

## SDWG Heads of Delegation Meeting, October 3-4, 2011, Stockholm, Sweden Meeting Highlights

SDWG Chair: Mikael Anzen (Sweden)

Participants: All Arctic States, Permanent Participants – ICC, Saami Council.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess and prioritize SDWG 2011-13 activities. Projects which received SDWG endorsement would be forwarded for SAOs approval at their upcoming meeting in Luleå Sweden, November 7-9, 2011

### Projects for SAO Approval

**Arctic Human Development Report II (Iceland/Canada/Denmark)**: AHDR II will build upon AHDR-I (2004) baseline findings; provide a comprehensive review of human development; develop an instrument for assessing progress toward sustainable human development; and provide education material and a handbook policy makers. AHDR II identifies the role of the SDWG to guide and contribute to the project and ensuring communication products, outreach and the peer-reviewed final report is accessible to laymen. Completion date: 2014. Linkages to other AC activities: AIL, SAON, ACA, and ARR.

**Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages (Canada/United States/Denmark)**: This project was developed by ICC Canada based on the recommendations from the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium (2008). Deliverables include: reinforce and access the importance of indigenous languages; lead and facilitate inter-regional, international, and intergovernmental activities in support of Arctic indigenous languages; and enhance language exchange and youth engagement. Completion date: 2015. Linkages to other AC activities: AHDR II, ACA, and ARR.

**Reindeer Herding and Youth (Russia/Norway)**: As a follow-up to the SDWG EALAT-Information project (2011), this project will use workshops and appropriate technologies to bring education and private-sector dialogue opportunities to reindeer herders and youths from Chukotka, Sakha (Yakutia), Taimyr, Yamal, Nenets and Fennoscandia. Combining scientific data and traditional knowledge, this project will enhance a better understanding of reindeer husbandry; the impact of climate change; future developments and shared challenges. Completion date: 2013. Linkages to other AC activities: AHDR II, SAON, ACA, and ARR

**Electronic Memory of the Arctic (Russia/Norway)**: EMA will gather circumpolar related information from AC states libraries, museums and archives, to make them available online. The EMA portal will host an ongoing expert blog which will allow the expert community to discuss a variety of circumpolar issues. EMA is seen as complementary, and will work closely with, the SDWG Arctic Portal. Denmark and Canada have already provided a list of domestic contacts for project leaders follow up. The SDWG encouraged EMA project leaders to seek a broader circumpolar engagement.

**Arctic Maritime and Aviation Transportation Infrastructure Initiative (United States)**: AMATII will assess the transportation infrastructure deficit in the Arctic and develop baseline guidance for an effective Arctic transportation system. Deliverables include an aviation expert and a marine port infrastructure conference; a web-based interactive map of current infrastructure;

and a final report with benchmarks and baseline assessments of aviation and maritime infrastructure. Country lead (US) was advised to contact PAME for potential engagement; and will be calling on AC states and PPs to nominate experts. Completion date: May 2013. Linkages to other AC activities: ACA, and AMSA follow-up.

**SDWG Reform and Strategic Plan:** The first phase of the SDWG Strategic Planning exercise confirmed that the SDWG has advanced on its mandate over the past decade and develop relevant tools to undertake SDWG activities. However, to keep pace with the AC cross-cutting approach, the SDWG needed to address its institutional capacity deficit and strengthen its governance. At this meeting, the SDWG agreed to the SDWG Project Proposal Template; the SDWG project proposal development and assessment criteria; and the proposed workplan and timelines to complete the SDWG Strategic Plan during the Swedish Chairmanship. However, the establishment of a Social, Economic and Culture (SEC) Expert Group was delayed. The SDWG asked the Task Force to develop a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed expert group for discussion at the next SDWG meeting.

#### Update on other SDWG Activities

**Arctic Human Health Expert Group:** SDWG was provided an update of the work of AHHEG including: *Food & Water Security* in collaboration with ICC-Greenland and AMAP's AHHAG; *Circumpolar Cancer Surveillance (CirCan): Ethical guidelines surveillance*; and the development of *Educational activities based on demand for cultural identity*.

**Sustainable Economic Development:** Sweden, through the SDWG, will initiate a project that draws on existing Corporate Social Responsibility frameworks such as the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises. A workshop is planned for late fall/early winter to bring together key private sector stakeholders, AC states and PP representatives. The deliverable is guidelines for responsible business practice in the Arctic for the AC Ministerial Meeting May 2013. It is anticipated that this project will be endorsed at the next meeting of the SDWG.

**Arctic Change Assessment and Arctic Resilience Report** - The preliminary outcomes of the ACA and ARR scoping workshops were also considered as was the SDWG's level of engagement in these two evolving proposals and other cross-cutting activities.

#### Postscript

In Stockholm, Canada announced that the position of SDWG Executive Secretary has been filled by Mr. Bruno Pillozzi. A formal announcement is forthcoming.