

EPPR Working Group Meeting 23. – 26 April 2007 Longyearbyen, Norway

Report



1. Opening of the meeting:

Mr. Tor Christian Sletner, Chairman of EPPR welcomed all of the participants to the 15 th. EPPR meeting in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. He introduced Mr. Rune Bergstrøm, the Head of Environmental Department of the Governor of Svalbard (Sysselemanden) that gave a short presentation about the Governor of Svalbard and the duties of their office.

2. Adoption of the agenda:

The chairman asked for comments to the agenda and possible changes or additions. The secretariat has only received a few documents before the meeting. They are all uploaded on the EPPR web-site. The other Arctic Council working groups have been contacted asking for a short resume of their recent work but there were no responses.

There were some comments to the agenda. Sweden, US and Russia announced that they had presentations that will be given under the different items in the agenda.

The Secretariat informed about some changes in the timetable for Tuesday because of the excursion.

3. Chair`s report including Arctic Council Activities:

3.1 Work of the Arctic Council and the SAOs:

The chairman, Mr. Tor Christian Sletner informed about the activities the Norwegian Chairmanship have taken part of since January 1, 2007.

Since the meeting in Tornio there has been a SAO meeting in Syktyvkar, Russia 26-27 April 2006, a Ministerial meeting in Salekhard , Russia in October 2006 and a SAO meeting in Tromsø 12-13 April 2007.

The Norwegian AC Chair also held a wg. chair meeting in Tromsø 23-24 January 2007. He stressed the importance of the Salekhard declaration. The Declaration is expecting activities from the different WG and especially what EPPR can do to fulfill the expectations. Also take note of what the SAO`s have decided at the last meeting and what influence that will have on the EPPR work.

He also went through the work plan for EPPR for 2006 – 2008 and the importance to fulfill ongoing projects. Ideas for future common projects and activities were presented. The ideas were: Development of common standards for oil spill equipment and contact with relevant agencies, e.g EMSA, HSE standards during oil spill operations, weathering studies of various crude oils, collection of oil in ice infested waters, oil spill equipment focusing on icing, waste management etc. He also underlined that the Norwegian chairmanship would do their best to improve the work of the secretariat.

The participants` gave feedback to the chairman`s report. It was also underlined that it is important not to duplicate work that is done in other working groups.

3.2. Other working groups.

The secretariat gave a presentation on the work of other working groups under the Arctic Council.

3.2 1 ACAP (Arctic Contaminants Action Program to Eliminate Pollution of the Arctic)

The Work Plan for 2006-2008 was approved by SAO's in Salekhard (26.oct. 2006). There are 5 main projects dealing with Waste Management mostly in the Russian Arctic. The waste that is the most concern is Pesticides, Mercury, Dioxine/Furan, PCB and Brominated Flame Retardants. Different member countries as Finland, Denmark, Russia, USA and Norway are leading countries.

The project dealing with stocks of Obsolete and Prohibited Pesticide in Russia, lead by Finland, has done a fantastic job. There are huge amount of such pesticides at several places in the Altai Krai district. Repacking and storage is necessary. 926 tons has been repacked and safely stored and 2506 tons have been inventoried and placed into safe storage under this project. The phase I and II activities are according to schedule but the implementation of phase III, dealing with destruction of the obsolete pesticides is a problem. Licensed destruction technology is currently not available in Russia. Cooperation with the other working groups especially SDWG and AMAP on human health risks and with NEFCO regarding financing is and important issue.

Under the project- Reduction of Atmospheric Mercury Releases from Arctic States- lead by Denmark, a feasibility study is being developed to optimize the existing system for collection, storage, transport and treatment of mercury containing waste such as lamps, thermometers and switches in North West Russia. This study will be initiated in 2007.

UNEP's Governing Council discussed this problem at its 24th session and came up with several recommendations. Reflecting this ACAP is planning a workshop to address mercury reduction at PVC production facilities with participants of PVC manufacturers from Russia, China and Slovakia.

Sweden is chairing a project dealing with –Reduction of Dioxine/Furan releases into the Environment.

There has been a Phase I of this project that is finalized, and Phase II of this project is scheduled to be completed in October 2007.

Russia, USA and NEFCO are responsible for the project- Phase-out of PCBs in Russia. The draft of the updated PCB inventory in Russia for 2005-2006 will be completed in 2007. The project is discussing the possibility to place PCB destruction technology at a waste site in Russia.

Norway is chairing the project- Brominated Flame retardants-. A report is being written after a public review of Phase I of this project and the report should be completed by June 2007.

Regarding Indigenous Peoples Community Action Initiative it is interesting to note that the Gwich'in Council International of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

successfully removed and disposed of five obsolete transformers containing PCB liquids from Yukon villages of Venetie and Beaver.

In spring of 2007, ACAP will in cooperation with Aleutian/Prilof Islands Association, the Chukotka red Cross and the indigenous communities of Loreno and Lavrentia in the Chukotka Autonomous District to begin training for identification, analysis and removal of drums and storage tanks containing persistent toxic substances.

3.2.2 AMAP (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program

Regarding the status of Oil and Gas Assessment AMAP has reported to SAO`s that the scope of the assessment has been expanded considerably during the process. This has resulted in an increasing workload on the expert group and also increases the size of the report. The national contributions to the work have been very slow. However, all data and contributions are now available and as a result a new timeline for the project has been made. Even so the report is now delayed with by 18 months. The cost has also increased. The report will be presented if possible at appropriate venues in North America, Europe and Russia.

A presentation of Acidification and Arctic Haze Assessment was presented to the SAO meeting in Tromsø 2 weeks ago. AMAP and CAFF are preparing a "green paper" to the SAO`s regarding coordination of the AMAP chemical/biological effects monitoring and CAFF biodiversity monitoring programmes. How AMAP and CAFF are coordinating the monitoring activities at national levels have been provided by most of the member countries.

A better coordination between AMAP and SDWG regarding human health activities will be initiated. A first informal meeting has been held between health experts from SDWG, AMAP, The Barents region health group, EU and others with the aim of establishing a process to better coordinate and harmonize human health initiatives in the Arctic and Barents regions.

US-EPA has requested AMAP on how AMAP monitoring can be used to evaluate and document the effectiveness of ACAP projects. AMAP will consider this. AMAP has commented on that ACAP projects to date have focussed very much on Russia. There is a need address pollution sources in other countries.

Regarding cooperation with PAME, AMAP has asked PAME for a more detailed request on the type of national (pollution) experts that they want AMAP to nominate for involvement in the AMSA project.

AMAP and EPPR have previously engaged in cooperation on mapping/GIS initiatives on a pilot basis. This activity came to a sort of a halt but will now start again. A paper in that respect will be presented by Norway.

A proposed Siberian Hydrology project has received considerable interest, but the funding applications have been stalled. An agreement with the Russian Ministry of defence has been reached concerning the proposed project for clean-up of

contaminated sites on Franz Josef Land. Russia has allocated some 300 000 USD for this work and NEFCO has allocated 200 000 Euros. Hopefully the project will start this summer.

The 2006 Ministerial Meeting urged member countries to maintain and extend long term monitoring of changes in all parts of the Arctic. AMAP was asked to cooperate with other AC working groups and others in order to create a coordinated Arctic Observing Network (SAON). A meeting in that respect was held in Tromsø in January this year. Many organizations are involved, and the next step is a workshop in November 2007.

The AMAP mercury expert group has set down a timetable to deliver a planned update assessment on mercury to the Ministers in 2011. If possible specific components could be presented already at the Ministerial meeting in 2009.

The AMAP human health expert group will deliver an updated assessment on human health in the Arctic to the Ministerial meeting in 2009.

The AMAP radioactivity expert group is planning an update assessment of radioactivity in the Arctic. Several international organizations have asked for an evaluation of the current situation. The intention is to deliver a series of topic reports. The plan is then to produce a first draft of some of the topic reports by the end of 2007.

AMAP is requesting clarification from SAOs regarding the project on "Reductions in Sea Ice" in order to consider whether and how AMAP might be involved in this project.

3.2.3 CAFF (Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna)

Based on the Ministerial Declaration from Salekhard, the approved CAFF 2006-2008 Work Plan focuses on the following:

1. Developing the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP)
2. Understanding and adapting to the effects on Arctic biodiversity from climate change.
3. Working to reduce human impacts on Arctic biodiversity, population, declines and loss of special habitats.
4. Education. Communications and outreach.

Several CAFF projects are focused to provide data for informed decision-making in resolving conflicts which are now arising in trying to both conserve the natural environment and permit regional and economic growth.

The Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) implementation plan is now being drafted and the program is building circumpolar support. With a Secretariat based in Whitehorse, and Canada as lead country, the CBMP will move forward strongly in 2006-2008.

At the AC Ministerial in Salekhard, the 2010 Arctic Biodiversity Assessment was endorsed. This Biodiversity Assessment will be the first of its kind for the AC, will involve large scale international cooperation, and will merge data from many different sources.

CAFF is working with AMAP in developing a joint monitoring program. This joint initiative will in part focus on climate change as a stressor to Arctic biodiversity and ecosystem health.

In addition to research and monitoring, CAFF is also focusing on education and outreach. While recognizing the need to acquire the data, CAFF working group is also putting emphasis on getting the data out of the stakeholders, policy makers, researchers and the general public. Brochures, development of the new CAFF website and assistance on design and implementation of the Arctic Portal are all projects directly addressing outreach and education. As CAFF's data is acquired, it is being fed into an interactive mapping feature on the Arctic Polar which allow for more comprehensive picture of the state of circumpolar biodiversity, both flora and fauna.

3.2.4 PAME (Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment)

PAME held its working group meeting in Copenhagen on January 6- 7, 2007. PAME's objectives are based on Ministerial mandates as identified in PAME's Work Plan 2006-2008 accompanied by a set of specific actions which have all been assigned a lead country.

PAME Chair and Secretary prepared a comparison of PAME Work Plan, work plans of other AC working groups and the priorities of the Norwegian chairmanship for the purpose of transparency and to assess the need for collaboration on various Arctic Council projects. It is further noted that the priorities of the Norwegian Chairmanship, in particular the integrated resource management and climate change themes, with its apparent ocean focus places a great importance and emphasis to the PAME mandate and work plan. The climate change issues as per Salekhard Declaration are addressed within all PAME projects. The participation of indigenous and other residents in PAME projects, in particular the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA), is fully recognized.

The preparation of AMSA project is well under way by the lead countries Canada, Finland and USA. The AMSA chapter outline has been drafted in the spirit of past Arctic Council Assessments. The chapters are covering issues such as Geography and History of Arctic Marine use, Current levels of Arctic Marine use. Historical & Current Indigenous Arctic Ocean use, Scenarios of future Arctic Ocean Marine Activity, Environmental Impact of current & future Marine activity.

Baseline shipping activity data collection is underway, and all Arctic states are participating. Also, other AC working groups are expected to contribute.

USA as the lead country for the project Evaluation and update of the Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines has proposed that countries submit their views on the adequacy of the guidelines, areas they see in need of discussion, or the general need for updating by March 31, 2007.

Norway, as the lead country on the assessment of existing measures for port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues, have informed PAME of an IMO website with more advanced information of PRF than this assessment covers. Based on this and the recommendations from Norway, PAME has decided that the continuation of

this work will not be undertaken during the period of 2006- 2008 but may be revisited depending on the outcome of AMSA.

3.2.5 SDWG (Sustainable Development Working Group)

A comprehensive SDWG work plan for 2006- 2008 was approved in October 2006 in Salekhard. There are currently numerous (13) projects and activities under the SDWG. In order to be able to deal with the projects properly a new approach in organizing the agenda and discussions was decided at the meeting in April this year. Under the new approach the SDWG will be put over to the agenda for the meeting in the fall of 2007. The agenda was organized according to 5 themes which incorporated the majority of SDWG projects and activities namely:

- Follow up of AHDR (Arctic Human Development Report)
- Arctic information & Communication Technologies
- Management of Natural resources
- Arctic Human Health
- Adaptation to Climate Change

The discussion focused then on how best to organize SDWG work to coordinate among SDWG projects and to cooperate with other working groups.

There is now a version of the AHDR in Finnish which is used in schools and universities. A Russian version is also being prepared.

The WG received updates on the good progress being made on the Arctic Energy Summit (USA responsible) and the AMAP oil and Gas assessment. USA was encouraged to continue its efforts to make the fee structure for the conference more accessible to students and community participants.

Under the theme Arctic Human Health SDWG had a presentation on Circumpolar Cooperation on Human Health and on organization and work plans under the health cluster. A more strategic approach to the health activities has been mandated by the Ministers and it will be necessary to clarify goals so that organization structures can support the achievements of this goals. It was therefore decided that a discussion paper will be prepared for the next SDWG meeting to examine gaps in the current Arctic Council health strategy, to identify what is being done in the Arctic countries.

To address the mandate given by the Ministers at Salekhard regarding Adaptation to Climate Change, Norway tabled a proposal to make available knowledge on adaptation to climate change. This should be done by preparing an overview of existing knowledge, expertise and research on adaptation and vulnerability to climate change in the Arctic. This could involve the following steps:

- Establish a network of researchers and policy makers.
- Collect information on vulnerability and adaptation strategies.
- Disseminate the findings in a database on the Internet.
- Hold a workshop of experts and stakeholders to discuss next step.

The SDWG took special note to the need to include the Permanent Participants in projects of interest to them. This raises broader funding issues. Budgets for projects should include estimated costs of participation by Permanent Participants.

3.2.6 Conclusion

The secretariat will contact PAME (Mr. Lawson Brigham) about the promised letter explaining what kind of information is needed from EPPR to support the AMSA project. Based on the letter from AMSA, the secretariat will take action as appropriate.

4. Project updates and Information Exchange.

The delegations were invited to provide the meeting with information on the different ongoing projects.

4.1. Oil and Gas

4.1.1 Reports on EPPR ongoing projects (By lead country)

The chairman underlined that these are projects according to the work plan. It is important to get an overview of each project in order to learn of the progress. He also underlined that it is important with feedback about when the different projects could be finalized.

It is essential to clarify all this before new projects are started.

The following projects are on the work plan and have been there for some time:

1) Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT)

The Canadian delegation gave a presentation on the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT) manual.

This is a manual worked out and distributed by Canada in English language. There have been some difficulties regarding translation into Russian. The Canadian delegation informed in the meeting that they have finished the translation and that they will distribute the translated document to the Russian delegation during the meeting for final proofread.

Mr. Sletner also informed about the Norwegian- Russian co-operation and the future work on beach cleaning. They will, among other things, use the SCAT manual as a basis for these activities.

2) Oily waste disposal.

The Canadian delegation gave a presentation on the progress of work with the guidelines.

The presentation focused on the development of guidelines and strategies for oily waste management in the arctic. The rationale for such guidelines is that waste management frequently is the weakest part of an oil spill contingency plan. No oily waste management

manuals exist, and shoreline oiling is to be expected and waste minimization or avoidance by *in situ* treatment techniques is a key part of the response decision process. The purpose of such guidelines is to develop a Decision Guide and Job Aids for waste management in the Arctic. It should focus on those considerations that are integral to the selection of practical and feasible strategies and tactics. These considerations are very different for "remote areas". The draft list of content to guidelines was presented.

Part I of the Manual is Waste Management Strategies.

Part II is Waste management Operations and techniques.

Part III is Country specific topics.

Part IV, tools and job aids.

The work with the guidelines has followed the progress below:

Task 1 Experts Meeting to Finalize Scope and Content (August 2006)

Task 2 Draft Proposal for presentation at NATO Workshop (October 2006)

Task 3 Final Proposal for EPPR Review and Approval (Svalbard - April 2007)

Task 4 IMPLEMENT STUDY

Task 5 Draft Report for Review (spring 2008)

Task 6 Present FINAL Report at SAO Meeting (fall 2008)

The feedback from the different countries was very positive. The documents could also be very useful for IMO in their work with these questions.

Conclusion

Canada will distribute the result (document) among the EPPR countries as soon as possible.

3) Interactive Maps and Environmental information from Arctic Council Programs on the Web.

The Norwegian delegation gave a presentation on this work. A discussion document has been uploaded on the EPPR web-page.

The main issue under this project is to digitalize all data collected by all AC working groups. By doing so all maps dealing with different problems in the arctic can be made interactive. If the Circumpolar Map of Resources at Risk from Oil Spills in the Arctic is to be updated, a number of aspects might be considered to upgrade the information content and its usefulness, for example:

- improved information on oil and gas activities (and transport), including updating of information to reflect current activity (and possibly future activity?).
- improved information on biological resources (in particular inclusion of a more comprehensive suite of species).
- presentation of information on dynamic (as opposed to static) maps, potentially using web-based solutions.
- making the system easier to maintain and update in the future

Based on the presentation, there was a discussion on the possible cooperation between EPPR and AMAP on any activity to update the Circumpolar Map. Many of the participants supported the idea of having a good interactive map for the arctic,

but there were not any consensus of the approach to reach this goal. The importance of having updated maps available was stressed.

Conclusion:

Norway will invite AMAP to a meeting as soon as possible. Norway will make a minute from the meeting that will be distributed to the different countries as soon as possible after the meeting. Based on the minutes from the meeting, the EPPR countries will forward comments to the secretariat.

4) Arctic Rescue:

The Russian delegation gave a presentation on this issue.

The EPPR WG decided at the last meeting in Tornio to initiate a number of projects in order to enhance the co-operation and improve the capacity to respond to emergencies in the Arctic. This means exchange information, training and experience, public information, technical development and support. EPPR shall focus on projects that will contribute to improving emergency preparedness in the arctic. This was also endorsed by the Salekhard Declaration.

There will be a joint Russian – Swedish seminar in Judlinka in 2008. They are also planning an exercise at the Varandey terminal including fire, security and other related problems.

4.1.3 Presentation of possible new projects in connection with Oil and Gas issues.

1) Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while Implementing Infrastructural and Other Economic Projects

Mr. Igor Veselov from Russian gave a presentation on a possible new project.

To support international cooperation aiming to improve safety of critically important potentially dangerous objects by providing the necessary level of industrial and environmental safety and eliminating risks of natural and industrial emergencies, the Russian Federation has elaborated a draft initiative on development and implementation of the international project *Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while Implementing Infrastructural and Other Economic Projects* to give it the status of the Arctic Council project.

The reason behind development and implementation of the project is the fact that the Arctic is a region of large-scale business operations covering production, primary processing and transportation of minerals which are performed in a highly vulnerable environment with high risks of natural and industrial emergencies.

Project targets:

- 1.- based on the pilot projects, develop and create a system for estimating and increasing safety of potentially dangerous objects.
- 2.- promote best Russian and international practices in order to create an advantageous competitive environment for economic entities providing effective strategies for land and natural resources development, up-to-date level of process and industrial safety and

reduction of emergency risks to the economically and environmentally safe level.

3. – develop proposals on joint action plans to provide industrial and environmental safety in the areas of the main North American transportation corridors.

Problem Overview

As part of the suggestion to develop and implement the international project titled *Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while Implementing Infrastructural and Other Economic Projects*, development prospects of the oil and gas production infrastructure in the North-Western part of the Arctic region have been analyzed.

Analysis is the main reason for selecting pilot projects and activities to reduce natural and industrial risks, and for providing security of valuable natural sites.

The results of the analysis indicate the need to create such a system of natural and industrial risks management and to provide security of infrastructural objects and valuable natural sites which would envisage risk assessment and development of security provision options, and if needed, emergency response on three levels of decision making:

Level 1– strategic decisions.

Level 2 – designing infrastructural objects.

Level 3 – using infrastructural objects.

Elaboration of proposals to create a system of natural and industrial risks integrated management, infrastructural objects and valuable natural sites protection, is subject to research, public and state partnership and international cooperation.

To develop the system of state estimation and increased protection of critically important potentially dangerous objects, it is necessary to:

- provide an integrated approach to prevent emergencies.
- ensure reduction of disaster risks by increased quality and efficiency of identification, estimation, monitoring of emergency safety concern and timely forecast of dangers.
- create a system of early warning about emergency risks (in order to notify the community about the existing risks timely, implementation of new technologies in the development of the emergency early warning system, including industrial accidents, is of primary importance).
- coordinate joint efforts, strengthen preparation for effective and timely emergency response.
- Provide regular prompt data exchange.

Project main points and goals.

The main promising hydrocarbon reserves are accumulated in the North-Western part of the Arctic, the Barents Sea shelf (gas and condensate), the Nenets Autonomous Area, the Komi Republic and the Pechora Sea shelf (oil).

Transport and geography of the North-Western region are advantageous. The only non-freezing port in the North is located here, in Murmansk. Prospects of creating new terminals and developing marine transportation of oil and gas to Europe and the USA are connected both with the oil and gas bearing from West Siberian province and the fields located in the region.

The region's oil and gas production will be based on the reserves of already discovered oil fields and will develop gradually by exploring numerous densely situated promising

structures. The oil reserves produced in the structures and fields are estimated at 600-700 mln tn.

Gas reserves are mostly accumulated in the East Barents oil province and amount to over 4 bln cu m. Shtokmanskoe gas and condensate field is the central pillar of the gas producing complex. Its reserves (3.2 bln cu m) together with Ledovoe (500 bln cu m) and Ludlovskoe (220 bln cu m) comprise its reliable resource base. Several other promising structures have also been discovered here. Total resources of this promising gas producing area are estimated at no lower than 5-6 bln cu m of gas.

Development of oil and gas fields in the European part of the Russian Arctic needs complicated transport infrastructure to provide energy supply to the basic foreign markets, located in Europe. In order to solve the problems, Russia stakes on pipelines mostly, acting according to its traditional transport policy. Construction of Yamal-Europe pipeline, 4,200 km long, is still in progress. The pipeline is to be commissioned in 2010, the transmission capacity will amount to 70 bln cu m. Moreover, the gas pipeline to Finland, Sweden and Denmark is to be constructed next. The pipeline section in Karelia is constructed along Petrozavodsk-Kondopoga highway. Then the gas pipeline may further be constructed to Kostomukshi, near the Finnish border.

Pilot objects are necessary for developing pilot projects and testing their efficiency. Port Varandey and the North-European gas pipeline are suggested.

The following problems are to be solved to achieve the Project goals:

1. Carry out integrated survey of the main groups of critically important objects.
2. Make suggestions as to urgent measure plans for the pilot projects to protect the regions.
3. Implement measurements to increase safety of the main groups of potentially dangerous objects, developed on the basis of the best current technologies.
4. Prepare effective plans to increase protection of critically important regional, territorial, local and point objects for 2006-2010, including the system of complex monitoring and warning.
5. Integrate SMS-technologies in the systems of complex monitoring and warning.
6. Test the system of complex monitoring and warning in the presence of all parties concerned.
7. Analyze the results and make them the basis of a standardized system for state estimation and increased protection of critically important potentially dangerous objects.
8. Carry out virtual role playing, model situations and complex study in potentially dangerous objects according to different scenario conditions of emergency forecast and development.
9. Carry out 2 international seminars on estimating the results of pilot projects implementation and sharing of experience.

During project implementation the following tasks will be completed:

1. Analysis of the current regulatory environment in terms of state estimation of potentially dangerous objects, industrial security and emergencies.
2. Analysis of engineering documentation based on the pilot objects example, in terms of industrial and environmental safety, as well as other documentation regulating safety on the object.

3. Development of a mechanism for SMS-technologies to monitor potentially dangerous objects and provide emergency warning to all parties concerned.

The results will be the basis of the final development in the future (2007-2010) of the standardized system for state estimation and increased protection of critically important potentially dangerous objects.

The results of 2006 research will include the following:

- Concept of measures providing safe operation of potentially dangerous objects envisaged by the law; rights and obligations of natural resources users, experts for emergency and communication; opportunities for improving emergency warning system, interaction of all parties concerned, envisaged by the law;
- Results of the study on reliability and efficiency of the systems providing safe operation on pilot objects; efficiency of monitoring dangerous situations on pilot objects; availability and efficiency of data exchange between natural resources users, experts for emergency prevention and recovery, and the community; efficiency of emergency warning systems.
- Mechanism of SMS-technologies use in the system of prompt emergency warning, with consideration of existing engineering capabilities of the region and pilot objects.

In the future the received results will be the platform to continue and develop activities in 2007 -2010 and provide:

- Development and implementation of measurements to increase safety of the main groups of critically important potentially dangerous objects;
- Development and testing integrated SMS-technologies in the systems of complex monitoring and notifying all concerned parties of dangerous situations, their progress and liquidation;
- Development and creation of a standardized system for state estimation and increased protection of critically important potentially dangerous objects;
- On the basis of created standardized system of effective plans to increase protection of critically important regional, territorial, local and point objects.

Project participants: The Russian Federation will be represented by the EMERCOM and OAO LUKOIL. OAO Gazprom, GMK Norilsk Nickel and RAO UES of Russia have also confirmed their interest.

The plan is to invite government and non-government organizations of Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and other countries of circumpolar region as international participants of the project.

Project funding

Direct costs related to the project implementation will be covered by the Russian government, in the framework of EMERCOM operations, and also financed by the budgets of the companies (business units) participating in the project. Preliminary estimation of total direct costs amounts to 2,000,000 USD.

Additional expenditures related to organization and holding international summits, work groups and participation of pilot projects in the activities are preliminarily estimated at

800 000 USD.

The main economic indicators of the project

Project activity results will include:

- Estimation of the actual level of emergency risks;
- Effective target planning of activities to reduce risks of occurrence and prevention of international and domestic natural and industrial emergencies as part of public and state partnership;
- Increase of efficient use of forces and warning emergency response facilities;
- Reduction of economic losses caused by emergencies;
- Enhancement of applied efficiency of scientific research;
- Enhancement of the level of potentially dangerous objects and conditions of hydrocarbon material production and transportation;
- Enhancement of steady operation of vital infrastructures in cases of emergency;
- Effective control mechanisms of risk level and application of preventive response measures.

Conclusion

The Russian proposal on Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while Implementing Infrastructural and Other Economic Projects was presented. Other countries were invited to participate in the project. The Swedish delegation was of the opinion that starting up such a big scale project within the EPPR needed further consideration at national level before approval. The Russian delegation then informed the meeting that the project officially was announced at the SAO meeting in Tromsø. The project is approved in principle. Russia will formulate a concrete work plan for the next meeting and invite for participation. The proposal will be put in the work plan.

4.1.4 Country Reports on Oil and Gas

USA

The US delegation gave presentation on the *Oil Pollution Convention and HNS Protocol Technical Group at IMO*, which he chairs. During his presentation he informed about the different publications made by and the current work in IMO related to oil spill response. IMO is also preparing two courses related to chemical response.

The future works within IMO related to these issues are rather extensive. See bullet points under:

- Guide on a Common All Hazards Incident Command System for use by international responders
- Development of a guide for establishing a Joint Information Center and how to do risk communication
- Development of a guide for fast water spill response
- Off shore unit contingency planning (how is it different for platforms than for vessels)
- Guide on disposal techniques in spill response, on Shoreline Clean up Assessment (especially in ice and snow), on ice and snow oil spill response techniques, for In Situ Burning Monitoring, for In Situ Burning Application, for

Dispersant Monitoring, for Dispersant Application, on Conducting Ecological Risk Assessments, on LNG/LPG Contingency Planning and Response, on HNS PPE, on early warning and action by first responders on HNS

The next HNS meeting will be in Southampton, UK on July 2. – 6, 2007.

Conclusion:

OPRC working group is working with guidelines that might be relevant for Arctic conditions. It is therefore important that EPPR and OPRC working group communicate and share information on dispersant application, waste removal and treatment, in-situ burning and large-scale organization for spill response as well as response in ice and snow conditions.

Mr. Mark Meza will give information about the OPRC HNS work plan 2007 – 2009 and any current work products in the next EPPR meeting.

The US delegation gave also a summary of the *Arctic Shipping Conference on oil spill response in the Arctic* that was held in St. Petersburg, Russia in April 2007.

There were about 280 participants from relevant organisations.

The Conference issues were policy and development in the Arctic region, finance and investments needs, ship design, LNG ship design, Risk Management Crewing and Navigation and Technical Aspects of Ice Operations. With regard to oil spill response, Pollution response he highlighted the following topics: Policy and Cooperative Research, Risk Assessment and Management, Contingency Planning and Operation Response
The documents from the Conference will be available on the web from about May 1, 2007 on www.ibcglobal.com/bonuspapers/LM1805

The US delegation informed about knowledge and experience regarding the Circumpolar Task Force work and oil and gas research and development. The document is named the current status of spill prevention and response in Prince William Sound and the north Pacific. The document also covers the governance and oversight of oil tanker traffic in Alaska and the research program for Prince William Sound. In the Bering Sea and the North Pacific, a strong ongoing dialogue on rescue and salvage operations has been underway for the past two years, largely occasioned by the wreck and large oil spill of the bulk carrier, Selendang Ayu, in the eastern part of the Aleutian Chain, and the capsizing of the car carrier, Cougar Ace, on the south side of the Chain in 2007. In Prince William Sound there have been no major incidents in the 18 years since the grounding of the Exxon Valdez and the large oil spill that occurred from that grounding. In Cook Inlet, there is discussion on the need for a risk assessment to determine whether more tug capacity is necessary. There was a recent tanker grounding, which luckily did not cause an oil spill.

The US delegation gave a presentation on the work to better understand the movement of released petroleum in freezing soils, and a project regarding education on energy development and use of radioactive materials in Polar Regions.

SWEDEN

The Swedish delegation gave a presentation about the shipping situation in the Baltic Sea. The numbers of accidents in the Baltic have increased. The main reason for the increase is the human and the technical factor. The oil export from the Gulf of Finland has increased very much since 1987. The size of the vessels has increased and the standard seems to be better.

Sweden has contracted three new vessels that could be used for emergency towing, fire fighting and oil recovery. The third vessel will be equipped for chemical response.

The Swedish delegation gave a presentation on the Oil Combating Preparedness of the Swedish Rescue Services. Their main topics are to support the municipalities. They have a goal for 2010 to handle up to 10000 tons of oil and be better prepared to handle spills in arctic conditions. Some of the sub objectives related to preventive measures, maritime oil combating, combating of oil in coastal areas and for follow up activities on completion of combating operation. Sweden are preparing a beach cleaning manual for cold conditions that will be finalised within the end of 2007.

They are also planning oil in ice exercise in 2008 close to Harnösand in NE Sweden.

The Swedish delegation informed about a ship accident that happened in the end of October 2006. A ship called Finnbirch capsized and 13 of 14 sailors were rescued. The ship sank with about 250 tons of bunker oil on board. The ship owner was requested to unload the vessel, but as he also was sued by the cargo owners he was forced to financially limit his responsibilities and thus the total costs for the oil removal operation would not be covered by the insurance. Based on that fact, Swedish authorities decided to start an unloading operation by use of ROV and the ROLLS unloading equipment and then claim the shipowner. The operations finished in March 2007.

FINLAND

The Finnish delegation gave a presentation about the standing order from the Finnish parliament to the Finnish environment institute to develop equipment for collecting oil under icy conditions. To fulfil this, there has been established a research program to develop possible tools. To illustrate some of the outputs from this program, a video about a brush skimmer operating in ice infested water skimming heavy fuel oil was presented. Finland has under construction a new multi purpose vessel that will be in operation from 2009.

The Finnish delegation gave a presentation on the cooperation on marine oil spill response between coastal states of the Gulf of Finland. The content of the presentation was: Marine transport, threats and risks, challenges, international cooperation, cooperation between the coastal states of GoF, the readiness to respond to oil spills in the GoF and finally information from some real cases in GoF.

NORWAY

The Norwegian delegation gave a presentation on the SERVER incident on the Norwegian West Coast that took place the 12th of January 2007. The accident leads to a release of heavy fuel oil. Based on that fact a large oil spill operation effectuated. About

140 tons of oil emulsion was collected at the sea. Oil reached the shoreline immediately and a long-lasting beach cleaning operation started up and this operation is still going on.

The Norwegian delegation gave a presentation of the Management Plan for the Barents Sea which is a white paper presented by the Norwegian Government. He also gave a presentation of an analysis and recommendations to establish a national Emergency Towing Preparedness. Based on the presentation there were a fruitful discussion on different questions related to this issue. The report (in Norwegian) is available on the web-page of The Norwegian Coastal Administration <http://www.kystverket.no/?did=9283666>

4.2 Radiological and other Hazards.

4.2.1 Reports on EPPR projects by lead country.

1.) Source control Management Phase III.

The US delegation gave a presentation on this project. Phase I and II of this project have been finalized. The results of phase I and II have been:

- Risk Assessment Methodology at Hazardous Industrial Facilities (chemical hazards) was developed as the result of the Project, Phase I implementation;
- Analysis of risks was performed; and
- Recommendations to reduce risks were made for the facility
- Risk Assessment Methodology at Hazardous Industrial Facilities developed at the Phase I of the Project was applied to the radiation hazard facility and appropriately modified;
- Priorities of the corrective actions have been identified;
- Recommendations to enhance the safety of the facility were made based upon the analysis of risks

Phase III is being carried out at two facilities in the Northwest Region of Russia, related to nuclear powered vessels maintenance and nuclear submarine decommissioning activities. The objectives of phase III will be Verification and finalizing of the developed Risk Assessment Methodology at radiation and chemical hazardous facilities of the Industrial North of Russia and carrying out the risk assessment and developing the recommendations to reduce the risk at the selected hazardous facilities.

The presentation was discussed within the EPPR, and continuation of the project to conclusion was supported.

2.) ISO 14001 Training Programs

The US delegation gave a presentation on the ISO 14001 Course program. The Course Program have been developed and used to train personnel from nuclear industry in the Russian Federation. The lecturing material has been transferred to The Institute for

Advanced Training (MIPK “Atomenergo”). Hence EPPR has completed the work on this project, it can be taken out of the work plan. It was duly reported to the SAO meeting in April 2006.

3.) Community Radiation Information Project

The US delegation gave a presentation on the booklets and brochures that have been produced under this project. They are now doing some translation into English. As the documents are prepared, they will be made available on the web and could be used of all.

4.) Conduct Radiation emergency exercises – Moscow table top exercise

The US delegation gave a presentation on this exercise. The exercise was not an open exercise and involved US and Russian authorities. The exercise was videotaped by IAEA, but the tape is not public.

4.2.2 Proposed projects

a) Development of Brochures on Far East Region of Russia

It was noted that it was reported to the SAO in 2006 that the work on the development of a brochure on nuclear activities in the Far East region of Russia will continue and be finalized in the summer of 2007.

These brochures are regarded as very important and EMERCOM of Russia will distribute them to all of the territories in Russia.

b) Portable analysis capability (Lap Top Based)

The US delegation gave a presentation on this proposal. In discussions the US and Russia clarified that this is an ongoing project of interest for EPPR representatives. Participation is invited and project developments will be reported at future EPPR meetings.

The aim of this project proposal is to develop a portable Software/hardware system for experts conducting radiation Survey in the field.

The system can dose rate sensor to run field radiation measurements and have a system to define geographical coordinates (GPS-receiver). The database includes documents on the radiation safety area. There are databases on facilities, personnel and equipment of emergency-rescue teams (ERT). The system has a bank of electronic maps. The computer systems can forecast the radiation models and effects and there is a set of communication links to accept and transfer the data.

Two software and hardware complexes were developed in 2006. The complexes will be used by an Emergency Rescue Team of one of the FSUE “SevRAO” branches related to nuclear submarine decommissioning in the North-West Region of Russia and by Siberian Chemical Combine (SCC)

c.) Nostradamus: Real time computer system for estimation of atmospheric transfer.

The US delegation from USA gave a presentation on the NOSTRADAMUS computer system. IBRAE developed NOSTRADAMUS to analyze accidents of various scales. This system was designed to effectively forecast results of both aerosol and gaseous forms with subsequent precipitation. The Nostradamus code is based on a robust transport model.

The "NOSTRADAMUS" system includes an atmospheric boundary layer model for the recovery of wind speed field vertical structure and atmospheric stability class on the base of synoptic information. It makes it possible to use different sources and volumes of meteorological data for calculation. Data of long-term observations on vertical profile of turbulent diffusion coefficients provided by SPA "Typhoon" are used for the turbulent exchange coefficients calculation.

The DOE-IBRAE Cooperation includes among other things

- FSUE SSC "Scientific and Research Institute of Nuclear Reactors" (NIIAR)
- Siberian Chemical Combine (SCC)
- Mining and Chemical combine (MCC)
- PA "Mayak"

Conclusion

The system was discussed both related to practical use and its limitations. The project will be put into the EPPR work plan.

d.) Work on establishment of Training Center "Emergency Response" (TC ER) at MIPK

The historical background for this project is from 2002 when the work began on advanced training of the emergency and rescue units of Rosatom. In 2002-2003 - IBRAE RAN conducted pilot training courses and exercises on emergency management and response. Following this it was decided to establish a training center for the management and leading specialists of emergency and rescue units of Rosatom facilities. A guiding principle for the Training Center is to innovate the training curriculum using the best international experience and latest training methodologies.

They will for 2007 and 2008 continue the development of the certification program and develop advanced training based on facility-specific hazards. In addition to this they will tailor new training courses to specific needs of emergency facilities, prepare and conduct an exercise focusing on the assessment of accident consequences and develop an interactive computer web-based program to ensure rescue teams have the knowledge they need.

4.2.3 Presentation of possible new project under Radiological and other Hazards

1) Response Assistance Network (RANET)

The US delegation gave a presentation on the possible project RANET. This project

was initiated at the Tornio meeting in order to enhance the cooperation among countries in emergency assistance and will be developing a proposal for establishing a National Assistance Capability based in Northwest Russia to respond to radiological emergencies in the Arctic. This project was highly appreciated by the Ministerial Meeting at Salekhard.

The International Atomic Energy Agency issued in 2006 a global Response Assistance Network (RANET)* document. The aim of this project is to provide teams suitably qualified to respond rapidly and on a regional basis to nuclear or radiological emergencies (* Previously called Emergency Response Network (ERNET)).

RANET is a system of Competent Authorities capable and willing to provide upon request timely and effective specialized assistance by appropriately trained, equipped and qualified personnel with ability to respond to nuclear accidents or radiological emergencies and other nuclear or radiological events.

Areas of assistance could be advisory, assessment and evaluation, monitoring and recovery. The concept of RANET is a compatible and integrated system for provision of international assistance to minimise actual or potential radiological consequences of incident or emergency for health, environment and property.

It does not affect co-operation arrangements defined in any bilateral and/or multilateral agreements between States.

The purpose of RANET is to facilitate provision of requested international assistance, harmonisation of emergency assistance capabilities and relevant exchange of information and feedback of experience. RANET should complement IAEA initiatives to promote emergency preparedness and response among its Member States.

The requesting State will have overall direction, support and supervision of any assistance within its territory (Article 3 of Assistance Convention)

The member States are expected to identify qualified experts, equipment, and materials. These experts, equipment, and materials are MS's National Assistance Capabilities.

Whether an event originates on State's territory or under its jurisdiction or control, the State may, in accordance with provisions of Assistance Convention, request assistance from IAEA.

At this time, an assistance Action Plan will be developed by the IAEA's IEC in coordination with requesting State, NCAs providing assistance and other international organizations, as appropriate. This plan will specify responses needed and whether they will be deployed and/or provided from an external base. The Plan should include all technical, financial, diplomatic, organizational and logistical aspects of assistance to be provided.

An assistance mission (AMI) could be set up. The AMI Group of qualified experts to address nuclear or radiological incidents providing advice, assessment, training, medical, monitoring or other specialized assistance. It can also be an evaluation, assessment, or fact-finding mission. The Team leader leads AMI and is responsible for all on-scene assistance activities and ensures coordination with requesting State, IEC and any External Based Support.

RANET is explained in EPR-RANET 2006 publication. The document has three attachments: RANET Assistance Action Plan, RANET Registry and RANET Technical Guidelines.

As a conclusion it was stated that RANET can facilitate enhancement of regional and

international capabilities for assistance. The RANET concept is built on practical experience of MS. The Conventions and Statute provide firm legal basis. The expectation for RANET is that it should enhance radiation emergency response capabilities worldwide.

Based on the presentation EPPR discussed this project related to the work in the Arctic.

Conclusion

Following the presentation by US on the project Response Assistance Network (RANET), EPPR agreed to put it into the work plan.

- 2) New project proposal IBRAE Technical Crisis Center (TCC) support to the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center.

The US delegation gave a presentation on the possible new project. It is aimed at enhancing TCC IBRAE RAS capabilities to render scientific and technical support to the EMERCOM of Russia to improve the system of response to radiation emergencies. EMERCOM of Russia is establishing the National Crisis Situation Management Center (NCSMC). NCSMC serves as the center for routine management of the United State System for Prevention and Mitigation of Emergency Situations. The NCSMC objective is to manage activities for the protection of the population and territories from the effects of emergency situations, including radiation emergencies.

The current initiatives in 2007 – 2008 will be:

- Developing databases on scenarios of possible radiation accidents at various facilities using radiation-hazardous technologies.
- Developing software to enable access of NCSMC experts to IBRAE RAN databases
- Enhancing existing program systems to assess radiation accident consequences for different radiation emergency scenarios, including those located in urban environments
- Developing reference materials based on Rosatom's experience as well as international recommendations, including those of IAEA
- Developing standard manuals for EMERCOM's experts on response actions for radiation emergencies, based on IAEA recommendations
- Conducting training courses and exercises for EMERCOM's experts

Conclusion

Following the presentation on the project proposal IBRAE Technical Crisis Center (TCC) support to the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center, EPPR agreed to put it into the work plan.

4.2.4 Country reports under this subject

NORWAY

The Norwegian delegation gave a presentation on the AMAP radioactivity work. They are among other things working with reassessment of sources, TeNORM (Oil and gas industry), radioactivity and climate change, protection of the environment and monitoring reports. He also informed about a Conference on radioactivity in the Arctic environment, Bergen, Norway 2008. The website for conference has the following address: www.radioecology.info. The reports from the conference will be published at ministerial meeting.

The Norwegian delegation gave a presentation on Norwegian Programme for Nuclear Safety in Northwest Russia. Norway has cooperated bilaterally with Russia since 1988. The present activities together with Russia are the bilateral Environmental Agreement and the joint expert group. In addition to this there is projects related to nuclear Safety at Kola NPP.

An Action Plan (AP) for Nuclear Safety funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been established. This AP focus on dismantling nuclear-powered submarines, removal and disposal of Radioisotopic, thermoelectric Generators (RTGs), rehabilitation of Andreyeva Bay, safety at nuclear power plants and cooperation with Russian regulatory authorities. The Russian delegation informed that the problems highlighted in the report from Norway are very useful for Russia. They will do their best to improve the work with eliminate the problems that are highlighted.

USA

The US delegation (Mr. Dave Barnes) gave information about the use of radioactive materials in Polar Regions.

SWEDEN

The Swedish delegation informed about an exercise recently conducted in Stockholm. This exercise also includes radiological questions.

He also informed about future organizational changes in Sweden. This will lead to the fact that all questions related to radiological matters will be handled by one authority. This will also lead to changes in the representation from Sweden in the EPPR meeting. Sweden will inform about the changes in the next meeting.

RUSSIA

The Russian delegation informed about an exercise related to mitigation of a Simulated Nuclear Accident at "Zvezdochka« (Severodvinsk). The goal of the exercise is to improve the emergency monitoring and response systems.

Lessons Learned from the exercise will result in measures to improve emergency plans and monitoring systems not only for " Zvezdochka", but also for similar nuclear and radiation-hazardous facilities of the Northwest Region of Russia.

The participants will be: Engineering Enterprise "Zvezdochka", NIPTB "Onega"

(Scientific research and development technical bureau), ETC SPb, Rosatom, Russian ship-building agency, EMERCOM, local authorities, IBRAE RAN and others. As observers, Federal executive authorities, DOE, interested Russian organizations and others, will take part.

4.3. Natural Disasters.

4.3.1 Reports by lead countries on the ongoing projects.

- 1) Creation of a warning and information system regarding Catastrophic flooding on Northern Rivers (Project between EPPR and Northern Forum)

The US delegation informed about the project. The participating regions are Alberta, Alaska, Khanty-Mansiysk Krai, Sakha, Vologda and Yukon. The first workshop took place in March 2006 in Yakutsk in Russia. The WS led to significant avenues for cooperation between the regions and also with C-CORE for satellite imagery. The next workshop will be from July 16. to July 20, 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska. Through the project will receive satellite imagery of the river plots. EPPR participants interested in taking part in the Flood workshop should contact Natalie Novik, coordinator at Northern Forum (nnovik@northernforum.org). Back-to-back with the workshop above, there will be training for Russian representatives in Anchorage, Alaska. A new work plan will be devised during the workshop for the period 2008 – 2009. The new work plan will include not only forecasting of ice jams and floods, but also coastal erosion.

The Finnish delegation informed about the project “Managing the cold Conditions – A systematic approach”. The Arctic climate presents exceptional challenges in various situations. In Emergency situations and injured person are always at risk of hypothermia and cold injuries. The cold climate has also adverse effects on response- and technical equipment.

4.3.2 Proposed project

No new projects were proposed.

4.3.3 Country Reports

Finland

The Finnish delegation gave a presentation on the exercise Barents rescue 2007. Barents Rescue 2007 aims to facilitate communications, coordination and cooperation between countries and civil-military services that may become involved in an emergency relevant to the Barents Region. Barents Rescue 2007 will consist of a series of planning conferences, exercises, seminars and an exhibition. Evaluation and lessons learned from the process are also of a great value to the BEAC countries when developing their capabilities in the crisis management. The main event of this project will be the Barents Rescue 2007 Exercise 18-21 October in Saariselkä, Inari. The objectives of the exercise are to: test how functional bilateral and multilateral agreements for assistance are, promote and strengthen trans-boundary cooperation

between authorities in the Barents Region, examine leadership skills in an international environment, practice the process of informing public and media, also on intergovernmental level, examine logistics, especially from the hypothermia prevention point of view, test situation awareness processes and solutions and finally train personnel to arrange large-scale exercises.

Sweden

The Swedish delegation gave a presentation on effects of climate changes and the work with a Swedish National report. Swedish rescue Service Agency (SRSA) is one of several Swedish authorities who now study the effects of climate changes and how to support the communities before and during accidents until 2015. Based on the ongoing work they will build a national platform, set up national goals for disaster risk condition, report to UN. SRSA will support EU and their ability to support the different countries with their work about natural disaster. Through the MIC the member states will help each other when disasters happens. SRSA is the Swedish focal point.

Of arctic interest, the risk of erosion will be increased in the northern part of Sweden (mountain area) due to rainfall. This is stated in the scenario 2071 – 2100.

5. EPPR Web Site.

Mr. Jonas Lindgren gave a presentation on the EPPR web site.

Sweden is the lead country regarding the EPPR web site and the secretariat is responsible for the input to the website.

Some changes have been made on the web site. Canada did a great job in this respect. There are still some items left to look into and member countries are encouraged to come up with new ideas, changes etc.

He stressed the important to inform the Arctic Council that their web site must be correct.

Conclusion

The secretariat informed that they would like to introduce the possibilities to make it possible for all of the countries to upload documents on the EPPR web site.

Secretariat together with Sweden will investigate the possibilities with support from Canada.

6. EPPR Work Plan

The present work plan will be revised according to what has been discussed at the meeting. The work plan is attached to this report.

7. Any other business.

Mr. Per Johan Brandvik from SINTEF in Norway gave a presentation on the Joint Industry Projects “Oil Spill Response in Ice-infested waters”. The funding of the project has been from 6 oil companies. In the presentation he highlighted burning and the meso-scale burning test on Svalbard in April 2007.

The presentation of Mr. Brandvik is uploaded on the webpage of EPPR.

The Canadian delegation raised the question about the Strategic Plan (SP) of EPPR.

The SP is not updated and there is a need to discuss the SP on a broader basis. He also referred to the presentation of the Norwegian chairmanship that raised important questions that should be discussed within EPPR.

Based on this the future work to update the EPPR Strategic Plan was discussed. All of the countries supported the idea from Canada. The secretariat was asked to start the work to update the SP. It is important that the SP reflects the Salekard Declaration.

Conclusion on review of the Strategic plan of EPPR:

The current strategy plan of EPPR was discussed. Based on the fact that the Strategic Plan is not updated, Norway was asked to start a process for updating the Strategic Plan that should end up with final discussions in the next EPPR meeting.

8. Next meeting

According to the list of future meetings, the next EPPR meeting should be in Iceland. Iceland has been asked about their possibilities to arrange the meeting. They have informed the secretariat that they are not able to arrange the meeting. Because of that fact, Sweden as the next in line has been asked to arrange the next meeting. Sweden informed that they are willing to arrange the meeting. The place and date for the meeting will be clarified as soon as possible in co-operation with the secretariat.

9. Record of Decisions

A draft record of decisions was handed out. Based on input from the delegations, the draft was corrected. The document is attached to this report.

10. Closing of the meeting

The chairman, Mr. Tor Christian Sletner thanked the participants for fruitful discussions, that all contributed to a good progress and that we have obtained some results in the meeting. He also promised that Norway will do their best to serve as a secretariat and invited all to keep in contact with the secretariat and inform about progress of projects and any matter of interest to EPPR working group.

Everybody was wished a safe trip back home.

Attachment 1: Records of decisions

Request from AMSA:

The secretariat must contact PAME (mr. Lawson Brigham) about the promised letter explaining what kind of information is needed from EPPR to support the AMSA project. Based on the letter from AMSA, the secretariat will take action as appropriate.

Circumpolar maps:

Norway will invite AMAP to a meeting as soon as possible. Norway will make a minute from the meeting that will be distributed to the different countries as soon as possible after the meeting. Based on the minutes from the meeting, the EPPR countries are asked to forward the comments to the secretariat.

Information from Russia about a possible new project on Oil and Gas:

The Russian proposal on Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while Implementing Infrastructural and Other Economic Projects was presented. Other countries were invited to participate in the project. Russian delegation officially announced the project at the SAO meeting in Tromsø. The project is approved in principle. Russia will formulate a concrete work plan for the next meeting and invite for participation. The proposal will be put in the work plan.

Guidelines and strategies for oily waste management decisions in the Arctic

The development of Guidelines and strategies for oil waste management decisions in the Arctic was presented by Canada. It was decided that Canada should distribute a detailed proposal among the EPPR countries as soon as possible. The countries should respond back to Canada within the end of July 2007 about their possible participation.

OPRC HNS working group

OPRC working group is working with guidelines that might be relevant for Arctic conditions. It is therefore important that EPPR and OPRC working group communicate and share information on dispersant application, waste removal and treatment, in-situ burn up and large-scale organization for spill response as well as response in ice and snow conditions.

Mr. Mark Meza will give information about the OPRC HNS work plan 2007 – 2009 and any current work products in the next EPPR meeting.

New project on Radiological and other hazards

Following the presentation by US on the project Response Assistance Network (RANET), EPPR agreed to put it into the work plan.

Following the presentation on the project proposal IBRAE Technical Crisis Center (TCC) support to the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center, EPPR agreed to put it into the work plan.

EPPR Website

The secretariat informed that they would like to introduce the possibilities to make it possible for all of the countries to upload documents on to the password area of the EPPR web site. Secretariat will, together with Sweden, investigate the possibilities with support from Canada.

Review of the Strategic plan for EPPR

The current strategy plan of EPPR was discussed. Based on the fact that the Strategic Plan is not updated, Norway was asked to start a process for updating the Strategic Plan that should end up with final discussions in the next EPPR meeting.

Attachement 2: List of participants to the EPPR meeting at Svalbard, April 23 – 26, 2007

CANADA:

Mr. Frank Pokiak
Inuvialuit Game Council
Box 2120 Inuvik,
Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0

Dr. Norm Snow
Joint Secretariat, Inuvialuit Renewable Resources Committees
Box 2120 Inuvik,
Northwest Territories, Canada X0E 0T0

Mr. Larry Trigatti
Department of Fisheries & Oceans
201 Front Street, 6th Fl.,
Sarnia, Ontario Canada N7T 8B1

Mr. David Livingstone
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Bellanca Building,
P.O.Box 1500
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada X1A 2R3

Mr. David Tilden
Environment Canada
#301, 5204 - 50th Avenue,
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, X1A 1E2

Mrs. Bonnie Leonard
Transport Canada
330 Sparks St. 10th Fl.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0N8

FINLAND:

Timo Viitanen
Ministry of the Interior
Department for Rescue Services
P.B. 26
00023 GOVERNMENT

Kalervo Jolma
Finnish Environment Institute

EPPR Working Group Meeting
Longyearbyen, Svalbard, April 23 to 26, 2007

P.O. Box 140
FI-00251 Helsinki
Finland

NORWAY:

Tor Christian Sletner
Kystverket
Beredskapsavdelingen
P.O.Box 125
3191 Horten
Norway

Per Odd Krystad
Kystverket
Beredskapsavdelingen
P.O.Box 125
3191 Horten
Norway

Ole Kristian Bjerkemo
Kystverket
Beredskapsavdelingen
P.O.Box 125
3191 Horten
Norway

Jan Nerland
Kystverket
Beredskapsavdelingen
P.O. Box 125
3191 Horten
Norway

Morten Sickle
Statens strålevern
Grini næringspark 13
1361 Østerås

Inger Margrethe H. Eikermann
Senior adviser
Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority,
Svanhovd Emergency Preparedness Unit
N-9925 Svanvik

Sweden

Thomas Fagö
Kustbevakningen
Stumholmen Box 536
371 23 Karlskrona
Sverige

Kenneth Neijnes
Kustbevakningen Region Nord
Box 145
871 23 Härnösand
Sverige

Karl-Erik Kulander
Räddningsverket
651 80 Karlstad
Sverige

Jonas Lindgren
Statens Strålskyddsinstitut
171 16 Stockholm
Sverige

USA

Ann Heinrich
Office of International Emergency Management
And Cooperation
National Nuclear Security Administration
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
S.W. Washington D.C.
USA 20585

Walter B. Parker
Prince William Sound RCAC
3724 Campell
Airstrip Road
Anchorage
Alaska

EPPR Working Group Meeting
Longyearbyen, Svalbard, April 23 to 26, 2007

Mark Meza
Office of Incident Management
US Coast Guard
2100 2nd Street, S.W.
Washington D.C.
USA 20593-0001

David L. Barnes, Ph.D., P.E.
Department Chair, Associated Professor
P.O. Box 755900
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Water and Environmental Research Center
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775

RUSSIA

Dr. Igor Veselov
Department of Prediction of Emergencies
EMERCOM of Russia
Tentralny proezd,3
Moscow
Russia 103012

Inna Ponomareva
EMERCOM of Russia
Teatralny proezd, 3
Moscow
Russia 103012

Sergei Molchanov
Department of Prediction of Emergencies
EMERCOM of Russia
Teatralny proezd, 3
Moscow
Russia 103012

Attachment 3 Work plan 2007 - 2009

EPPR Workplan 2007 – 2009

OIL POLLUTION: L – LEAD P- PARTICIPANT

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
Ongoing								
Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technology (SCAT) Manual – next steps	L							P
Interactive Maps and Environmental information from Arctic Council Programmes on the Web	P		P		L	P	P	P
Arctic rescue						L		
Proposed projects								
Development of Safety Systems in the Arctic while Implementing Infrastructural and Other Economic Projects						L		
Waste removal	L							P

RADIOLOGICAL AND OTHER HAZARDS: L – LEAD P- PARTICIPANT

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
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Ongoing								
Source Control Management Phase III – FSUE “ME Zvedocka” and FSUE “Atomflot”.						L		L
Community Radiation Information Project						L		L
Development of Brochure on far East Region of Russia						L		L
Portable analysis capability (Laptop based)						L		L
NOSTRADOMUS: real time computer system for estimation of atmospheric transfer						L		L
Proposed projects								
IBRAE Technical Crisis Center (TCC) support to the EMERCOM Crisis Situation Management Center.						L		L
Response Assistance Network (RANET)								L
Conduct of radiation emergency exercise						L		L

NATURAL DISASTERS L – LEAD P- PARTICIPANT

Project	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
Ongoing								
Project to create a prevention system concerning catastrophic						L		

flooding on northern rivers								
"Managing the cold conditions – A systematic approach			L				P	P

Other issues	Canada	Denmark/ Greenland	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
<i>Host the EPPR web site</i>							L	
<i>EPPR secretariat</i>					L			
<i>Update the Strategic Plan of EPPR in process with the other EPPR countries</i>					L			