korostelev to hold the final meeting of the Committee in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky during the International Research to Practice Conference *Regional Problems of Development of the Far East and the Arctic* (3rd Moiseev Conference) in December 2023.





MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

On July 8, the Board of Governors began with a ceremony of passing the Chairship of the Northern Forum to Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra. The ceremony took place in a somewhat unusual format, given that Lapland left the organization at the beginning of the year and Nenets Autonomous Okrug acted as the Chairing Region again.

Alexander Dudorov, Vice-Governor of Nenets Autonomous Okrug, announced online the passing of Chairship to Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra, and the Regional Coordinator from Nenets Autonomous Okrug Sergey Kungurtsev presented the symbol of Chairship to Yugra Governor Natalia Komarova.

The newly elected Chair of the Northern Forum, Governor of Yugra Natalia Komarova gave a keynote speech, where she outlined the major priorities of the NF activities for 2023-2025, emphasizing the need for expanding international relations through the NF Observer status to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Environment Program, as well as the feasibility of involving the organization in the BRICS and SCO network. Governor Komarova proposed a number of initiatives, including the creation of an international expert group on the digital agenda, development of project activities and restoration of the Call for Projects.



A representative delegation of Tomsk Oblast, headed by Governor Vladimir Mazur, attended the General Assembly. In his speech, Governor Mazur highlighted the scientific and educational potential of the region, which ranks third in the national ranking. In April 2023, Tomsk State University held the first Northern Territories Associations and Consortiums Forum, which can become a traditional platform in the region. He announced the commitment of Tomsk Oblast to

become the Northern Forum a in 2024 and noted some issues that would need to be improved in the NF activities: "Each region must understand what socio-economic benefits it receives from its membership in the Northern Forum, and how this will affect the quality of life throughout the area. The NF needs a good information resource with regular information updates and the posting of current regional projects. This resource should be understandable to the professional community, residents of the territory, and should be in demand among the media, both regional and federal".

In their speeches, Regional Coordinators Alexander Mazharov (Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug), Gavril Kirillin (Yakutia), Dmitry Korostelev (Kamchatka) supported the chairship of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra and its Chairship Program. Representatives of Yakutia and Kamchatka also expressed their regions' commitment to actively participate in the events and projects on the digital agenda, support for indigenous peoples, and development of creative industry, making a number of proposals.

Gavril Kirillin informed the Meeting participants about the republic's new initiative to organize active discussions on preserving permafrost and climate change. In March 2023, the first international conference on these issues was held in Yakutsk, and it will be held regularly every two years. Yakutia plans to continue the tradition of holding the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, where events are organized to implement 17 sustainable development goals in the Arctic and the North.



Dmitry Korostelev noted the need for exchanging the best economic practices and updating the format of grant support for the projects, as well as Kamchatka's leading role in the country in developing youth environmental movement. In 2022, President Vladimir Putin visited *Ecosystem* Youth Environmental Forum and supported the idea of upscaling the event nationwide.

Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasilev briefed on the main results of work and plans until the end of the year, emphasizing that significant work has been done to improve the structure of the organization: Northern Youth Forum, Institute of Goodwill Ambassadors and Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research have been created, which have significantly added to the range and geography of cooperation.

The Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassador Paolo Venturini welcomed the participants from the Himalayan mountains in India, where he subsequently set a world marathon record at over 5,600m above sea level. In his speech, he highlighted the need to keep our planet clean and join efforts to mitigate climate change impacts.

As always, Director General of the Regional Consulting Institute, NF Goodwill Ambassador Alexander Pelyasov made a bright presentation, proposing to introduce a latitudinal-meridian approach to the Northern Forum's activities to expand interregional cooperation: large river basins connecting the Arctic and northern regions with more southwards territories, as well as organizing charter flights between western and eastern regions. He briefly spoke about developing Arctic tourism, suggesting to organize interregional tours, because currently they are only available within one region.

In this regard, I would like to recall the impressive and ambitious Northern Forum project of circumpolar flight across all Arctic countries, carried out in 1994, which launched cross-polar flights from North America to Asian countries.

The meeting of the Board of Governors was attended by the Special Envoy of the President of Mongolia on Youth Issues Munkhmaral Tumennasan, who expressed the interest of young entrepreneurs of Mongolia in cooperating on innovations and startups. Moving forward a little, it can be noted that the Northern Youth Forum is actively promoting the *Arctic Start-up Expedition* project, which has come to the federal level and may subsequently include the organization of events in Mongolia.





Vice-President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, President of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of Krasnoyarsk Krai Artur Gayulsky proposed cooperation between the Association and the Northern Forum in the field of traditional environmental management, as well as the organization of joint sessions at the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples with the participation of BRICS countries to be held in Krasnoyarsk in 2024.

Noting the timely and positive southwards and global maneuvering of the Northern Forum, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, NF Goodwill Ambassador Anton Vasiliev proposed to maintain an active leading role in the Arctic, use neutral international platforms to organize dialogue with Arctic players, and pay attention to the socalled "Third Pole" countries, where Western Arctic countries and international organizations are beginning to actively enter.



Professor at the University of California, USA, a leading expert in international governance in the Arctic, Oran Young elaborated on climate change not in terms of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, but in terms of adaptation measures, which is especially important for the local communities. He said that, being the association of regional governments, the Northern Forum could play a significant role here, including through the UN Climate Change Conference and the creation of an information and coordination center for collecting information on successful adaptation practices. The establishment of the Center on the basis

of Yugra State University is on the list of commissions from the NF Chair after the General Assembly.

Rector of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, Chair of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research Anatoly Nikolaev spoke about the RACAR activities and the promising areas for cooperation, mentioning the roundtable on river pollution held prior to the meeting of the Board of Governors, which will be included in the RACAR project program, and introduced the Rector of Yugra State University Roman Kuchin as the RACAR co-Chair, which will tune the efforts with the KHMAO chairship in the Northern Forum.





At the end of the meeting, the President of the Northern Forum Academy (Secretariat of the Northern Forum), Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasilev and the Chair of the regional branch of the Russian Geographical Society in Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra Mikhail Savchenko signed a Cooperation Agreement.

Business partner certificates were presented to the First Deputy Chair of the Management Board of JSB Almazergienbank Fyodor Nogovitsyn and the Managing Director of Nord Power LLC - Urdel Leisure Park Alexey Vasiliev.

Badges and certificates of Goodwill Ambassadors were presented to the Head of the International Department of Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yulia Zaika, Deputy Chair of the Natural Resources and Ecology Committee of Krasnoyarsk Krai Legislative Assembly Yuri Zakharinsky and Professor at the International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy of MGIMO University Yulia Zvorykina.



The statuses of Goodwill Ambassadors were also awarded to the Professor of the University of California, USA Oran Young and Director of the Institute of Economics and Industrial Production SB RAS, Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Valery Kryukov. A lot of activists received the letters of gratitude.

















KHMAO-YUGRA GOVERNOR'S OBLAS ROWING CUP

After the meeting, the participants of the General Assembly attended the opening ceremony of Oblas Rowing Cup with international participation.

The athletes were greeted by the Governor of Yugra Natalia Komarova, Governor of Tomsk Oblast Vladimir Mazur, President of the World Ethnosport Alexey Kylasov and the Special Envoy of the President of Mongolia on Youth Issues Munkhmaral Tumennasan. The NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasiliev presented the Northern Forum Special Prize for preserving the traditions and heritage of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and the North to the Chair of Nizhnevartovsk regional branch of *Saving Yugra* Public Organization, Yugra honorary citizen, President of Oblas Rowing and Hunting Biathlon Center and father of Yugra Governor's Oblas Rowing Cup Anatoly Kaurtaev.

"More than 200 athletes from Russia, Turkey, Nigeria, Iran, Cameroon, Zambia and China took part in *Yugra Oblas* international ethnofestival. They competed in oblas rowing. Oblas is a light cedar or pine monoxylon invented by Khanty and Mansi craftsmen. Now it is known in different parts of the world. Single and mass races took place as part of the festival. President of the World Ethnosport Alexey Kylasov shared his opinion that oblas rowing is not a pure sport but something different. Small waves and wind make obstacles, but for athletes this is a real adventure, they experience excitement.

- Unpredictability is the main feature of the events related to traditional culture. People have always relied on the will of higher powers, spirits, so they take everything for granted. The element of surprise creates that authentic environment that everyone enjoys," notes Alexey Kylasov." (https://www.Yugra.kp.ru/online/news/5353382/)

The Northern Forum annually supports oblas rowing competitions. This year, for the first time, a special prize has been established, which we hope will become traditional. It is advisable to organize the participation of the NF regions' representatives in such exciting competitions that become a notable event in event tourism.

The matters of supporting traditions, culture and languages of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East will be highlighted not only during the period of Yugra's Chairship in the Northern Forum but regularly.







3.2. THE NORTHERN FORUM EVENTS IN MONGOLIA May 20-26, 2023

At the NF Regional Coordinators Committee Meeting in Khanty-Mansyisk on June 6, 2022, the regions' representatives took an active part in implementing *The Garden of Friendship* project, held annually as part of *Save and Preserve* International Environmental Action. The Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra Natalia Komarova passed the *Garden of Friendship* baton to the NF Goodwill Ambassador in Mongolia Amarzhargal Baljinnyam and the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev, which laid the basis for preparing larger events in Mongolia, aimed to assess the prospects for cooperation and the opportunities of attracting attention to the NF activities.

The Northern Forum delegation was formed to participate in the events, which included the representatives of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug, Tomsk Oblast, Moscow and Italy. The list is attached.

The following meetings and events were organized in Mongolia on May 22-25, 2023:

- 1. Roundtable "The Northern Forum and Mongolia Cooperation Prospects"
- 2. Negotiations with the Vice-Governor of Uvurkhangai Province Ishdorj Dorjsuren and Governor of Kharkhorin Soum Ganbold Odgerel
- 3. Tree planting in Kharkhorin Soum as part of The Garden of Friendship project.
- 4. *Let's Make Our Planet Clean* a joint run with the NF Goodwill Ambassador, ultramarathon runner Paolo Venturini (Verona, Italy)
- 5. Meetings of the NF regions' schools with the schools of Kharkhorin Soum and Ulaanbaatar
- 6. Meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Mongolia Alexey Evsikov
- 7. Meeting with the Chief of Staff of the President of Mongolia Yangug Sodbaatar
- 8. Meeting with the Special Envoy of the President of Mongolia for Youth Issues Munkhmaral Tumennasan
- 9. Meeting with the Member of the Great State Khural of Mongolia Enkh-Amgalan
- 10. Meeting with the Association of Restaurateurs and Hoteliers of Mongolia.

ROUNDTABLE "THE NORTHERN FORUM AND MONGOLIA – DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS"

On May 22, the issues of cooperation were discussed in detail at a round table. The Mongolian side proposed considering specific projects on livestock farming, dairy processing, leather production, organizing children's recreation, tourism, mutual supplies of agricultural products, as well as on education and training. The potentials of Uvurkhangai Province, Kharkhorin Soum, Kharkhorin Museum, Northern Forum, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Nenets Autonomous Okrug were presented, as well as the prospects for various areas of cooperation, including the development of tourism in the Russian Far East, gastro tours, and school partnerships.

It should be noted that the Northern Forum contributed to the development of tourism projects with Mongolia. Kukht Travel Agency, Chukotka (Director General Vladimir Bystrykh) and Unique Travels LLC, Mongolia (CEO Byambajav Nyamkhuu) established cooperation during the NF RCC Meeting in Khanty-Mansyisk and developed a joint tourist route in Mongolia for Russian travelers in August 2023.



NEGOTIATIONS WITH VICE-GOVERNOR OF UVURKHANGAI PROVINCE ISHDORJ DORJSUREN AND GOVERNOR OF KHARHORIN SOUM GANBOLD ODGEREL



Vice-Governor Dorjsuren expressed his particular interest in training personnel to improve the quality of agricultural products, highlighting the existence of a cooperation agreement with Krasnoyarsk Krai and the Province's desire to establish a branch of Krasnoyarsk State Agrarian University. This proposal is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, which was confirmed by Onon Chinbayar, attaché of the Neighboring Countries Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who took part in the negotiations.

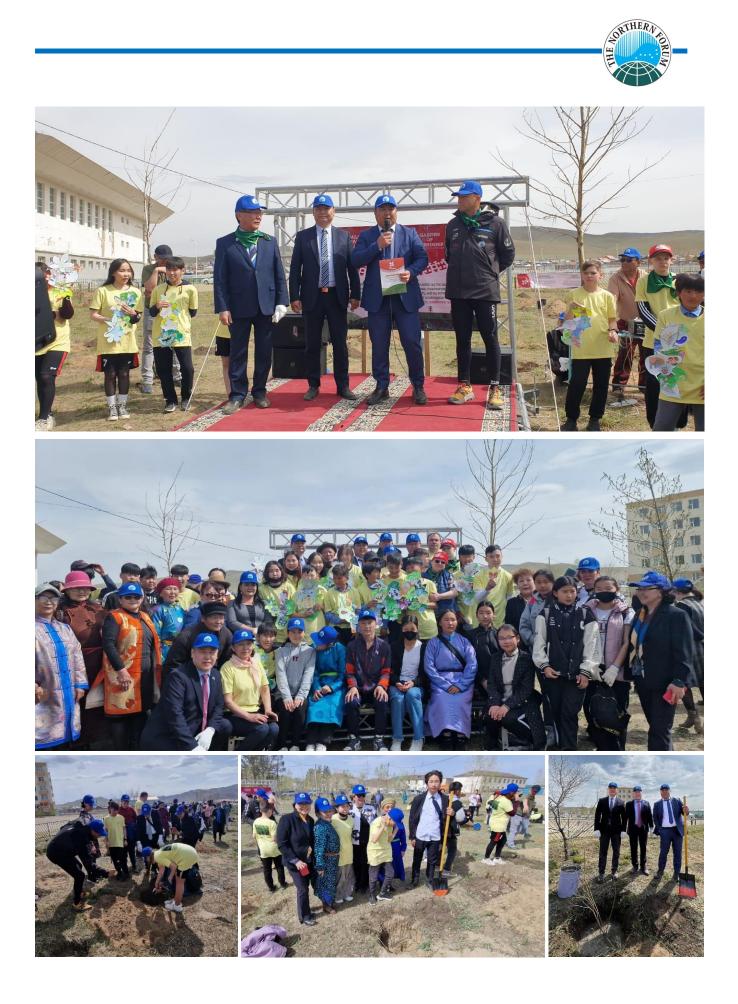
Mr. Dorjsuren noted the completeness of information about the activities of the Northern Forum and declared his readiness to visit Krasnoyarsk Krai, as well as sign the Northern Forum Membership Agreement.

The Governor of Kharkhorin Soum Ganbold Odgerel also confirmed his interest in participating in the Northern Forum activities. Mr. Banzragchsuren was identified as the Soum's contact person for regular communication with the Soum. During the meeting, it was also proposed to start selecting a municipal entity of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) to become Kharkhorin's sister city.

TREE PLANTING IN KHARKHORIN SOUM AS PART OF THE GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP PROJECT

The Garden of Friendship project has aroused great interest in the Soum and the Province, given the *Billion Trees* initiative of the President of Mongolia. As the Governor of Kharkhorin Soum Ganbold Odgerel said in his welcome speech on May 22, it laid the foundation of the Northern Forum Park, which, through the efforts of the Soum and the Northern Forum, will become an attraction for all residents and guests of the Soum. The park is located in the center of the Soum, next to the Home for the Elderly, whose residents, together with schools, will take care of the seedlings.

A lot of Soum residents took part in the event. A successful live teleconference was organized with the opening ceremony of *Save and Preserve* International Environmental Action in Khanty-Mansyisk. The Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra Natalia Komarova warmly greeted the participants of the action, and the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev and Vice-Governor of Uvurkhangai Province Dorjsuren returned the greeting. The Governor of Kharkhorin Soum Odgerel passed the baton of the *Garden of Friendship* to the NF Goodwill Ambassador from Italy Paolo Venturini, who said that the project was planned to be implemented in Abruzzo Region in central Italy.





LET'S MAKE OUR PLANET CLEAN – A JOINT RUN WITH THE NF GOODWILL AMBASSADOR, ULTRAMARATHON RUNNER PAOLO VENTURINI (VERONA, ITALY)

A symbolic run under the slogan *Let's Make Our Planet Clean* around the historical site of Kharkhorin Soum – 13th century Erdene Zuu Monastery, involving the participants' competition in collecting garbage, gathered a huge number of participants. The NF Goodwill Ambassador Paolo Venturini awarded the first 40 participants with running belts.



MEETINGS OF THE NF REGIONS' SCHOOLS WITH THE SCHOOLS OF KHARKHORIN SOUM AND ULAANBAATAR

Berdigestyakh Osipov Secondary School, Yakutsk City National Gymnasium, Zaoyorsk School Nº16 of Tomsk and Otrazheniye (Reflection) Museum and Education Center of Talinka settlement of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra visited all the 4 schools of Kharkhorin Soum and School Nº61 of Ulaanbaatar, where they held a number of joint events: a school concert, *The Red Book Through the Eyes of Children* and *We Are Responsible for What We Have Tamed* project displays, production of the Tree of Friendship from the paintings of the events' participants.

It was agreed to establish cooperation, agreements are planned to be signed, and the initiative of the Northern Forum Secretariat to create the Northern Forum international school network was supported.

A lot of work is required to create a network and establish consistent work on cooperation between schools, given there is a network of UNESCO Associated Schools and young diplomats' clubs.



During the year, the schools, coordinated by Berdigestyakh Osipov Secondary School, held a series of online meetings and discussed joint plans for cooperation for the next year, including a visit of school delegations from Kharkhorin Soum to the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), exchange of experience between the teachers in various subjects, exchange of educational and methodological literature, as well as participation in the next stage of *The Garden of Friendship* project in Italy.











MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO MONGOLIA ALEXEY EVSIKOV

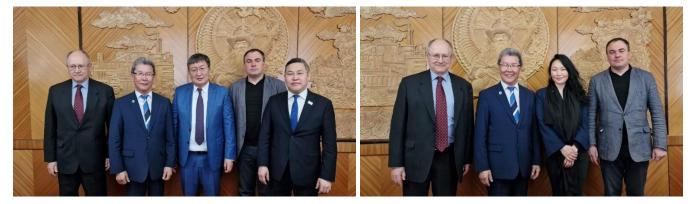


On May 24, a meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia to Mongolia Alexey Evsikov took place. We received a lot of interesting information about Mongolia and talked about the results of the Northern Forum events. The conversation turned out to be very useful in all respects. The Ambassador recommended working closely with the Russian Science Center, which can help with organizing various events, and coordinating our activities with the plans of the regions, especially the cross-border ones, that are actively cooperated with. The

Embassy's support will help to significantly intensify cooperation in various areas and ensure the visibility of the Northern Forum in Mongolia.

MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA YANGUG SODBAATAR

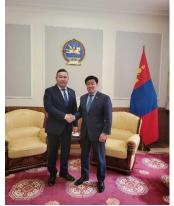
The events of the Northern Forum in Mongolia were noted at the highest level and evaluated very positively. This was stated by the Chief of Staff of the President of Mongolia Mr. Yangug Sodbaatar, who invited the Northern Forum delegation to exchange opinions on the prospects for cooperation. He noted that Mongolia welcomes the efforts of the Northern Forum to expand interaction between our countries and strengthen international interregional cooperation, spoke about the projects to combat desertification, the construction of the new capital of Mongolia in Uvurkhangai Province, where we held our events, and expressed full support for the NF activities. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia Odbayar Erdenetsogt and Head of the Neighboring Countries Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Radnaabazar Altangerel.



MEETING WITH THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRESIDENT OF MONGOLIA ON YOUTH ISSUES MUNKHMARAL TUMENNASAN

With the assistance of the Special Envoy of the President of Mongolia for Youth Affairs Munkhmaral Tumennasan, Vladimir Vasilev, Anton Vasiliev and Gavril Kirillin were interviewed for the national television of Mongolia. They also discussed the issues of interaction to strengthen youth cooperation. Ms. Munkhmaral expressed her readiness to attend the 15th General Assembly of the Northern Forum.





MEETING WITH THE MEMBER OF THE GREAT STATE KHURAL OF MONGOLIA ENKH-AMGALAN

The Minister for External Relations and Ethnic Affairs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Gavril Kirillin met with the Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Policy and Security of the State Great Khural of Mongolia Byambasuren Enkh-Amgalan. The negotiations focused on the issues of interregional cooperation between Mongolia and Yakutia. The results of previous joint events and implemented projects in the field of culture, sports and education were summed up. Promising areas for further cooperation were outlined, a proposal to hold

Yakutia's events in Mongolia was considered, including the days of Yakut cinema, Ysekh, exhibitions of folk and applied art of Yakutia, and business missions of Yakut enterprises. It was proposed to hold the events before the end of this year. To this end, the parties intend to hold additional consultations involving the interested agencies.

MEETING WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF RESAURATEURS AND HOTELIERS OF MONGOLIA

The President of the International Center of Wine and Gastronomy, member of the NF Arctic Tourism Working Group Leonid Gelibterman met with the leaders of the Association of Restaurateurs and Hoteliers of Mongolia. Cooperation on the professional development of tourism industry workers in Mongolia and mutual invitations to events were discussed.

A proposal to hold a gastronomic tour to Ulaanbaatar and Kharkhorin Soum in 2024, involving Russian and Mongolian chefs, was supported. The Mongolian side also accepted the proposals on organizing the participation of the Mongolian delegation in similar events in the Republic of Buryatia and Kamchatka Krai.

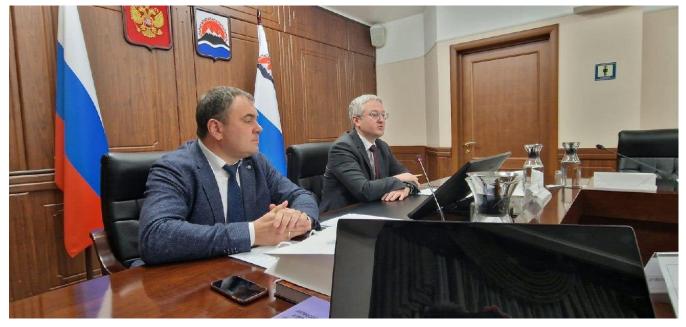






3.3. FINAL MEETING OF THE NF REGIONAL COORDINATORS COMMITTEE

The final meeting of the NF Regional Coordinators Committee took place in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky on December 7 as part of the International Research to Practice Conference *Regional Problems of Development of the Far East and the Arctic* (3rd Moiseev Conference). The meeting was chaired by the RCC Vice-Chair Sergey Kungurtsev.



The Meeting participants were welcomed by the Governor of Kamchatka Krai Vladimir Solodov, who outlined the priority areas in which the region would be interested - ecology, climate change, ocean processes, tourism, indigenous culture, and support for youth. On August 19-September 2, 2024, Kamchatka will host the traditional *Ecosystem* International Youth Forum, and the Governor invited the Northern Forum for active involvement.

To enhance interaction with the Northern Forum, the region decided to create a working group led by Pavel Yasevich, Deputy Chair of Kamchatka Government. Dmitry Korostelev, Vice-Speaker of Legislative Assembly, President of Chamber of Commerce of Kamchatka Krai will continue being the Regional Coordinator.







At the meeting, the Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasiliev presented a preliminary report on the organization's activities for 2023 and plans for 2024. In 2023, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Magadan Oblast and Khabarovsk Krai restored their membership in the organization. It should be noted that all newly joined regions have promptly appointed their Regional Coordinators and are ready for active work. Arkhangelsk and Tomsk Oblasts, the Republic of Karelia and Uvurkhangai Province of Mongolia expressed their interest in cooperating within the Northern Forum.

The Northern Youth Forum, Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research and the Northern Forum Expert Group on the Assessment of the Quality of Life spoke about their activities. It is planned to arrange a competition to fill the vacancies of the NYF Chair and Vice-Chair in the first quarter of 2024.

At the Meeting, Goodwill Ambassadors, WG members and partners of the Northern Forum proposed the following projects to be implemented next year: *The Garden of Friendship* project in Italy - in the first ten days of April, Gastro Week of the Northern Forum regions in Mongolia - in the first ten days of August, The Northern Forum International School Network, Sustainable Development of the Arctic Curriculum, a project on the history of the Arctic and northern regions' development viewed through the Northern Forum, annual Award for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic of the Interregional scientific, technological, business and educational partnership *Sustainable Development of the Far East and the Arctic*.



The Meeting participants also supported the initiative of the Chairing Region - Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug - to open the Northern Forum Project Office in Khanty-Mansyisk in 2024 to intensify project activities and resume the Northern Forum Call for Projects.

It was proposed to hold the next meeting of the NF Regional Coordinators Committee on the sidelines of Krasnoyarsk Economic Forum in the spring of 2024.



PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TO PRACTICE CONFERENCE REGIONAL PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE FAR EAST AND THE ARCTIC (3RD MOISEEV CONFERENCE)

Moiseev Conference has been in the NF calendar of events since 2021. It has become a traditional venue for the Meeting of the Regional Coordinators Committee once every two years.



Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev and Director General of the Regional Consulting Institute, NF Goodwill Ambassador Alexander Pelyasov spoke at the plenary session, sharing the main results of the Northern Forum and the vision for the development strategy of the Far East and the Arctic.

This year, members of the Northern Forum delegation actively spoke at the Conference sessions not only in person but also online, and were represented at almost all events. For example, Advisor to the Head of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), NF Goodwill Ambassador Georgy Nikonov called on all the regions to join forces and celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Far East. Advisor to the First Deputy Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra Nadezhda Savina presented the new methods and approaches to the education of indigenous children and



youth. Chief Academic Secretary of Tomsk State University, Head of the NF Expert Group on the Assessment of the Quality of Life Lyudmila Borilo significantly contributed to the discussions on green economy and sustainable development of the regions.

Robert Moiseev's outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of Kamchatka Krai and the Far East was much noted at the conference. In a conversation with his daughter Tatyana Mikhailova, the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev proposed to establish a medal named after Robert Moiseev for the scientists who have contributed to the development of the Far East, to be awarded during Moiseev Conference. The proposal was supported by both representatives of Kamchatka Krai and the delegation of the Northern Forum.





RUSSIAN-ASIAN CONSORTIUM FOR ARCTIC RESEARCH

(compiled by the Head of Ammosov NEFU Center for International Arctic Research Alexander Kugaevsky and the Center's Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Director of the Northern Forum Daryana Maximova)







The Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR) was created under a joint initiative of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU) and the Northern Forum as a new model of Arctic – Asia international cooperation in science and education. The Consortium operates within the *Priority 2030* Strategic Academic Leadership Program and in the *Turning Eastwards* geostrategic paradigm, involving scientific and educational organizations, authorities of the Arctic regions and enterprises of the real sector of economy. NEFU acts as a leader in generating the research agenda and as a consolidating and coordinating body of RACAR.

The first RACAR meeting was held on June 11, 2022, where the Declaration on its establishment was signed. On November 28, 2022, the agreement on RACAR establishment was signed at the 4th Northern Sustainable Development Forum (www.nsdf.ru). The structure of management and coordination of joint research and project activities between the members were determined, and the Charter was approved. Ammosov NEFU Rector Anatoly Nikolaev was appointed permanent Chair of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research.



Today, RACAR includes 17 members, representing the leading Russian and Chinese universities, research institutes, organizations for the study of the North and the Arctic, as well as the institutions of secondary vocational education from the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation:

- 1. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University (Sakha Republic (Yakutia)
- 2. The Northern Forum International Organization of Northern Regions
- 3. Ocean University of China (Qingdao, Shandong, PRC)
- 4. Association for the Development of Education Export Potential
- 5. Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering SB RAS (Novosibirsk Oblast)
- 6. MGIMO University (Moscow)
- 7. Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography (Moscow) Murmansk State Technical University (Murmansk Oblast)
- 8. National Research Tomsk State University (Tomsk Oblast)
- 9. Nenets Agrarian and Economics Technical School (Nenets AO)



- 10. Petrozavodsk State University (Republic of Karelia)
- 11. Russian State Hydrometeorological University (Saint Petersburg)
- 12. Saint Petersburg State University (Saint Petersburg)
- 13. Taimyr College (Krasnoyarsk Krai)
- 14. Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University (Arkhangelsk Oblast)
- 15. North-Eastern State University (Magadan Oblast)
- 16. Yugra State University (Khanty-Mansyisk AO)
- 17. RACAR partner: Interregional Scientific, Technological, Business and Educational Partnership *Sustainable Development of the Russian Arctic* (Moscow)

Expected to join RACAR (agreements of intent have been signed):

- 1. North Research and Education Center (Russia);
- 2. Higher education institutions of South Sumatra, Bandar Lampung and Bengkulu regions under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technologies of the Republic of Indonesia (Indonesia)

Potential members (negotiations are underway):

- 1. Heilongjiang University (PRC)
- 2. Harbin Institute of Technology (PRC)
- 3. Dalian Maritime University (PRC)
- 4. Jawaharlal Nehru University (India)
- 5. Indira Gandhi University (India)
- 6. Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (India)
- 7. Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations (India)
- 8. National Center for Polar and Ocean Research (India)
- 9. National Research and Innovation Agency (Indonesia)
- 10. UNESCO Central Asian Regional Glaciological Center (Kazakhstan)
- 11. Member from Vietnam
- 12. Member from Laos
- 13. Member from Mongolia
- 14. Russian International Affairs Council
- 15. Tyumen State University
- 16. Tyumen Industrial University
- 17. Komi Science Center, Ural Branch RAS
- 18. Ural Federal University
- 19. Herzen University
- 20. Surgut State University (KHMAO)



- 21. Nizhnevartovsk State University (KHMAO)
- 22. Surgut Pedagogical State University (KHMAO)
- 23. Khanty-Mansyisk State Medical Academy (KHMAO)
- 24. Yugra Scientific and Research Institute of Technologies (KHMAO)
- 25. Altai State University
- 26. Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University
- 27. Far Eastern Branch RAS
- 28. Yakutsk Science Center SB RAS
- 29. Kola Science Center RAS
- 30. Permafrost Institute SB RAS
- 31. Science Center for Arctic Studies (YNAO)

RACAR activities in 2023:

On May 23, 2023, a new structural unit – International Arctic Research Center (IARC) – was established in Ammosov NEFU by Order № 521-ОД, entitled as the RACAR Secretariat.



IARC Head – Alexander Kugaevsky, Ammosov NEFU Vice-Rector for Analytical and Expert Activity, NF Goodwill Ambassador;

Executive Secretary – Daryana Maximova, Head of Department of International Studies, NEFU Institute of Modern Languages and International Studies, NF Deputy Executive Director.

Project office of the Science and Technology Decade is negotiating to include IARC in the *Opening of centers and labs, launching research infrastructure* initiative.

On July 8, 2023, Yugra State University became RACAR co-Chair for 2023-2025 at the Board of Governors at the $15^{\rm th}$ NF General Assembly.

RACAR meetings

1. Meeting of RACAR scientific coordinators *Global Processes in Natural, Human and Social Sciences in the Arctic and Asia*, March 2, 2023, Moscow, at the 8th *Arctic: Sustainable Development* International Conference.



The meeting was attended by Ekaterina Chaban, Acting Director of the Department of State Scientific and Scientific-Technical Policy of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia, and Nikolai Korchunov, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senior Arctic Official.

Results:

- following the results of the roundtable, a Roadmap of scientific projects in 2023 within the framework of RACAR research activities was compiled;
- the agreement of intent to become RACAR partner was signed with the Interregional Scientific, Technological, Business and Educational Partnership *Sustainable Development of the Russian Arctic* (Moscow).



2. RACAR working meeting, April 20, 2023, Tomsk, at the Northern Territories Associations and Consortiums International Forum.



3. 3rd RACAR Meeting, June 16, 2023, Saint Petersburg (Saint Petersburg State University). Results:

- RACAR project activity and RACAR interaction with the NF regions were discussed;
- the meeting coincided with SPIEF.

RACAR events

1. Discussion platform *Global and Local Adaptation to Climate Change*, March 22, 2023, Yakutsk, at the scientific and practical conference on climate change and permafrost thawing.



Results:

- Ammosov NEFU presented and proposed to RACAR members a project to study the system of ecological transects in Russia, which involves studying the spatial transfer and complex impact of pollutants on the ecosystems of the North and the Arctic;
- the agreement of intent to join RACAR was signed with *North* Research and Education Center.





2. Russia and Asia: Trust-Based Development Session, June 17, 2023, Saint Petersburg, at *Arctic – Territory of Dialogue* stand of the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic at SPIEF-26.

Event participants:

Nikolai Korchunov, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senior Arctic Official; Maxim Dankin, Director of the Department for the Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and the Implementation of Infrastructure Facilities, Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic; Grogory Ledkov, President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East; Petr Karakchiev, Head of International Relations Department, ALROSA; Burlak Offroad LLC; Kola Science Center RAS; Russian International Affairs Council; National Research Center Kurchatov Institute, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Xiao Xiang Morning News; Northern Forum, NEFU.

Results:

- RACAR projects Evaluating the effectiveness of using offroad vehicles in the Arctic and Creating mini nuclear power plant-based regional energy systems in northern and Arctic regions of the Russian Federation were presented;
- It was announced about RACAR's possible involvement in planning and preparation for the International Polar Year 2032-2033;
- Interaction with industrial partners was discussed: ALROSA proposed to interact on social research and appoint a responsible coordinator from its representative office in Dubai;
- Kola Science Center RAS expressed its intention to join RACAR;
- Russian International Affairs Council expressed its intention to join RACAI as a partner.



3. Roundtable *River Pollution in Northern Regions,* June 7, 2023, Khanty-Mansyisk, at the 15th General Assembly of the Northern Forum.

Event participants:

NEFU, Northern Forum, Rashtriya Raksha University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Yugra State University, Surgut State University, Surgut State Pedagogical University, KHMAO Service for Control and Supervision in Environmental Protection, Fauna and Forest, Northern (Arctic) Federal University, North REC, Nizhnevartovsk State University, Yugra Research Institute of Information Technologies, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Khanty-Mansyisk Medical Academy, Petrozavodsk State University, Taimyr College, Northern Forum.

Results:

- Yugra State University became RACAR co-Chair for 2023-2025 at the meeting of the Board of Governors at the 15th NF General Assembly;
- Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug proposed to start joint research on the project on river pollution in northern regions, which will be one of the areas of the integrated project *System of Ecological Transects of Russia*;
- Universities and research institutes of Khanty-Mansyisk AO expressed their intention to become RACAR members;
- Following the event, KHMAO Governor Natalia Komarova commissioned to establish an information and coordination center on climate change research on the basis of Yugra State University (RACAR co-Chair in 2023-2025).



4. *Russia and Asia: Trust-Based Development* Session, September 11, 2023, Vladivostok, at the display of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science at EEF-8.



Event participants:

Andrey Keller, Acting Director of Sociocenter Federal State Scientific Institution; NEFU; YuSU; Ocean University of China; Jawaharlal Nehru University; Renmin University of China; Ocean Policy Research Institute (Japan); Higher education institutions of South Sumatra, Bandar Lampung and Bengkulu regions under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technologies of the Republic of Indonesia; Northern Forum.

Results:

- agreement of intent to join RACAR was signed with the higher education institutions of South Sumatra, Bandar Lampung and Bengkulu regions under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technologies of the Republic of Indonesia;
- priority directions of NEFU development program were presented;
- priority areas of activity of Yugra State University were presented in view of KHMAO inclusion in the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

5. Roundtable on the implementation of mini nuclear power plant projects at the All-Russian Research to Practice Conference *Topical Issues of Thermophysics, Energy and Hydro-Gas*



Dynamics in the Arctic and Subarctic Territories, December 6-9, 2023, Yakutsk, NEFU (scheduled, a mini nuclear power plant project will be presented)

6. Participation of RACAR universities' representatives in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), November 30 – December 12, 2023, Dubai: Yugra State University, Tomsk State University, Russian State Hydrometeorological University.

7. Model of the Northern Forum, December 2, 2023, Yakutsk, participation of the NF regions and RACAR members.

Meetings:



On June 16, 2023, RACAR Chair, Ammosov NEFU Rector Anatoly Nikolaev and NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev met with the delegation of the Indonesian Embassy to Russia, which included: Mr. Berlian Helmy, Deputy Chief of Mission -Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to the Russian Federation - Head of the delegation; Mr. Adi Nurvanto, Attaché of Education and Culture; Mr. Rizinski, Embassy official. Deputy Chief of Mission Berlian Helmi confirmed interest in

cooperation on climate change and marine research and proposed to begin arranging the inclusion of an Indonesian research institute in RACAR. After receiving information about the Northern Forum, he was confident to say that the regions of Indonesia would join the Northern Forum. Indonesian Government is currently working to develop research in various fields, including marine, geospatial, climate and atmospheric geology, and deep-sea exploration. Indonesia is an archipelago country that is very interested in strengthening and increasing research capacity in the maritime field.

On July 1, 2023, RACAR Chair, Ammosov NEFU Rector Anatoly Nikolaev and NEFU Vice-Rector for International Cooperation Nyurgun Maximov met with Yu Zhigang, President of the Ocean University of China and colleagues, including OUC Professor Guo Peiqing, who is RACAR scientific coordinator from OUC. The meeting resulted in the agreement on carrying out a comprehensive project studying the resilience of the Arctic territories of the Northern Sea Route. They also agreed to hold a joint Arctic school in 2024. In addition, OUC President Yu Zhigang proposed to hold a meeting of RACAR Governing Board in Qingdao, Shandong Province of the People's Republic of China, in 2024.

On August 29, 2023, NEFU hosted a meeting of the Vice-Rector for International Cooperation Nyurgun Maximov with the official delegation of the Interdepartmental Committee for Cooperation between Vietnam and Russia. Following the meeting, the parties mutually expressed high interest in intensifying bilateral cooperation within RACAR. With the Committee's assistance, Vietnamese universities are expected to join RACAR during 2024.

Meetings at the 8th EEF:

1. Meeting with Maxim Dankin, Director of the Department for the Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation and the Implementation of Infrastructure Facilities, Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic. He plans to hold a joint event organized together with the Ministry. Interested in supporting RACAR projects.



2. Meeting with Yuri Kulchin, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Chair of the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He has invited RACAR delegation to visit the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Interested in cooperating on medicine.

3. Meeting with Maria Zakharova, RF Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Director of Information and Press Department of the Russian MFA, official representative of the Russian Federation. Plans online attendance to NSDF. Interested in cooperating on oriental studies.

4. Meeting with Tatiana Nefedova, TASS Regional Projects Manager, interested in cooperation on NSDF.

5. Meeting with Elena Mikhailova, Advisor to VCIOM General Director, interested in cooperating on RACAR social projects.

6. Meeting with projects developers of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives, projects *Strong ideas for the new time*. Architectural printing, neuroprofiling technique, psychometric tests, accumulators, generators. Interested in cooperating with RACAR and NEFU in general.

On September 26, 2023, NEFU Rector Anatoly Nikolaev met with the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. As a result, the parties have agreed to implement the projects on joint personnel training in mining and organizing academic mobility and cultural exchange programs.

RACAR projects

1. System of ecological transects in Russia

Goal of the project: create a system of ecological monitoring in the latitudinal and meridional transects in Russia to calculate the models of technosphere safety and ensure the country's ecological security. The project is implemented with the support of Harbin Institute of Technology. On June 7, 2023 at the NF 15th General Assembly in Khanty-Mansyisk, RACAR held a roundtable *River Pollution in Northern Regions*. The research on river pollution in northern regions will be one of the areas of RACAR integrated project *System of ecological transects in Russia*. Following the roundtable, KHMAO Governor Natalia Komarova commissioned to establish an information and coordination center on climate change research on the basis of Yugra State University (RACAR co-Chair in 2023-2025). Subsequently, the project was presented at COP 28 in Dubai on November 30-December 12, 2023. Also, RACAR will become an Observer to the UN Climate Change Conference.

2. Creating mini nuclear powerplant-based regional energy systems in northern and Arctic regions of the Russian Federation (implemented together with Kurchatov Institute National Research Center). The nuclear powerplant energy development project within RACAR can become a project for the advanced development of Asian Russia. The main partners in this project may be as follows: Rosatom State Corporation and Kurchatov Institute. In April 2023, Ammosov NEFU held negotiations in Moscow with Kurchatov Institute National Research Center, where it was agreed to interact and develop research activities on mini-nuclear powerplant energy. Kurchatov Institute is the holder of small nuclear powerplant project for northern regions - *Elena* innovative unmanned NPP. On December 6-9, 2023, NEFU will host the All-Russian Research to Practice Conference *Topical Issues of Thermophysics, Energy and Hydro-Gas Dynamics in the Arctic and Subarctic Territories*, where a roundtable on using mini-nuclear powerplants in the regions of the North and the Arctic will be organized together with Kurchatov Institute.



roundtable will result in launching the RACAR project, whose main goal will be to assess the possibility of creating regional energy networks based on mini nuclear powerplants in the conditions of users' remoteness from the centralized energy networks. Subsequently, NEFU will prioritize the creation of the university-based professional personnel training system for mini-nuclear powerplants in the Russian Arctic.

- 3. *Evaluating the effectiveness of using offroad vehicles in the Arctic* (implemented together with Burlak Offroad LLC). In April 2023, Ammosov NEFU and Burlak Offroad LLC signed a cooperation agreement within the *Priority 2030* federal program. NEFU will develop scientific and technical cooperation with Burlak Offroad LLC, including introduction of frost-resistant rubber products developed by Polymer Materials for the North Youth Lab of NEFU into the production of Burlak Offroad vehicles. As a result, it is planned to create and organize a small innovative enterprise for the production of components for Burlak all-terrain vehicles. Thanks to this project, NEFU sees its leading position in using the frost-resistant rubber products cooperation with Burlak Offroad LLC can become a successful example for testing such products. In the future, it is planned to introduce products made from frost-resistant rubber into infrastructure solutions for providing electricity to the regions of the Russian Arctic (for example, rubber components for electrical transformers), etc.
- Updating the resilience models for the Arctic territories (implemented together with 4. VCIOM). NEFU offers cooperation on the project Updating the resilience models for the Arctic territories of the Northern Sea Route to the Ocean University of China. The subject area of the project is 19 Arctic territories of the Northern Sea Route: Anadyr, Arkhangelsk, Belomorsk, Beringovsky, Varandey, Vitino, Dikson, Dudinka, Kandalaksha, Mezen, Murmansk, Naryan-Mar, Onega, Pevek, Provideniya, Sabetta, Tiksi, Khatanga, Egvekinot. The Northern Sea Route is a shipping route, the main sea communication in the Russian Arctic, joining European and Far Eastern ports of Russia, as well as the mouths of navigable Siberian rivers into a single transport system. The project is an interdisciplinary study, which is confirmed by its theme aimed at updating the resilience models of the Arctic territories of the Northern Sea Route. Expected results: solving a number of problems in the functioning of the Northern Sea Route - a shipping route, the main sea communication in the Russian Arctic, joining European and Far Eastern ports of Russia, as well as the mouths of navigable Siberian rivers into a single transport system. The project is dedicated to assessing the labor market, demographics, transport, logistics, human resources and cargo transportation, tourism development, as well as the collection and analysis of environmental information using modern statistical methods, and techniques for visualization and analysis of information. Within the Priority 2030 program, Ammosov NEFU is ready, together with its Chinese colleagues, to initiate scientific and field research on this project to solve a number of problems for the sustainable development of the NSR infrastructure.



NORTHERN Youth Forum

NORTHERN YOUTH FORUM



In 2023, the Northern Youth Forum arranged the event, project and expert activities.

EVENT ACTIVITES

ARCTIC. EDGES OF THE FUTURE YOUTH CONFERENCE

On May 10-12, the Northern Youth Forum organized Youth Entrepreneurship session of the *Arctic. Edges of the Future* Youth Conference in Salekhard, which was part of the Arctic Council's Ministerial Meeting. At this meeting, Russia passed the chairship of the Arctic Council to Norway.

The opening of the conference convened the following speakers: Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nikolai Korchunov; Vice-Governor of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, NF Regional Coordinator Alexander Mazharov; Youth Envoy for International Cooperation in the Arctic Mikhail Uksusov; Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasilev.



The Northern Youth Forum actively cooperates with youth associations of the Arctic. The conference convened coordinators of the Arctic Club of Diplomatic Academy of the Russian MFA Albert Popov, *Youth of the Arctic* Association Ruslan Movchan and Olga Ievleva, with whom it was agreed to cooperate. At that, Olga Ievleva was interested in representing the Komi Republic in the Northern Youth Forum.

NYF Chair Savina Alexeeva took part in summing up the results of the conference sessions and submitting proposals to the Resolution.





During the events in Salekhard, a meeting of the NYF coordination group and the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev was held, where they discussed their work plans until the end of the year and structural improvements to involve the NF member regions in the youth movement.



For two days, NYF coordinators Ekaterina Sofroneeva, Daria Burnasheva, Irina Dranaeva and Savina Alexeeva arranged the following business events for the participants from Krasnoyarsk Krai, Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug:

- Panel session Time of opportunities. Young entrepreneurs of the North and the Arctic
- Brainstorming Creative spaces for entrepreneurial fulfillment of children and youth
- Strategic session Arctic Entrepreneurship





Following the session, the following proposals were made to the common Resolution:

1. Support the Arctic Startup Expedition to northern and Arctic regions to involve the youth of the North and the Arctic in technological and creative entrepreneurship.

2. Support the development of horizontal communication between the regions through creating the Arctic Libraries Network (ALB) for the entrepreneurial fulfillment of children and youth *New Page*. The pilot regions are the libraries of Yakutia and Yamal.

3. Support the development and promotion of scholarly comprehension of indigenous entrepreneurship through scientific and educational events, involving the young entrepreneurs – representatives and bearers of indigenous culture – as speakers;

4. Support the creation of the Club of Young Entrepreneurs of the Arctic;

5. Create step-by-step entrepreneurship guidelines *Start*, taking into account the specifics of northern and Arctic regions;

6. Conduct career guidance and teach financial literacy to schoolchildren and youth, popularize entrepreneurship, technological entrepreneurship, and IT specialties;

7. Popularize the role models of the entrepreneurs from the North in the development of northern territories;

8. Support young entrepreneur Nikolai Aprosimov as a representative of Russia's indigenous peoples for the promotion on the international platforms;

9. Disseminate knowledge on ESG standards among young people, indigenous peoples of the North, entrepreneurs and corporations.

10. Provide for the possibility of creating financial support mechanisms for startup entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs working for the development and preservation of northern territories.

11. Encourage corporations operating in the Arctic and the North to support youth entrepreneurial initiatives and attract corporations to invest in startup projects, technological initiatives of young entrepreneurs for the development and preservation of the North and the Arctic.

12. Introduce Entrepreneurship and Technology area at each youth council of the Arctic regions.

13. Support the opening and functioning of clusters for the development of entrepreneurship, technology and science in the North and the Arctic.

14. Support the integration of support for the indigenous entrepreneurship into the general state system of support for small and medium businesses, in particular, legislative, advisory and financial support.

15. Support the holding of a common event for the organizations and communities involved in the development of the North and the Arctic, to exchange experiences and synchronize on similar projects.

Practically, the event resulted in the creation of the Arctic Libraries Network within 2023, which now unites 17 libraries from 5 regions. Irina Dranaeva, NYF Human Capital Coordinator, is its creator and leader.

Together with the working group, the concept and regulations of the Arctic Libraries Network (ALN) were developed. We were supported by the National Library of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) - we were the first to sign an official cooperation agreement within the ALN with the National Library of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.



According to the event plan for 2024, and as part of the ALN, ARCTIC BOOKFEST cultural event will be held (tentatively in March 2024). With the support of the NYF and the National Library of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), a creative contest for children and teenagers *Tales of the North and the Arctic* will be held from January 15, 2024. Its purpose is to attract attention to the culture of the North and the Arctic, develop children's creativity and literary skills, and promote reading and interest in books and literature.

PARTICIPATION IN THE NIKOLAEV FORUM

On November 10-12, the NYF representatives took part in the Nikolaev Forum in memory of the First President of Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Mikhail Nikolaev. The event was held at the Nikolaev Center and the Junior Science Academy in Khangalassky District, Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

More than 70 participants and experts from over 30 districts of the republic developed their proposals for updating the strategy of Yakutia's socio-economic development until 2032 with a vision until 2050. The team that developed proposals for the development of a non-resource export-oriented economy became the Forum's winner. Tatyana Nikolaeva from the NF Secretariat (fourth from the left in the photo) was the member of the winner team. One of the projects was the creation of a branding center, which could improve the image in the foreign market. Another interesting project was the construction of a satellite city, which is an extremely relevant topic, given President Putin's recent commissions on creating support cities in Russia.

Other teams proposed to develop human resources in rural areas, provide citizens with affordable and comfortable housing, prevent man-made accidents at production facilities, develop public control in the field of environmental protection, involve subsoil users in the economic development strategy of the territories, and many others.





MODEL OF THE NORTHERN FORUM

On December 2, 2023, a regular Model of the Northern Forum was held online to model the Northern Forum activities. The event was organized by the Northern Youth Forum, International Institute of Energy Policy and Diplomacy of MGIMO University and the *Arctic* student research club of MGIMO University, Department of External Relations of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug and Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University.

The following structures were modeled at the event:

– Working Group on Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity (working language – Russian);

- Working Group on Creative Industries (working language Russian);
- Board of Governors (working language English);

After the NF Model, the Declaration of the Board of Governors was sent to the NF Secretariat.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

ARCTIC STARTUP EXPEDITION: RUSSIAN FAR EAST AND ARCTIC

In 2023, the Arctic Startup Expedition transformed into the Arctic Startup Expedition: Russian Far East and Arctic (ASE RFA) and is now a competition of projects in 8 creative industries for the teams from 18 regions of the Far East and the Arctic zone of the Russian Federation.

The competition officially started at the 8th Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. Currently, regional finals are being held in eight regions of the Russian Far East and the Arctic, which will end at the end of 2024.





The organizers of the ASE RFA are the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic, Government of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Development Corporation of the Far East and the Arctic JSC, Innovation Development Fund of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Northern Youth Forum, Development Corporation of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) JSC. Each track has its own industry and regional partners.

To date, the following tracks have taken place:

- On September 28-30, 2023, the final of the Computer Graphics and Animation track took place in Khabarovsk at the Animur International Animated Film Festival. 41 projects (about 120 people) were submitted from Khabarovsk, Yakutsk, Aldan, Anadyr, Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Chita, Ulan-Ude, Taimyr, Vladivostok, Amursk and Birobidzhan. Nika Radionova from Khabarovsk became the winner and got a prize of RUB 1 000 000 for her *Isiori* cartoon about the animals and the ecology of the Far East. On November 25-29, 2023, the Accelerator of YARKO Animation Company will begin for the ASE RFA participants.



- On November 3, 2023, the final of the Design and Clothes Production track took place in Birobidzhan. 92 projects (about 200 people) were submitted from Magadan, Petrozavodsk, Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Yakutsk, Ussuriysk, Dudinka, Blagoveshchensk, Vladivostok, Zeya, Krasnoyarsk, Murmansk, Birobidzhan, Aksarka, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Syktyvkar, Norilsk, Ulan -Ude, Emelyanovo, and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Alexandra Gapanovich from Murmansk, founder of a women's clothing brand from the Far North, became the winner and got a prize of RUB 1 000 000.

- On November 14-18, the final of the Cinema track took place in Murmansk at the Northern Character International Film Festival. 115 applications were submitted: 89 projects (about 250 people) from the cities and villages of 15 regions of the Russian Arctic and the Far Eastern Federal District were accepted for selection: Amur Oblast, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Republic of



Buryatia, Zabaykalsky Krai, Kamchatka Krai, Republic of Karelia, Komi Republic, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Magadan Oblast, Murmansk Oblast, Primorsky Krai, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Sakhalin Oblast, Khabarovsk Krai, and Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Diana Khudayeva and Sardaana Barabanova from the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) became the winners with their *Taba Suolunan/By the Reindeer Path* project.

- On November 23, 2023, the final in the Game Development track took place in Yakutsk with 12 finalists, who had been at the game projects accelerator for two months. 64 projects (300 people) were submitted from Blagoveshchensk, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, and Yakutsk.

The next stages are scheduled in 2024 in Vladivostok in the Product Design track, in Magadan in Jewelry Production track, in Krasnoyarsk in the Software Development track, and in Blagoveshchensk in the Urban Environment track.

In addition to the competitive program, each city hosts the ASE RFA *Coordinates* strategic session on shaping a creative regional ecosystem, as well as master classes and educational events from the top experts in creative industries.

CAREER TALK SERIES OF MEETINGS

In 2023, the Northern Youth Forum, in partnership with the DTK - Reading Center, the Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts and the Innovation Development Fund, launched a series of *Career Talk* meetings for schoolchildren and youth.

The first meeting discussed neural networks for effective studying. Vitaly Ammosov, analyst at the Innovation Development Fund, gave an overview of trends and popular neural networks. His speech aroused keen interest among the participants, making them think about the future and the place of human in it.



NYF Human Capital Coordinator Irina Dranaeva introduced participants to AI tools used for studying. Much attention was paid to the case studies. Studying AI tools is important for successful professional fulfillment and self-development.

Nowadays, the use of artificial intelligence is becoming more widespread in various fields of professional activity. The use of AI can significantly improve the efficiency and accuracy of problem solving, as well as reduce the risks of errors. Studying AI helps you expand your competencies and skills, which can be very important for your professional level and improve career prospects.

Topics for upcoming meetings:

- How to write a CV?
- Time management tools



ARCTIC EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATION CHANNEL



In 2022, the NYF Coordinator Sardana Syromyatnikova won a grant from the Russian Federation Cultural Initiatives Fund to implement the educational project of creating the *Arctic* Studio, which opened at the end of December 2022. The materials filmed in 2022 were uploaded in 2023, taking into account the need for editing:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSuOcZm-W2H1niEU1CDTrzQ

The project is aimed at raising public awareness of preserving cultural heritage and highlighting the history and culture of northern peoples. Popular science is an important factor in the educational broadcasts. The guests of the project are scientists and staff of scientific institutions in culture, history and folklore of the peoples of Yakutia, as well as bearers of cultural traditions living in the northern regions. In addition, the project is intended to systematize and discuss the most pressing issues in the development of the North and the Arctic in a popular visual form.

EXPERT ACTIVITIES

On June 2, 2023, the NYF representatives took part in the *Ulennen Urdelge* Forum of Entrepreneurs in Berdigestyakh village of Gorny District of Yakutia. The Forum included panel and partner sessions on attracting investment in rural areas, developing tourism and creative economy in rural areas. The NYF representatives Savina Alexeeva and Daria Burnasheva were invited as experts.

On September 27, 2023, the NYF Coordinator Daria Burnasheva delivered lectures at the *Ayar-Bilim 2023* Republic's Student Scientific Societies Forum. The Forum brought together students from four



universities of Yakutia. It was organized to promote research activities of the students of Yakutia's higher education institutions, develop their creative activity, and engage them in solving the pressing problems of modern science. The platform made it possible to create a unified scientific and educational space among the student scientific societies.

On October 10, 2023, the NYF Coordinator Irina Dranaeva, as an expert from the secondary vocational education institutions (Yakutsk Industrial College, Yakutsk Municipal Construction College, Neryungri Medical College, College of Creative Industries), took part in the work of the *Team of the First* of the All-Russian children and youth *Movement of the First*.

On November 10, 2023, the award ceremony of the international creative competition *The White World of the Arctic: Through the Prism of a Children's Book* was arranged. Over 100 works from the Russian northern regions and foreign countries were considered. The event was held in a hybrid format. More details at <u>https://www.northernforum.org/ru/news-ru/members-news/1105-white-world-of-the-arctic-award-ceremony.</u>



PROJECT ACTIVITES



During the year, several Working Groups, headed by the representatives of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), changed their leaders after the elections to Yakutia's State Assembly (Il Tumen).

The NF Secretariat had regular meetings with the WG Chairs to discuss their activities and clarify the actions plans.

The Chair of the Education and Research WG Feodosia Gabysheva was appointed Head of the Native Languages Research, Preservation and Development Center of the Academy of Sciences of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).



The Chair of the Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity WG Sakhamin Afanasiev was elected representative of legislative authorities of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.



The Chair of the Interparliamentary Cooperation in the Arctic and the North Victor Gubarev was reelected Member of the State Assembly of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (Il Tumen) and headed the Standing Committee on Culture.

In this relation, the Speaker of the of the State Assembly of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) (Il Tumen) Alexey Eremeyev submitted his proposals on the State Assembly's representatives in the Working Groups.

After consulting with the Chair of the Culture WG Andrey Borisov, we arrived at a common view that the workload in his major position of the State Counsellor of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and Director of the Geocultural Development Institute of Yakutia's Ministry of Culture, as well as other duties, prevented him from fully focusing on the activities of the Working Group. Given that, we made a joint decision to offer Sargylana Ignatieva, Rector of the Arctic State Institute of Culture and Arts, to chair the Working Group. The Resolution of the Regional Coordinators Committee confirmed her appointment.





Feodosia Gabysheva and Sakhamin Afanasiev confirmed their commitment to chair their Working Groups. Victor Gubarev will join the Culture WG.

The Working Group on the Arctic Tourism Development and the Expert Group on the Assessment of the Quality of Life were most active during the year. Some work was conducted by the Education and Research WG, Environment and Conservation of Biodiversity WG and Creative Industries WG.

Besides, following the General Assembly, the Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra Natalia Komarova commissioned the region's executive authorities, in cooperation with the NF Secretariat, with creating international expert groups on the regions' digital agenda and climate issues, involving the establishment of Climate Change Information and Coordination Center based on Yugra State University.

To boost and support project activities, it was also commissioned to establish the Northern Forum Project office in Khanty-Mansyisk.

Given the increased amount of attention to the development of the Russian Arctic, adoption of the Federal law on deliveries of goods to northern Russia, and projects on the development of



the new Arctic infrastructure, logistic corridors and hubs, the Ministry for the Development of the Arctic and Northern Peoples' Affairs proposed to establish a Transport and Logistics Working Group. Nadezhda Filippova, Professor at Moscow Road Institute, was offered as a coordinator of the newly proposed group.

6.2. KEY RESULTS OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE

The task for the year 2023 was to build the NF expert community on the quality of life, where the "quality of life" is seen as an institutional issue of preserving the population, particularly in the regions where extreme climate defines all other aspects of human life, and improvement of the quality of life is considered the ultimate task of the country's development.

Work with a wide range of stakeholders was carried out during the year.

Events of the year 2023

A multi-disciplinary discussion on building the NF expert community on the quality of life was organized on April 21, 2023 in Tomsk on the platform of the Northern Territories Associations and Consortiums Forum.



The following areas were identified for further development and cooperation:

- Models of the indigenous peoples' adaptation to the changing conditions of the Arctic environments (transition to the new quality of life);
- Quality of life issues of rotational workers of oil and gas and industrial construction companies;
- Cooperation with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, regional associations on the most topical issues of the quality of life of



indigenous population, including the creation of the integrated model of development of traditional economies of the peoples of the North, including for the long-term;

- Public-private partnership in the Arctic healthcare.



The second interdisciplinary discussion on creating the NF expert community on the quality of life took place in Khanty-Mansyisk the 15th NF General Assembly on July 7, 2023.

The following areas were identified for further development and cooperation:

- Life support and livelihoods of Siberian residents;
- The role of the quality of life indices in achieving the sustainable development indicators;
- Study of the Russian regions' quality of life based on the social media data;
- Quality of life of migrant workers in the Arctic;
- Management of quality and safety of medicine.

On September 5, 2023, a working meeting of the NF expert community on the quality of life, aimed to define the results and goals for the next period, was held at Tomsk State University.

Lyudmila Borilo, Head of the Expert Group, and Olga Shaduiko, Director of Tomsk State University International Center, took an active part in the UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change in Dubai (UAE) as part of the Northern Forum delegation.

Lyudmila Borilo also took part in the sessions of the 3rd Moiseev Conference and the Regional Coordinators Committee meeting in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.



Results of the year

1. The core of the expert community has been formed.

2. The key areas of the expert community's scientific field have been identified.

3. Priority tools and potential partners in implementing the scientific tasks of the expert community have been identified.

4. The target audience has been determined.

5. The internal research agenda of the expert community has been agreed upon:

– Continue the work/discussions of the NF expert community on health conservation, both within the Northern Forum and on the external platforms. Involve representatives of different groups: practitioners, healthcare organizers, scientists, industrial enterprises, professional associations, others.

– Continue drawing up an application for possible competitions of the Ministry of Education and Science, other ministries, departments, and foundations. One possible broad theme is resilience.

6. Proposals to the NF leadership on the consolidation and effective implementation of its internal potential were formulated (intergroup discussions on thematic platforms, participation in the discussion of state and regional initiatives in various areas, possible joint projects).

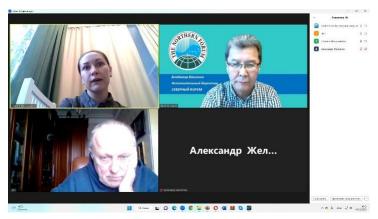
7. Recommend that the NF leadership pay attention to the following issues: a) preparing outreach (popular science) materials on the priority topics and projects of the NF Working Groups; b) introduction of a rapid cycle of implementation of research results into practice (if available).

6.3. KEY RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ARCTIC TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

By the beginning of the year, the head of the group had formed a solid reputable membership. It was decided to divide them into two teams: the working group itself and the expert group.

Ten most sought-after experts in various areas of the tourism industry were invited to the main working group to organize operational work on coordinating current activities.

In the first half of the year, work was carried out to establish the activities of the new NF Arctic Tourism WG. On February 9, we had a meeting with the WG leader Tatyana Menshikova and its members Alexander Korovkin and Alexander Zheleznyak. It was agreed to draw up a work plan by the end of March. The Group's expert council began to form, which already includes more than 20 professionals from different industries and regions. It was decided to participate



in St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and prepare a session at the NF General Assembly.





During the Executive Director's visit to Moscow on March 2-3, the first meeting of the NF Arctic Tourism WG was held in person. The meeting convened to following members:

• Tatyana Menshikova, WG leader;

• Natalya Volynets, Head, *White Rosehip* Center for Tourism, Sports, Education, Culture and Recreation Projects Development;

• Leonid Gelibterman, President, International Center of Wine and Gastronomy;

• Alexander Ilyin, Executive Director, Chair of the Board, *KiT* Non-profit Partnership for the Assistance to the Development of Cinema and Tourism;

• Valery Korovkin, Managing Director, *Arctic 21st Century* International Union of Tour Operators and Protected Areas;

• Tatyana Dyatlova, Associate Professor at Yugra State University;

• Daryana Maximova, Deputy Executive Director of the Northern Forum.



We discussed work plans for the year, focusing on the development of the Concept for the Development of Tourism in the Arctic, participation in St. Petersburg Economic Forum, and organization of the gastrodiplomacy courses. Tatiana Menshikova presented the polar tourist passports, developed by Rostourism, to all WG members, Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director. The passport will soon be available for tourists wishing to visit the Russian Arctic. The passport will be stamped at the places visited, of which there are currently 55.



We also had a substantive discussion with Viktor Kruzhalin, Head of Recreational Geography and Tourism Department of the Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State University, and his staff. After a thorough discussion, Mr. Kruzhalin confirmed his membership in the Arctic Tourism Working Group. Joint work will be established to study the tourism potential of the regions, with specific projects being supported, as well as work to upgrade the skills of tourism executives and specialists. Thus, the group engaging almost all leading experts on Arctic tourism has been created in the Northern Forum.



On April 4, an introductory meeting of the Expert Council of the NF Arctic Tourism Working Group was held. It convened reputable professionals and a very productive and dynamic discussion took place on the areas of cooperation. Specific proposals were received for the project activities and organization of events. It appeared that the Northern Forum provided its platform and potential to unite everyone interested in developing tourism in the Arctic and establishing systematic and well-coordinated work at the appropriate moment. We once again express our gratitude to Chukotka Autonomous Okrug for its initiative of creating this group and are especially grateful to the WG leader Tatyana Menshikova, who was able to attract almost all of the country's professionals. We see enormous potential and are confident of success.



Tatiana Menshikova worked at Rostourism for many years and compiled an excellent map of the Arctic tourism in Russia. Following Rostourism abolition, she decided to give the map, which had been made in a single copy, to the Northern Forum.





Based on the proposals of the WG members, NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke at the *Arctic: Territory of Investment Opportunities and Memorable Travels* session, where he talked about the activities of the newly created WG, which began its work very actively. A Concept of tourism development in the Russian Arctic will be prepared; work has begun on organizing gastronomic weeks of the Northern Forum regions in different countries. This work will be organized through the International Center of Wine and Gastronomy, which is part of the Northern Forum WG. Consistent work will be organized to train tourism personnel, including through RACAR programs. Goodwill Ambassador Paul Fuhs talked about tourism development in Alaska, the problems and obstacles of tourist sector in the Arctic and how they are solved in western regions.

Information about the roundtable on tourism, organized during the General Assembly in Khanty-Mansyisk, can be found in the *Major Events of the Northern Forum* section.

During the year, the WG members did a lot of work in their areas, but the International Center of Wine and Gastronomy was especially active in involving the NF regions in tourism development. The Center organized a Gastro Camp in Kamchatka; it actively works with the ambassadors of Latin American countries and holds many events on gastrodiplomacy.





In the middle of the year, the WG Chair Tatiana Menshikova was invited to the position of the Deputy Head of Staff of the Commission of the State Council of the Russian Federation for Tourism, Physical Culture and Sport of the Expert and Coordination Center of Commissions of the State Council of the Russian Federation, which will allow the NF WG to make a direct contribution to the Arctic tourism development at the federal level.

"Russian President Vladimir Putin, at the meeting on developing supporting settlements in the Russian Arctic, called the development of tourism there one of the "most important system tasks".

"Development of tourism is among the most important system tasks as it has enormous potential in the Arctic", said President.

According to him, for a comprehensive development of tourism industry in the region, it is necessary to improve the hospitality industry, offer interesting tourist routes and services and develop the cities and towns in general".



Source: https://tass.ru/obschestvo/19508519



From point of view, this the appointment of Tatiana Menshikova to a high position in the State Council of the Russian Federation and the agreed decision on creating a new State Council Commission for the Development of Arctic Tourism will allow the main core of the Working Group to move to the federal level. The Northern Forum will retain the expert community in this area to ensure close coordination connection and of actions at the federal and regional levels.

This example once again confirms that the Northern Forum is an excellent experimental platform for testing new forms, approaches and mechanisms of work.

6.4. KEY RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

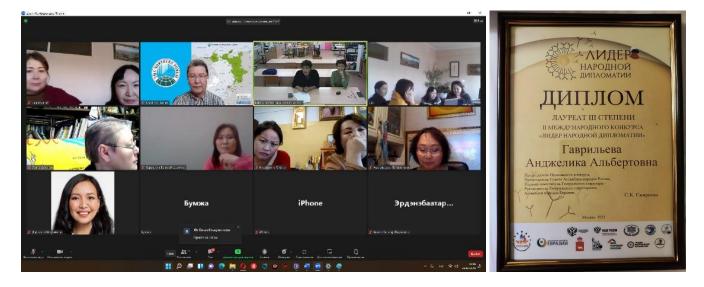
In 2023, there was no large-scale work within this Working Group due to the cancellation of the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, where the events were planned on the human resources potential of the Arctic, the *Children of the Arctic* and *Teacher of the Arctic* projects.

Job change of the WG Chair also affected the plans. However, there were some new initiatives from the public schools and the Goodwill Ambassador from Alaska Paul Fuhs.

During the visit of the Northern Forum delegation to Mongolia, productive relations were established between the schools of Kharkhorin Soum, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra and the city of Tomsk. The proposal of the NF Executive Director to investigate the possibility of creating the Northern Forum International School Network was supported unanimously, and active communication between the schools began in the new academic year on the initiative of Anzhelika Gavrileva, Principal of Berdigestyakh Osipov Secondary School, who is currently an informal leader of the newly created community. The first meeting of Berdigestyakh School team with the colleagues from Kharkhorin took place on November 15. In December, a regular meeting of schools from the Northern Forum regions from Yakutia and the Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra took place, where plans for joint work next year were discussed.

Anzhelika Gavrileva, Principal of Berdigestyakh Osipov Secondary School, became a 3rd Prize Winner of the *Public Diplomacy Leader* All-Russian Contest with the project of creating the Northern Forum International School Network.





The role of Goodwill Ambassador Amarjargal Baljinnyam is invaluable: begrudging neither time nor energy, she provides constant and extensive support for the development of cooperation between Mongolia and the Northern Forum, organizing and coordinating all events and working as a professional interpreter. It would have been impossible to build effective cooperation without her support.

At the beginning of the year, Paul Fuhs proposed to develop an additional curriculum *Sustainable Development of the Arctic*. The idea was supported by the Regional Coordinators Committee and we hope that in 2024 the curriculum will be tested in the selected pilot schools for subsequent distribution in the secondary education system of different countries. It is planned to attract the leading experts in all areas of research and development of the Arctic to give lectures, conduct master classes, organize field work, and other practical activities. The curriculum will introduce children from all over the world to the Arctic, show the key role of this region in shaping the climate of the entire planet, the culture and traditions of indigenous peoples, and richness of nature, as well as form a caring attitude towards the fragile ecosystems of the cold regions of northern hemisphere.



In 2022, events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Alaska-Siberia air were organized route among schoolchildren. In 2023, a digest of the network interregional youth research project History of ALSIB – History of My Country was published. The digest is intended for the schoolchildren interested in the project and research activities and the teachers of general additional and education. The publication includes 27 articles based on the project participants' research



results. The purpose of the digest is to attract attention of the younger generation to preserving the historical heritage of the legendary Fairbanks-Yakutsk-Krasnoyarsk (Alaska-Siberia) air route, opened in 1942.



The NF Executive Director is a member of the Supervisory Board of the International Arctic School in Yakutsk, the idea of creating which was once presented at the level of the UN Secretary General and the Arctic Council, and was highly appreciated. The school annually holds *The Arctic – Territory of Cooperation* conference in English. The latest conference took place on April 14. The NF Executive Director spoke at its opening and worked as an expert in the biology and ecology section. Schoolchildren from grades 7-10 from the schools of Yakutia, Nenets and Chukotka Autonomous Okrugs gave presentations in various areas of science in English. Their work was evaluated by the reputable jury of 27 experts from Yakutia, Moscow, France and Colombia. The work was organized in 6 sections, including techniques and technology, languages, history, social knowledge and culture, and digital environment. The conference is gradually gaining momentum and we hope that it will become a notable international event for schoolchildren. It is recommended to involve school students and teachers as the audience with the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the participants' presentations, as well as add active forms of communication on the conference topics.

The *School of Life in the North* project, initiated and coordinated by Yakutsk City National Gymnasium, has been successfully working for many years.

Project coordinator, English teacher Dora Egorova, prepared a report on the work done.

The tracks of the *School of Life in the North* project are based on the mission of the Northern Forum to improve the quality of life of the population and support the sustainable development of northern regions, study the environment, and master the competencies of the 21st century, so that future highly professional specialists know and love their region, and work to achieve their goals for the benefit of the development of the North.

Project tracks in 2023:

- 1. Contest for schoolchildren;
- 2. Research to practice conference for schoolchildren;
- 3. ALSIB Research Project;
- 4. Network school partnership;
- 5. International cooperation.



SCHOOL OF LIFE IN THE NORTH CONTEST FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

In 2023, the contest was dedicated to the *topic Climate change in the native region: causes, consequences, solutions* and was held from February 15 to March 26. Works were received from Yakutsk, Vilyuisk, Namtsy, Tatta, Abyi, and Aldan Districts. Experts noted the relevance of the topic, research analysis of the situation, social significance of the works and first-hand examples. The best works are published on the website <u>http://north-school.com/ru/</u>.

SCHOOL OF LIFE IN THE NORTH RESEARCH TO PRACTICE CONFERENCE

On April 20, the 12th *School of Life in the North* Research to Practice Conference took place online. The conference was held separately for each level: primary, secondary and senior. Experts note the high level of English language proficiency, the relevance of the topics and the involvement of children in the environmental issues and cultural preservation. Invited expert Niall Harmey, ecologist and nature conservation inspector from Ireland, assessed the work of the conference participants, highlighting the presentation of Ayan Andreev, a student of Nyurba Technical Lyceum. His work is dedicated to water resources conservation; he made the analysis and proposed the methods for combating pollution.



The contests and conferences are organized by the Department of Language Training Methods of Yakutsk City National Gymnasium (Zinaida Alexeeva - Head, Maria Kaprynova, Khristina Ksenofontova, Vasilina Nazarova).

ALSIB RESEARCH PROJECT

On May 8 Yakutsk, the Chiryaevs Yakutsk City National Gymnasium, Berdigestyakh Osipov Secondary School of Gorny District and Tarat Olesov Basic Secondary School of Megino-Kangalassky District held an annual joint event in memory of the heroic ALSIB aviators and the labor valor of the local population during the Great Patriotic War. The action began simultaneously in the city of Yakutsk and the villages of Berdigestyakh and Tarat. The NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev welcomed the participants of the action whereas schoolchildern spoke about the search party, research work, their great-grandfathers on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War, great-grandmothers and fellow countrymen who worked at the year-round and 24-hour reserve airfields of the legendary ALSIB air route.







SCHOOL NETWORK PARTNERSHIP

Professions of the 21st Century Discussion Platform

The analysis of Yakutia's State Employment Committee has made up a list of professions of the future that will be in demand before 2027; there are some about which we know little today.

On April 25, the Chiryaevs Yakutsk City National Gymnasium hosted a *Professions of the 21st Century* Discussion Platform as part of the *School of Life in the North* international project under the auspices of the Northern Forum, the Ministry of External Relations and Ethnic Affairs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), and Donskoy the 2nd Institute of Education Development and Advanced Training. There were 9 sites in the Gymnasium and one site each in Abyi Secondary School, Namtsy Gymnasium, Berdigestyakh Secondary School, and 3 sites in Khamagatta Sakha-French Lyceum.

The purpose of the discussion is the development of strategic thinking, formation of students' interest in work activities based on modern data, creation of conditions for understanding jobs in the modern world.

The participants had to model a solution to the task during the discussion, present it as infographics, and answer the questions from other teams. Mentors at the sites devised the course of discussion on the topic as a set of questions, together with the participants they determined the subject of discussion, moderated the discussion, monitored the pace of work, and created favorable conditions for making an effective decision on the topic of the discussion site. The participants and moderators designed the *Image of the Future* infographic, identified what specialists would be needed to complete the tasks, thought about the specialists needed, the challenges and surprises that might arise and how to tackle them, and solved other problems.

Coaching experts Vladimir Vasilev, Executive Director of the Northern Forum, Sergey Khatylykov, Deputy Minister for External Relations and Ethnic Affairs of Yakutia, and Bozhedonova. Anastasia Candidate of Sociology, Representative of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in the Northern Forum Secretariat in Anchorage (USA) in 1999 -2013, international education expert, project manager, had a conversation on the topic, commented on the proposals for strategic analysis, identification of the prospects and choosing the priorities.

When defending their express projects, the

students used Yakut, Russian, English, French and Chinese as working languages, and asked questions to other participants in the discussion.

Sites at Yakutsk City National Gymnasium: *Window to the East* (working language – Chinese); *Mathematics in English; English as a Key to the World of Opportunities; Future Professions of Yakutsk* (working language – English); *Science and Modernity* (working language – English); *Physics in English; How to Become a Diplomat; Native Languages and Culture in the Modern World; Innovative Production of the Future in the North.*

The following sites worked remotely: *Agriculture*; *Ecology. Water*; *Nos Futurs Professions* (Our future professions); *Ecology*.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Friendship – Найрамдал (Mongolian)



On May 20-26, the city of Kharkhorin, Uvurkhangai Province of Mongolia, and Ulaanbaatar hosted *The Northern Forum and Mongolia: Prospects for Cooperation* events of the Northern Forum, where a delegation of Yakutsk City National Gymnasium was involved: Venera Illarionova, teacher of Russian language and literature, and the students of grade 7B Denis Adamov and Nikolay Ettyanov.

There were meetings and exchange of experience between the delegations of the Russian schools and Nomyn Khurden School, Orkhon Boarding School Nº 1, school with enhanced

education in mathematics, Kharkhorin School Nº 2 in and Ulaanbaatar School Nº 61.

Mongolian schools welcomed us warmly and hospitably, talked about their activities and achievements, organized tours of their schools, showed magnificent concerts with performances in Russian, and gave a lesson in traditional Mongolian calligraphy. The Russian delegation introduced the work of their schools, projects, showed videos, performed national concert items: playing khomus and other folk musical instruments, songs and chastushkas.

Schoolchildren and teachers took an active part in the landmark event - planting trees in the park in front of the Home for the Elderly in Kharkhorin. We also took part in the important event *Let's Make Our Planet Clean* - a joint run with the NF Goodwill Ambassador, ultramarathon runner Paolo Venturini (Verona, Italy).

The *School of Life in the North* arrangements have become a significant event in the educational space of the republic. We are confident that such communication between young people contributes to the development of the North.

6.5. KEY RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY

Such projects as *The Red Book Through the Eyes of Children* and *We Are Responsible for What We Have Tamed* have been traditionally active. The projects are led by Olga Stytsyuk, whose outstanding contribution to the promotion of the NF mission has been recognized with the organization's highest award – Walter Hickel Medal.

The projects are very popular, involving children from many countries and almost all regions of Russia. The projects' coordinators try to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation and respect for nature and present them at various sites.

On February 14-19, 2023, a Forum was held in Mongolia for joint activities between the tour operators and representatives of media organizations in Russia and Mongolia. About two hundred representatives of tourism industry of the two countries took part in the Forum for the first time. Russia was represented by the Republics of Altai, Buryatia, Tuva, Sakha (Yakutia), Kalmykia, Komi, and Khakassia; Altai, Zabaykalsky, Krasnoyarsk, Primorsky, Khabarovsk, and Perm Krais; Amur, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Moscow, Leningrad, Kemerovo Oblasts; Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Olga Stytsyuk – teacher of History and World Art of Talinka Secondary School, chief curator of Otrazheniye (Reflection) Museum and Education Center of the Talinka Culture and Sports Center from Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Yugra took an active part in the Forum.





During the visit, with the assistance of the NF Goodwill Ambassador Amarzhargal Baljinnyam, Olga Stytsyuk visited the Lyceum School of Arts at the University of Culture and Art of Mongolia. The guests attended a competition for young composers. Ms. Stytsyuk presented the international environmental projects of Otrazheniye (Reflection) Museum and Education Center *The Red Book Through the Eyes of Children* and *We Are Responsible for What We Have Tamed*, implemented by the Northern Forum. The Lyceum students made fruits and leaves, which went to Yugra to be put on the Tree of Friendship. The meeting was very warm and sincere, laying the foundations for further fruitful cooperation. Another step has been taken towards bringing Mongolia and the Northern Forum regions closer together.

The projects were also presented during the visit of the Northern Forum delegation to Mongolia in May 2023.

The Red Book Through the Eyes of Children project is one of the key ones for Save and *Preserve* International Environmental Action, which was highlighted at the action's closing ceremony.

In general, it should be noted that the Working Group lacks proactive efforts. Additional consultations will be held to clarify the status, given the particular importance of the issues within the Group's competence.





INTERACTION WITH THE ARCTIC COUNCIL









The year 2023 was the final year of Russia's Chairship of the Arctic Council. During two years, a lot of events were held, the Northern Forum being actively involved in many of them.

Last year, the NF representatives took part in the following events:



Research to practice conference on climate change and permafrost thawing

The conference convened over 200 experts from Russia, China, India, Kazakhstan and other countries, being held in person and online. Studios were arranged for the participants in Moscow, Beijing and Astana, and live broadcasts of the meetings and sessions were organized on the event page on Russia's Chairship official website.



As part of the conference, the Northern Forum Secretariat coordinated the visit of Nikolai Korchunov, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials.



Besides speaking at the plenary session, Mr. Korchunov got acquainted with the work of the IT Park. Its residents told him about the interesting projects on teaching computer graphics, saving people, civil design, supporting indigenous peoples, and Arctic Startup Expedition.



On March 22, the Northern Forum Secretariat hosted a meeting attended by the Deputy Head of Bulun District Vladimir Miloslavsky, First Vice-Rector of Tomsk State University Viktor Demin, Chair of the Northern Youth Forum Savina Alexeeva and Associate Professor at NEFU, senior researcher at *Polymer Materials for the North* youth lab Ekaterina Timofeeva.





We discussed cooperation for effective interaction between the government agencies and universities as well as possible ways of promoting and strengthening the Arctic cooperation.

During the conference, a meeting with Tumennasan Munkhmaral, Special Envoy of the President of Mongolia on Youth Issues, was held. The Northern Forum Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev presented the NF event in Mongolia scheduled for May. Tumennasan Munkhmaral was of great



help in organizing a meeting with the Chief of Staff of Mongolia's President and took an active part in the $15^{\rm th}$ NF General Assembly.

On March 23, the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke at the session of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research, suggesting to consider the possibility of active involvement in preparing the International Conference on Arctic Research Planning in 2030 and the International Polar Year in 2032-2033, as well as the possibility for the Consortium to get an observer status at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will give the right to attend the largest UN conference on climate change with its own sessions.

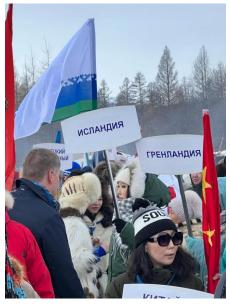




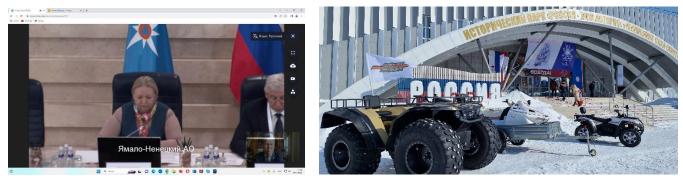
On March 15–19, the International Traditional Reindeer Herding Championship took place in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), which included competitions in sled jumping, lasso

throwing, and reindeer sled racing. Competitions in professional skills were also held. As part of the event, international conference *Sustainable Development of Reindeer Husbandry in the Context of Global Changes in the Arctic* and an extraordinary meeting of the board of the Association of World Reindeer Herders were organized.

Halldor Johannsson, Director of the Arctic Portal and NF business partner from Iceland, took an active part in the event. He also organized a visit of the expert from Greenland to the championship.



Safe Arctic – 2023 Research and Trial Exercise took place on April 6–7 in nine regions of the Arctic zone as part of the action plan of Russia's Chairship of the Arctic Council in 2021–2023. The NF Executive Director spoke at the sessions organized in Salekhard and Yakutsk.



The Northern Territories Associations and Consortiums Forum in Tomsk Oblast opened with the *Combining Potentials* roundtable, where the existing associations were presented and the forms and mechanisms of interaction, coordination of activities, and research were discussed to



avoid overlap. The Forum mostly gathered research consortiums. Its program was very extensive and practice-focused. The participants made specific proposals for joint work: conducting research, a conference on personnel in the Arctic in Arkhangelsk, a forum of indigenous peoples in Krasnoyarsk, creation of thematic networks in various educational disciplines, and development of innovative areas.

As part of the Northern Territories Associations and Consortiums International Forum, a meeting was held between the Northern Forum Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev and the Governor of Tomsk Oblast Vladimir Mazur. They had a constructive conversation about the prospects for the development of international and interregional cooperation in the new conditions, the need to consolidate Russian regions to turn eastwards and go global, and the prospects for Tomsk Oblast, which ranks third in the country in terms of scientific and educational potential, to join the Northern Forum. Full mutual understanding has been reached on all issues.

We hope for a long-term cooperation and express our sincere gratitude.

Special thanks to the team of Tomsk State University, Rector Eduard Galazhinsky, First Vice-Rector Viktor Demin, Chief Academic Secretary Lyudmila Borilo, and all the staff who contributed to the rapid rapprochement of Tomsk Oblast and the Northern Forum!

The Forum organized the *Real People* discussion platform, dedicated to the interaction of scientific and educational consortiums with indigenous organizations, use of traditional knowledge in conducting various scientific research, and solving the pressing issues of support and development of traditional industries through science. The discussion was organized as an open dialogue, and many specific proposals were made to the Forum's final resolution. Following the discussions, the Northern Forum Expert Group was formed to assess the population's quality of life.

The RACAR roundtable was also organized (see the RACAR activities section).



Two Arctic Council projects were discussed at the meeting of RAIPON Coordinating Council during the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Salekhard on May 11: *Children of the Arctic* and *Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic*. When discussing the future of the projects, the NF Executive Director noted that both projects were also the priority projects of the Northern Forum, and proposed to continue organizing roundtables at the Northern Sustainable Development Forum, to ensure that the research on the projects is included in the work plan of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research, to work together to ensure that support for these projects is indicated in a separate line in the grants of the regions' heads. Let's hope that through the agreement between the Northern Forum and RAIPON, these proposals will translate into reality.

Artur Gayulsky, Vice-President of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, President of the Association of Indigenous Peoples



of Krasnoyarsk Krai, has been appointed as a permanent representative of RAIPON to the Northern Forum.

To learn about the NF attendance at the *Arctic: Edges of the Future* Youth Conference, see the Northern Youth Forum section.

NORWAY'S CHAIRSHIP IN THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Priorities (from the Arctic Council website: <u>https://arctic-council.org/ru/about/norway-chair-2/</u>)

The four thematic priorities of Norway's Chairship reflect long-term Norwegian priorities for the Arctic and for Norway's Arctic policy, which are founded on knowledge and the principles of responsible and sustainable management.

THE OCEANS

A combination of increasing activity, rapid climate change and loss of sea ice is putting growing pressure on the Arctic marine environment. To promote healthy and productive oceans and enhance sustainability of Arctic Ocean industries, Norway will continue to focus on integrated ocean management.

We will continue the efforts to support and strengthen international ocean research collaboration and increase joint action to combat marine litter. The coastal areas play a vital role in maintaining dynamic local communities in the north. Strengthening cooperation on emergency preparedness and safe shipping in the Arctic is therefore a priority for Norway.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is particularly rapid in the Arctic. Changes in the Arctic have impacts at a global level. Climate change is by far the most serious threat to Arctic biodiversity. During the Norwegian Chairship, we will focus on the impacts of climate change in the Arctic, the need to adapt the management regime to climate change, and the environmental problems associated with expanding human activity. A shared, robust knowledge base is vital to dealing with these challenges.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The rich natural resources of the Arctic are already playing a role in economic development and supporting dynamic communities in the Arctic. At the same time, the region has considerable potential for economic development in connection with the green transition. During its Chairship, Norway will highlight sustainable economic development as an essential basis for social development in the Arctic. The green transition, the blue economy, sustainable shipping, and Arctic food systems will be special thematic priorities.

PEOPLE IN THE NORTH

Global climate change is altering the framework for livelihoods, settlement patterns and living conditions for people living in the Arctic, often in new and different ways. Through its Chairship of the Arctic Council Norway will seek to develop resilient, diverse, and inclusive Arctic communities that are attractive places to live in, for everyone.



To this end, Norway will seek to strengthen Arctic health cooperation, including cooperation on enhanced medical preparedness in the region. Norway will also work to enhance Arctic cooperation in the cultural field.

The declared priorities comply with the Northern Forum mission; we have specific best practices in all these areas except oceans.

During the year, Norway's chairship has put considerable effort in resuming the Arctic Council activities. Following the consultations, on August 28 *Guidelines for the resumption of Working Group/Expert Group work through the use of written procedures* were adopted, which say that:

- Formal meetings of the Council and all of its subsidiary bodies remain on pause until such time as consensus is reached by SAOs on further modalities for their resumption.
- **Engagement with Observers and external experts may resume,** in line with existing Arctic Council guidelines and procedures, as applicable.
- Decisions of Working Groups or other subsidiary bodies may be adopted by written procedures with the consensus of all eight Arctic States, and in consultation with the Permanent Participants.
- Working/Expert Groups are to continue their project-level work and other necessary administrative activities that support Council-wide goals.
- Effective immediately, the Heads of Delegations of Arctic States and Permanent Participants may propose new projects by written procedure, that are consistent with applicable Arctic Council guidelines and procedures and appropriately linked to the Reykjavik Declaration and the Arctic Council Strategic Plan.
- All projects dependent on the Project Support Instrument (PSI) are to remain oh old until further guidance is provided by SAOs.



Light at the End of the Tunnel for the the Arctic Council



Morten Høglund, Arctic Ambassador for Norway and Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials under the Norwegian chairship. (Photo: Jessica Cook/the Arctic Council's secretariat)

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On September 12, Senior Arctic Official Morten Høglund in his interview to the *High North News*, when being asked "*What is Norway's view on Russia's grand plans for Arctic cooperation with several non-western states? What will this entail for the region?*" responded as follows:

"I do not want to have too strong an opinion on this. We are concentrating on resuming the Arctic Council's work; in that context, we feel that Russia is giving constructive and positive signals. The Russians are contributing to making this restart work".

"A functioning cooperation between all Arctic countries is important, and it is a shared goal from our experience on the Norwegian side. Furthermore, Arctic states cooperating in the region with other countries is not abnormal. The best answer to possible challenges with such



cooperation is that we hold on to the Arctic Council as the most important forum for Arctic issues".

Therefore, conditions are gradually created for the resumption of cooperation at the Working Group level, and observers gain access to project activities. Observer status allows the Northern Forum to make an appropriate contribution to this positive movement.

In autumn, Morten Høglund, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials, informed of launching a new wildland fires initiative. The regions of the Northern Forum, especially the Sakha Republic (Yakutia), have accumulated vast experience in preventing and combatting wildland fires, which can be in demand in all countries and regions.

The Northern Forum intends to continue to conscientiously maintain its observer status in the Arctic Council.



RTHERNORU

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



During 2023, only two agreements were signed: with Yugra Research Institute of Information Technologies and the Regional Branch of the Russian Geographical Society in Khanty-Mansyisk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra.

At the same time, the NF leaders, representatives of regions and Working Groups as well as Goodwill Ambassadors took part in a significant number of events and held many meetings, both in person and online, expanding the partnership network and developing new directions and opportunities.



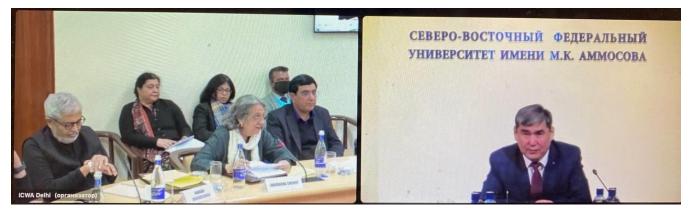
PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS



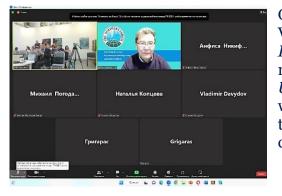
On January 24, the NF Deputy Executive Director Daryana Maximova took part in the *Indigenous Peoples and the Environment* Arctic Science Ministerial webinar, where she spoke about the *Children of the Arctic*, describing the structural features of this project, which has also been the NF priority project since 2021. In addition, she presented the outcomes of the *Children of the Arctic: Sustainable Development and Local Knowledge* research project, carried out by the Department of International Studies of NEFU Institute of Modern Languages and International Studies in

2019-2021. Study of the socio-economic situation of the Arctic children requires continuation. It was assumed that the *Children of the Arctic* project would be discussed with all interested parties in November at the 5th Northern Sustainable Development Forum, but it was postponed until 2024.

Rector of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University and Chair of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research Anatoly Nikolaev spoke about the mechanisms for developing cooperation between Russia and India in the Arctic at the *India-Russian Strategic Partnership: New Challenges and Opportunities in the Changing Global Order* expert discussion of the Russian and Indian International Affairs Councils, which took place on February 2, 2023 in New Delhi, India.

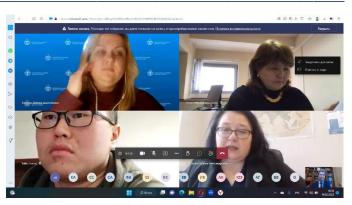






On February 5, the Northern Forum Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke at the *Cultural Code of the Indigenous Peoples. Identity in the Modern World* roundtable, held at Gostiny Dvor in Moscow at the *Unique Russia* 3rd Art and Industrial Exhibition-Forum, where he talked about the potential and opportunities of the Northern Forum in supporting languages, indigenous cultures, and creative industries.

On February 17, Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev gave a welcome speech at the International Research to Practice Conference of the Russian Foreign Trade Academy Foreign Economic Activity Under Forming a New Model of International Relations, sharing his opinion on the trends in the development of cooperation in the Arctic and new initiatives of the Northern Forum. In particular, he spoke about the creation and development of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research.



The Agency for Northern Territories Development of and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Krasnoyarsk Krai organized a roundtable *Traditional crafts as entrepreneurial practices of the indigenous peoples of the Far North of Krasnoyarsk Krai* at Krasnoyarsk Economic Forum, which was moderated by the Northern Forum Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev.

We heard very interesting presentations about the measures of support for the creative industry, proposals on preparing a major forum for the International Indigenous Peoples Day, certification of products of traditional crafts, use of artificial intelligence to create a virtual language environment, and business support for folk craftsmen. The best part is that all the presentations were informative, with specific proposals that will be reflected in the final resolution. A permanent platform is being created - a forum of indigenous peoples in Krasnoyarsk, where the Northern Forum will play a key role.



On March 2-3, the 8th Arctic-2023 International Conference was held in Moscow at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, organized by the *Sustainable Development of the Arctic* Interregional Partnership.



Rector of the North-Eastern Federal University Anatoly Nikolaev spoke at the plenary session of the conference and talked about the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR), established in 2022 under the initiative of NEFU together with the Northern Forum. NEFU was the general partner of the 8th *Arctic-2023* International Conference and organized the RACAR roundtable.

An interesting roundtable was held to discuss the prospects and scenarios for the development of international cooperation in the Arctic. The roundtable was moderated by the Ambassadorat-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Nikolai Korchunov. All speakers were unanimous saying that the freeze in relations would last, and noted that this fact wasn't strongly rejected within the country. Everyone is ready to work in Russia without losing positive contacts with friendly western partners. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen and expand interaction with the rest of the world. The proposal of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia Anton Vasiliev to establish relations with the countries of the Third Pole (the Himalayas and other countries with glaciers) requires close attention and active work. We are pleased that the work of the Northern Forum was highly appreciated.

Also, a roundtable of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR) *Global Processes in Natural Science, Humanities and Social Science in the Arctic and Asia* was held as part of the second meeting of RACAR Scientific Coordinators Council. Following the roundtable, a Roadmap of RACAR scientific projects is drawn up. The meeting was attended by Nikolai Korchunov, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senior Arctic Official from the Russian Federation, and Ekaterina Chaban, Acting Director of the Department of State Scientific and Scientific-Technical Policy of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science.



On March 15-19, the *Diplomats of the Future* International Arctic Forum of Young Diplomats was held in the capital of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Salekhard. The forum brought together a lot of young and talented kids from different parts of Russia, Uzbekistan and Belarus.



The young diplomats listened to the Vice-Governor, Head of the Department of External Relations of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug Alexander Mazharov, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials Nikolai Korchunov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia, Deputy Chair of the Association of Russian Diplomats Valery Egoshkin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Russia, Vice-President of the Russian Polar Explorers Association, Goodwill Ambassador of the Northern Forum Anton Vasiliev, and Deputy Representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yekaterinburg Alexander Ivanov.

The Northern Forum Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke about the forms and mechanisms created by the Northern Forum to maintain dialogue in the Arctic, expand ties with Asian regions and the world, and shared the organization's plans for the year. The kids asked a lot of questions and showed an excellent understanding of diplomatic work and the major challenges of our time, including in the Arctic. The discussion was very interesting. We will hold more events for young people, because they will soon have to resolve difficult issues of pacifying interaction with the western countries.

Anton Vasiliev and Vladimir Vasilev gave an interview to the children's project of *Russia* All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company - *The World Through the Eyes of Children*. It was agreed to involve the project in covering the NF activities and participation in school partnerships.







On April 6, the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev spoke at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Association of North-West Russia on Inter-parliamentary Cooperation in Pskov. The meeting was chaired by Evgeny Nikora, Chair of the Standing Committee, Vice-Speaker of Murmansk Regional Duma. The meeting convened Valentina Pivnenko – Deputy Chair of the Committee for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic of the State Duma of

the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Andrey Kolesnikov - Deputy Director of the Second European Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, members of the legislative assemblies of St. Petersburg, Leningrad, Murmansk, Pskov, Vologda, and Kaliningrad Oblasts, and the Republic of Karelia. It was agreed to begin active consultations to identify the areas for cooperation and exchange a calendar of events.



On April 14, the NF Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev delivered a welcoming speech at the conference of the public organization Association of the Koreans of Yakutsk *Mugungfa* and the *Sakha - Koreans* NGO, supported by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Irkutsk. In his speech, he highlighted the role of public diplomacy in bringing regions and countries together and preserving the unity and harmony of peoples, and briefly described the activities of the Northern Forum and the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research, inviting the regions, universities and scientific organizations of the Republic of Korea to join interregional cooperation through the Northern Forum. This is the first large-scale event of Yakut Koreans with the presentation of two wonderful books. We will be happy to contribute to the associations' further development.



On April 15, the 11th conference with international participation *Intercultural Dialogue in the Modern World* took place at St. Petersburg State University. Vladimir Vasilev, NF Executive Director and Member of the Council of the *International Cooperation in the Field of Environment and Development* curriculum of St. Petersburg State University spoke on behalf of the Northern Forum. In his opinion, it is culture that is the primary area for establishing international relations. He also noted the mutual approach of



Russia and China, based on the common principles of creating a multipolar world, neighborliness and respect for cultural values.

On May 14-17, working meetings were held to plan the Sino-Russian Joint Survey on Bird Mercury. Particular attention is paid to the problems of mercury contamination of migratory bird species along the East Asian-Australasian and Central Asian flyways. The number of bird species using these flyways has declined significantly in recent years, which especially affected the number of sandpipers using the littoral zones of the Yellow Sea as the migration stopovers. These processes are associated with the rapid economic growth of the countries of Southeast Asia, primarily China. These processes have resulted in the active reclamation and development of the littoral zones of the Yellow Sea. In addition, economic growth was accompanied by sharply increased emissions of various heavy metals, including mercury, into the atmosphere and hydrological network. Mercury is an element accumulating in the animals at the top of the trophic chain. Migratory birds include herons, gulls, waders, and birds of prey. Some of these birds are classified as endangered and are listed in the Red Book of the Russian Federation.

In 2013, a bilateral agreement on the protection of migratory bird species was concluded between the governments of Russia and China, within whose framework a working meeting was held.

Representatives of seven organizations took part in the meeting - three from Russia and four from China. The Russian side was represented and coordinated by Dmitry Dorofeev, Senior Researcher at the All-Russian Research Institute of Environment. Petr Glazov, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Vladimir Vasilev, Executive Director of the Northern Forum, took part in the meeting as well. The meeting was initiated and organized by the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Besides, the meeting was attended by the representatives of the National Bird Banding Center of China, the Institute of Atmospheric Physics and the Institute of Applied Ecology of China.

The first day of the working meeting was dedicated to the presentations by the organizations' representatives. All-Russian Research Institute of Environment made a report on the migration stopovers of long-distance sandpipers along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway in the Sea of Okhotsk. A representative of the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences presented two reports - on studying anseriformes of the White Sea-Baltic Flyway and on joint work with the Birds Russia Society on studying spoon-billed sandpiper on Chukotka Peninsula. The Executive Director of the Northern Forum made a general report on the activities of the organization and possible joint work within the framework and with the support of the Northern Forum.

Representatives of Chinese organizations also presented the review presentations on the activities of their research teams. Professor Wang Zhangwei made a presentation on the proposed joint work. With the end of the official agenda, the parties began discussing the details of the project. In addition, the working group participants had a tour of the main laboratories of the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

As a result, the parties agreed to begin studying the impact of mercury pollution on the migratory bird species that use wintering grounds or major migration stops in China. It was decided to begin collecting and analyze the live probes (mainly feathers) to assess the natural level of pollution and the level of contamination of birds with mercury compounds at the wintering and migratory stopover sites in China.

In addition, the developed plan includes work on studying bird migrations, including using satellite transmitters, organizing scientific meetings of the working group and joint expeditions, developing and implementing new methods for assessing the damage from the pollution with



mercury compounds. The parties also agreed on the need for joint publications in national and international scientific journals.

The minutes of the meeting were signed, on whose basis a full-fledged cooperation agreement will be elaborated and signed.







On June 6-7, Khanty-Mansyisk hosted the 14th IT Forum with BRICS and SCO participation. The Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra Natalia Komarova noted that representatives of 45 countries and 75 regions of Russia were attending the Forum in-person and online. Career counselling for children and youth was arranged at the Forum for the first time.



The Northern Forum assisted the delegation of JSB Almazergienbank, headed by the Chair of the Management Board Nikolai Dolgunov, with organizing the meetings with the Okrug's executives and interested parties.



A meeting was arranged with Alexei Okhlopkov, First Vice-Governor of Khanty-Mansyisk AO-Yugra, and the heads of the Departments of Economic Development, State Property and Social Development. The meetings discussed the implementation of information projects in the social sphere, Almazergienbank's successful cases of issuing the Cards of Yakutia and Khabarovsk Krai Residents. and using the capacities of the Government Services Portal to support the population in Yugra. The delegation also met the

CEOs of several enterprises. The visit resulted in the arrangement of opening the Bank's representative office in Khanty-Mansyisk.

A 12th Russian-Chinese Academic Meeting, traditionally arranged by St. Petersburg State University and the Ocean University of China, also took place.







The Northern Forum and Africa. Are active and constructive ties between the northern regions and African regions possible? Why not? We only have a general idea about each other. Russia has very little presence on the continent with a population of more than 1.4 billion people, having trade missions in only 6 African countries, while China is present in all countries. At the same time, they strive for active cooperation with Russia. The possibility of starting an active dialogue between the Northern Forum and African regions was discussed with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Equatorial Guinea Luciano Nkogo Ndong Avekaba, former Ambassador of Benin Anicet Gabrielle Kotchofa, and representatives of the diplomatic missions of Angola, Congo, and Ghana. All diplomatic missions were positive about the proposal of organizing the first roundtable at the Northern Sustainable Development Forum and said they were ready to come to Yakutsk. It may seem exotic to many, but we are acting in accordance with the new Northern Forum Development Concept.

The Northern Forum and RACAR were actively involved in St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. Part of the work done is covered in the sections devoted to the activities of the Northern Forum Arctic Tourism Working Group and RACAR.

Almost all regions of the Russian Federation take part in the Forum. In 2023, more than 17 thousand representatives from many countries came to St. Petersburg. The program was very eventful and all the more pleasant as the Northern Forum and RACAR were active players, primarily on the *Arctic – Territory of Dialogue* platform.

A very interesting discussion took place at the roundtable on international cooperation in the Arctic participated by the representatives from Norway, the USA, China, and India. Noting the existing difficulties, the speakers were unanimous in their readiness for full cooperation as soon as the situation in the world allows. Undoubtedly, it will be necessary to introduce the new forms and mechanisms of interaction, and here the Northern Forum is already acting, just like throughout its entire history, as an experimental platform.

During the Forum, a lot of meetings and consultations were held, which laid the foundation for long-term productive work, and their results are gradually being implemented.







On June 16, 2023, a meeting was held with the delegation of the Indonesian Embassy in Russia led by Mr. Berlian Helmi, Deputy Chief of Mission - Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia to the Russian Federation, who confirmed interest in cooperation in the field of climate change, marine research and participation in RACAR activities. Having received information about the Northern Forum, he was confident that the regions of Indonesia would join the Northern Forum. Of course, quite long consultations will be required, but the trend is good. The Indonesian delegation also expressed their readiness to attend the 5th Northern Sustainable Development Forum.

We discussed the issues of cooperation with Galina Amirova, Director of the Department for Working with the Authorities of the Russian Federation, EAEU and CIS of EuroMedia International Holding, and Victoria Guselnikova, curator of the Holding's Volga and Far Eastern Federal Districts. EuroMedia works in five languages and can reveal the potential of the Northern Forum in the CIS space.



On June 3, 2023, Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University hosted Yakutia and the Provinces of China: Sister-City Ties for Strengthening Russian-Chinese Relations International Forum. At the plenary session The Power of Partnerships: Cooperation for Long-Term Success, Chair of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR), Rector of Ammosov

NEFU Anatoly Nikolaev placed special emphasis on the activities and development of RACAR.

The PRC delegation of more than 100 delegates from Heilongjiang Province and its municipalities arrived in Yakutsk. The Forum discussed investment opportunities, sports and society, education, tourism, technology, and youth cooperation. The Northern Forum co-organized this international forum.

Daryana Maximova, Deputy Executive Director of the Northern Forum, and Savina Alexeeva, Chair of the Northern Youth Forum, were experts at the *Arctic – a Territory of Cooperation* regional case tournament. Organizers: Ammosov NEFU Educational and Scientific Center and Academic Collaboration House.







The largest UN climate change conference was held in Dubai on November 30 -December 12. Whereas in 2023 about 40 thousand experts participated in the conference in Egypt, this year over 75 thousand representatives of all countries have gathered.

It is very pleasant that we managed to obtain 9 quotas and organize the attendance of a representative delegation of the Northern Forum. The delegation included Sergey

Kungurtsev, Chair of the International and Interregional Relations Committee of Nenets Autonomous Okrug; Halldor Johannsson, Director of the Arctic Portal (Iceland); Paul Fuhs, NF Goodwill Ambassador from Alaska, Lyudmila Borilo and Olga Shaduiko from Tomsk State University, Arseny Kirgizov-Barsky, Assistant to Chair of BRICS Youth Energy Agency, Valery Mikheev and Leonid Leontiev from the Russian Hydrometeorological University, Jiao Jian, Deputy General Director of XY Group Investment Company (China), Telif Yusuf from the Energy Institute of South Africa.



At the initiative of a number of experts, the Northern Forum, having an observer status at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, submitted an application for the construction



of a pavilion. The application was approved, but, unfortunately, for objective technical reasons, the sponsoring organization decided to withdraw its support. In this regard, the members of the delegation attended various conference events as discussion participants. In addition to inperson quotas, we also obtained 5 quotas for online attendance.

Members of the delegation noted the importance of expanding the scope of the NF participation, organizing sessions on the Arctic topics, and joining efforts to attract partners and sponsors. In 2023, as in 2022, hardly any sessions on the Arctic were held by different organizations, which is a significant omission. Thus, following the conference, based on the recommendations of the NF delegation, it was decided to focus on preparing an application for the construction of the Arctic pavilion and invite the leading international organizations and Arctic experts to organize sessions on all aspects of the development of this macro-region.

In 2023, Arseny Kirgizov-Barsky, Assistant to Chair of BRICS Youth Energy Agency, was the most productive delegation member. He shared the results of his work:



- held 8 sideline events with colleagues from the BRICS Youth Energy Agency, including at the pavilions of Russia, Brazil, Children and Youth, Global Alliance of Universities on Climate, Global Decarbonization Accelerator, TAQA;
- expanded the network of contacts with the Arab countries joining BRICS the UAE, KSA, Egypt, held the first joint event and several bilateral meetings;
- strengthened ties with the UNFCCC, UN regional commissions for Europe and Asia;
- spoke at 6 COP28 venues, including the pavilions of Russia, Thailand, UAE, IRENA, youth, universities;
- gave an interview to an Arabic TV channel;
- monitored the key routes of the dialogue, including the basic one global Soumming, together with colleagues from the Russian delegation;
- before Dubai, I went to Abu Dhabi and took part in the largest Student Energy Summit, where I have a large network of contacts and friends.

Paul Fuhs had the opportunity of disseminating the Northern Forum's Declaration on Sustainable Energy in the Arctic, which he had developed. The flyer also served as an information leaflet to highlight the activities of the Northern Forum.



ARCTIC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY

The Northern Forum is a 32 years old nonprofit association of Arctic regional governments. The work of the Forum is focused on sustainable development of the Arctic, including sharing best practices in environmental protection, economic development, energy policy, education, tourism, resource management, youth issues and cultural exchange. We do not address matters of national security.

Energy is of particular concern. Energy has been a central organizing principle of civilization, ever since humans learned to control fire. In the modern era, it has become indispensable. Arctic communities are dependent on traditional fuels, yet we realize the impact of global climate change. How global energy policy is managed will have a critical impact on the future of the Arctic. An energy transition must be both practical and economic and must not further harm our Arctic communities.

Therefore, we declare these basic principles of an Arctic Sustainable Energy Policy.

- 1. We recognize the impact of global climate change on the Arctic due to the consumption of fossil fuels by the 7 billion people of the non-arctic nations.
- 2. We support the implementation of energy efficiencies to reduce consumption and the production and use of alternative fuels locally and globally. We recognize that traditional fuels will be necessary during a long transition period.
- 3. We recognize the important contribution of the production of traditional fuels to Arctic and global economies, both in the private and public sector. Public revenues from production of traditional fuels have also been used to finance renewable energy in the Arctic, which leads the world in alternative energy production.
- 4. We support the production of hydrogen based alternative fuels using stranded energy in the Arctic, both for local consumption and for export.
- 5. We support the development of environmentally responsible mining operations in the Arctic to produce the metals necessary for a transition to alternative fuels.
- We object to the selective discrimination against Arctic traditional fuels and mining operations by NGO's, governments and private sector banking and insurance companies.
- 7. We support enhanced cooperation and prevention measures for shipment of fuels and cargo on the Northern Sea Route.
- 8. We strongly support the ability of Arctic people to peacefully share energy best practices and technologies between each other, without restrictions.

Contact person: Mr.Paul Fuhs, The Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassador paulfuhs574@gmail.com





In general, the conference participants received a clear idea of the forms and possible topics of future Northern Forum events on this platform. At subsequent conferences, it would be advisable to fully present RACAR, Northern Youth Forum, and the best practices of the Working Groups. The Northern Forum Climate Change WG will be formed to coordinate actions and implement projects in this area.

MEETINGS



During the year, the NF Secretariat held many meetings at different levels, and here we will highlight some of them.

Regular meetings were held with the President of the Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East, Senator Grigory Ledkov. RAIPON and the Northern Forum signed a Cooperation Agreement in September 2022 on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok. The parties discussed joint plans for 2023 and agreed to develop road maps to the

Agreement annually.

In general, this year the priority areas of joint work included life support in the Arctic zone, support for tribal communities in doing traditional farming and, accordingly, introduction of a nomad status for the indigenous peoples of the North leading a nomadic lifestyle.

The Association's representative in the Northern Forum, Artur Gayulsky, participated in all major events, making a significant contribution to the discussions and decision-making process.



During Krasnoyarsk Economic Forum, Vladimir Vasiliev met with the Deputy Chair of Krasnoyarsk Krai Government, NF Regional Coordinator Sergei Vereshchagin and the Head of the Agency for the Development of Northern Territories and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Krasnoyarsk Krai Anton Narchuganov. The meeting discussed a number of issues on



strengthening the Northern Forum. Krasnoyarsk Krai is ready to become a supporting region for the development of cooperation with Mongolia and Kazakhstan, with which strong economic ties are being established. Mr. Vereshchagin is ready to personally coordinate these efforts and participate in the events and business missions. The Agency plans to significantly expand its work on supporting indigenous peoples and intensify interaction within the Northern Forum. We are grateful to the Head of the Agency's department Vyacheslav Amosov for coordinating all the meetings.



On March 3, a meeting at the Russian International Affairs Council was held to discuss joint actions to support the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research, as well as the prospects for cooperation with the Northern Forum. The meeting convened Yuri Danilov, Vice-Rector for Sustainable Development of the Territories of North-Eastern Arctic Federal University, RACAR scientific coordinator, Vladimir Vasilev, Executive Director of the Northern Forum, Daryana Maximova. Acting Head of the Department of International Studies at NEFU Institute of Modern Languages and International Studies, Deputy Executive

Director of the Northern Forum. From RIAC, the meeting was hosted by Elena Karpinskaya, Deputy Director of Programs, Natalia Vyakhireva, Program Manager, and Anton Alexandrov, Program Assistant. The meeting discussed a wide range of issues on developing cooperation with Asian regions, the possibility of signing agreements and creating a permanent RIAC platform at the Northern Sustainable Development Forum.



On March 24, a meeting with Deputy Director General for Foreign Economic Cooperation of XY Group, Mr. Jiao Jian (Harbin, China) and Advisor to the Head of the Interregional Project Office of North Research and Education Center Alexander Zhirkov was held at the NF Secretariat. It was an introductory meeting, but the parties agreed to take joint actions to the Northern Forum promote in Heilongjiang, which used to be the organization's active member, and to use the capabilities of the Chinese company to

develop freight logistics.

At the Northern Forum Secretariat, we had a comprehensive meeting with Pavel Lanovoy, consulting expert of the External Relations Department of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug. The meeting also convened the Head of Ammosov NEFU UNESCO Chair Anatoly Zhozhikov and the Northern Youth Forum Chair Savina Alexeeva. The meeting discussed a wide range of issues associated with the establishment of Salekhard-based Eastern branch of the World Reindeer Herders Association, participation in Moiseev Conference on reindeer husbandry development in Kamchatka, promotion and expansion of youth movement, and preparation of the NF events in Mongolia and other regions.





Also, on March 24, 2023, Pavel Lanovoy, consulting expert of the External Relations Department of Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, met with Alexander Kugaevsky, NF Goodwill Ambassador, NEFU Vice-Rector for Analytical and Expert Activity, Deputy Chair of the Public Council of the RF Arctic Zone. The meeting discussed the possibilities of doing project activities on the conservation and study of northern livestock breeding and on food culture in the Russian Arctic.

On April 19, Daryana Maximova met with Valery Kryukov, Director of the Institute of Economics and Industrial Engineering SB RAS, Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk. They discussed the ideas for consolidating and coordinating scientific community within the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research as well as the plans for cooperation within the Northern Forum. Mr. Kryukov was elected Goodwill Ambassador at the 15th General Assembly.

Daryana Maksimova joined the SB RAS Joint Academic Council for Economic Sciences as the NEFU representative. The Council is chaired by Valery Kryukov.

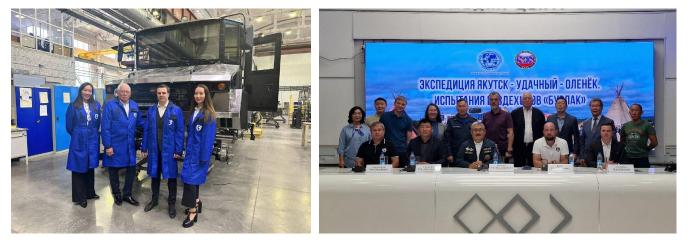
On April 24, 2023, the Secretariat of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR), headed by Alexander Kugaevsky, Ammosov NEFU Vice-Rector for Analytical and Expert Activity and NF Goodwill Ambassador, visited the city of Kurgan in Kurgan Oblast.



The RACAR Secretariat is negotiating with Burlak Offroad LLC on cooperation with NEFU, the Northern Forum and RACAR.

In 2022, Burlak Offroad LLC became an official partner of the 4th Northern Sustainable Development Forum. In February 2023, Burlak Offroad LLC, together with the Russian Ministry of Emergencies, Russian Union of Rescuers, assisted by NEFU and Russian Geographical Society, organized an expedition to the Yakut Arctic *The North is Close. Yakutia's Paths*.





On September 5, a press conference was held to talk about the results of test expeditions on Burlak all-terrain vehicles to Batagai in winter and to Olenek in summer of this year. The vehicle is powerful, it can pass everywhere, it is environmentally friendly and very comfortable. It endures heat and cold remarkably well. It can deliver up to 3,5 tons of cargo to the hard-to-reach places. Burlak LLC plans to increase their production to 30 vehicles per month; they can be for different purposes: cargo and passenger, medical, rescue, expeditionary, etc.

On August 9, 2023, on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the 2nd Youth Forum of Indigenous Peoples of the North *Siberian Argish* was held at the Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk, where Daryana Maximova, Deputy Executive Director of the Northern Forum, took part.



During the visit, she met with Denis Gergilev, member of the NF Education and Science Working Group of the Northern Forum, Deputy Minister of Education of Krasnoyarsk Krai. They discussed the opportunities for developing the WG project activities and cooperation with Krasnoyarsk Krai in scientific research, including through the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research (RACAR). In general, the meeting discussed the ways of interaction between the Northern Forum and the Ministry of Education of Krasnoyarsk Krai, defining the areas of common interest – colleagues noted the emerging need to study the history and current state of the quality of life of the population and the resilience of the regions of the North and the Arctic, including indigenous peoples.

On August 8, a meeting was held

with Anton Narchuganov, Head of the Agency for the Development of Northern Territories and Support of Indigenous Peoples of Krasnoyarsk Krai, where they discussed the issues of developing interaction between the Northern Forum and Krasnoyarsk Krai on project activities, planning Krasnoyarsk-initiated Northern Forum events on scientific research, and involvement of Krasnoyarsk Krai in the NF Working Groups.







On August 16, Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev met with Vyacheslav Filippov, author of several books about the ALSIB heroes, the history of aviation not only in his native Krasnoyarsk Krai, but also in Russia in general. Currently he works in the Federal Air Transport Agency in Moscow and engages in editorial and production. He came to Yakutsk to participate in arranging a joint expedition of the Russian Geographical Society and the Ministry of Defense aimed at exploring ALSIB airports.

At the beginning of 2022, at the request of ALSIB enthusiasts, we organized an international roundtable convening the

representatives of Chukotka, Magadan, Yakutia, Krasnoyarsk, Murmansk, Alaska, and Seattle, and discussed the events to commemorate the ALSIB's 80th anniversary. During the year, many events and actions involving a lot of young people and schoolchildren were held in the Russian regions. It was planned to create the ALSIB Association under the auspices of the Northern Forum. Apparently, it's time to revive this idea.

Mr. Filippov raised a very pressing topic of creating a museum of the history of aviation of Yakutia and Yakutia's contribution to ALSIB. There is a small aviation museum at Gagarin Cultural Center, but it is rather a display than a museum; Russian Army, Air Force and Navy Volunteer Society and search group members also have some items. We agreed to start consultations and then organize a roundtable at the 5th Northern Sustainable Development Forum in November. We hope that everything will work out and a museum will appear in Yakutsk to tell about the unprecedented feat of pilots, mechanics, technicians, and everyone who helped build and maintain round-the-clock and year-round operation of airfields. The theme of the Alaska-Siberia air route, the selfless work of Yakutia's people, along with the military pilots, can become an excellent domain for the patriotic education of children and youth.

Every summer, wildfires rage in many parts of the world. In July, the Head of the Interregional Partnership *Sustainable Development of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation* Tamara Mordasova approached us offering to get acquainted with the new development of *Vershina* Bashkir Scientific and Implementation Center - a powdered reagent for wildfire suppression.

Its developers, Alexey Trushkov and Eric Akhtyamov, explained in detail and demonstrated the high efficiency of the reagent. Following the meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Ecology, Nature Management and Forestry of Yakutia and its subordinate institutions, it was promptly decided to invite the Bashkir innovators to Yakutia for testing the product in the real conditions of wildfires.

At the end of September, Alexey Trushkov visited Yakutia and, together with the specialists from the Forest Resources Agency of the Ministry of Ecology, Nature Management and Forestry of Yakutia, the first pilot tests of the new product were carried out, but due to difficult weather conditions it was not possible to fully evaluate the effectiveness; it was agreed to continue testing in spring and summer of 2024. The Ministry of Civil Defense and Life Safety, which is in charge of landscape fires and fires in populated areas, joined the cooperation.





On October 26-November 2, the Northern Forum Executive Director Vladimir Vasilev visited China, where, at the invitation of the NF Goodwill Ambassador Professor Guo Peiging, he gave a lecture on international cooperation the Arctic in for the undergraduates and graduate students of the Polar Research Center of the Ocean University of China (Qingdao, Shandong Province). The issues of cooperation were discussed at the University during the visit. Next year it is planned to hold an Arctic School in the Republic of Karelia and the Sakha Republic; the Polar Research Center is ready to cooperate both with the Northern Youth Forum and as part of RACAR. All of them are preparing their thesis works on the Arctic disciplines and we are confident that

interesting youth projects will come up. Professor Guo also proposed holding annual Northern Forum - China Summits to expand partnerships.





The lecture and all discussions in Qingdao were coordinated by doctoral student Gao Fei and master's student Wang Ran. At the same time, as part of her research, Wang Ran translates a significant amount of foreign literature into Chinese and it was pleasant to hear from her that she has begun translating the Northern Forum website and is ready to provide a complete translation of all site materials, which will make it possible to familiarize everyone interested in the Northern Forum in China and beyond with the activities of our organization.

In Beijing, a meeting was held with colleagues from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professors Xiaoshan Zhang and Wang Zhangwei. In May



of this year, a protocol on implementing a project on bird mercury was signed, and this time we discussed not only the promotion and development of the project, but also the colleagues' wish to hold a larger event in Russia. We tentatively agreed to organize an event on climate change and biodiversity to discuss a wider range of areas for cooperation. The Center is one of the most reputable scientific organizations in this field and their proposal sounds inspiring.

In Harbin, Mr. Jiao Jian, Deputy General Director for Foreign Economic Cooperation at XY Group Investment Company, organized a meeting with the founder and president of the company, Mr. Xue Xingfa. We had a detailed conversation about the need to help strengthen cooperation between Russia and China. Mr. Xingfa proposed to start with organizing a forum with the invitation of the heads of the regions and companies and the scientific community to discuss the promising areas of cooperation. The company is ready to provide all conditions for holding any large-scale event. The parties tentatively agreed to investigate the possibility of organizing The Northern Forum – China Summit as part of the Russian-Chinese EXPO. Holding such an event will definitely attract increased attention and interest in engagement not only from the Russian and Chinese regions and companies, but from other countries as well. Every year, more than 80 countries attend Harbin International Trade and Economic Fair. In 2024, it will be held as the Russian-Chinese EXPO.







RECOGNITION OF SERVICES OF THE NORTHERN FORUM GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

On September 28, the ceremony of awarding the title of the *Ambassador of Friendship of Shandong Province 2023* was held in Jinan (Shandong Province). St. Petersburg State University Professor Nadezhda Kharlampieva was invited to the ceremony and received a certificate of the honorary title of Ambassador of Friendship from Governor Zhou Naixiang.



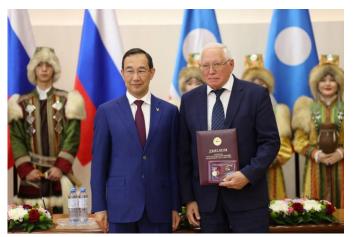
Nadezhda Kharlampieva is Associate Professor at the Global Politics Department at St. Petersburg State University, senior researcher at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute of the Russian Federation, Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassador and editor of *the Art and Culture of the Arctic* international journal.

In 2012, Guo Peiqing, Professor at the School of International Affairs and Public Administration at the Ocean University of China and Goodwill Ambassador of the Northern Forum, together with Nadezhda Kharlampieva launched the China-Russia Arctic Forum, which has already

been successfully held 12 times.

Ms. Kharlampieva regularly organizes the *Peoples of the Arctic: Modern Sociolinguistic Space* session at the *Synergy of Languages and Cultures: Interdisciplinary Research* International Research to Practice Conference in St. Petersburg and other events, where the Northern Forum regions always engage.

The NF Goodwill Ambassador, Vice-Rector of Ammosov NEFU for Analytical and Expert Activity, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Engineering, Deputy Chair of the Public Council of the Arctic Zone under the Ministry of the Russian Federation for the Development of the Far East and Alexander Kugaevsky Arctic received Barakhov State Prize of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) in the field of economics, financial and investment policies. After graduating from Riga Civil Aviation Engineers Institute, for 25 years he worked in science at the



Nuclear Physics Institute SB RAS, then, during the difficult years of our country's reformation, he moved to the civil service – 1st Deputy Chair of the SR (Y) Committee on Economics and Forecasting, Chair of the Committee on External Economic Relations, 1st Deputy Minister of External Relations, Minister of Economy, Head of the Department of the Administration of the President of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) on Economics, Finance and Foreign Exchange Resources, Minister of Finance of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia).

We are proud to have the opportunity to work together in the Northern Forum team for the benefit of improving the quality of life in the North!



PUBLICITY

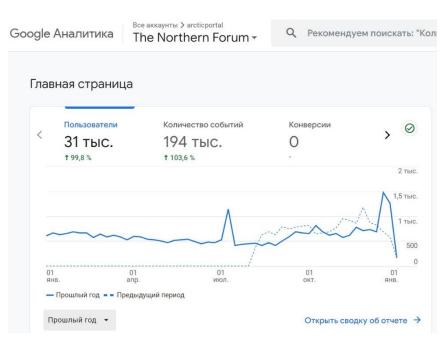




The Northern Forum website is maintained by the Arctic Portal (Iceland). Linking the site with the Arctic Portal, the largest information resource serving more than 70 sites of Arctic organizations, ensures high traffic to the website and coverage of the organization's activities, which is proven by Google Analytics. The figure shows data for 7 days, which shows the countries visiting the website in just a week.

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Home - The Northern	120	† 9,1 %			The all and the second		United States	114	↓ 18
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 Ямало-Ненецкий ав	54	↓ 5,3 %					Norway	18	† 63
Чукотский автоном	54	† 58,8 %				?),	- China	15	† 50
 Официальные Доку	15	↓71,2 %		Q.			- India	15	† 50

Over the last year, 194 thousand page views by 31 thousand unique users were recorded.



The Secretariat has begun updating all sections of the website and plans to complete this work in the first half of 2024.

We are working on translating the website into Chinese; a number of sections have been translated, thanks to the voluntary help of master's student Wang Ran from the Ocean University of China.

Currently, the Secretariat posts basic information on its Telegram channel. Also, certain information is posted in VKontakte. Our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages have not been updated since

March 2022 and can be restored if the administrator is identified from among reliable foreign partners.



Regional and federal media are accredited for all major events. Goodwill Ambassadors and partners provide significant assistance by talking about certain aspects of our activities on television and in the printed media.

The publications' analysis shows that last year the major events got more attention: the 15th General Assembly, the planned Northern Sustainable Development Forum, the Northern Forum Model, the activities of the Russian-Asian Consortium for Arctic Research. You will find some links to the publications at the end of this section.

As a rule, the NF events' participants give interviews and comments for television and the printed media. For example, the Minister for External Relations and Ethnic Affairs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) Gavril Kirillin and the Executive Director of the Northern Forum Vladimir Vasilev gave interviews to the National Television of Mongolia. The Northern Forum delegation members gave interviews at SPIEF and EEF.

Unfortunately, very little material or information about the Northern Forum is published in the foreign media. Our Goodwill Ambassadors are the key contributors here.

Paolo Venturini is virtually a national hero of Italy, and after each record he sets, he is invited to numerous interviews, where he always mentions the Northern Forum and the famous marathon at the Pole of Cold, as during one of the programs dedicated to setting a world record for running at an altitude of more than 5600 m above sea level in the Himalayas in July 2023.

Another Goodwill Ambassador from Alaska, Paul Fuhs, published an article following the UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai in the main Alaskan media - *Alaska Daily News*, as well as an article with a vision for the future of Arctic cooperation in the *High North News*. Both materials propose to use the potential of the Northern Forum.

Such independent assessments increase the reputation of the organization and we need to focus and strengthen our work in this direction.



In early 2023, a joint monograph *Science Diplomacy in the Arctic: Platforms, Practices, New Challenges* by the authors of Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Yulia Zaika and Larisa Ryabova) and St. Petersburg State University (Alexander Sergunin) was published. It summarizes multiple years of the authors' experience in the international science space as well as explores the platforms and practices of the Arctic science diplomacy development in recent decades.

The book describes not only theoretical approaches to the interpretation of science diplomacy, but also gives a thorough retrospective "audit" of global, international, regional and national platforms and processes of international scientific cooperation and science diplomacy in the Arctic. The work examines such striking examples of the Arctic scientific and diplomatic paradigm as the World Meteorological Organization, International Polar Year, International Arctic Science Committee, University of the Arctic, Northern Forum, Arctic Portal, INTERACT project, Calotte Academy, active Russian stakeholders in the international cooperation in the Arctic, and many more.



The authors presented a brief analysis of the cooperation's transformation in the current period of geopolitical changes and summarized the practical experience of science diplomacy in the Arctic and discussed the areas for further development of the Arctic science diplomacy in the scientific, theoretical and practical aspects to continue international dialogue and achieve a balance of interests for the benefit of the Arctic as a region significant for the entire planet.

The book can be downloaded from the website of Kola Science Center RAS Publishing – <u>https://rio.ksc.ru/knigi/2023/</u>

Imprint: RSCI: https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=50477996

DOI: 10.37614/978.5.91137.480.8

One of the main authors of *Science Diplomacy in the Arctic: Platforms, Practices, New Challenges* Yulia Zaika is the Head of International Department of Kola Science Center RAS. Yulia works at the Secretariat of the IASC - International Arctic Science Committee, and since 2021 she has been a member of the Steering Committee of ICARP IV - International Conference on Arctic Research Planning. At the XV General Assembly, Yulia Zaika was elected the Northern Forum Goodwill Ambassador.



The leadership of the Northern Forum and RACAR regularly participate in the television and radio programs of the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) and give comments during the events in different regions, but this work has not been systematic yet.

NEFU researchers, including the NF Deputy Executive Director Daryana Maximova, Acting Head of NEFU International Studies Department, spoke about the work of the conference on climate change and permafrost thawing at *Yakutsk Today* program.



EXAMPLES OF THE NORTHERN FORUM MEDIA COVERAGE

Date	Link
02.03.23	https://ulus.media/2023/03/02/yakutskih-shkolnikov-priglashayut-prinyat-uchastie-v-npk-
	arktika-territoriya-sotrudnichestya/
06.03.2023	https://russiancouncil.ru/news/rabochaya-vstrecha-rsmd-svfu-i-organizatsii-severnyy-
	forum/
23.03.23	https://ulus.media/2023/03/23/glava-yakutii-predstavil-poslu-po-osobym-porucheniyam-
	mid-rf-rabotu-v-ramkah-predsedatelstva-rossii-v-arkticheskom-sovete/
06.04.23	https://yk24.ru/nauka/severnyj-forum-v-2023-godu-posvyatyat-zhizneobespecheniyu-
	<u>arktiki/</u>
06.04.23	https://tass.ru/obschestvo/17463485
24.04.23	https://sakhalife.ru/deyatelnost-rossijsko-aziatskogo-konsorcziuma-svfu-predstavlena-na-
01.0(.00	mezhdunarodnom-forume/
01.06.23	https://energy.s-kon.ru/6-8-iyulya-2023-v-hanty-mansijske-sostoitsya-xv-generalnaya- assambleya-severnogo-foruma/
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FINAL REMARKS

After three years of work in very difficult, rapidly and globally changing conditions, by the end of the year 2023 it became clear that we were entering a new phase of our development - planned and consistent work to strengthen and expand interregional cooperation.

There is no doubt that the structure of the organization will continue to be improved, but the basic architecture has been built and a strong foundation for the dynamic movement forward has been created. The most important thing is that there have emerged the outlines of the Northern Forum powerful and united team, capable of implementing large-scale projects and providing effective assistance to the regions' sustainable development.

The next stage of development will see the streamlining of project activities, which will be coordinated by the single Project Office, and the restoration of the grant competition.

The Northern Forum is becoming a visible player at the global international level and this direction will be strengthened. Our organization is one of the most successful in the international Arctic community, gradually increasing its presence at the UN conferences on climate change. We seek for the same level of participation at other large-scale platforms as well.

Fruitful cooperation with Roscongress Fund provides a solid basis for promoting the regional initiatives at the highest level. The Northern Forum's positions in supporting the indigenous peoples of the North have been significantly strengthened through the agreement with the Russian Association of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East.

A lot of interesting and useful work lies ahead, and we welcome everyone who is ready to contribute to the international and interregional cooperation.





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The report uses photos from the archives of the Northern Forum Secretariat, the Press Service of Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University, as well as photos provided by the organizers of various events and from the open Internet resources.