

Monthly Highlights

April, 2013



Sustainable Development Working Group

April has been an incredibly busy month both for SDWG as well as everyone associated with the Arctic Council. Preparations for the Kiruna Ministerial meeting have taken center stage and are expected to continue well into May. The last minute delivery of a number of initiatives, the wrapping-up of the Swedish Chairmanship and the start-up of the Canadian Chairmanship have all combined to make April quite an exciting month.

The Swedish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council hosted a Conference on “Sustainable Business in the Arctic” on April 18th in Stockholm. Over 50 participants representing governments, industry, Indigenous Peoples, research institutions and organizations were present. Sweden’s focus on Corporate Social Responsibility began with a mention in the Nuuk Ministerial Declaration (2011) and from an understanding that to ensure Sustainable Development in the Arctic there was a necessity to talk **with** business and **not to** business. This conference was the third and last event on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Business organized by the Swedish Chairmanship. This process will be reported in the margins of the Arctic Council ministerial meeting in Kiruna.





The Senior Arctic Officials held their final informal meeting under the Chairmanship of Gustaf Lind. Central in these discussions was to finalize the draft of the Kiruna Declaration and the SAOs Report to Ministers. In addition, the SAOs reviewed four SDWG related issues:

- Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (AACA) (Section a) (Project # P128). The Synthesis report prepared by the SDWG Steering and Integration Committee was tabled with support by all working groups. The SAOs approved the AACA (a) report. This information will now be used in the continuing efforts of the AACA part (c) under the guidance of AMAP.
- Arctic Social Indicators Phase II (Iceland) (Project # P115)
ASI II project was formulated to fill a critical gap identified by the AHDR (2004) to devise a set of Arctic social indicators to help facilitate monitoring of trends in human development. The final ASI II report was tabled and approved by the SAOs. This data will also be used in the work of the Arctic

Human Development Report II expected to be completed at the end of 2014.

- Corporate Social Responsibility
This Sweden led initiative has developed an information tool on “CSR in the Arctic” that was supported by the SAO’s in Haparanda. The SAOs have agreed on the following CSR statement that is also included in the draft Kiruna Declaration:
“Welcome the Arctic Council’s work on corporate social responsibility and sustainable business, and encourage enterprises operating in the Arctic to respect international guidelines and principles.”
- Arctic Human Health Initiative (AHHEG/USA) (Project # P112)
The AHHI objectives are to promote international collaboration on health research, by expanding health networks, conducting research in the fields of the health effects of environmental pollution, rapid social & economic change, and climate change. The summary report of AHHI activities 2007-2013 will be published in August 2013, as part of the Proceedings of the 15th International Congress on Circumpolar Health. The SAOs approved this AHHI Summary Report.



At the Ministerial Meeting in Kiruna, the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) will give presentations on main achievements and key findings during the last two years. These presentations will take place during the Arctic Council's open seminars on May 14 at the Nådens sal in Folket Hus (Kiruna Community Center). These presentations are scheduled as follows:

11.10-12.10 "A Sustainable Development of the Arctic Region"

11.10-11.20 - Introduction by Mikael Anzén (SDWG Chair)

11.20-11.40 - Arctic Social Indicators Phase II and AHDR by dr. Joan Nymand Larsen

11.40-11.55 - The AMATII project by Roberta Burns (Head of the US delegation)

11.55-12.10 - SDWG Project Activities for 2013-2015 by Mikael Anzén (SDWG Chair)

In addition from 17.15– to 18.45 there will be a Panel discussion: "Challenges in the Arctic - A Gender Perspective". The discussion is about women and gender in the Arctic. The discussion will be based on the Arctic Human Development Report from 2004 and the current research on different gender aspects in the Arctic region. The panellists will include: prof. Kathlyn Lahey (Queen's University, Kingston, Canada), prof. Eva -Maria Svensson (Gothenburg University, Sweden), Åsa Larsson Blind (Sami Council, Sweden), and Dr. Joan Nymand Larsen (Stefansson Arctic Institute, Akureyri.



On May 15th there will be additional presentations in the LKAB iron-ore mine by all the Working Groups from 14:30 to 17:00. It promises to be an exciting time in Kiruna.

Looking forward to see most of you there.

Mikael Anzén and Bruno Pillozzi

