

August 2020

KEY TOPICS:

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS OF THE ARCTIC
NORTHERN SEA ROUTE
ARCTIC REGIONS OF RUSSIA



STATE POLICY IN THE ARCTIC

28 August 2020, RBC, Rossiyskaya Gazeta, and others.

Investors seek preferences for their projects in Russia's Arctic

"The package of federal laws on the preference system for the Arctic became effective as of 28 August. Starting the same day, investors can apply for the resident's status in the Arctic zone," says the website of Russia's Ministry for the Development of the Far East and Arctic.

rbc.ru/rbcfreenews/5f4868aa9a79473d80a73527

25 August 2020, RIA Novosti, TASS, Izvestiya, Argumenty i Fakty, and others.

Dmitry Medvedev will head the commission for national interests in the Arctic

Vladimir Putin assigned the Security Council to establish its own inter-agency commission to ensure Russia's national interest in the Arctic. Dmitry Medvedev will chair the commission.
ria.ru/20200825/medvedev-1576299012.html

ARCTIC REGIONS OF RUSSIA

26 August 2020, RIA Novosti, TASS, and others.

New Murmansk project will get RUB 5 billion

The government of Murmansk Region and the Far East and Arctic Region Development Fund agreed to cooperate in implementing investment projects. One of them is New Murmansk. This project will include building a cultural and business centre located at the Kola Bay embankment. "Murmansk Region will get over RUB 5 billion of investment total," announced Governor of Murmansk Region Andrey Chibis.

14 August 2020, The Arctic, RIA Novosti, Комсомольская правда, and others.

The development strategy of Yakutia's Arctic zone is approved

The socio-economic development strategy for Yakutia's Arctic zone until 2035 was signed in the village of Olenyok (Olenyok District). It includes five tracks: social, industrial, transit, environmental, and innovative.

This strategic planning document aims to improve the quality of life for residents of Yakutia's Arctic Zone. It includes upgrading airports, developing short-haul aviation, restoring regular navigation along the Northern Sea Route, constructing roads, providing residents with stable and affordable internet connection, ensuring social responsibility of local industries, building social and infrastructural facilities, preserving traditional lifestyles, traditions and cultures of northerners, as well as developing education, healthcare, and tourism in the Arctic.

ru.arctic.ru/economics/20200814/963449.html

NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

20 August 2020, TASS

Expert: the development strategy for Yakutia's Arctic zone will help to develop a marine complex as part of the Northern Sea Route

"The innovative track of Yakutia's Arctic strategy includes building and developing a marine macro-complex, such as reconstruction and modernization of Zhatay ship building and repairing plant. This project will allow us to build vessels in the coastal zone of the Northern Sea Route. Other projects include developing Zelenomyssky river port in the municipality of Chersky in Nizhnekolymsky District," shared Alexander Vorotnikov, associate professor of the Institute for Social Sciences of the RANEPA; coordinator of the expert council at the PORA expert center. Developing Zelenomyssky river port will help improve procurement of Arctic areas of Yakutia and Bilibino District of Chukotka Autonomous District, as well as process cargos for exploration of Baimsky processing plant and mine in Chukotka.

tass.ru/v-strane/9243185

12 August 2020, TASS

Rosneft will double petrochemicals transshipment in Arkhangelsk

"We have upgraded equipment at Rosneft's terminal in Arkhangelsk, which will allow us to take petrochemicals shipment volumes up to 110 thousand tonnes for Severny Zavoz (deliveries to Russia's northern territories). It twice as much compared to last year's volumes," says the announcement released by the company's Information and Advertisement Department.

The terminal's key facilities now are implementing a system for real-time petrochemicals accounting, which improved productivity and measurement precision. By May 2021, Rosneft will supply operations located in Norilsk industrial area up to 123.9 tonnes of petrochemicals along the Northern Sea Route.

tass.ru/ekonomika/9182555

TOURISM IN THE ARCTIC

20 August 2020, TASS

Federal Agency for Tourism: can pioneer small vessel tourism in the Arctic

Russia can pioneer small-vessel tourism in the Arctic through such projects as the Big Arctic Race. It strives to promote the Russian Arctic, develop the civil use of the Northern Sea Route and the economy of Russia's Arctic regions.

"The project aims to showcase all affordable and accessible ways to travel around the Arctic zone and enjoy the unique nature of the Russian North. Together with numerous tourism and infrastructural opportunities that St. Petersburg offers, small-vessel travel in the Arctic can become popular," shared the press service of the Federal Agency for tourism (a quote by Zarina Doguzova, the Head of the Agency).

tass.ru/obschestvo/9252233

17 August 2020, The Arctic

Russian Government expands geography of subsidized flights

According to the Decree of the Russian Government dated 15 August 2020, the number of flights subsidized by the federal budget will go up. The list of itineraries will get 138 additions.

This list includes several itineraries in Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District and Yamal Peninsula.

ru.arctic.ru/infrastructure/20200817/963620.html

ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

20 August 2020, Interfax

Researchers have not found any significant changes in the fauna in the emergency area in Norilsk

Researchers of the Big Norilsk Expedition examined the area where the Ambarnaya River flows into Lake Pyasino. This study aimed to evaluate the condition of its ecosystem after the diesel fuel spill that took place in May.

Senior researcher of the Science and Research Institute of the Arctic Agriculture and Environment Igor Makhatkov shared that oil-spill booms helps slow down the contamination and reduce the damage to the environment.

"There are areas where the river has a number of arms. It makes it hard to install the oil-spill booms. This is why these precisely the places that involve most purification and reclamation efforts. Further down the river, towards Lake Pyasino, there is no visual evidence of contamination," shared Mr. Makhatkov.

A geochronometry team will drill around 30 cores to take over 100 soil samples for its elemental analysis. This will help researchers make a geochemical map of the local soils and evaluate their current condition.

interfax.ru/russia/722557

19 August 2020, Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Ural researchers predict permafrost thaw in the near future

Researchers from the Ural Federal University monitored the Arctic atmosphere. The results of this study showed that in the summer of 2050 the Arctic Ocean will not be covered with ice for certain periods. Global warming in the Arctic is happening twice as fast as on average around the world.

“Northern parts of Alaska show changes in temperature in a core 20 metres deep: 50 years ago, it was –90 degrees, while now it’s –5.5. Climate change and precipitation enhancement will result in a deep permafrost thaw of dozens of metres and decomposition of organic materials. This will lead to a colossal release of carbon dioxide and methane, which will propel further warming,” says the announcement of University press service with reference to climate scientists.

rg.ru/2020/08/19/reg-urfo/uralskie-uchenye-predrekli-skoro-taianie-vechnoj-merzloty.html

For reference

The Roscongress Foundation – a socially oriented non-financial development institution and a major organizer of international conventions, congress, exhibitions, business, social 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 128 economic partners; industrialists’ and entrepreneurs’ unions; and financial, trade, and business associations from 69 countries worldwide.

roscongress.org

ORGANIZER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM: