Integrated Arctic Social Observation System for Circumpolar Assessment (IASOS-CASEAS)
under the activity of the Arctic Council, IPY and its Sub-committee on Observations

- IASOS-CASEAS is aimed to two interrelated activities: 1) the enhancement of Arctic Residents' Network of Socio-Environment Assessment, Observation and Education for Sustainable Development (ARN); 2) the installation of the international Centre for Arctic Social Monitoring and sustainable development (CASM). The ARN will be constructed to serve as a real instrument for socio-economic monitoring, integrating local/traditional knowledge, science and policy and allowing to integrate not only circumpolar scientists from different disciplines, decision-makers but local/indigenous peoples interested to share their experience and compare best results in achieving sustainability in communities and local settlements. The main objective of IASOS-CASEAS activity are human capacities development and better quality of life. To achieve this a comprehensive educational programme is envisioned being necessary to provide the active participation of all Arctic residents including indigenous communities, women and young scientists in socially oriented monitoring.

- ARN will be composed of Local Sustainable Development Assessment and Monitoring Sites (LOSDAMS), situated in different circumpolar regions with the main focus on the Russian regions with diverse socio-ecological situations and specific problems of sustainable development. The territorial structure of ARN will be also agreed with existing or developing monitoring stations and sites.

- The principle method of gathering data and implementing IASOS-CASEAS activity is the organization of local information-educational workshops involving the broad participation of Arctic residents (local administrations, business, indigenous peoples communities, women organizations, school teachers and pupils, etc). During workshops main problems for achieving sustainability and better resilience will be identified, objectives will be set up and key indicators controlling the implementation of these objectives will be discussed and listed. Data gathering includes such methods as social surveys, structured and unstructured interviewing, official statistics, analysis of water, soils, and air if needed. Using these social and natural science methods combined with local/traditional knowledge will enable to identify human dimension indicators, important for carrying out social observation and monitoring within the IASOS-CASEAS activity.

All obtained information and data will come to the CASM centre where it will be managed and put into a special data base, which will be integrated with other data bases within linked IPY activities, programmes of the Arctic Council and different networks of Circumpolar monitoring (AHDR, COMAAR, CBMP, CEON, AON, SCANNET, etc.)

Primary contact:

Dr. Tatiana Vlassova
Russian Academy of Sciences,
marianna@orc.ru
tel.(495) 135 22 02
fax. (495) 959 00 27
