<div align="center">

Third Conference Outline

Information and Communication Technology in the Arctic

An International Conference of the Arctic Council

Akureyri, Iceland, 20–21 October, 2003

</div>

General information

The Icelandic chairmanship of the Arctic Council is preparing an International Conference on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Arctic: *Opportunities and Obstacles for Sustainable Development, Education and Telemedicine.*

Aim
The Arctic is a region characterized by small remote communities, long distances and general lack of effective infrastructure and communication. Information technology should be seen as an important means of addressing the economic, social and cultural circumstances that pertain to the Arctic. The aim of the conference should be to ask and discuss critical questions relating to the use of ICT, associated technical and social issues and benefits to Arctic residents. The conference is also invited to suggest collaborative actions among Arctic countries to promote ICT development based on best available practice.

Participants
The conference will bring together individuals of different backgrounds, policy makers, academics, people from business and industry and representatives of Arctic communities in order to improve the quality of life and contribute to healthy and vibrant communities in Northern rural areas. Many participants at the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials' meeting in Iceland, 23rd-24th October, 2003, are expected to attend.

State of ICT in the Arctic
The University of the Arctic will prepare a background paper on the state of technical affairs and ICT infrastructure in the Arctic, based on already published reports and strategies. The paper will be submitted to participants beforehand and placed on the conference web-page.

Results
The conclusions of the conference will be presented to the Senior Arctic Officials' meeting in October. All presentations will be made available on the Internet.

Program outline

The conference will be organized into a plenary session in the morning of October 20th, two parallel workshop sessions in the afternoon and a round-table discussion on the 21st. The plenary session on the first day should provide an overview of the current status of ICT infrastructure in the Arctic and the challenges for building an Arctic ICT community that is comprehensive from the point of view of geographic reach and technological access. The role of an Arctic ICT system in creating a sustainable economy should also be examined and the importance of giving the rest of the world access to the North through an Arctic Information Highway. The two parallel workshops will examine distance education on the one hand and telemedicine on the other. They will focus on best practices in these fields, the need to build on what has been achieved and make appropriate recommendations for future collaborative actions. The conference will conclude with a round-table discussion in the morning of October 21st summarizing the discussions on the previous day and formulating its conclusions. Round table participants will be selected from among experts at the conference who have not given presentations in the workshops earlier.

20 October, 2003

Plenary Session
09:00-12:00

This session will deal with the challenges ahead for building a comprehensive Arctic ICT community, for example in terms of technology, finances and geography.

Parallel Session A: Distance education **13:30-17:00**	**Parallel Session B: Telemedicine** **13:30-17:00**
Themes included are for example: the University of the Arctic, the role of libraries in providing distance education and social and cultural aspects of distance education.	Themes included are for example: health care for children and youth, telemedicine for general health care and maritime telemedicine.

21 October, 2003

Summary Session
09:00-12:00

Reports from sessions, roundtable discussions and conclusions.

Venue

The Conference will take place at the University of Akureyri, Oddfellow House in the town of Akureyri. Working language of the conference will be English with simultaneous translation into Russian. Akureyri, the host city, is the largest town outside Reykjavik and is situated in the fjord of Eyjafjordur. Akureyri is about a 5 hours drive or 45 minutes plane ride from Reykjavík, 4-6 flights are available between the two cities every day. Reservations for domestic flights in Iceland can be made on

the Internet: www.airiceland.is, by e-mail: aeyap@flugfelag.is or telephone: +354 460 7000.

With a population of 16,000, Akureyri is the center of trade, service, and education for Northern Iceland. There is a wide variety of activities in the Akureyri area available to conference visitors, including: the Lystigardur botanical gardens and the Minjasafn folk museum which features "working days" exhibits. Horseback riding, jeep excursions and boat trips to the islands of Hrisey and Grimsey are also available in the Eyjafjordur area (www.eyjafjordur.is).

Registration

If you wish to participate in the conference please fill in the registration form and send it by e-mail, fax or airmail to: Congress Reykjavik, Engjateigur 5, IS-105 Reykjavik, Iceland, tel.: +354 585 3900, fax: +354 585 3901, e-mail: birna@congress.is

The registration form is available on the Internet at:
http://vefir.unak.is/ICTConference.

Please remember that the registration deadline is September 10, 2003. There is no conference fee.

Accommodation

Reservations have been made by conference organizers in three local hotels. Please submit your requests as to accommodation dates and a room type to the Congress Reykjavik by filling in the registration form. From the Akureyri airport transfers to the hotels are available by taxi. Hotel prices are as follows (approximate EUR 84 per 1 ISK in March 2003):

Hotel KEA	**Hotel Harpa**	**Hotel Nordurland**
Single room: EUR 100	Single room: EUR 82	Single room: EUR 82
Double room: EUR 124	Double room: EUR 105	Double room: EUR 105

Contact information

Please contact: Yana Alexandrova, ICT Conference Coordinator, University of Akureyri, Nordurslod/Solborg, IS-600 Akureyri, Iceland, tel.: +354 463 0583, fax: +354 463 0589, e-mail: yana@unak.is

Conference information can be found on the Internet:
http://vefir.unak.is/ICTConference.

Practical information

Weather and clothing: The weather in Iceland is very changeable and capricious. The average October temperature is 4,8 Celsius in Reykjavik and 3,8 Celsius in Akureyri. In addition coastal areas in Iceland tend to be windy. The most basic and

necessary clothing items, regardless of the time of year, are a sweater and water-and-wind resistant jacket. Swim wear should be brought along also regardless of the season; swimming is the Icelanders' favourite leisure and sport. Warm and comfortable open-air pools abound in Iceland.

Banking: The Icelandic monetary unit is the Krona (kr). Visitors can exchange currency at the Keflavik airport upon arrival and in banks in Akureyri. Autobank machines are also available. Banks are open from 9:00 to 16:00 during workdays.

For more information please visit the following web-sites: www.icetourist.is and www.travelnet.is

Sponsors

The Arctic Council greatly appreciates the support of the following organizations for their sponsorship of the conference: Akureyri City Council, Ministry of Education, Science & Culture, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Northern Forum, Stefansson Arctic Institute and University of Akureyri.

Organizing committee

Thorsteinn Gunnarsson, Chair
Rector at University of Akureyri
E-mail: rektor@unak.is

Thorleifur Stefan Bjornsson, University of Akureyri
E-mail: tolli@unak.is

Bryndis Kjartansdottir, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
E-mail: bryndis.kjartansdottir@utn.stjr.is

Gunnar Palsson, Ambassador
E-mail: gunnar.palsson@utn.stjr.is

Hugi Olafsson, Ministry for the Environment
E-mail: hugi.olafsson@umh.stjr.is

Ingimar Einarsson, Ministry of Health & Social Security
E-mail: ingimar.einarsson@htr.stjr.is

Johann Gunnarsson, Ministry of Finance
E-mail: johann.gunnarsson@fjr.stjr.is

Niels Einarsson, Stefansson Arctic Institute
E-mail: ne@svs.is

Sveinn Thorgrimsson, Ministry of Industry & Commerce
E-mail: sveinn.thorgrimsson@ivr.stjr.is

Vilhjalmur Ludviksson, Ministry of Education, Science & Culture

E-mail: vl@rannis.is