



# **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 Grímsson, 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 Coninx, 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 Thorhallsson, 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 Røymo, 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 Björg Ríkhartsdóttir, 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 Ríkharðsdóttir, 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

---

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

## 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 Gadat, 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 Gadai, 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
- Jórún 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 SDG<sub>s</sub> 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 Djurhuus, 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

# WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

## PLENARY SESSIONS 14:00 – 17:00

Location: The Nordic House, Høllin

### 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