

All presentations from the Arctic Council's Senior Arctic Official's meeting in Luleå, Sweden, November 8-9 2011.

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INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM
"THE ARCTIC: TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE"

September 22-23, 2011
 Arkhangelsk
 RUSSIAN FEDERATION

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM, "THE ARCTIC – TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE," MET IN ARKHANGELSK ON SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2011. THE FORUM HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY THE RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND BACKED BY VLADIMIR PUTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES.



Over 450 scientists, politicians, representatives of private companies and reporters from the Russian Federation, the United States, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, China, Japan and many other countries took part in the event.

Among the guests of honor was Russian Prime Minister and Chairman of the Russian Geographical Society's Board of Trustees Vladimir Putin, Minister of Emergency Situation and President of the Russian Geographical Society Sergei Shoigu, Iceland's President Olafur Grimsson, Prince of Monaco Albert II and Russian President's Envoy for cooperation in the Arctic and the Antarctic Artur Chilingarov.



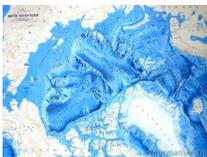
This broad interest, as well as the quality of discussion pointed to growing attention to Arctic issues as part of international cooperation.

Sergei Shoigu, President of the Russian Geographical Society said: "The forum last year confirmed the need to establish in Russia the largest Arctic nation prestigious international venue for discussing Arctic problems. Now that it is done we'll thoroughly evaluate the prospects for international cooperation in the region". Sergei Shoigu pointed out that the last year forum decisions have already being implemented. In the aftermath of debates, for example, a general clean-up of the Arctic is now proceeding to remove industrial waste and rubbish that has piled up over years.

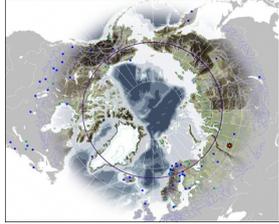


Development of an Arctic transport system as a fundamental factor of Arctic strategy was this year forum's main focus. The discussion covered many areas, including aerospace facilities to ensure transport safety, overall security and safety, early emergency warning, environmental protection to meet the challenges of the Arctic transport system, preservation of the lifestyle of the indigenous peoples of the north, and other issues. Specific recommendations were adopted following the discussions.

Following the discussion on the present state of and future prospects for the Arctic fleet, the Russian government has decided to build three nuclear and three diesel-electric icebreakers for use on the Northern Sea Route. The establishment of ten emergency rescue centers in different sectors of Russia's Arctic, to be built by the Emercom of Russia will contribute to the region's safety and security




Gustaf Lind, Chairman of the Arctic Council, urged the Arctic countries to limit their discharge of soot, a key Arctic greenhouse agent, in an effort to further lower the man-made burden on climate. Forum participants also approved Russia's intention to adopt a law on the Northern Sea Route to regulate shipping through the route.

Arctic research has been one of the main activities of the Russian Geographical Society over the more than 165 years of its existence and will remain so in the future.

In the view of the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and the other forum participants, the next meeting should focus on environmental protection in the Arctic.

Thank you for the attention