

July 2020

KEY TOPICS:



GOVERNMENT POLICY IN THE ARCTIC

24 July 2020, TASS

Investors apply for RUB 26 billion to support Arctic infrastructure

According to press office of the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic, "Investors have applied for RUB 26.6 billion to be allocated to infrastructure."

The ministry has received applications regarding 13 projects involving a total investment of RUB 212.5 billion. However, it was determined that only seven of them matched the requisite criteria and were able to claim a subsidy.

<https://tass.com/economy/1182247>

13 July 2020, Interfax, TASS, RIA Novosti, and others

Vladimir Putin signs set of laws outlining business incentives in the Arctic

Vladimir Putin has signed a set of laws aimed at establishing a special regime for companies operating in the Arctic. Tax concessions will be offered, and a register of participants will be introduced, along with a free customs zone procedure.

The Russian Arctic is open to all forms of entrepreneurial activity not otherwise prohibited by Russian law. Operations which the region's businesses are not permitted to undertake will be determined by the government, as will operations not qualifying for specific forms of state support. Timeframes for conducting planned inspections are being reduced for local businesses, and the procedure is being simplified. In addition, the Arctic is being made a free customs zone.

One of the new laws stipulates a set of concessions to be provided to Arctic businesses at a federal, regional, and local level. Lower insurance contribution rates will also be introduced. In addition, the government will be able to bring in other measures aimed at supporting Arctic businesses. These may include subsidizing interest on loans, and also subsidizing payments of coupon yields for bonds issued under investment projects.

<https://www.interfax.ru/russia/717196>

16 July 2020, The Arctic

Free polar land: Russians to be offered free plot of land in the Arctic

Under a new draft law, Russian residents will be able to receive plots of land in the Arctic measuring up to one hectare.

Initially, the land will be granted for five years. Later, it will have to be registered as property or a long-term lease. The land may be used to build a house or carry out any form of economic activity, such as running a small farm or providing services (including tourist services).

<https://arctic.ru/population/20200716/955640.html>

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE NORTH

23 July 2020, TASS

Tourism and agriculture set for a boost as part of programme to support indigenous peoples of the North

According to the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic, "A special government programme to support economic activity by indigenous peoples of the North will be in place by the end of 2020. This programme will include measures to support indigenous peoples looking to establish food production and agricultural operations, and to export their products. The measures will also aim to develop tourism in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples, and provide employment training for local indigenous populations. Separately, the programme will aim to modernize local generation facilities in places where indigenous peoples live."

<https://tass.ru/v-strane/9038109>

21 July 2020, RIA Novosti, The Arctic

Textbooks to be published in 15 local languages as part of Arctic development programme

Plans are under way to publish textbooks in 15 languages spoken by indigenous peoples of the North. The initiative, which forms part of a government programme to develop the Arctic, will see around 12,000 textbooks being provided, according to Minister for the Development of the Far East and Arctic Alexander Kozlov.

Kozlov drew attention to one of the sections of the programme entitled Children of the Arctic, which was spearheaded by Speaker of the Federation Council Valentina Matviyenko. It sets out

plans to improve the health of children in the country's central and southern regions, and also to create and publish new textbooks.

<https://ria.ru/20200721/1574641995.html>

REGIONS OF THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC

27 July 2020, TASS

Andrey Chibis announces requirement for Murmansk Region to become centre for Arctic tourism

The government of Murmansk Region has unveiled plans to make the region a centre for Arctic tourism, and to build the requisite infrastructure for water-based leisure activities. The news was announced by Governor Andrey Chibis at a meeting with members of an expedition taking place as part of preparations for the Big Arctic Race. The world's most northern yacht race is set to commence in summer 2021, and will run from Murmansk to Naryan-Mar.

<https://tass.ru/v-strane/9063695>

23 July 2020, The Arctic

Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic discusses laws on incentive system in Arctic

The Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic has launched a series of consultations between local governments in the Arctic and the business community in anticipation of the enactment of a federal legal package offering state support for entrepreneurs in the Russian Arctic.

"I would like to thank all the regions. Almost all of them confirmed their readiness to offer additional incentives under the simplified tax system for businesses in the Arctic. This will also help small and medium-sized enterprises a great deal. At this stage, it is essential that this information reaches as many business owners as possible. Regional government leaders and their deputies are currently working closely with the business community," said Deputy Minister for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic Alexander Krutikov.

<https://arctic.ru/economics/20200723/957033.html>

23 July 2020, TASS

Establishment of Arctic medical centre included in Arctic development strategy

The Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic has supplemented its 2035 Arctic Development Strategy with plans to establish an Arctic medical centre in Arkhangelsk.

The centre, which will form part of the Northern State Medical University, will focus on helping to increase life expectancy in the Arctic and reduce mortality. As noted by the ministry, the university is the only educational institution of its kind in the Russian Arctic. It currently teaches more than 10,000 students, with more than 75% of graduates choosing to continue living and working in the Arctic.

<https://tass.ru/spb-news/9039351>

THE NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

29 July 2020, TASS

Government of Chukotka expresses belief that development of Northern Sea Route will facilitate transportation of nuclear fuel from power plant

The development of infrastructure for the Northern Sea Route will help solve a range of key issues surrounding transport accessibility to the Chukotka Autonomous Area, including issues concerning the transport of nuclear fuel from Bilibino Nuclear Power Plant.

Under current plans, the plant will be decommissioned by 2021, and replaced by a floating nuclear power station in Pevek.

“A range of projects for Chukotka Autonomous Area have been drawn up in relation to the development of the Northern Sea Route. These will help solve issues related to transporting nuclear fuel from Bilibino Nuclear Power Plant and improve transport accessibility in the region, including to mineral deposits. The port of Pevek will see a new terminal built at the cape of Nagleynyn, which will be supplied with a fleet to ensure year-round operation. There will be shipments of cargo from Baimsky Mining and Processing Plant to the port of Provideniya, moving from ice-class vessels to conventional vessels. The port of Provideniya will also undergo reconstruction,” said deputy head of the region’s department of industrial policy Andrey Bykov.

<https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9072599>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

22 July 2020, RIA Novosti

First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs discusses range of Arctic initiatives with Icelandic ambassador

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, “A range of views were exchanged concerning the bilateral agenda and collaboration in the Arctic Council – primarily with regards Iceland’s chairmanship in 2019–2021 and Russia’s upcoming chairmanship in 2021–2023.”

Several aspects concerning the current international agenda also came under discussion.

<https://ria.ru/20200722/1574733215.html>

21 July 2020, TASS

Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic: Russia discussing collaboration in the Arctic with China, India, and Singapore

“We plan to hold a meeting of the Russian-Chinese Working Group for the Development of the Arctic as early as the beginning of August. We’ll begin discussing how we can step up economic cooperation between our two countries. To reiterate, the work we do will involve collaborating with other nations. We have met with Singapore, which has expressed a great deal of interest in the Arctic, and have already discussed potential areas of collaboration with India,” said Deputy Minister for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic Alexander Krutikov.

He went on to note that close economic collaboration was a key principle underpinning the peaceful development of the Arctic.

Krutikov added that this form of cooperation must “conform to our country’s national interests in the region” and that there are plans to draw up transparent rules in order to ensure this remains the case.

<https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9020363>

For reference

The Roscongress Foundation – a socially oriented non-financial development institution and a major organizer of international conventions; exhibitions; and sporting, public, and cultural events.

The Foundation was established in 2007 with the aim of facilitating the development of Russia's economic potential, promoting its national interests, and strengthening the country's image. One of the roles of the Foundation is to comprehensively evaluate, analyse, and cover issues on the Russian and global economic agendas. It also offers administrative services, provides promotional support for business projects and attracting investment, and helps foster social entrepreneurship and charitable initiatives.

Each year, the Foundation's events draw participants from 208 countries and territories, with more than 15,000 media representatives working on-site at Roscongress' various venues. The Foundation benefits from analytical and professional expertise provided by 5000 people working in Russia and abroad. In addition, it works in close cooperation with 126 economic partners; industrialists' and entrepreneurs' unions; and financial, trade, and business associations from 69 countries worldwide.

roscongress.org

ORGANIZER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM: