ARCTIC HUBS
Building Dynamic Economies and Sustainable Communities in the North

ARCTIC CIRCLE FORUM
ORGANIZED IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS
THE NORDIC HOUSE IN TÓRSHAVN
MAY 8 – 9, 2018
TUESDAY, MAY 8

PLENARY SESSIONS 09:00 – 12:15

Location: The Nordic House, Høllin

09:00 – 10:45 OPENING

I. 
- Ólafur Ragnar Grimsson, Chairman Arctic Circle, former President of Iceland
- Poul Michelsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Faroe Islands

II. 
- Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson, Minister of Transport and Nordic Affairs, former Prime Minister, Iceland
- Anders Samuelsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
- Alasdair Allan MSP, Minister for International Development and Europe, Scottish Government

III. 
- Igor Svyatoslavovich Neverov, Director of the Second European Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia
- Gao Feng, Special Representative for Arctic Affairs, People's Republic of China
- Kang Jeong-sik, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs, Republic of Korea
- Marie-Anne Coninsx, Ambassador at Large for the Arctic, European Union External Action Service
- Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (video message)

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, Broadcaster and Journalist

10:45 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:15 ARCTIC EXCELLENCE – INNOVATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I. SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BLUE BIOECONOMY
- Høgni Hoydal, Minister of Fisheries, Faroe Islands
- Marcio Castro de Souza, Senior Fishery Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, Institute of the North

II. CREATING BIG BUSINESS IN A SMALL ECONOMY
Organized by the Faroese Employers’ Association
- Atli Gregersen, Managing Director, Hiddenfjord
- Richard Mortensen, Sales and Marketing Manager, Mest Shipyard
- Jens Meinhard Rasmussen, Chief Executive Officer, Skansi Offshore
- Blandine Battaglia, Project Engineer, Sabella

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, Broadcaster and Journalist
TUESDAY, MAY 8

12:15 – 13:15 LUNCH
Location: The Nordic House, Lobby

PLENARY SESSIONS 13:15 – 15:00
Location: The Nordic House, Høllin

13:15 – 14:30 NORTH ATLANTIC ARCTIC COOPERATION:
GREENLAND – ICELAND – FAROE ISLANDS – NORWAY – SCOTLAND
- Höskuldur Thorthallsson, Chairman of the Nordic Council of Ministers’ West Nordic Development Working Group
- Angus MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Scotland, House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom
- Bjørt Samuelsen, Member of the Faroese Parliament
- Annika Olsen, Mayor of Tórshavn
- Kirstin Raymo, Mayor of Tromsø Kommune, Norway
- Nils Arne Johnsen, CEO, Haleyg
- Mia Bennett, Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, Broadcaster and Journalist

14:30 – 15:15 GENDER EQUALITY IN THE ARCTIC
Organized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Iceland, the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, the University of Akureyri, the Centre for Gender Equality, the University of Iceland and University of the Faroe Islands

OPENING
- Eyðgunn Samuelsen, Minister for Social Affairs, Faroe Islands

PANEL
- Eyðgunn Samuelsen, Minister for Social Affairs, Faroe Islands
- Katrín Björk Ríkharðsdóttir, Director, Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland
- Michael Kimmel, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University
- Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, Mayor of Akureyri, Iceland

Chair: Gunn-Britt Retter, Head of the Arctic and Environment Unit, Saami Council

15:15 – 15:30 COFFEE BREAK
TUESDAY, MAY 8

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 15:30 – 16:45

**15:30 – 16:45 DEVELOPING THE ARCTIC TOURISM SEASON TO LAST ALL YEAR**
Organized by Visit Faroe Islands
Location: The Nordic House, Dansistovan

INTRODUCTION
- Guðrið Højgaard, Director, Visit Faroe Islands

SPEAKERS
- Helga Árnadóttir, Director, Icelandic Travel Industry Association
- Sara Bellshaw, Projects Manager, Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research, University of the Highlands and Islands
- Pól Sundsgarð, Owner, hiking.fo

**Chair:** Levi Hanssen, Content Writer, Visit Faroe Islands

**15:30 – 16:45 DIGITALIZATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
Organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Faroe Islands
Location: The Nordic House, Norðurstova

SPEAKERS
- Kristina Háfoss, Minister of Finance, Faroe Islands
- Gunn-Britt Retter, Head of Arctic and Environment Unit, Saami Council
- Nicolai M. Balle, Director, Faroe Islands Digitalization Program
- Jan Ziskasen CEO, Faroese Telecom
- Rúnar Reistrup, CEO, Hey Telecom

**Chair:** Durita Hansen, Faroe Islands Digitalization Program

**15:30 – 16:45 GENDER AND MOBILITY: INTEGRATING GENDER REALITIES INTO POLICY**
Organized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Iceland, the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network, the University of Akureyri, the Centre for Gender Equality, the University of Iceland and University of the Faroe Islands
Location: The Nordic House, Høllin

Continuation of the “Gender Equality in the Arctic” Plenary Session

SPEAKERS
- Katherine Reedy, Chair, Department of Anthropology, Idaho State University; Aleut International Association
- Erika Anne Hayfield, Associate Professor, University of the Faroe Islands
- Anna Karlsdóttir, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio

PANEL
- Ólavur Ellefsen, Chairman of the Faroese Gender Equality Committee
- Katrín Björg Ríkahárðsdóttir, Director, Centre for Gender Equality, Iceland
- Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, Mayor of Akureyri, Iceland
- Runa Preeti Ísfeld, PhD student, University of the Faroe Islands

**Chair:** Niels Winther, Advisor, Faroese House of Industry
TUESDAY, MAY 8

15:30 – 16:45 ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE ARCTIC
Organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Faroe Islands
Location: The Nordic House, Skálin

SPEAKERS
• Tómas Orri Ragnarsson, Senior Advisor, International Cooperation, Nordic Council of Ministers
• Anu Frederikson, Director, Arctic Economic Council
• Lars Kullerud, President, UArctic
• Guðrun Rógvadóttir, Commercial Director and Co-founder, Guðrun & Guðrun
• Agnes Mols Mortensen, Macroalgal Biologist, Science Director, TARI - Faroe Seaweed

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, Broadcaster and Journalist

16:45 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 17:00 – 18:30

17:00 – 18:30 ARCTIC PEOPLES IN THE FUTURE:
BUILDING DYNAMIC ECONOMIES AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY
Organized by the UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Migration
Location: The Nordic House, Dansistovan

SPEAKERS
• Nafisa Yeasmin, PhD Candidate, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
• Hanna Kelm, Krakow University of Economics
• Kevin Anthony Perry, Associate Professor, Ilisimatusarfik University of Greenland
• Gestur Hovgaard, Head of Institute of Social Sciences, Ilisimatusarfik

Moderator: Nafisa Yeasmin, PhD Candidate, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland

17:00 – 18:30 THE ARCTIC BUSINESS IMPACTS OF GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Organized by the Arctic Working Group of the Danish Parliament
Location: The Nordic House, Skálin

SPEAKERS
• Ásmundur Guðjónsson, Director, Nordic Atlantic Cooperation (NORA)
• Ólavur Gregersen, Managing Director, Ocean Rainforest
• Ben Arabo, P/F Betri
• Atli Gregersen, Managing Director, Hiddenfjord

Moderator: Magni Arge, Faroese Member of Danish Parliament
TUESDAY, MAY 8

17:00 – 18:30 INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE ARCTIC COMMUNITIES
Organised by the UK Science and Innovation Network
Location: The Nordic House, Norðurstova

SPEAKERS
- Allen Pope, Executive Secretary, International Arctic Science Committee
- Peter Convey, Professor, Individual Merit Scientist, British Antarctic Survey
- Niklas Labba, Academic Director at the Centre for Sami Studies, University of Tromsø
- Corine Wood-Donnelly, Researcher in Human Geography and International Relations, Institute for Russian & Eurasian Studies, Uppsala University

Moderator: Jessica Rhode, Communications Officer, Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC)

18:30 – 19:30 RECEPTION
Hosted by the Municipality of Tórshavn
Location: The Nordic House
PLENARY SESSIONS 09:00 – 11:45
Location: The Nordic House, Høllin

09:00 – 10:00 STATE, REGION AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN RUSSIA’S ARCTIC
Organized by CuriousArctic, Aix-Marseille University, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique ESPACE UMR 7300 and North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk

SPEAKERS
• Vera Smorchkova, Professor, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration
• Alexander Pelyasov, Director, Center for the Economy of the North and the Arctic, Council for the Study of Productive Forces, Russian Academy of Sciences
• Dmitrii Fishkin, Advisor to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation

CHAIRS
• Morgane Fert-Malka, Analyst, CuriousArctic
• Sébastien Gadal, Professor, Aix-Marseille University; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique ESPACE UMR 7300; North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk

10:00 – 10:15 COFFEE BREAK

10:15 – 11:00 ARCTIC RESEARCH HUBS
Organized by the International Arctic Science Committee

SPEAKERS
• Embla Eir Oddsdottir Director, Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network
• Eyjólfur Guðmundsson, Rector, University of Akureyri
• Jessica Rohde, Communications Officer, ICARP Collaborations, Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, United States
• Margareta Johansson, Coordinator, INTERACT (International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic)

Moderator: Allen Pope, Executive Secretary, International Arctic Science Committee
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

11:00 – 11:45 FOOD SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE ARCTIC

Organized by the University of the Faroe Islands

SPEAKERS

• Ragnheiður Thorarinsdóttir, Managing Director, Svinna; Visiting Professor, University of Iceland
• Siv Lene Gangenes Skar, Research Scientist, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)
• David C. Natcher, Professor and Centennial Research Chair, University of Saskatchewan
• Søren Halling, Founder, Næla
• Jesper Svenningsen, Næla

Chair: Ragnheiður Thorarinsdóttir, Managing Director, Svinna; Visiting Professor, University of Iceland

11:45 – 12:45 LUNCH

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 12:45 – 14:00

12:45 – 14:00 STATE, REGION AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN RUSSIA’S ARCTIC

Organized by CuriousArctic, Aix-Marseille University, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique ESPACE UMR 7300 and North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk

Location: The Nordic House, Høllin

Continuation of the plenary session “State, Region and Community-driven Development Strategies in Russia’s Arctic”

SPEAKERS

• Sébastien Gadal, Professor, Aix-Marseille University; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique ESPACE UMR 7300; North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk
• Nadezhda Kharlampieva, Professor, Saint Petersburg State University
• Vasily Bogoyavlensky, Deputy Director for Science, Institute of Oil and Gas Problems, Russian Academy of Sciences
• Roman Samsonov, Head, "Gas and the Arctic," Energy Centre, Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO

Chair: Morgane Fert-Malka, Analyst, CuriousArctic Political Consulting
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

12:45 – 14:00 SHIPPING FOR THE FUTURE AND FIRST-CLASS MARITIME SERVICES
Organized by the Faroese Social Democrats in The Danish Parliament
Location: The Nordic House, Dansistova

SPEAKERS
• Kristianna Winther Poulsen, Member of the Faroese Parliament
• Jórun Gardar, Adviser, House of Industry, Faroe Islands
• Mouritz Mohr, Managing Director, MEST and PAM Offshore
• Gylfi Sigfússon, CEO, Eimskip

Moderator: Kristianna Winther Poulsen, Member of the Faroese Parliament

12:45 – 14:00 PEOPLE, PLANET AND PROFIT: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE ARCTIC
Organized by the University of the Faroe Islands in cooperation with other Arctic and international partners
Location: The Nordic House, Norðurstova

SPEAKERS
• Lau Øfjord Blaxekjær, Researcher, University of the Faroe Islands and Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
• Anne Lise Kappel, Head of Department of Economics and Business, Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland)
• Sune Nordentoft Lauritsen, Senior Adviser – Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Arctic DTU, Technical University of Denmark
• Odmar Færø, Student, University of the Faroe Islands
• Ólavur Ellefsen, Chairman of University of the Faroe Islands

12:45 – 14:00 SDGs AND ARCTIC ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION: INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATION INVESTMENT
Organized by the Polar Research and Policy Initiative, in partnership with SEV
Location: The Nordic House, Skálin

OPENING
• Dwayne Ryan Menezes, Director, Polar Research and Policy Initiative

SPEAKERS
• David B. Bernhardt, P.E., Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT)
• Magni Arge, Faroese Member of the Danish Parliament; Chairman of the Board, Ocean Rainforest
• Hákun Djarhuus, Managing Director, SEV
• Jonathan T. Nass, Deputy Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT); Chairman of the Maine Port Authority
• Nils Arne Johnsen, Founder and Director, Haleyg AS
• Alice Rogoff, Publisher, Arctic Today

Moderator: Nic Craig, Fellow - Energy, Polar Research and Policy Initiative
14:00 – 15:00 MODERN TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE ARCTIC

- Gylfi Sigfússon, CEO and President, Eimskip
- Regin Jacobsen, CEO, Bakkafrost
- Helgi Már Björgvinsson, Director Specialist Projects, Icelandair Group
- Jóhanna á Bergi, CEO, Atlantic Airways
- Sean Thomas, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Bristol Bay Industrial Fuels

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, Broadcaster and Journalist

15:00 – 16:00 CHINA’S ROLE IN ARCTIC ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES

I. STATEMENT BY GAO FENG
   Special Representative for Arctic Affairs, People’s Republic of China

II. BELT AND ROAD AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FOR THE WEST NORDIC REGION

- Lau Blaxekjær, Researcher, University of the Faroe Islands and Nordic Institute of Asian Studies
- Mingming Shi, Project Manager, Icelandic Times; Master’s Student (West Nordic Studies), University of Iceland
- Jan Ziskasen, CEO, Føroya Tele, Faroese Telecom

Chair: Lau Blaxekjær, Researcher, University of the Faroe Islands and Nordic Institute of Asian Studies

16:00 – 16:45 TOURISM INNOVATIONS IN THE ARCTIC

OPENING
- Sirið Stenberg, Minister of Health and Interior, Faroe Islands

PANEL
- Helga Árnadóttir, Director, Icelandic Travel Industry Association
- Thora Augustinussen, Sales and Marketing Manager, Hotel Føroyar
- Karen Visth, Sommelier, KOKS

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, Broadcaster and Journalist

16:45 – 17:30 OUR ARCTIC: CONCLUDING DIALOGUE

STATEMENT
- Aksel V. Johannesen, Prime Minister of the Faroe Islands

CHAIRS
- Poul Michelsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Faroe Islands
- Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, Chairman Arctic Circle