

Recommendations

of the Workshop session, *Interaction and perspectives on collaboration of Yakutsk State University with the University of the Arctic,*

held during the Sakha Republic conference *Higher Education in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) during the first quarter of the 21st Century,* and which was attended by representatives (including some of their rectors) of nine Russian universities.

The organization of this separate workshop section during the conference is prompted by a) the necessity of increasing collaboration in circumpolar studies and for preparing specialists through the University of the Arctic and b) the participation of Dr. Richard Langlais, Director of the Circumpolar Coordination Office of the University of the Arctic, in the work of the conference.

The idea of creating the UArctic was formulated for the first time by the public at large from the countries of the Arctic region. This concept was aimed at the unification of efforts of all the higher education and research institutes located in the Arctic area to pursue their joint educational and research activities related to northern and Arctic society, environment and sustainable development. Yakutsk State University supported and has been active in the creation of the University of the Arctic from its very beginning, and is represented in the Programmatic Activities Committee of the Interim Council of the University of the Arctic.

Thus, the University of the Arctic is one of the important directions for the development of higher education in the Arctic. It is aimed at comparative interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the feasibility of integration of already available knowledge of the Arctic people into the worldwide process of education development.

More than forty people took part in the workshop, and nineteen heads of departments and rectors from several universities put forward proposals and offers of assistance in the workshop.

The workshop made a number of recommendations, based on a consensus that the creation of the University of the Arctic, which by means of spreading new technologies and knowledge of the circumpolar world contributes to uniting not only the inhabitants of the Arctic region, but the whole world on the eve of the 21st Century. The workshop recommends that:

1. in the next century, Arctic issues should take the leading place in the cooperation of the universities that are located in the circumpolar area. This will serve as the basis of the sustainable development of the most fragile climatic belt of our planet.
2. to announce that Yakutsk State University is open to cooperation with the University of the Arctic in the following areas of educational programs and research:

- Arctic medicine
- Arctic biology and ecology
- the study of Arctic technology and materials in the Arctic area
- language, literature, culture and history of the people of the Arctic area
- peculiar characteristics of the development of science in the Arctic
- Arctic geology and geography
- Arctic pedagogy

3. Yakutsk State University volunteers to help lead in realising the University of the Arctic by working to involve the other northern Russian universities in the programs of the University of the Arctic, namely by participation in the working out of the curricula and standards of the above-mentioned directions as a member of the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies Development Team, by creating joint textbooks on the Arctic and assuring their Russian contents, and by holding the introductory course *Circumpolar World* together with the universities of Russia, in Russian or English.

4. Yakutsk State University could create a coordination office for NE Russia, the activities of which will involve the other Russian northern Universities in cooperation with the development of the University of the Arctic at large.

5. Yakutsk State University offers to organize, either alone or in collaboration with institutions on the Kola Peninsula, the meeting of the Interim Council to be held in Russia in the Spring of 2001, in conjunction with a meeting of the northern Russian higher education institutions who are serious about being involved with the University of the Arctic.

The workshop thanked the organizers of the conference for the opportunity to address the UArctic in this way.

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