

'ARCTIC: TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE' NEWS DIGEST

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INTERNATIONAL
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KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▶ 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' Forum business programme announced
- ▶ Interviews with:
 - Andrei Zagorski, RIAC member; Professor, Department of International Relations and Russian Foreign Policy, MGIMO University under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia
 - Alexander Kirillov, Acting Director, Russian Arctic National Park
- ▶ Specially protected Arctic natural territories



'ARCTIC: TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE' INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM BUSINESS PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

The programme for the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum, the main theme of which is 'People and the Arctic', will feature 12 topical sessions, roundtables and discussions, a plenary session attended by President of Russia Vladimir Putin, an extended meeting of the State Commission for Arctic Development, as well as a number of special events, including the Arctic Municipalities Forum, Arctic Business Forum, 'Arctic: Made in Russia' International Youth Educational Forum, and the Northern Forum Governors' Summit.

The Human Capital block of events will include discussions of successful staffing projects implemented in the region, the creation of a comprehensive healthcare system and application of advanced medical technology in the Arctic, as well as development of the Arctic's tourist potential.

Mechanisms for boosting the investment appeal of the Arctic will come under the spotlight in the Sustainable Development of the Arctic block, which will focus on corporate environmental responsibility, transport infrastructure development, and attracting investment into industrial projects in the region.

The Science and Technology block will cover innovative technology to ensure a high standard of living for indigenous populations, as well as the framework for developing natural resources and energy supply to the Arctic regions.

Further details on the Forum's programme, business events, and speakers will be updated in real time on the official website forumarctica.ru

ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETS IN ADVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM

On February 8, in the run-up to the 4th International Arctic Forum – 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue', the Arctic Economic Council (AEC) delegations gathered in St. Petersburg for their first ever meeting in Russia.

The meeting brought together government and business representatives from Russia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Canada and the USA, as well as a number of associations of indigenous Arctic peoples: the Gwich'in Council International, Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North.

"I would like to express our appreciation for the contribution Russia provides to the Arctic Economic Council, in our discussions and deliberations for making the Arctic a favourable place to do business. During the St. Petersburg meeting, we discussed the work of different working groups that are currently active in the Arctic Economic Council, including Maritime Transportation and Infrastructure; this topic is very important to Russia.

We also discussed the work of the Telecommunications and Infrastructure working group, which recently released its report called 'Arctic Broadband: Recommendations for the Interconnected Arctic'.



We also had a very healthy discussion today about the Arctic investment protocols and we have agreed to do an in-depth analysis of those protocols and how they may align with the overarching themes of the Arctic Economic Council", said Tara Sweeney, AEC Chair and Executive Vice-President of the Alaska-based Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

February 27, 2017, Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Dmitry Rogozin: Arctic exploration reaches new level

Chairman of the State Commission for Arctic Development and Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Rogozin answered questions from *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* concerning the top priorities in developing this challenging region, the problems that need to be resolved, and how sanctions are affecting this process.

<https://rg.ru/2017/02/27/dmitrij-rogozin-osvoenie-arktiki-vyhodit-na-novyj-uroven.html>

February 20, 2017, Gazeta.ru

Norwegian Foreign Minister to visit Russia for first time in three years

Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende has accepted an invitation to the 4th International Arctic Forum – 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' to be held on March 29–30 in Arkhangelsk. The news was revealed at a meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers in Bonn (Germany). Børge Brende's visit to Arkhangelsk will mark the first visit by a Norwegian Foreign Minister to Russia in three years.

https://www.gazeta.ru/politics/news/2017/02/21/n_9714785.shtml

February 14, 2017, TASS

Facilities to host Arctic Forum in Arkhangelsk to be completed by March: updates on NArFU website

The facilities which will be used to host the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum will be completed by March 1, said Rector of the Northern (Arctic) Federal University Elena Kudryashova. Construction is currently under way on a new hostel that will accommodate 470 guests, mainly media representatives, during the Forum. A new exhibition hall and the second scientific equipment sharing centre, which will host expositions and events during the Forum, are also being built. After the event, the exhibition hall will be turned into a multi-purpose sports complex.

<http://tass.ru/obschestvo/4021604>

February 13, 2017, Murman TV

Russia's Natural Resources and Environment Minister Sergei Donskoi tours top priority Russian environmental projects in Arctic region

During a working visit by Russian Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Sergei Donskoi to Murmansk Region, it was revealed that Murmansk is one of 25 pilot regions in Russia where cutting-edge technology for treating solid household waste is set to be rolled out.

<http://murman.tv/news/40498-v-spiske-pilotnyh-regionov-ministr-prirodnih-resursov-i-ekologii-rf-ocenil-prioritetnye-ekologicheskie-proekty-zapolyarya.html>

February 8, 2017, Interfax

Russian Education Ministry discusses preparations for 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum

In the run-up to the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum, Governor of Arkhangelsk Region Igor Orlov met representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia. The meeting specifically focused on the readiness of the Forum's major venue - the Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University. Education and Science Minister Olga Vasilyeva and Igor Orlov also discussed the planned Forum-related events, namely, the 'Arctic. Made in Russia' International Youth Educational Forum, which is expected to bring together around 180 students and young researchers and entrepreneurs ready to live and work in the Arctic.

<http://www.interfax.ru/pressreleases/549063>

February 4, 2017, Dvinanews.ru

More than 400 people express interest in volunteering for 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum

A shortlist of candidates is being drawn up. The deadline for submitting volunteer applications is February 15. All candidates will complete a training programme at the Lomonosov Northern (Arctic) Federal University.

<http://dvinanews.ru/-y566zx1b>

February 1, 2017, Lenta.ru

Russia's Victoria Island to become part of Russian Arctic National Park

In 2017, the Russian Arctic National Park is slated to be expanded to cover Victoria Island, the park's Acting Director Alexander Kirillov said. "It is one of the initiatives included in the federal Year of the Environment programme. A study substantiating the decision has been completed and the documents are now being considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation", he explained.

<https://lenta.ru/news/2017/02/01/victorya/>

ALEXANDER KIRILLOV

Acting Director, Russian Arctic National Park

The Arctic environment is primitive and unique. Infrastructure development in the region has so far been sporadic and ad hoc in nature, depending on specific needs at a particular time. Meanwhile, Russia has been economically active in the Arctic for over four centuries: for the first 300 years this was restricted to hunting, but the last century has witnessed the advent of industrial infrastructure.

The impact on the Arctic ecosystems is limited to isolated areas: in regions of human activity, there are frequent instances of waste dumping, the pollution of soil with fuels and lubricants, and the construction of roads and other

transport routes. The result is the formation of land-scapes that have previously been extrinsic for the Arctic region. Consequently, the government is focusing increased attention on protecting the environment there, and Russia boasts an impressive track record in this regard: it has implemented new construction methods and techniques in the Arctic, launched a zero-waste platform, improved energy efficiency and introduced alternative energy sources, and eliminated the effects of previous economic activity.

Without a doubt, we need to further scientific exploration of the Arctic, expand our knowledge of the



natural environment found at high latitudes to gain a better insight into climate change, and continue with environmental monitoring in a pledge to preserve and protect the unique Arctic environment.

ANDREI ZAGORSKI

Ph.D. in history, RIAC member, Head of the Department for Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Studies at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations Center for International Security, Professor in the Department of International Relations and Russian Foreign Policy at MGIMO University under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



In recent years, we have seen a substantial cooling off in the relations between Russia and the USA in most areas of cooperation. Yet collaboration in the Arctic has largely escaped any major effects resulting from this climate of mutual distrust. To resolve the problems arising from the actual and anticipated increase in navigation in various parts of the Arctic Ocean and the related need to ensure proper compliance with the Polar Code,* the countries involved will be required, in the immediate future, to intensify both bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Russia and the USA share a common interest in ensuring compliance by

all vessels subject to the SOLAS and MARPOL conventions with the mandatory guidelines for navigating in Arctic ice-covered waters. While the main responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Polar Code rests with the flag states, governments of nations which border the Arctic may facilitate compliance through closer cooperation in monitoring the situation in the Arctic Ocean. Mid-term goals in this regard could involve institutionalization of such cooperation by setting up a joint information exchange and coordination centre, which, in the long term, could result in an integrated monitoring system in the Arctic seas linking all appropriate agencies of the Arctic states. To ensure compliance with the mandatory provisions of the Polar Code by all vessels, regardless of flag country, it would be advisable to incorporate the provisions into the standard port state control procedures applied in non-Arctic states as well. This will prove a more

challenging task than current port inspections, since it will require not only a judgment as to whether or not a vessel is equipped to navigate Arctic waters, but also a conclusion as to whether its ice reinforcements are consistent with the forecast weather and ice outlook for a specific part of the Arctic Ocean in a specific period. A solution to this problem cannot be achieved without cooperation between Arctic and relevant non-Arctic states. Since almost all of the countries concerned are either members of or observers at the Arctic Council, the Council itself could serve as a platform for considering appropriate formats for such cooperation. On the basis of the results of such discussions, the matter of developing an Arctic Memorandum on Port State Control that all countries concerned could accede to could then be raised.**

* The Polar Code is a regulatory document applying to ships navigating in polar waters

** Source: Russia and the US in the Arctic. Working paper No. 30/2016 / Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)

SPECIALLY PROTECTED ARCTIC NATURAL TERRITORIES*

A **nature reserve** is means an area of land or water where the entire ecosystem is preserved in its natural state and hunting is prohibited. Furthermore, all types of economic activity are banned in nature reserves and any use of the land is permanently prohibited. Entry to a nature reserve requires authorization from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia or the management of the nature reserve.

A **national park** is means an area within which human activities are restricted for environmental protection purposes. Unlike nature reserves, where human activities (including hunting, tourism, etc.) are almost entirely prohibited, tourists are admitted to national parks and limited economic activity is allowed.

Specially protected Arctic natural territories, km²



ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE



Arctic cold

Throughout the polar night, the surface of the Arctic is constantly cooling. During the polar day, the albedo effect prevents the surface from heating: the snow and ice reflect and diffuse the sunlight.



Arctic wildlife

The Arctic is home to half of the more than **200** known wader species and **70%** of the global goose population.

The largest known population of reindeer, counting some **665,000** individual animals, inhabits the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District.



Arctic temperatures

Temperatures in the Arctic are rising twice as quickly as the global average. Over the past **50** years, the average winter temperatures in Alaska, western Canada and Chukotka have increased by **3.5** degrees Celsius.



Arctic wind

In winter, wind velocity in southwestern parts of the Arctic may reach **180 kilometres per hour**.



Arctic ice

Ice measurement records date back to **1978**. The Arctic ice pack was at its lowest in **2012** – **3.39 million** square kilometres.



Polar bear

International Polar Bear Day is celebrated on **February 27**.

Species headcount – **26,000** individual animals. Weight – **200–800** kilograms. Average subcutaneous fat weight – **100** kilograms. Length – **1.6–3** metres.