

# ★ ANSIPRA BULLETIN ★

Arctic Network for the Support of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Arctic (ANSIPRA)  
Сеть Арктических Организаций в Поддержку Коренных Народов Российского Севера

## No. 8, December 2002 - English Language Edition

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ANSIPRA Bulletin is an information publication of the "Arctic Network for the Support of the Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Arctic". The Bulletin is issued twice a year. Additional issues are produced as new information warrants it. The Bulletin is edited in English and Russian. ANSIPRA Bulletin is distributed – by internet or hard copy – to all registered network participants, as well as relevant state agencies and funding institutions. Distribution is free. All written contributions are appreciated.

ANSIPRA Bulletin is politically independent. A special part of the English language edition, however, presents translations of articles from the newsletter "Мир коренных народов" (Indigenous Peoples' World), the official periodical of RAIPON (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation), selected in cooperation with RAIPON.

**ANSIPRA is a communication network linking Russian Indigenous Peoples' Organisations with international institutions and organisations alarmed about the future of the indigenous peoples of the Russian North. ANSIPRA's main goal is to spread information, to mediate contacts, and to assist in project coordination and application for funding.**

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## Letter from the Secretariat

### Cooperation with IPS on distribution of information in Russia

We have recently agreed with the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) of the Arctic Council on joint distribution of information to addressees in the Russian Federation. IPS has been issuing their information bulletin IPS UPDATE twice a year, but is now planning to increase the frequency. Depending on the relevance of the individual issues for readers in Russia, we will either enclose copies of the latest IPS UPDATE issue(s) in Russian with the ANSIPRA Bulletin (Russian language edition going to Russia), or reprint selected articles. IPS is still responsible for translation of IPS UPDATE to Russian.

Both English and Russian versions of IPS UPDATE can be downloaded from IPS' Internet website <http://www.arcticpeoples.org>. Due to the fact that practically all of our English language readers have access to the Internet, this joint information service does not apply to the English language version of ANSIPRA Bulletin.

We'd like to remind you that we publish English translations of selected articles from "Mir korenykh

narodov – zhivaya arktika", the periodical of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON) according to a cooperation agreement with RAIPON.

Due to the new cooperation with IPS, ANSIPRA Bulletin does not cover two major events of the last months, which are extensively discussed in IPS UPDATE (enclosed with the Russian language edition). However, we will consider posting the most relevant articles of these issues on our website <http://www.npolar.no/ansipra>:

#### **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD):**

**Johannesburg, August 2002**

IPS UPDATE vol. 1 – issue 5 (September 2002)

#### **AMAP (Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme) International Symposium:**

**Rovaniemi, Finland, October 2002**

IPS UPDATE vol. 2 – issue 1 (December 2002)

### Mailing list of ANSIPRA Bulletin

It's a challenge keeping our mailing list of subscribers in the Russian Federation up-to-date. For the present issue we have updated all addresses of the regional chapters of RAIPON according to the latest information on RAIPON's Internet website. During this process it may have happened that some individuals or institutions which earlier received our Bulletin have now disappeared from the list, although they would still like to receive our Bulletin. Please bring such mistakes to our attention! We would like to reach as many as possible interested people with our bulletin.

In this issue, we enclose our current mailing list for the Russian language edition. We ask our readers in Russia to look through this list and inform us about any errors, and about other relevant addresses that we should add to our mailing list.

Hard copies of the English language edition are now only sent to a small number of subscribers that explicitly asked for print editions. Other subscribers are informed by e-mail when new issues are published on our Internet website.

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## Comments on the Russian Federal Target Programme “Economic and social development of the small-numbered indigenous peoples of the North up to the year 2010”

*Summarised by Winfried Dallmann from comments by F. Donskoy, L. Abryutina and the editors published in “IWGIA Document No. 107: Towards a new millennium. Ten years of indigenous movement in Russia. Copenhagen 2002 (pp. 246-263).” The text of the federal target programme was reprinted in ANSIPRA Bulletin No. 7, June 2002, and can be found on ANSIPRA’s website.*

**Goskomsever (Russian State Committee on Northern Affairs) circulated a draft of the Federal Target Programme in early 2000. Indigenous organisations and representatives in Russia discussed the draft and concluded that it contained significant weaknesses. After negotiations between RAIPON and Goskomsever, suggestions to further develop the programme were adopted. After the reorganisation of the Russian State administration in May 2000, Goskomsever was abolished and its functions were transferred to the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the Ministry on the Affairs of the Federation, Migration and National Policy. These ministries had not established capacity to work further with the programme. It was approved unchanged by the Government of the Russian Federation on 27 July 2001.**

The programme text properly describes the actual situation. Criticism is based on the fact that people who were not familiar with the real problems and their causes developed the programme. Indigenous representatives and competent research facilities were not consulted prior to the circulation of the draft programme. An example for the lacking insight of the authors is that they explain the degradation of the fishing industry in the North, Siberia and Far East as a result of excess of permits and non-observance of environmental regulations, while research at the Institute of Problems of the Indigenous Peoples of the North (Rus. Acad. Sci.) has shown that the main reasons are absence of local market sales through mass-liquidation of industrial settlements, rising transportation costs, etc.

The programme is ostensibly aimed at improving the socio-economic situation of the *indigenous population*, but the proposed measures would in reality only promote the general economical exploitation of the northern regions, potentially at the expense of resident indigenous peoples. Unconstrained exploitation of indigenous lands will continue, without apportioned revenues for the local population. This is the opposite of what indigenous peoples have been fighting for during the past decade: partnership with government and mainstream society instead of continuous paternalism. Measures, which are imposed on the indigenous population by the authorities, and which these people do not feel to be part of, are condemned to fail.

The programme does not even consider the integration of indigenous people into mainstream development: industry, transport, communication, etc. The programme does not take into account the establishment of indigenous clan communities and territories of traditional land use, which the indigenous peoples themselves consider essential for their cultural survival.

Despite previous, similar development programmes (for 1991-95, and up to 2000), the situation has only been more and more aggravated. Some facts about the situation of the indigenous population will illustrate what really needs to be addressed. The following numbers are a few years old; the situation today is worse:

- Indigenous families have on average 30-50% per capita income of non-indigenous families.
- Indigenous communities have 25-30% income of that defined as the subsistence level.
- 40-80% of the adult indigenous population has not had paid employment for years.
- Indigenous people eat 40% (1996) less food than necessary under the extreme conditions of the North.
- Life expectancy of indigenous people has decreased by 16 years during the last 10 years.
- The birth rate for indigenous peoples fell by 43% between 1990 and 1998 (most extreme: 8.6 times for the Nivkhi), and the death rate exceeds the birth rate for 8 of the 40 federally recognised peoples.
- Native language education is available for less than half of the indigenous population (1998/9).
- About 10 indigenous peoples are right on the brink of cultural extinction.

A development programme aiming at reviving indigenous economies must tackle the problem of production limitations and restore government procurement of indigenous products. A thorough overhaul of the health care programme is vital. Along with this, the establishment or improvement of waste treatment and securing of clean drinking water are essential. To counteract cultural disintegration, native-language speaking environments must be created in schools, cultural centres, broadcasting media, etc. Most important: indigenous representatives from the areas under

consideration must be part of the programme at all stages, from its development to its implementation.

The present legislation allows for the formation of indigenous clan communities (*obschinas*) and territories of traditional land use. Especially the latter are by law considered as optional for the regional administrations; the regional bodies should be urged to implement them. These important measures are not even mentioned in the target programme.

Administrative programmes like the present one have previously failed, for instance the programme "Children of the North 1993-96", where lots of money was spent for other purposes than planned, while the socio-economic situation continuously declined. Those blaming the Russian economy and the lack of

money for the fact that nothing changes, express only half the truth. Money is indeed spent, such as for the present programme. The problem is that it disappears somewhere between the authorities and the executing personnel without really affecting what happens on the ground. Already in 1920, the Committee of the North concluded: "To trust the Siberian authorities to rescue the Siberian natives is like trusting a wolf to protect a sheep." Unfortunately, there is still a lot of truth in these words. To avoid these things happening again, a federal target programme for the development of the indigenous peoples of Russia must be based on partnership principles and delegate part of the action plan and budgetary responsibility to the people themselves and their representatives.

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

## The Ecoyuris Institute

### Foreword

by *Galina Diachkova*

In the beginning of the 1990s, the political system was incapable of solving the problems of the indigenous peoples of the Russian North due to the absence of the necessary legislative basis and requisite political and social institutions. This obstructed the development of legislation concerning indigenous peoples's issues. The **elaboration of the legal status** of indigenous peoples and territories of traditional nature use is of vital importance for Russia's indigenous peoples.

Since the 1990s the following laws have been adopted:

- "On State Guarantees and Compensations for Persons Working and Residing in the Northern Regions and Similar Areas" (1993)
- "On the Continental Shelf of the Russian Federation" (1995)
- "On the Depths of the Earth" (1995)
- "On Agreements on Partition of Production" (1995)
- "On the Fauna" (1995)
- "On Principles of State Regulation of the Social-Economic Development of the North of the Russian Federation" (1996)
- "On Arms" (1996)
- "On Common Principles of Organisations of Local Self-administration" (1996)
- "On Charges for Land" (1998)
- "On Guarantees of Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Russia" (1999)

- "On Common Principles of Community Organisations of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East" (2000)

As yet, no federal laws have been adopted which would define the status of indigenous peoples, forms of their self-organisation, institutions of self-administration, or the status of territories of traditional nature use. Meanwhile, at this stage, the difficult situation of the indigenous peoples prevents them from making more effective use of the (inadequate) legislation that does exist. The main reasons are the poor standard of rights implementation and the lack of legal expertise among indigenous leaders and public organisations. In the language of legal specialists, the reasons are the weakness of the normative legislative basis and its declarative character, the conflict between land, natural resource, ecological and civic legislation, the lack of practices with public prosecutorial control and legal protection of indigenous rights. The critical socio-economic situation hobbles the legal abilities of indigenous leaders. In the 1990s, in an atmosphere of transition from a unitary to a federal state, from an administratively controlled management system to a regulative-market and decentralised management system, the indigenous peoples of the North found themselves in the worst situation. Under the absence of provision supplies and salary payments, along with high unemployment rates and informational starvation, efforts to safeguard physical subsistence came to a halt.

During the last years, through efforts by RAIPON – with the support of foreign organisations, information centres were established in a number of regions. These are meant to deal with legal and ecological problems of the local indigenous peoples. But, as before, there are not enough qualified legal specialists

and others with the relevant knowledge and background to help to solve these problems. Let us hope that the information about Ecojuris encourages our readers get into contact with this organisation and to get answers on their various questions.

## Information about the Ecojuris Institute

*Compiled by Galina Diachkova*

**Address: 103009, PO Box 172, Moscow, Russia**  
 Phone/fax: +7 (095) 924-40-04; +7 (095) 921-51-74  
 E-mail: [Ecojuris@online.ru](mailto:Ecojuris@online.ru)  
 Website: <http://webcenter.ru/~Ecojuris>

Ecojuris was established in 1991 as an independent organisation to gather lawyers specialised in ecology and defending public interests in the fields of ecological safety, environmental preservation and natural resource management. In connection with alterations in the legislation and in its staff the organisation was re-registered twice. Since 1996 it is called the “Ecojuris” Institute of Eco-Juridical Problems. All projects of the organisation are non-commercial.

### ***Main objectives of the organisation:***

- to elaborate concepts and principles of legal protection of public ecological interests and to introduce these into Russian legislation and practice;
- to promote formation and realisation of effective legal mechanisms to regulate environmental protection, to guarantee ecological safety, reasonable resource management and sustainable development in Russia;
- to contribute to the consolidation of the legal status of Russia;
- to promote the significance and prestige of the profession of ecological lawyers.

### ***Main directions of activity:***

- collection, systematisation and analysis of normative and legal acts related to environmental protection and natural resource management;
- development and expert investigation of normative and legal acts;
- investigation and analysis of juridical and prosecutor’s practice for the protection of public ecological interests;
- protection of the rights of the citizens on a favourable environment and related rights (on access to information, to participate in state administration, etc.);
- protection of the rights of indigenous peoples on traditional use of natural resources and preservation of their native environment;
- legal investigations in the fields of environmental protection and public ecological interests;

- promotion of an eco-juridical culture and expertise in law implementation;
- coordination of the Network of Russian Ecological Lawyers Protecting Public Interests.

### ***Main results of the work:***

- published a collection of Russian laws on environmental protection and natural resource management (3 volumes in 7 books) 1993-2000;
- regular publication of a bulletin on legal practices on protection of public ecological interests;
- published two practical textbooks for citizens and public organisations: “How to protect your ecological rights” and “How to protect your ecological rights in court”;
- series of seminars on eco-juridical problems carried out in different regions of Russia with the participation of representatives from NGOs, state bodies and private businesses;
- more than 200 publications in regional, federal and foreign mass media;
- a monthly published electronic bulletin of eco-juridical practices;
- a website devoted to law application on the protection of ecological rights and interests of NGOs and citizens was published and is regularly maintained;
- organisation of the Annual Russian Conference on Legal Protection of Public Ecological Interests since 1994;
- practical courses for ecological lawyers from the Russian regions and representatives of indigenous people, carried out in Moscow and the USA (1996-2000);
- legal expert assessment of tens of draft laws and other normative and legal acts at federal and regional levels carried out;
- prestigious ecological cases of regional and federal importance have been won in courts, including the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation: three decrees of the Government of the Russian Federation related to conversion of land from 1st group forests into lands for economic activity have been declared illicit, as well as a decree of

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the Government of the Russian Federation on approval of a “Temporary order of drilling for exploration of submarine fields for oil, gas and gas condensate within territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation in the Far East”.

**“Ecoyuris” is comprised of two centres.** In the *Eco-Juridical Consultation Centre* qualified lawyers advise citizens and representatives of non-governmental organisations on particular questions concerning legislation on environmental preservation (from 3:00 to 6:00 pm). The Centre’s lawyers have won series of cases in court on protection of citizens’ and NGO’s ecological rights in Moscow and the Moscow Oblast. Proposals on improvement of the legislation and law application practice in the Moscow Oblast have been prepared and sent to state authorities. Appointments for consultation can be made by phone (095) 921-51-74 (from 11:00 am. to 6:00 pm on working days).

In the *Centre for Indigenous Peoples Rights* juridical consultations and projects on realization of the rights of indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East on traditional use of natural resources and native environments are carried out. The Centre’s lawyers and experts have held seminars for representatives of the indigenous peoples, lawyers and activists protecting their rights in Siberia, the Far East and Moscow; they render legal aid to national communities in the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, establish regional legal centres and help regional lawyers special-

ise in this field. Now a programme on training of regional lawyers starts in Moscow. Appointments for consultation can be made by phone (095) 924-40-04 (from 11:00 am. to 6:00 pm. on working days).

In February 1997, the Network of Russian Ecological Lawyers Protecting Public Interests was established on initiative from “Ecoyuris”,. Today it includes more than 40 regional eco-juridical, non-governmental organisations and individual jurist-ecologists. Most of them run specific cases on protection of citizens’ rights for a favourable environment, consult citizens and NGOs, and contribute to the propagation of eco-juridical culture. The Institute “Ecoyuris” renders a methodical and informational support to regional jurists, involves them in joint projects, regularly organises seminars, conferences, and meetings. The e-mail address of the network coordinator is

[Ecojuris@online.ru](mailto:Ecojuris@online.ru)

Representatives of the Institute “Ecoyuris” work in Izhevsk, Novgorod, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Tomsk, Ufa and other cities.

The Institute “Ecoyuris” – as an eco-juridical and protection of rights organisation – is an integral part of the Russian ecological movement and maintains contacts with ecological organisations from the CIS, USA and other countries.

In April 2002, the president of the Institute “Ecoyuris”, Vera Leonidovna Mischenko, was awarded the International Ecological Goldman’s Prize for introducing legal protection of public ecological interests into Russian practice.

### **Russian-Canadian Seminar on exchange of experience with establishment and management of traditional territories of indigenous peoples in Canada and the Russian Federation**

On 18-19 November 2002, a Russian-Canadian seminar on exchange of experience with establishment and management of traditional territories of indigenous peoples in Canada and Russia was held in Moscow. Representatives of various Russian and Canadian state authorities, foundations and scientific institutions attended. Among the participants were the Canadian Ambassador, Rodney Irvin, the Grand Chief of the Dene Nation, Billy Erasmus, and Stephen Mills of the Gwich’in Council International, the Canadian Executive Director of the Arctic Athabaskan Council, Cindy Dickson, the representative of the International Working Group on Indigenous Affairs, Kathrin Wessendorf, and the presidents of regional indigenous peoples’ organisations of the Russian North, representatives of the Russian Government and its legislative bodies.

The important outcome was the decision to start negotiations between indigenous peoples and governmental authorities of the Russian Federation on the establishment of Territories of Traditional Nature Use, and to develop approaches to determine methods and procedures for the formation of such territories.

### **Resolution**

*Moscow, 18-19 November 2002*

We, the participants of the Russian-Canadian seminar, representatives of indigenous peoples’ organisations of the Russian North and Canada, executive and legislative bodies of all northern administrative units of the

Russian Federation, international funding institutions, foundations and scientific institutions,  
- discussing and analysing questions concerning the establishment of Territories of Traditional Nature Use

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and their management in Canada and in the Russian Federation in agreement with legislation, with land policies regarding these territories and their self-administration, with form, character, methods of establishment and reconsideration of our attitude towards the earth,

- note that the contemporary situation concerning regulations in the regions and the protection of Russia's indigenous peoples' right on traditional nature use requires quick actions and solution of the present problems.

Being the first joint event of the Arctic Athabaskan Council and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), looking for the realisation of the Memorandum on mutual understanding between the two associations, signed on 31 March 2001 in Moscow, this seminar is the first step on the way to carry out joint actions of the indigenous peoples of Russia and Canada in the fields of establishment and management of traditional territories and joint utilisation of international technical aid which may encourage the successful realisation of the Federal Law "On Territories of Traditional Nature Use of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation", passed in May 2001.

At the same time there is in Russia so far no practical experience concerning the formation of Territories of Traditional Nature Use (TTNU) for indigenous peoples in accordance with the new law because of the lack of unified methods and procedures of such formations. Moreover, passing this law requires the acceptance of subordinate normative notes which presently are established by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation. These efforts take significant time. In the meantime, the present condition of the systems of traditional nature use, residence, environment and traditional activities of Russia's indigenous peoples, and also the danger of cultural disintegration, require urgent measures for the protection of Northern indigenous peoples' traditional nature use, their natural environment and the sustainable development of the entire Arctic region of our planet.

We, the participants of the seminar, express particular interest in utilising the Canadian experience regarding the establishment and management of indigenous peoples' traditional territories and their natural resources. In Canada, self-administration agreements and land-use acts have been concluded – and *are* based on the Constitution – even in the absence of a concrete list of indigenous peoples' rights fixed in the federal legislation. This model of establishing new relations between indigenous peoples and governments is of great relevance for the Russian situation.

The similarities in political construction (federalism), natural and climatic conditions (predomination of Northern territories), particularity of cultures with

Northern, indigenous, and traditional nature use, point at the possibility of adapting the Canadian models of formation of TTNUs under the conditions of the Russian Federation. These models demonstrate the differential approach to various conditions of cultural-economic development of Northern indigenous peoples, which is particularly important under the conditions of the Russian Federation, where significant portions of the Northern territories are inhabited by indigenous ethnic groups with varying cultural features.

Each of the basic Canadian agreements – the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Alberta Metis Settlement, the Yukon Land Claim Umbrella Final Agreement, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, etc. – illustrates various methods of establishing socio-political links between indigenous peoples and the appropriate Canadian territories and provinces, and Canadian society as a whole. At the same time, individual elements of Russian experience with work on communities and lands of traditional nature use, as well as the development of federal laws in the fields of indigenous peoples' rights, may be of definite interest for Canada, where land claim agreements are presently discussed.

### **Based on the material presented in reports and discussions the following statement is proclaimed:**

1. To approve initiatives of indigenous peoples' organisations – in particular, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North and other international organisations – aiming at initiating a dialogue on establishment and management of indigenous TTNUs on a voluntary basis, and on the formation of juridical precedents in this question with respect to involvement of all concerned parties.
2. To circulate to the Government of the Russian Federation, legislative and executive bodies of the authorities of the Northern territories of the Russian Federation, and other parties interested in supporting this initiative with respect to establishment and management of indigenous TTNUs.
3. To propose to the associations of indigenous peoples of the North
  - to provide assistance to the communities of indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation in preparing circulations to the Government of the Russian Federation on the formation of indigenous TTNUs, coordinating the dialogue with the authorities, determining boundaries of TTNUs, implementing all necessary agreements with concerned parties, as well as carrying out the complex organisation and implementation of the management of TTNUs and natural resources;
  - to organise the recording of the Canadian experience about guarantees for the preparation of common approaches on the determination of methods and procedures in establishing TTNUs of indigenous peoples of the North;

- to initiate the formation of a database of basic information received from the regions about size and boundaries of traditional territories, in which – in the long run – the documentation of Northern indigenous peoples’ rights will be possible. The database should contain information on all kinds of traditional nature use, communities and peoples which conduct a traditional way of life and nature use on these territories, information on the state of resumed and other natural resources within the boundaries of planned TTNUs, on other natural and cultural objects, on land use and land property areas planned to be included in TTNUs, etc.
  - to establish measures to define model territories best suited for the realisation of TTNUs, according to which methods of establishment and registration can be elaborated in order to implement these for the establishment of indigenous TTNUs in other regions.
4. To recommend to the Governments of Canada and the Russian Federation and international donors to make the allocations assented to at the seminar on model territories for pilot projects on establishment and management of TTNUs.

## **Resolution of the International Conference “Indigenous peoples’ traditional natural resource use in Kamchatka and the environment: problems and solutions”**

*Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy,  
27 September – 4 October 2002*

We, the participants of the international conference “Indigenous peoples’ traditional natural resource use in Kamchatka and the environment: problems and solutions”, understanding the importance of solving the environmental problems of Kamchatka, expressing our anxiety about the state of the environment of Kamchatka and the Koryak Autonomous Okrug, emphasize a necessity to take urgent measures to solve problems relating to the environmental protection of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, and considering that the development of a partnership – co-operation aimed at the preservation of the environment – is an excellent foundation for collaboration and attaining the optimal results, appeal to:

1. To the President of the Russian Federation with the following demands:
  - to guarantee the constitutional rights of citizens to a favourable environment;
  - to guarantee the constitutional rights of indigenous peoples to protection of their native environment and traditional way of living;
  - to strengthen the enforcement of the rights of indigenous peoples in the Northern regions;
  - to establish a federal independent state body to execute environmental legislation and legislation regarding the rights of the indigenous peoples.
2. To the Government of the Russian Federation:
  - in connection with including the Kamchadals into the Common List of indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation to add to the Resolution No. 22 of the Government of the Russian Federation of 11 January, 1993 “The List of residence territories of the indigenous peoples of the North” the rayons of Sobolevsky, Elizovo, Ust-Kamchatka and Ust-Bolsheretsky of the Kamchatka Oblast;
  - to speed up taking a decision on determining a unified form of nationality in documents proving the identity of a citizen of the Russian Federation for those who belong to the indigenous peoples of the North of the Russian Federation;
  - to speed up adoption of normative and legal acts which are essential for realization of the federal law “On Traditional Subsistence Territories of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation”.
3. To the Assembly of People’s Deputies of Kamchatka Oblast and the Duma of Koryak Autonomous Okrug:
  - to hold deputies’ hearings on the issue of “Indigenous peoples’ traditional natural resource use in Kamchatka and the environment: problems and solutions” with the participation of Associations of the Indigenous Peoples of the North and public environmental organizations;
  - to put the legislation of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug in compliance with the federal legislation currently in force and with international standards concerning the rights of the indigenous peoples of the North to use natural resources and wildlife;
  - to develop normative and legal grounds relating to the protection of traditional indigenous territories of the North against the import of alcoholic beverages;

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- to guarantee by legislative order the right of the indigenous peoples of the North to participate in decision-making relating to natural resource management and environmental protection of the area of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug.
4. To the Administration of Kamchatka Oblast, Koryak Autonomous Okrug, regional municipal authorities:
    - to formulate and establish programs for the registration and conservation of indigenous peoples' sacred and ritual sites and corresponding archeological sites, together with the indigenous peoples and centers for the protection and use of historical and cultural monuments, and to include them in the budgets of such subjects of the Russian Federation;
    - to assure the participation of public organizations of indigenous peoples in decision-making relating to the natural resource management and environmental protection on the area of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug on the basis of partnership;
    - to prohibit the use of lands for industrial and economic projects without consultation of the indigenous peoples of the North and assessment of its impact on traditional natural resource use in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation;
    - to strengthen a control over rational and sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection during the realization of industrial and economic projects;
    - to plan and organize Territories of Traditional Land Use in accordance with appeals of the communities of the indigenous peoples of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug.
  5. To the heads of organizations and industrial enterprises developing natural resources of Kamchatka with proposals:
    - to take into account international experience in cooperating with indigenous peoples organizations on developing programs of industrial development of the natural resources of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug;
    - to apply advanced environmentally sound technologies;
    - to adhere strictly to the legislation of the Russian Federation and international norms concerning environmental protection and natural resources use;
    - to hold public hearings with ethno-ecological expertise when working out projects developing natural resources in Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug;
  6. To the heads of the associations of indigenous peoples of the North in Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug with demands:
    - to provide information about new projects and possible consequences of their realization and to let representatives of the indigenous peoples of the North take part in developing these projects.
    - to submit for consideration at local meetings the prohibition of the import and sale of alcoholic beverages in the territories of traditional residence of the indigenous peoples of the North in Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug;
    - to develop strategic programs for the preservation of indigenous peoples' traditional environment;
    - to come forward in the council of peoples' deputies of Kamchatka Oblast, in the Duma of Koryak Autonomous Okrug, with a legislation initiative to put the legislation of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug and municipal bodies in compliance with the Federal legislation currently in force;
    - to develop bills "On a plenipotentiary of the indigenous peoples of the North in Kamchatka Oblast" and "On a plenipotentiary of the indigenous peoples of the North in Koryak Autonomous Okrug" and submit them for consideration to the Council of peoples' deputies of Kamchatka Oblast and Duma of Koryak Autonomous Okrug.
  7. To the participants of the agreement on establishing the "Network of Indigenous Peoples' Public Organizations of Kamchatka for Solving Environmental Problems" in the area of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug, to plan:
    - actions to draw the public attention to the pollution of settlements with garbage because of the absence of approved dumps;
    - research projects on the consequences of extractive industries in Kamchatka;
    - projects on investigating and preventing poaching;
    - projects supporting the development of indigenous peoples' private enterprises in the fields of traditional economic activities, handicrafts and ethno-tourism, including educational and organizational support and assistance in seeking financial support;
    - to improve the exchange of information, provide juridical consultations, and search for financial support including the investigation of opportunities offered by current and new international projects in Kamchatka.

## LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

### *Appendix*

#### *The conference was jointly held by:*

Ethno-Ecological Information Center “Lach” of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation (RAIPON)  
Information Center “Aboriginal of Kamchatka”  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation (RAIPON)  
Kamchatka Regional Association of Public Unions of Indigenous Peoples of the North  
Kamchatka League of Independent Experts and the Legal Center “Rodnik”

#### *with the participation of:*

Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Bystrinskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Milkovskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Sobolevskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Ust-Kamchatskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Elizovskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Karaginskiy Rayon, Koryak Autonomous Okrug  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Olutorskiy Rayon, Koryak Autonomous Okrug  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Viluchinsk, Kamchatka Oblast  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Kluchiy, Kamchatka Oblast  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Palana village, Koryak Autonomous Okrug  
Council of Itelmens of Kamchatka “Tkhsanom”  
Union of Kamchadals of Koryak Autonomous Okrug  
Corporation of Tribal Communities of Indigenous Peoples of Elizovskiy Rayon (Kamchatka Oblast)  
Public Movement on Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of Kamchatka “Aboriginal” (Elizovskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast)  
Union of Communities “Yayar” (Elizovskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast)  
Community of Itelmens “Tarya” (Viluchinsk, Kamchatka Oblast)  
Tribal Community “Pimchakh” (Sosnovka village, Elizovskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast)  
Tribal Community “Yako” (Elizovo, Elizovskiy Rayon, Kamchatka Oblast)  
Tribal Community “Kavral” (Kovran village, Tigilskiy Rayon, Koryak Autonomous Okrug)  
National Industry “Veyemlen” Ltd (Lesnaya village, Tigilskiy Rayon, Koryak Autonomous Okrug)  
National Industry Fishing Kolhoz “Rybak” (Ivashka village, Karaginskiy Rayon, Koryak Autonomous Okrug)  
International Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs  
TGK Consult (Denmark)  
Institute “Open Society” of Soros’ Foundation (Moscow)  
Kamchatka Regional Division of Political Party “Union of Right Forces”

*Participants of the conference recognized the importance of establishing a “Network of Indigenous Peoples’ Public Organizations of Kamchatka for Solving Environmental Problems”, to build up a dialogue between environmental organizations, indigenous peoples’ organizations and government agencies for fruitful and efficient co-operation in solving environmental problems and problems relating to indigenous peoples’ traditional use of natural resources in Kamchatka.*

## **Appeal**

### **to the participants of the “Network of Indigenous Peoples’ Public Organizations of Kamchatka for Solving Environmental Problems”**

*N.N. Zaporotskaya, chairman of Ethno-Ecological Information Center “Lach” (MNU EE IC “Lach”)  
Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, 24 October 2002*

Dear participants of the Network!

MNU EE IC “Lach” congratulates you with the start-up of the Network. We hope for fruitful work of all the organizations of our Network. We all understand that the state of the environment in Kamchatka depends only on us. We are receptive to your constructive proposals to solve ethno-ecological problems of Kamchatka.

At the international conference “Indigenous peoples’ traditional natural resource use in Kamchatka and the environment: problems and solutions” we, the participants of the Network, agreed on the necessity of indigenous peoples to take part in solving the ethno-ecological problems of the Kamchatka Oblast and the Koryak Autonomous Okrug, and define aims and goals of the Network.

Being the coordinating organization of the Network, MNU EE IC “Lach” has prepared and sent *Appeals* to the President of the Russian Federation, to the Government of the Russian Federation, to the Assembly of People’s Deputies of the Kamchatka Oblast and the Duma of the Koryak Autonomous Okrug, to the Administration of the Kamchatka Oblast, the Koryak Autonomous Okrug, to regional municipal authorities, to the heads of or-

## OBSCHINA “NEVTE”, MAGADAN

ganizations and industrial enterprises developing natural resources of Kamchatka, to the heads of the Associations of indigenous peoples of the North in the Kamchatka Oblast and the Koryak Autonomous Okrug, according to the Resolution that has been passed.

We appeal to you with the request to plan:

- actions to draw the public attention to the pollution of settlements with garbage because of the absence of approved dumps;
- research projects on the consequences of extractive industries in Kamchatka;
- projects on investigating and preventing poaching;
- projects supporting the development of indigenous peoples' private enterprises in the fields of traditional economic activities, handicrafts and ethno-tourism, including educational and organizational support and assistance in seeking financial support;
- to improve the exchange of information, provide juridical consultations, and search for financial support including the investigation of opportunities offered by current and new international projects in Kamchatka.

### THE OBSCHINA (INDIGENOUS CLAN COMMUNITY) “NEVTE”:

In August 2002, the ANSIPRA Secretariat received the following letter from the Chairman of “Nevte”, village of Ola, Magadan Oblast. We tried to follow up on their request to find indigenous representatives in Canada and Alaska who would like to share their experiences with their brothers in Russia. We were surprised that we got almost no responses, other than a proposal that representatives from “Nevte” participate in a workshop on the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in May 2003. We hope that publishing the material below will yield more results. If you feel that your experiences could be of any help, please contact “Nevte” at [cadar@gw.ola.msi.ru](mailto:cadar@gw.ola.msi.ru) (in Russian), or the ANSIPRA Secretariat if your message or letter needs translating.

#### **Dear staff members of the ANSIPRA Secretariat:**

*The Board Council and the Council of Elders of the indigenous clan community “Nevte” address to you with sincere and deep gratitude of your rewarding mission. It is very nice to realise that there is an association of Arctic organisations with the aim to support the indigenous peoples of the Russian North. This gives us confidence in tomorrow, as we understand that we are not alone with our problems, and there is hope that our people will not disappear. We wait with impatience for every issue of your bulletin, which provides new interesting information, and we learn about problems and achievements of the various ethnic groups and their future plans.*

*Dear staff members, we would like to inform you about the experiences of our community's activities.*

*After the acceptance of the Federal Law “On General Principles of Community Organisations of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation” the ancient 2<sup>nd</sup> Dolgan clan formed the first indigenous clan community in the Magadan Oblast. As the leader of the community, the young, energetic chairman Irina Yashchenko was elected. We believe that the inherent enthusiasm and determination of the youth are indispensable for the achievement of given goals. Therefore our chairman does not go the usual way: she implements measures to provide humanitarian help for the poor, and she has worked out a programme for the formation of a **reservation**, a plan named “**Revival of clan settlements of the community**”. This programme has the aim to return the descendants to the traditional living places of their ancestors and to revive ethnic consciousness. Earlier, when living in one territorial association, we had well-developed branches of traditional activities, we preserved traditions, customs, and mainly we had self-determination as an ethnic group. Settlement and stabilisation of livelihoods in clan settlements prepared the way for the realisation of projects directed towards socio-economic problems.*

*At present we try to realise the preparatory programme and hope at this stage to find potential partners. Therefore we address to you with the request to assist in project coordination and realisation. As one of the main steps on the way to the revival of clan settlements, we envisage close contacts with indigenous people who live on reservations. We have come to the conclusion that – no matter how good the new laws might be – they do not substitute the significance of reservations, which moreover raise the ethnic self-consciousness. We are interested in experiences of establishing indigenous peoples' reservations in other nations and we wish to study them in order to apply them in Russia.*

## OBSCHINA “NEVTE”, MAGADAN

*We ask you for your **assistance in establishing contacts with representatives of reservations**, which might be willing to share their experiences with us. To provide them a better understanding about us, we are sending you the article “Former and present indigenous peoples of the Okhotsk coastal areas” and a brochure on the clan community.*

*Dear staff members of the Secretariat, we hope that with your help the first reservation in Russia will come into being.*

*For the exchange of information about reservations please use the e-mail address of the public organisation “Kadar” [cadar@gw.ola.msi.ru](mailto:cadar@gw.ola.msi.ru) which we are kindly permitted to use.*

*Attachments*

*Chairman of the Council of Elders of the indigenous clan community “Nevte”  
V.M. Avdonin*

## PROSPECTUS

*Chairman of the tribal community “Nevte”  
Irina Mikhaylovna Yaschenko*

The tribal community of indigenous peoples (hereafter, tribal community) is a legal entity that acts on the basis of traditional forms of economic production, self-management and independence.

The activities of the tribal community are guided by the following Federal laws: "On Guarantees of Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Russian Federation" No. 82 of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1999; "On General Principles of Organization of Communities of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation" No. 104 of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000; "On Territories of Traditional Means of Exploitation of Nature among Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation" of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

The tribal community inhabits the lands which were traditionally inhabited by its ancestors, the nomadic Tungus of the second Dolgan clan, north of the formerly inhabited point Siglan, in the Olskiy District of the province of Magadan, on the northern coast of the Sea of Okhotsk.

In accordance with the Federal laws which guarantee the rights of the indigenous peoples of the North, the lands have been granted to the tribal community free of charge, along with the right of using the mineral resources that can be found on their territories.

### **The basic activities of the tribal community are:**

**Fishing**, including industrial fishing, processing and production.

The northern part of the Sea of Okhotsk takes up 600,000 square kilometers, and it is one of the most highly fertile regions of the Pacific Ocean. The Sea of Okhotsk is one of the richest and cleanest marine bioresources in the world: it yields more than half of the entire catch in the Russian Federation.

Several kinds of salmon spawn in the 50 rivers across Magadan: dog salmon, pink salmon, silver salmon, red salmon, Dolly Varden trout and char. Unique colonies of up to 7 million birds populate the shores and islands of this province.

Pollack, herring, saffron cod, flounder, salmon and smelt make up the most significant part of the catch in the coastal areas of our region. Additionally, one can also catch crabs, calamari, shrimps etc.

The important biological resources of the coastal region are hardly used today. The following bioresources, all of which are available in the region, are particularly interesting: pollack, Pacific halibut, Greenland halibut, sea perch, sea hedgehog and sea cabbage.

### **Sea hunting.**

Four kinds of economically valuable seals inhabit the Sea of Okhotsk, and namely: harbor seal, ringed seal, bearded seal and ribbon seal. Seal hunting is a tradition for all those living on the coast of this region. Not long ago, however, this blooming enterprise declined and the industrial activity was brought to a halt everywhere in the region. This did not happen because of the decline in the number of seals, but rather as a consequence of the lack of production demand. With the means of industrial meat processing which were available at the time, the production assortment was quite small and specific: it included fur, fat and sometimes minced meat. Due to the low production of minced meat, a considerable and valuable production percentage used to go to waste. This was related to the particularities of the economic system at the time, the change of conditions and the emergence

of market relations. Raw material was not in great demand and the industrial activity turned out to be unprofitable. Today, however, the industrial production of animal products is considered very valuable and can be highly profitable. We need to take advantage of the raw material and all the possibilities it has to offer, as well as maximally to adapt the production to the market conditions. The fat of sea mammals contains a low content of harmful substances and has been, therefore, widely used in food preparation. Modern technologies also make it possible to get rid of the specific smell, which this kind of fat has. In comparison to hydrated plant-based fats, hydrated seal fats can be used in the production of high quality margarine, high quality soap, are used in perfume industry and have a high content of vitamins A, D and K. They can be used for technical goals as well: in the production of linoleum, protective surfaces, lubricants for high precision technologies etc.

Another important component in the industrial production of the wild animal catch is its fur and leather. Clothes, shoes, various accessories and upholstery fabrics made out of seal leather are superior to their counterparts for which the skins of land mammals has been used because of their relatively low price, sturdiness, beauty and elegance.

Meat products are also considerably valuable. The amino acid content of the seal meat is comparable to that of beef; in the category of indispensable amino acids, it is even superior to beef and can be fully used for food purposes. In the eighties, the researchers at the TINRO used seal meat to develop production methods and prepare experimental prototypes of sausages, smoked meats and other high quality meat products. Unfortunately, that experiment was not developed any further, and it did not reach a wide production stage. It is equally important to keep in mind that in the current state of Russian economy, any attempt to give up the utilization of meats, which can be used for food, would be extremely anti-productive. Taking into consideration the fact that other kinds of meat and meat products are highly priced, the cheapness and the high quality of the sea mammals' meat and their meat products can help solve the problem of protein, vitamin and fat supplies for a wide segment of population. Another unrealized potential in the utilization of sea mammals is the production of biologically active organisms from their internal organs.

From the analysis of the above discussion, it can be concluded that the economic profit that could be achieved from utilizing sea mammals is undoubted. In Magadan today nobody is engaged in the enterprise involving sea mammals, since specialized fishing and hunting boats of the Arctic class, equipped with the tools for the processing of raw materials and the production of standardized quality products, are currently not available. The hunting should take place in the spring, off of the ice gathering points of the seals in the open sea, and at that time one such boat would, depending on the industrial setup and qualification of the crew, catch 7-10 and sometimes even 12 thousand seals. The boat hunting of the seals is incomparably more efficient than the hunting that takes place off the shores. Yet in order to reestablish boat hunting, significant capital investments shall be necessary for the acquisition and equipment of hunting boats, considering that not one of the existing types of fishing boats is suitable for this purpose. That is why today it is only possible to speak about hunting on the shores as a first step in the process of reestablishing a full stream hunting industry.

### **Sea harvesting.**

The concept of exploiting algae in this region is still not fully developed, and that precisely is our advantage. Preliminary economic calculations and resource studies of the Okhotsk maritime regions have shown that one of its most important biological resources are brown and red macrophyte algae, whose stock is extremely large in the coastal region.

The reason why macrophytes as a raw material for food, medical and chemical industries are so attractive is the fact that the dry mass of brown algae, for instance, contains 10-15% protein and 70% carbohydrates, as well as high content of vitamins C, A, D, B-group, and E.

Sea plants of the genus *laminaria*, *undaria*, *porphyra* and many others are used for food purposes. All of them can be found in significant quantities near the shores of the Sea of Okhotsk. Sea plants can be used for the preparation of animal food, extraction of agar, carrageenan, alginates and others. According to the McDowell market research group, the supplies in any of the above directions are below 1% of their true potential. In the conditions of economic crisis, the United States of America is developing plans to cultivate brown algae on a large scale for the purpose of extracting fuel. An important supplier of processed sea plants is Japan. The countries of the northern regions of America and Europe are interested in creating alternative products, and are actively looking for partners.

Material research shows that there are hundreds of thousands of tons of brown algae in the northern part of the Sea of Okhotsk. There are 42 kinds of sea plants in the region. The alginate production should to be based on kelp (*laminaria Guryanova* and *lessonia laminarevidnaya*).

**In our costal region, one could extract no less than 50,000 tons of *laminaria Guryanova*, 30,000 tons of *lessonia laminarevidnaya*, up to 50,000 tons of rockweed, and 300,000 tons of cystoseira.**

Currently there are no companies in the region which use sea plants as their raw material.

**Collection, processing and production of wild plants** (berries, mushrooms, nuts, medical herbs and roots)

There is a great demand in the settlements for wild berries (foxberry, great billberry, honeysuckle, black crowberry), cedar nuts and mushrooms because they very valuable food products, which are rich in vitamins and microelements.

Particularly popular is red billberry, which is now becoming an object of interest for various entrepreneurs.

Taking into consideration that the province of Magadan is an environmentally safe area, one can expect that the medical raw material and the related processed products will be highly demanded on the Russian and foreign markets. There are over 300 kinds of medical plants growing in our region.

As far as their medical properties concerned, the most attractive plants are lichens, of which there are more than 500 kinds in our region. They are widely used in perfume industry and medicine. Because of their valuable qualities, some lichens are cultivated in the United States of America and Japan.

**Reindeer-breeding**, processing and production (including the collection, preparation and production of horns, endocrine glands, sub-products, deer leather, etc.)

The biological value of deer meat is among the highest of all animals. Our region has a significant number of grazing lands for the reindeer - 8,5 million hectares. The studies that have been conducted over the previous years show that those who engage in reindeer breeding achieve a good level of profitability. Currently, the tribal community has developed a highly profitable project of revitalizing and developing reindeer breeding, which can be realized with the participation of interested investors.

**Extraction and processing of ores**

*A predominant economic branch of our region has always been the extraction of gold, silver and non-ferrous metals, deposits which occur abundantly deep below the ground in the Kolyma area. In accordance with Federal law, the tribal community can use common mineral deposits free of charge.*

**Commercial hunting, including hunting by foreigners, as well as ethno-tourism**

**Foreign trade activities**

**Participation with own products in international auctions and trading**

The tribal community has identified the most profitable current economic activities and has shortlisted the most promising projects for investment. Living on this rich land, we have yet not realised all the possibilities for using its natural resources. Therefore, if you have an interest in the community and if you have business proposals, we are prepared for closer cooperation with you.

The development of these commercial initiatives has great prospects, especially to the investors who can make profitable investments in the development of the tribal community.

**PROSPECTUS ON ETHNIC TOURISM IN MAGADAN PROVINCE**

You will be introduced to the remarkable historical sites, untouched natural landscapes and unforgettable beauties of the Northern region by the natives of these lands, the representatives of the tribal community "Nevte". The uniqueness of this prospect consists in the fact that the tourist activities are organized by the native inhabitants of the region, who are distinguished by their traditional culture, and who have a deep knowledge of their historical heritage, economic production and way of life. The unique ethnicity of the people and their way of life, which incorporates an ancient environmental experience of the relationship between man and nature under the most brutal natural conditions of the Arctic Circle, make up a particular "ethnic value" of this region.

The direct contact with the native inhabitants of this area will give you an opportunity not only to get to know a relatively closed society, united on the basis of preserving tribal traditions and the predominantly traditional natural means of production, but also to see it interact with the industrial society. Currently, there are a few associations of native inhabitants, created with the goal of preserving the purity of their cultural ethnicity. One of such associations is the tribal community "Nevte," situated on the lands which were traditionally inhabited by its ancestors, the nomadic Tungus of the second Dolgan clan, north of the formerly inhabited point Siglan, in the Olskiy District of the Province of Magadan, on the northern coast of the Sea of Okhotsk.

The tribal community is a legal entity, functioning on the basis of the traditional forms of economic production, self-management and independence. In its activities, the tribal community is guided by a series of Federal laws, which guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation. Particularly, in accordance with the federal law "On Territories of Traditional Means of Exploitation of Nature among Indigenous Peoples

of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation" of April 4th, 2001, the lands have been granted to the tribal community free of charge, along with the right of using the widely spread mineral resources which can be found in the region.

In addition to organizing ethnic tourism, the tribal community has the right to engage in the following kinds of activities: fishing; sea hunting and processing of sea products; gathering, processing and producing wild plants (berries, mushrooms, nuts, medical herbs and roots); reindeer-breeding; extraction and processing of ores; organizing and conducting hunting on an international level as well; international economic activity, participation in international trade, auctions etc.

### **The natural characteristics of the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk**

Magadan Province is situated in the far northeastern part of Russia. It is bordered, on the one hand, by the seas of the Arctic Ocean, namely the East Siberian Sea and the Chukotka Sea, and, on the other hand, by the seas of the Pacific Ocean, namely the Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk. The Bering Strait in the east separates Asia from America. The northern seas surrounding Magadan are situated on the continental shelf and are not particularly deep.

The large portion of the province of Magadan is mountainous. Plateaus, hills and mountains take up more than 4/5 of its territory, whereas lowlands such as river valleys and narrow seashores take up only small areas. The large part of the territory is characterized by a midrange mountainous relief (1000-1500 meters above the sea level), which is sharply broken up by river valleys.

The most attractive tourist site in the province is district of Olskiy, which we would be happy to introduce to you along with its most interesting sites.

The most distinguishing characteristic of the district is its extended coast and a large number of small bays and gulfs of the Sea of Okhotsk, which contain an extremely large potential of unutilized biological resources.

The tundra and taiga mountains of the Okhotsk coast in Olskiy District are low mountains. Along with flat watersheds, one encounters high points of up to 1,800 meters with narrow mountain crests and canyon forming valleys, in which one can observe numerous traces of the ancient tradition of reindeer-breeding. A chain of hollows stretches along the coast, the largest of which are Yam-Tauy and Gizhiga. The territory of the region is susceptible to earthquakes. There are cold and hot springs - Motykley and Lapkuchan springs, and wells in Shelting Bay and Dukcha District.

The climate in the district is sharply continental. The average annual precipitation is 500-700 mm. Cold winds are present throughout the year: in the winter the direction of the wind is from the cold continent towards the sea, and in the summer, it is from the cold seas towards the continent. Thick clouds and fog decrease the flow of heat. Average annual temperatures are always below zero degrees Centigrade. The winter is 5,5 to 7,5 months long. The average temperature in January ranges from -17 to -20 degrees Centigrade on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. The summer is short and cool. The average July temperature in our region is 11-12 degrees Centigrade.

The landscape is mostly a somewhat hilly tundra lowland, creating a lake by means of alluvial sediments of the river valleys which cut through it. The diversity of the ground can be described by following terms: taiga permafrost, podsol permafrost, grass flats, alluvial, grass, mountainous-steppe and meadow grounds; tundra and mountainous tundra, marshes and half-marshes.

A rather thick network of rivers characterizes the territory in the region. The most important rivers are: the Ola, the Tauy, the Yana, the Yama and the Takhtoyama. The rivers are fast, have a lot of shallows and sandbank, and often change their direction. The riverbeds are stony and altered by erosion. The rivers are rich in various kinds of fish: Pacific salmon, Dolly Varden trout, Siberian grayling and char.

The most typical for this region are the larch and birch forests, most notably those of the Daursk larch and the stone birch with rich shrubbery, in which one finds the rowan-tree, alder, bird cherry, honeysuckle and several kinds of ivy. Deciduous woods and the Dahurian larch, which is particularly well represented in the region, cover river valleys. The plant form is also determined by massive cedar and alder undergrowth. As far as grasses are concerned, one finds horsetail, sedge, cotton grass, bramble, red billberry, black crowberry, wild rosemary. Significant tundra areas are covered by different kinds of mosses, lichens and low shrubs. The tundra exists alongside marshes. In river valleys there are occasionally valley sedge marshes.

The taiga is inhabited by the chipmunk, squirrel, fox, ermine, white hare, sable. The upper taiga is inhabited by the wolverine, bear, and the valleys are inhabited by the elk. The capercaillie, hazel grouse, white partridge, nutcracker, cuckoo, and woodpecker inhabit the forests. The teal, pintail, widgeon, and other ducks inhabit the marshy valleys, especially around the lakes.

There are more than 300 kinds of fish in the Sea of Okhotsk. The best represented are bullheads (53 kinds), zoarcids (41 kinds), flounders (21 kinds), poachers (15 kinds), lumpsuckers (13 kinds) and salmon (10 kinds).

In the northeast part of the Sea of Okhotsk, one can find 1-2 kinds of dolphins, gray whale, fin whale and white whale. White whale can be encountered most often in Gizhiga, Penzhina and Tauy districts. Overall one

finds the ringed seal (*akiba*), common seal (*larga*) and bearded seal (*laktak*).

**Northern sea lions can be found in the Koni and Pyagin peninsulas. The seal breeds in the icy areas and the shore hollows from the northwestern part of Kamchatka and the Gulf of Tauy to North Sakhalin.**

The marine fauna includes certain kinds of birds which spend their entire life in the sea and need the land only in order to make their nests. More often than not they nest on rocky or mountainous slopes in mixed colonies, the so-called "bird fairs," becoming thus an indispensable part of the far eastern mountainous landscape. Most often, one encounters the tufted puffin, horned puffin, Pacific seagull and Bering cormorant. In some places, such as, for instance, the Gulf of Tauy and Yama Island, guillemots and sea gulls nest in large quantities.

### Organization of spinning fishing

Particularly interesting for foreign tourists is the spinning fishing of the following kinds of fish: Manchurian trout, Siberian grayling, pink salmon (*gorbusha*), Dolly varden trout, red salmon, king salmon, dog salmon and silver salmon.

**Pink salmon** (*gorbusha*) is the smallest and most widely spread salmon of the Pacific Ocean. Hobbyists are allowed to fish pink salmon in Magadan only if they possess a valid license: in the sea, by nets; and in certain areas in the lower reaches of the rivers, by spinning. The salmon usually leaves the sea, migrates to the rivers in July and spawns in August. The migration of the salmon is an unforgettable sight. Everywhere on the river one can see the water splashing: like other kinds of salmon, the pink salmon swims against the stream at the bottom of the river, but it often comes up to the surface. More often than not, it shows its head and spine, but it can also jump out of the water. Many fish swim very close to the shore, in the depths of 25-50 centimeters. Often, they move in columns, one after another. Seabirds such as gulls and sea eagles populate the rivers in large quantities at this time. Bears from all surrounding mountains descend into the valleys and roam the shores, trying to catch the fish with their claws. It is not too hard to navigate a rubber boat and approach closely a bear who is completely focused on the fish. The seals themselves can leave the sea and move up the rivers following the salmon for tens, sometimes even hundreds of kilometers. The pink salmon bites very well on large and colorful baits with T-joints No. 8,5-10. One needs a heavy bait (20-40 grams), since the fishing takes place under strong currents. The swinging bait does not need to be rotated, and the T-joint should be decorated with bright threads, feathers or strips of soft synthetic materials, which not only enhances the motion of the bait, but also increases the chances of the fish swallowing the bait. The most attractive colors for the salmon are orange, red and bright blue. The pink salmon can be caught not only with a bait but also with an artificial fly. Similar to other Pacific salmon, the pink salmon is best attracted by large, bright baits (yellow, green, orange or pink) additionally adorned with shiny metallic fiber.

**Chum salmon** (*keta*) is the second most widely spread kind of salmon in the province of Magadan. Unlike the pink salmon, the chum, as a rule, has precise homing, that is it returns to spawn in the same river, in which it hatched. Its spawning migration is usually extended: it can take place from the beginning of June to mid-September. Magadan fishermen claim that the chum salmon is caught in the rivers by spinning, but it can also be fished with an artificial fly, only on the bottom of the river. The same spinning rope, which is used for fishing the pink salmon, can be used to catch the chum. Swinging baits are as successful as the rotating ones.

**Silver salmon** (*kizhuch*) is one of the most interesting kinds of fish for sport fishing. Bait casting for the silver salmon is very beautiful, and it is not particularly difficult even for novices - of course, if the numbers of pink salmon in the river are high enough. Akin to other Pacific salmon, the silver salmon does not feed in fresh water, so it swallows the bait very eagerly. Pacific salmon ought to be fished with a firm, not too flexible spinning rod of a sufficient length. The 2,2-2,5 meters long two-handed rod with a handle at 60 centimeters is the most universal kind. It allows the possibility of fishing off of the shore as well as off of a boat. The two-handed rod can be used for fishing for a long time without exhaustion.

**Dolly Varden trout** (*malma*), like pink salmon, is one of the most numerous fishes in the rivers of the Far East. The Dolly Varden trout is the most common catch for the hobbyists on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. The means and devices used to catch this fish have their particularities depending on the season. In the winter, the Dolly Varden trout practically does not migrate at all, which is why in December the mass fishing areas have hardly any large fish left in them. In April and May, one can fish not only under the ice, but also through ice holes using the summer fishing-tackle. In the spring, the Dolly Varden trout eats the young pink and silver salmon on their return to the sea. At that time, one can catch them using a float with small, light baits. In mid-June, the Dolly Varden trout moves to the sea, and in July begins its migration to the river, along with pink salmon. The first to migrate are the larger fish that will spawn during that season. They spawn in the higher river reaches, close to the river source. Magadan fishermen use long rods with a reel as the universal tackle. Changing the rig, one can fish using artificial flies or a small spinning bait. Different equipment can be placed at different segments of the 2,5-4 meter line. It is enough to have one rod with a reel and to change the rig during fishing. In the summer and in the fall, the Dolly Varden trout is easily caught in the rivers with an artificial fly. It seems that it swallows the fly most actively in mid and higher river ranges, where salmon do not spawn at all or hardly at all.

**Siberian grayling** (*harius*) is one of the most widely spread fresh water fish of the northern hemisphere. On the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk, the Siberian grayling can be seen only in the deep marshy tundra streams that have a quiet flow and red-brown water. The most interesting and sporty catching of the Siberian grayling is with an artificial fly. Some flies replicate insects or young fish, and some are completely imaginary, which is to say that they do not have a real prototype in nature.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, if this short overview of our marvelous region has raised your interest, we -- the native inhabitants -- would be more than glad to introduce you to our customs and traditions, in which you will feel yourself to be a part of nature.**

## THE SITUATION IN THE NENETS AUTONOMOUS OKRUG:

### **Transparent contractual relations – a basis for building up interaction between indigenous peoples and consumers of the depths of the earth**

*Vladislav Peskov, President of the Association of Nenets People “Yasavey”*

Presentation at Round Table:

#### **“Mastering natural resources in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug - Indigenous peoples and oil extracting companies - Perspectives for interaction”**

*Naryan-Mar, 11 May 2001*

Distinguished participants and guests to the Round Table!

I would like to commence with a discussion of the first topic which will also be the start of our work during the Round Table meeting.

At the same time allow me to express my gratitude to all the Round Table participants, who have made it possible to carry out this work in spite of various difficulties!

In my opinion, transparent contractual relations today are the most constructive and effective means to establish interaction between the indigenous peoples, government and oil extracting companies. With this approach, it seems to me that we will achieve the most meaningful results in solving the problems of the indigenous peoples of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

I shall start by talking about the circumstances of the indigenous peoples of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

It would be fair to say that the situation of the indigenous peoples of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug has not experienced any changes during the past 2 to 3 years. There is a lack of work at the settlement which is mainly inhabited by representatives of northern indigenous peoples, and a high rate of unemployment among indigenous peoples. The situation in the reindeer husbandry sector is deteriorating, e.g. a decrease in the number of reindeer, misappropriation (poaching, selling reindeer for alcoholic beverages and much

more), a change of attitude among reindeer herders towards reindeer husbandry, the miserable existence of reindeer farms and an overall social decrease in the amount of livestock. There is also an absence of appropriate marketing schemes for reprocessing and selling reindeer husbandry products (this problem is particularly felt by private reindeer herders – no possibility to hand over the meat and the government scheme of acceptance does not suit the majority of herders). The problem of inebriated inhabitants is a major problem with all the consequences this carries with it, including the general degradation of society. This concerns mainly the representatives of the indigenous peoples. The problem is maintaining culture, language, and the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

As a separate topic I would like to mention land use rights. In the current situation this issue is not specified in any manner. A phrase has been introduced into Article 17 of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug legislation, namely, “territories ranking in priority for nature usage”, but to my knowledge there has been no elaboration on this point in the okrug for the okrug legislation. As declared by the deputies of the Congress a federal law is expected to be passed. The land in the territory of the okrug is the possession of the government and is managed by those who utilize the land

(reindeer enterprises and agricultural farms) and by the NAO Administration. In connection with the elaboration of natural resources in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, land is being allotted for industrial purposes. The participation by the inhabitants who have a relationship to the lands allotted, mainly reindeer herders, receive miserly financial compensation in this land allotment process. According to information that has reached me, reindeer herders of the "Yerv" farm that are participating in these processes by means of holding general meetings. Unfortunately I have never had the possibility to participate in this process, but I am sure I will one day.

At this point we can state with certainty that the main work cut out for the "Movement to Realize the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug" is immense: a great amount of effort must be applied to attempt to solve the problems we are faced with and to find the effective tools and means for a solution.

Returning to the main topic of my presentation, I should like to stop for a moment and take a more detailed look at analysing those contractual relationships which have evolved, in my opinion, between the indigenous peoples of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, oil extracting enterprises and governmental organs.

### **Oil extracting companies and indigenous peoples in the NAO**

I would like to utilize recently received observations and information as the basis of this part of my presentation. My impressions have been formed based on discussions with representatives of oil extracting companies, their employees, indigenous peoples' rights campaigners, and representatives of governmental administration agencies. It is not possible for me to be completely objective since, to my regret, very little information on this topic is distributed in our okrug.

We can say that up until now, the position of the indigenous peoples as regards oil extracting companies, has been that of the NAO Administration. Information as to what is best and what is to be avoided in the case of indigenous peoples was received mainly from the government administration. There has not been any cooperation whatsoever with the oil extraction companies themselves. In an ideal situation this is probably appropriate. However, it must be noted that the interests of the NAO Administration, which are also intertwined with the acquisition of natural resources and which is the basis for the prosperity of the NAO as a whole, are formed bearing in mind this type of business.

In my opinion, interaction between the indigenous peoples and oil extracting companies in the NAO can be divided into several components:

#### ***1. Allotment of land for extraction or surveying of natural resources***

This facet comprises rather tight-knit contacts. According to practice, when dealing with the allotment of land, the Nenets indigenous rights movement takes part in the work performed by the government committees. Documents related to land allotment must be signed by the President of the Movement. This is quite an achievement and is in full adherence with Article 8 of the Federal Legislation, namely "Concerning The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples Of The Russian Federation". The procedure at present is the following: Before the President of the Movement signs the document, the land-user of this territory must sign first, i.e. the director of the farm from whose territory land is allotted.

Before land allotment takes place, a flight is made to aerially survey the land to be allotted; participants of the Movement must participate.

This occasion is the main tool and lever to establish interaction between the Movement and the oil extracting companies.

#### ***2. Receiving financial assistance from the sponsor and funds to render material assistance to the KMNS representatives:***

The Movement applies for financial assistance to the oil extraction companies, mainly for the following reasons:

- to render material assistance to the representatives of the indigenous peoples;
- to obtain presents for events to be celebrated;
- assistance in carrying out events such as the IV Congress, reindeer sled races, and Day of the Reindeer;

The greatest part of these financial funds is geared for social welfare.

#### ***3. Concluding cooperation agreements:***

With some oil extracting companies, the Movement has succeeded in concluding agreements for financial support. These agreements are valid for one year. There are no long-term agreements, unfortunately. At present two agreements are valid:

- Komi TEK agreement
- Agreement with ZAO "Severgeoldobych"; there is also an agreement with ZAO "Severgeoldobych" concerning participation in the improvement of the social situation of the indigenous people. The essence of this agreement is the exchange of information about job openings and making some of these available to indigenous people.

As far as the Movement is concerned this is the entire contractual process.

There are also contractual relations in the okrug between companies and farms.

An agreement existed between companies working on Kolguyev Island and the municipal education system. Unfortunately, at this time we do not have any information as to its status and results.

At present there is only one operating agreement, recently concluded, between ZAO “Varandeyneftegas” and a Union of Family and Relatives of the “Yerv” communities. Based on this agreement, ZAO “Varandeyneftegas” gives support in the form of a certain amount of money. And as far as I know, there are negotiations in progress for concluding an agreement between the Union “Yerv” and the Kalmyz Oil Company, which refused to participate in the Round Table forum.

The government-controlled Nenets Oil Company which represents a special interest. The name itself is of interest but what is the participation of the Nenets people in this company? Unfortunately, we were not able to also invite this company to the Round Table.

During the IV Congress on Indigenous Peoples in the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, a meeting was organized, with the help of Artur Chilingarov, between the delegates from the Nenets Autonomous Okrug with Vagit Alikperov, president of the giant Lukoil Oil Company. I consider this meeting significant because the representatives of the Nenets people had an opportunity for the first time to meet directly with the President of a large-scale oil company interested in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Moreover, this meeting showed results. At the meeting the idea was expressed that indigenous peoples can also be partners and build cooperation in a normal way.

Here is something interesting involving the Polar Northern Lights company: While browsing through the Internet I noticed that this company was recently awarded a prize for the best environmental technology<sup>1</sup>. Since they are working in our country and on our land and pay such significant attention to the land and to the territory of traditional nature utilization, this fact deserves attention and appraisal.

We can conclude this part of the presentation which deals with interaction between indigenous peoples and oil companies. In the next section of this presentation I shall make an attempt to explain the interaction between indigenous peoples of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug with the okrug’s administrative organs. Without more clarity of this topic, the picture as I see it will not be complete. These interactions have major influence on the entire situation concerning indigenous peoples in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

### **Government authorities in the NAO and indigenous peoples**

The interaction between indigenous peoples and government authorities in the NAO are based on policies carried out by the Administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Frankly speaking, the approach

is built by removing such problems and situations that crop up and demand an immediate solution. This reminds one of putting out the sources of a fire. For example, there is the case of resettling the inhabitants from the Varandey settlement. As a result of this resettlement an entire new set of problems arose. In essence the representatives of the indigenous peoples among the previous inhabitants of Varandey were in fact abandoned to fend for themselves after being resettled. The case is particularly relevant here because an oil terminal was built on the territory of the Varandey settlement and oil surveying is being carried out in this region.

A rather complicated relationship developed with the NAO legislative authorities and the Congress of Deputies. The Movement has the right to legislative initiatives (as defined in the Charter of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug) but at present the opportunity actually to apply this right does not exist. Interactions have taken on certain features due to the recent conflict concerning the acceptance of legislative initiatives as regards the quota of representatives in the Congress of Deputies. This situation is in need of further solutions and mutual cooperation from both the Movement and the Congress of Deputies.

As of this date, if we discuss contractual relationships between the indigenous peoples and the government authorities, then the following can be said:

- Agreements have been concluded between the NAO Administration and the Movement.
- The Movement participates in the process of formulating regional social and economic development programs together with the Committee on Northern Peoples Issues and representatives of the Movement are invited to participate in the work of the government commissions.

It is true that when interacting with government agencies the main decision is made by the government. Thus, the Movement can only advise and recommend, draw attention to certain issues—possibly their recommendations might be considered when solving problems.

The Movement is not always asked to participate by the governmental structures when solving major problems in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. An example would be the forming and realization of youth politics in the okrug (when establishing the Youth Forum the Movement was invited only when dealing with the accounting of trips made by agricultural participants and guests. The law in the okrug does not include any section or reference about the youth of the indigenous peoples).

It seems to me that when solving any problem of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, it is mandatory that the interests and opinions of the indigenous peoples are taken into account. At the very least they must be invited to participate in them.

<sup>1</sup> See Mir korennykh narodov No. 9-10, “Vybor yest” (in Russian), and ANSIPRA Bulletin No. 7A, “The choice is there” (in English)

I must also mention positive aspects of the interaction between the Movement and the government administration in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug:

- assistance by the participating delegation in the work of the IV Congress concerning indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation;
- close interaction between the Movement and the Committee on Northern Peoples Issues .

### Conclusions and recommendations

What conclusions can we come to and what recommendations can we give?

It seems to me that what we need to do at this point is to re-evaluate the Movement's strategies. We must work with all interested parties and work out our own opinion on all questions which concern the indigenous

peoples. The guidelines for such a strategy should be the following:

- solving problems dealing with land used for traditional nature utilization;
- maintaining and developing traditional economic activities, starting with traditional modes of life, while keeping in mind economic factors for development;
- the basis for the Movement's actions will be the acceptance of the program "The reindeer – our life and future" at the IV Congress;
- safeguarding and developing traditions and culture of the Nenets people;
- close cooperation with government agencies to solve problems affecting indigenous peoples;
- establishing transparent contractual relationships with oil companies.

## Relationship of the Yasavey Association with oil companies

*Vladislav Peskov, President of the Association of Nenets People "Yasavey"*

Presentation at Round Table:

### **"Mastering natural resources in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug - Indigenous peoples and oil extracting companies - Perspectives for interaction"**

*Naryan-Mar, 17 May 2002*

#### **1. The situation in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Problems and difficulties during negotiations with enterprises and the position of the government authorities of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. The syndrome known as "you are welcome , but..."**

The Nenets Autonomous Okrug occupies the northern part of the Timan-Pechora oil and gas producing province. Reindeer husbandry is practiced in this Okrug and the beginning of the 70s witnessed intensive surveying activities and oil extraction. In the book "Roads to oil", by Viktor Tolkachev, this period in history is rendered quite vividly. I shall not go into more detail on this matter since, in essence, the participants present at this meeting are not only well informed about this period in history of the Nenets Okrug but are also continuing to pursue these activities.

In my presentation I shall mainly emphasize the existing situation and relationship between the oil companies and the Nenets Okrug, particularly with regard to the population, governmental authorities and the indigenous peoples.

The early 90s witnessed a new phase in the development of the oil branch and the arrival of Lukoil, a large-scale enterprise in the Nenets Autonomous Ok-

rug. This situation left its imprint on all the layers of society within the Okrug. The election campaign in 2002 was a vivid illustration of the contradictions and disagreements existing within society.

It is my belief that a division of opinions occurred among the inhabitants: those for Lukoil on the one hand, and on the other hand those for the Administration. Those abstaining formed the minority.

Those supporting the Administration's position fear that the oil oligarchs will win the upper hand and feel indignation due to the low salaries given by the oil companies within the Okrug. The presence of small-scale or private oil companies is quite a welcome issue and hope is expressed that in case of a sufficiently large number of companies, the interest of local inhabitants will be taken into consideration.

There are others who agree with the presence of Lukoil and hold out hope that the Okrug will receive further development and life, on the whole, will become better. The arrival of a large-scale enterprise is interpreted as a further step in the development of infrastructure and the availability of many employment opportunities.

Numerous articles are published on these two topics and there are two opposing positions in the local press.

Even the governmental authorities in the Nenets Okrug are divided into two parts. A neutral position is mainly upheld by the Federal structures. The NAO Administration is against the ownership of the oil sources in the Nenets Okrug by the Lukoil company. The main argument is that small-scale enterprises means more taxes in the Okrug, the lack of cooperative prices for oil, etc. Yet no word is mentioned about environmental risks during the acquisition period. Neither is there any mention of the fact that small-scale companies could just disappear after having extracted a certain amount of oil, not to mention that the approach to the acquisition, in the interest of the population, should be comprehensive and systematic, according to the words of Lukoil itself.

Perhaps such a confrontation is inevitable, yet this situation has existed for three years. Objectively speaking, this situation does not permit the Okrug to develop.

Another scenario is already beginning to transpire: that each individual company is planning to build its own pipeline and to lead it up to Usinsk or to its own oil terminal on the coast of the Barents Sea. Should this continue, then the eastern part of the Okrug shall soon be covered with a network of oil pipelines owned by different companies. There are numerous examples of such a practice even in our Okrug... How can one come to an agreement with them, how can one monitor the oil extracting process and the observance of environmental requirements, not to mention the interests of the indigenous peoples and the inhabitants of the Okrug?

This question must definitely be put to the governmental authorities on all levels concerning the elaboration or confirmation of the Federal program on the acquisition of the Timan-Pechorsk province. It is no secret that drafts for such a program have already been made but a solution does not yet exist...

In other regions, for example those of our neighbors – the Yamal-Nenets and Khanty-Mansi autonomous okrugs, conflicts of this type do not exist. I am well acquainted with and have visited Yamal on numerous occasions during these three years and can tell you that there is indisputably something to be learned from them. This refers to not only the interrelationships with large-scale enterprises (Gasprom, one of the largest giants in the gas industry, is located in Yamal) but also to the attitude towards the inhabitants. Without a doubt there are many problems and conflictful situations. The difference is that they find a solution or at least make an attempt to do so. It is a well-known fact that the arrival of the oil or gas workers into the region does not only lead to problems, but at the same time also to an amelioration of the social and economic situation. At this point I should like to quote the words spoken by Sergey N. Kharyuchi (a representative of the government Duma YANAO) when he said that in Yamal the governmental authorities and the oil workers make every attempt possible not to be drawn into conflicts between them-

selves and the inhabitants of the Okrug... If this could happen to us...

Why should we – the Yasavey Association – raise this question? The answer is an easy one – this is our land, we have lived here, we still live here and we shall continue to live here. Consequently, since the Yasavey Association represents and protects the interests of the indigenous peoples in the NAO, we would like to know and have the right to know how the government intends to solve the problems related to the acquisition of oil on the territory of the Okrug. The acquisition of oil touches upon the interests of not only the indigenous peoples but also the Komi who are involved with reindeer husbandry in the Okrug. The first impact is felt by reindeer husbandry. Alienation of grazing lands, pollution of the environment, a conflict of interests and many more issues. The inhabitants of the settlements are least touched but consequences can not be avoided... Even though the Committee on NAO Land Resources has disclosed data and the figure of less than 1% is used to illustrate the amount of grazing land for reindeer which has been taken away for the construction of oil elaboration, don't forget that this is only the beginning... Furthermore, how can one say that when a pipeline for oil is being built the actual amount of land taken away for this purpose would in fact not be large? This oil pipeline can effectively cut off a part of the territory, hindering access by the reindeer herds ...

We are in favor of the government approach since the Russian government and the President guarantee our rights and steps must be taken to ensure that our rights are not violated. A solution must be found for the situation in the Okrug. The time for hostilities and conflicts is over. It is time to sit down around a negotiating table and start a dialogue. Our Round Table is an example of this. General questions shall not be touched upon even though they are tightly intertwined. For the time being we shall limit ourselves to discussing the relationships between indigenous peoples and oil enterprises.

## **2. Main guidelines and principles towards building up relations between the Yasavey Association and the oil enterprises working within the Nenets Okrug.**

As of March 2001, the Yasavey Association declared its intention of having a transparent relationship with the oil extracting enterprises working within the Nenets Autonomous Okrug. The Association continues to uphold the strategy and policy selected. During these Round Table discussions which are being held for the second time, we are convinced that the community of the Okrug has taken a greater amount of interest, but what is more important, the oil companies are ready to hold a dialogue with us. Frankly speaking, the interested companies are mainly those belonging to the Lukoil group. The remaining companies,

the so-called small-scale companies, are observing the situation or taking a neutral stand.

It is not our task to bring these companies over to our side, but the problems are numerous and for this reason we have decided to create this public forum where it is possible to discuss questions which crop up.

The Round Table being held this year is especially interesting because a number of rather acute problems have arisen and they shall be presented for discussion at this Round Table meeting.

At this point I should like to enumerate those principles according to which the Yasavey Association operates and shall continue operating along these lines in the foreseeable future with regard to interaction with oil companies:

- Transparency of dialogues. This is of utmost importance. We are not for negotiations based on gossip overheard in corridors or behind the scene. We are ready and willing to carry out discussions with open cards.
- Utilizing experience from Russia and abroad to solve these problems. The Yasavey Association is a regional subunit of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON). The policy of this Association is our main point of orientation.
- Consultations with international financial institutes such as the EBRR, and the World Bank. On the one hand such consultations are necessary in order to study the experience of the communities participating in controlling the projects financed by them. On the other hand, in order to ensure direct participation of the Yasavey Association in the procedure of discussing possible projects within the Nenets Okrug.
- Informing the community, in a compulsory manner, as well as creating our own data bank concerning projects for the acquisition of oil sources. We already have an archive of all documents agreed upon and signed by the Yasavey Association.
- A neutral position towards all companies. We shall not favor oil companies just because they are “ours” or “foreign”. You have come to our Okrug in order to work, to develop your own business activities and to earn money. Our attitude will depend on how you will adhere to the rules and regulations applied in the contemporary world. We are not opposed to the idea of acquisition; it is the policy of the government and we are its citizens. We advocate acquisition of oil and gas within our Okrug which is competent, safe and insured from all risks.
- Monitoring and controlling the realization of the projects. Our aim is to have our comments and proposals either accepted or rejected justifiably in writing which can then be used in court. We have made many comments on a great number of projects and there exist already at this stage exam-

ples of our comments are not being followed up on by the projects. It is not without reason that we request the companies to familiarize us with their work. We want to see the companies in practice and attempt to determine of whether to trust these companies or not. With this in mind we have already familiarized ourselves with the experience obtained by the company “Polyarnoe Siyanie (Polar Lights)” and now we shall look into the work of “Varandeyneftegas”.

- Negotiating processes and training of representatives of indigenous peoples by means of negotiations. The planned seminar on this unfortunately did not take place. Therefore we are presenting you the material and still have not abandoned hope that this seminar will be held in the Okrug. We are ready to participate in negotiating processes between companies and reindeer herders as well as seek out and invite specialists. We have not yet been invited to participate in this process by a company involved in reindeer husbandry. This occurs in spite of the fact that one or the other company turns to us at a later date with complaints against another company.
- Working with companies in order to realize joint projects and programs for the inhabitants of the NAO. We are ready not only to receive financial support from the company but also to prepare for them, jointly with the companies, reasonable proposals, projects and programs for the social and economic development of indigenous peoples and inhabitants within the Okrug. However, at this stage the orientation is more towards experimental tasks and minor questions.
- In order for our claims and programs to be well-founded, we intend to organize an impartial evaluation of oil projects with respect to their ethnological impacts. Our belief is that social programs encompass not only the inhabitants of the particular area of the developments earmarked.
- Working out and preparing proposals and legal drafts for a legislative basis of the Nenets Okrug and utilizing the resources of the created Working Group concerning the creation of rules and mechanisms leasing natural resources. Even though at present the possibilities for the region to achieve this are dwindling continuously. The Federal Center is attempting to take over everything for itself or at least the largest part. This would also offer a possibility for a general discussion on the subject of creating a fund for future generations and using the experience obtained by indigenous peoples in Alaska, Canada, and the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug.
- Inviting the organs of the governmental authorities of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug of the Federal structures to participate in these processes. It should be noted that as far as the Federal structures and the meeting of deputies of the Nenets

Okrug are concerned, there exists a certain amount of participation. However, the NAO Administration does not participate in spite of constantly sending out invitations for cooperation and interaction.

The initiative to hold transparent discussions in the form of Round Table discussions and joint meetings is timely and necessary. Many problems can thus be solved in advance and at the negotiating stage all rules, regulations and details can be discussed as well as the procedure to be applied when introducing amendments.

Making these discussions public, the need to inform the public at large concerning the actual state of affairs is an extremely important factor. It is our sincere desire that the inhabitants of the Okrug are informed as to the actual situation, the actual income and also what they receive from this income.

More than often the public at large is not aware of the actual situation. We the Yasavey Association shall make every attempt to solve this problem.

### **3. What has been achieved during the past year in this direction. Work together with the NO "Union of Geologists and Oil Workers of the North".**

As you already know, a decision was made during the last Round Table discussions to establish a Working Group. At this point I should also like to elaborate on the actual work of the Working Group.

Following the Round Table discussions, the Yasavey Association together with the Union prepared a proposal concerning the establishing of a Working Group and sent this proposal to the companies. After lengthy discussions and negotiations, the Working Group was founded. The companies were requested to invest their financial share. As of today, there are 8 companies which have carried this out and transferred their shares. The overall sum of transferred shares comprises 491,128.15 roubles. A statement is attached to your file of documents.

All funds were spent according to the confirmed budget of the Working Group and we made an attempt to reflect this as well in the financial statement.

As of October 2001 a secretarial aide was employed. Her statement is also attached and many companies have already become acquainted with her. She prepared all the details necessary to hold these Round Table discussions and during the discussions her task was to gather information and disseminate it to the companies.

*Planning the first phase and achievements attained by the Working Group:*

1. Establishment of a working place for the Secretary and defining her duties

2. Partially using the resources of the Working Group including our own resources we began to attain, for example, business trips to the populated points of the Okrug. The main destinations during this phase were the Kanin, Timan and Malozemlya Okrugs. Within the framework of the WG the following business trips were made:

- Nelmin-Nos (several trips)
- Krasnoe (several trips)
- Indiga and Vyucheyskiy
- Arkhangelsk – Mezen – Nes – Oma
- Murmansk (several trips)

A report for almost every destination has been presented; a few reports are currently being compiled. The reports which have been completed were dispatched to the companies. During the next phase, our plans include the eastern part of the Okrug.

3. The Yasavey Association has prepared several proposals concerning the projects and several of them are being compiled at this stage, mainly

- The Kolguev Island project (1st stage complete, preparation of 2nd stage)
- "Kaninskiy Krasnyy Chum" project
- Project related to rendering assistance to reindeer herders leaving the Vyucheyskiy (Nelmin-Nos) SPK membership.

New reports are also being prepared.

All financial operations within the framework of the Working Group are carried out together with the Union since the Union has presented its financial statement and monitors outgoing funds.

This Round Table was prepared using the funds of the Working Group and we were not obliged to request additional financing. We also prepared a CD for you which includes electronic versions of the material related to the subject of indigenous peoples and oil companies. Material about the Okrug is also available, e.g. a video of the Lukoil company flight to the Yerv reindeer farm in order to discuss the construction of the future oil pipeline. The film has not been edited and thus you can follow the process of the discussions taking place and the entire flight route. We hope that this material will serve you in your work.

That was only one side of the work performed by the Yasavey Association. In order to solve our problems we use not only the resources from the Working Group but also those of the Danish project which has been going on since January 1, 2002. At present we are occupied with accumulating and analyzing applications from the sites themselves in order to elaborate these projects and prepare them for the financing stage. In order to solve problems related to the inhabitants, especially in populated places, it is not always necessary to have millions of dollars. An amount of 10000 to 20000 roubles is often sufficient to carry out a project along with a person to whom it is obvious that help can be received. The main thing is to have the knowledge necessary to establish your own busi-

ness and to start working on your own. As an example we are constantly referring to a workshop “Yenabz” (Viktoria Vylko) in the Krasnoe settlement. We were not the ones who commenced this process but we supported it and today they are self-sufficient. We intend to develop this experience in our inhabited points.

Perhaps it will be possible within the framework of the Working Group, to establish a fund for so-called small grants in order to finance projects geared towards sustainable development.

More detailed information concerning the activities of the Working Group will be available in the near future. However, the time has come to express my gratitude to the Union for the support and assistance it has rendered and in particular I should like to thank Evgeniy Tikhonovich Bobrov who coordinated this work on behalf of the Union.

There exists a great need for the companies to participate more actively. You have invested financial means but at times we are not aware of your problems and for this reason we need your active participation. Let us jointly elaborate proposals. Unfortunately, it must be noted that most of the work in this area was made and defined by the Yasavey Association. We are ready for mutual collaboration of the works planned and also to carry them out.

#### **4. Work performed by specialists and specifying the guidelines of these works**

Specialists were invited to participate in the Working Group. Unfortunately not all of those invited could participate at the Round Table discussions. Nevertheless, the Yasavey Association is maintaining contact and working with some of them. A large part of the material on the CD is presented by Alexandr Pilyasov and the Association for indigenous peoples in the North, Siberia and the Far East.

Up until now we have not been able to hold a meeting of experts and I hope that after this Round Table meeting a series of substantial questions will arise which the experts can assist us in solving.

Composition of experts of the Working group:

1. Pavel Sulyandziga (RAIPON)
2. Aleksandr Pilyasov (SOPS Russian Academy of Sciences)
3. Tamara Lesoto (Ministry of Natural Resources, Russian Federation)
4. Viktoria Bobrova (lawyer, Nenets AO prosecution office)
5. Georgiy Yastrebov (Nenets AO Committee on Land Resources)
6. Leonid Sablin (Nenets AO Meeting of deputies)

#### **5. The situation with reindeer husbandry. The position of the Yasavey Association**

The previous Round Table meeting was held in a rather calm atmosphere but at present some acute circumstances have arisen concerning the interaction between oil companies and reindeer herders.

##### **1. The “Ya’ Yerv” establishment and ZAO “Varandeyneftegas” and ZAO “Lukoil-Sever”**

A Commission was founded and on May 13<sup>th</sup> a flight left for the construction site. At present the commission is in the process of making a decision. In my opinion the sides are not ready to hold a constructive dialogue. There is a series of questions and problems and these must be solved. This is particularly the case since there are insufficient reports from both sides in addition to emotions running high.... We must sit down and start the process of coming to an agreement...

##### **2. The establishment “Druzhba Narodov” and the company “Bovel”**

At present a problem exists related to obtaining land handed over. The establishment “Druzhba narodov” insists on concluding an agreement which includes additional financial liabilities.

##### **3. The establishment “Harp” and OAO “Severgasprom”**

SPK “Harp” addressed itself requesting assistance in solving the situation with OAO “Severgasprom”. The Yasavey Association started looking into this problem but has come no further since there has been no development on behalf of SPK “Harp” or else the Yasavey Association has no information relating to this issue.

##### **Our general position is the following:**

Already during the designing stage and the handing over of land, any existing problems must be agreed upon. This applies in particular to the building of overpasses for reindeer. These also fall into the category of construction objects and must be supplied with specific documentation, wherein the following instances are reflected:

- Basis for selecting the sites of the overpasses and agreement of it with the reindeer herders;
- These overpasses must be reflected in the project documentation in accordance with all regulations governing technical documentation;
- The overpasses must be prepared *first* during the construction phase to avoid the disruption of reindeer herders economic activities;
- Technical parameters must conform with realistic parameters, thus avoiding unnecessary questions related to width, height and type of construction;
- Government bodies shall elaborate the basic requirements for reindeer overpasses and also monitor their realization;

- When deciding questions with establishments dealing with the conclusion of compensatory agreements, it is mandatory that such discussions are open and made available to the public at large. The Yasavey Association is willing to participate in such discussions and work out general recommendations within the framework of the Working Group.

## 6. Conclusions and recommendations for future perspectives

We propose continuation of this work according to the principles and guidelines outlined previously.

### *The most important ones are:*

- An open atmosphere and transparency when concluding agreements and contracts between the main stake-holders, reindeer herder establishments and oil extracting companies as well as in

making decisions on conflicts erupting between them.

- Advancing initiatives concerning the need of a comprehensive and systematic approach when acquiring oil resources in the Okrug, taking into account the interests of the indigenous peoples and inhabitants.
- Carrying out impartial ethnological impact evaluations of all oil projects as a basis for a scientifically sound program for social and economic development of indigenous peoples in the Okrug and its inhabitants.

### *Practical recommendations:*

During the construction phase of oil pipelines, the economic activities of the initial consumers shall not be violated and in particular, the reindeer crossings of the oil pipelines shall be built first. The above must be the rule in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

## To the President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin

14.10.2002

### **Copies to:**

Government of the Russian Federation, Chairman M.M. Kasyanov  
Government Duma of the Russian Federation, Chairman G.N. Seleznev  
General Prosecution Office of the Russian Federation, General Procurator V.V. Ustinov  
Ministry for Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, Minister V.G. Artyukhov  
Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East of the RF, President S.N. Haryuchi  
Administration of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Head of the Administration V.Ya. Butov  
Council of Deputies of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Chairperson V.F. Glazunova

### **Dear President Putin,**

*We, the Yasavey Association, hereby address you in response to the uncontrolled situation which has developed around the exploitation of natural resources in the Nenets Okrug. The council representing the local community, the Yasavey Association for the Nenets People (henceforth the Yasavey Association) has decided to do so on September 11, 2002. The situation has seriously alarmed us and compels us to conclude that grave violations of ecological standards and Russian legislation are occurring.*

*On September 10, 2002, we participated in an aerial survey undertaken by the commission for land plot allocations on behalf of the prospecting company YSC "Archangelskgeoldobycha". The purpose of was to find new sites for the construction of prospecting wells. During the flight we also passed over sites belonging to other companies and were horrified by what we saw.*

*We had the impression that many companies, in particular Russian companies, were executing natural resource exploitation in the Nenets Okrug on a similar level of that which took place during the 70's, in the Soviet era. Up-to-date technology, however, is being employed in oil extraction, by companies such as Ardalinskoye (Kompaniya Polyarnoe Siyanie), the Haryaginskoe deposit (Total Fina Elf), etc.*

*These companies do not follow ecologically sound practices and environmental regulations and violate labour requirements under Arctic conditions when extracting oil deposits. Examples of such companies include the Kalmytskaya oil company, "PechoraNefit", ZAO "Lukoil-Sever", Danao – Engineering, ZAO "Severgeoldobycha", etc. And these are only a few examples. Acute circumstances where there is no control whatsoever are in the south-eastern part of the Nenets Okrug. There are periodical oil spillages and*

## NENETS AUTONOMOUS OKRUG

*degradation of the upper soil layers in the tundra during the summer season. All these factors inflict irreparable damage to the Arctic natural environment.*

*It is our opinion that the government organs of the administration and the Federal authorities of the Nenets Okrug do not fulfill their functions. In practice there is no supervision and no monitoring of oil prospecting and extraction and this makes it possible for the companies to downgrade their working standards and practices which in turn leads to violations.*

*There still exists no comprehensive, government-approved programme for the exploitation of oil in the Timan-Pechora province.*

*We can enumerate a great number of violations, but our opinion is that changes must occur from the bottom up.*

*The Nenets Okrug is first and foremost a pasture for reindeer. For as far back as human memory extends, Nenets and Komi indigenous peoples in this region have maintained a traditional way of life rooted firmly in reindeer husbandry.*

*These are the people who mainly suffer as a result of the barbaric attitudes of newcomers to the Arctic natural environment even though indigenous rights are guaranteed by Federal legislation as well as international agreements. The Russian Federation is a party to this injustice. Situations emerge whereby the interests of the reindeer herders and the oil companies conflict quite strongly.*

*We appeal to you to take the necessary measures, without delay, and bring order to the Nenets Okrug. In addition a system whereby the government undertakes continual supervision and monitoring of natural resource exploitation in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug must be developed and implemented. Our opinion is that the government of the Russian Federation must take the following measures, namely:*

- the organs for government inspection in the Nenets Okrug and the federal services must be forced to maintain continuous control and monitoring as regards extraction of oil deposits in the Nenets Okrug;*
- violations of ecological standards – both Russian and international – by oil companies must be strictly enforced by the government;*
- develop a comprehensive programme for extracting oil and gas in the Timan-Pechora province;*
- protect the virgin habitats and the traditional use of nature by the indigenous peoples in the Nenets Okrug;*
- the granting of new licenses to explore for and extract new oil deposits in the Nenets Okrug must be systematized.*

*By taking these steps without delay, the Russian Federation will support the protection of the Arctic environment – which is already quite fragile – at the same time as protecting the rights of the indigenous peoples, as well as all the inhabitants of the Nenets Okrug, to utilize nature in a traditional manner. Furthermore, it will enable principles of sustainable development to be implemented in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug.*

*We will gladly participate actively in carrying out such supervision and continue searching for acceptable solutions for a sustainable development of the Nenets Okrug.*

*It is our sincere hope that you as the guarantor of our constitutional rights will take all necessary measures to protect your citizens, allowing them to realise their constitutional rights.*

*Please find enclosed material concerning the results of the aerial survey on September 10, 2002:*

- 1. Excerpt from the note of the Yasavey Association*
- 2. A poster called “Extracting oil deposits in the Nenets Okrug”*
- 3. A CD with photographs*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*V.V. Peskov*

*President of the Yasavey Association for the Nenets People*

NOTES:**Indigenous sacred sites in the Arctic – International pilot project in Russia***RAIPON, 17 September 2002*

With financial support from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, a RAIPON/CAFF/IPS pilot project to map and identify the conservation value of sacred sites of indigenous peoples is being implemented. The first project phase, completed with participation of solely indigenous experts, has already had a positive impact on legislation work in the model areas in the Yamal-Nenets and Kamchatka/Koryak autonomous okrugs. In the case study (2001-2002) in the Tazovskiy Rayon (area of 174,000 sq. km, total population of 16,300) in the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug (Northwest Siberia) there were interviewed 66 elders, reindeer herders and fishermen of nomad Nenets people who documented and mapped 263 sacred sites. Simultaneously, in the Olyutorskiy Rayon (301,500 sq. km, total population about 29,300 people) in the Koryak Autonomous Okrug (Kamchatka peninsula of the Russian Far East) there were interviewed 30 representatives of Koryak, Chukchi and Itelmen peoples with documentation and mapping of 84 sacred sites. Standard methodology with photo documentation, audio- and video recording has been applied for the description of the sacred sites, a preliminary classification in each model area has been developed on the basis of existing publications, archives and research. First project outcomes have been presented by the project coordinator Mikhail Todyshev, a RAIPON Vice-President, at CAFF IX in Abisko, Sweden, 28-31 August 2002. The final report in Russian (150 pp., with executive summary in English) is available upon request from the RAIPON ([www.raipon.org](http://www.raipon.org)). Other northern regions in Russia have expressed interest in conducting similar research.

The second phase of the project foresees the organization of the Circumpolar workshop and presentation of the CAFF Technical Report with the analysis of the project outcomes and recommendations. The background information to the final report in Russian contains substantial research materials, references and facts.

**News Release: Indigenous Peoples' Declaration released at World Summit on Sustainable Development***Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat, Arctic Council, 23 August 2002*

JOHANNESBURG – Indigenous Peoples have called for a World Summit on Indigenous Peoples as a fol-

low up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development now underway in South Africa.

Representatives of Indigenous organizations from nearly 50 countries met for four days in Kimberley prior to the World Summit. They heard reports from the different indigenous regions, discussed international institutions and their roles, and developed a political statement for release at the Johannesburg Summit. Indigenous delegates are attempting to influence both the Political Declaration of the Summit and to the direction of sustainable development over the next decade.

Indigenous peoples are calling on states to include a line in the Political Declaration, which is: "We reaffirm the vital role of indigenous peoples in sustainable development."

Delegates from the Arctic, South America, Asia, Africa met in the homeland of the Khoi-San people. The Khoi-San, the original inhabitants of South Africa, are struggling for recognition as a distinct people within this country. They are also fighting for the return of their lands, which were taken away during the colonial and apartheid periods.

Besides calling for an Indigenous Peoples Summit, the declaration states that

- Indigenous peoples reaffirm their right to self-determination and to control and manage their lands and resources;
- Indigenous peoples have a right to set their own sustainable development priorities, and free and informed prior consent must be obtained before any development project takes place in their territories;
- Traditional knowledge systems must be respected and use of traditional knowledge must have the knowledge holders' consent. "Unauthorized use and misappropriation of traditional knowledge is theft";
- Indigenous peoples rights to "our sacred and ceremonial sites and ancestral remains" must be respected;
- Globalization and unsustainable resource extraction practices are obstacles to the recognition of indigenous rights;
- Indigenous peoples are willing to enter into partnerships with governments, international agencies and the private sector provided that they are done so based on principles of honest and good faith, and that indigenous rights are recognized; and
- The United Nations should secure all the necessary political, institutional and financial support to ensure the effective operation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

*The Arctic was represented at the Indigenous Summit by the Saami Council, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and the Aleut International Association. The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat assisted with fundraising, logistics and other work.*

**Editor's note:**

*The Kimberley Declaration and other information from the World Summit on Sustainable Development can be found in IPS UPDATE, enclosed with the Russian edition of this issue. The English language version can be downloaded from <http://www.arcticpeoples.org>.*

## **Situation report from the Evenk Autonomous Okrug**

*N. Kaplin, Vice-President of RAIPON*

A critical socio-economic situation has developed in the Okrug. During the period from 1995 to 2002, according to information from A.I. Pankagir, Deputy of the Legislative Assembly of the Evenk Autonomous Okrug (EAO), the number of the indigenous inhabitants of the Okrug has been reduced to 42 %.

People hunt mainly in spring for food and subsistence of the families. Due to the lack of employment opportunities in the trading centres – in places where the indigenous population is concentrated – the people cannot settle down with seasonal or periodical work. Furthermore they cannot realise their rights with respect to territories of traditional nature use. Out of this a simple conclusion can be made: There are today no land rights for the indigenous peoples of the North – that means no rights to live.

At present, in the indigenous communities of the Baykitsk Rayon – already earlier this year neglected when a few oilrigs were set up – an oil refinery has been installed. The company continues to build pipelines and roads, destroying indigenous people's sacred sites and burial places, and preventing communities from pursuing traditional occupations. As a result, the members of the ruined communities are forced to settle in the trading centres, where they are condemned to unemployment, poverty, deprivation of their civil

rights, tuberculosis, alcoholism, suicide, and in the end – extinction. Well-known media have already written about this, among them the British newspaper Guardian, the Dutch Handelsblat, and the Russian Kommersant.

The Association of the Baykitsk Rayon of the EAO has addressed the federal and regional authorities without achieving any solution for the indigenous inhabitants.

## ***Press release of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 12 December 2002:***

### **Swedish support to Saami cultural centre in Lovozero, Russia**

Today the Government decided to allocate a sum of SEK 1,215,000 for the development of a Saami cultural centre in Lovozero on the Russian Kola peninsula. Lovozero is a main centre for the Russian Saami population and the cultural centre will be an important contribution towards strengthening their cultural identity. Sweden is making active efforts to improve the opportunities for indigenous peoples to take part in regional cooperation in the Barents region. In the run-up to the meeting of prime ministers in Kirkenes on 10-11 January in connection with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, Sweden wants to contribute to a cultural centre that will fulfil an important function as purveyor of culture, help to strengthen the cultural identity of the Saami population and build ties between Saami in Russia and the Nordic countries.

The contribution from the Government is intended for the renovation and refurbishment of a central building in Lovozero, where a cultural centre will be established, as well as a workshop for production of Saami handicraft, offices for the Saami association and production premises and branch offices for Sami radio broadcasts via NRK Sameradio, YLE and Sveriges Radio (the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:****New Books:****TOWARDS A NEW MILLENNIUM: TEN YEARS OF THE INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA***Thomas Køhler & Kathrin Wessendorf, eds.*

IWGIA &amp; RAIPON, 2002. 292 pp., illustrations. Translated from Russian. ISBN: 87-90730-52-6. ISSN: 0105-4503. Price: US\$ 16.00; UK£ 11.20; DKK 120.00 + postage

This book is a collection of articles written by indigenous leaders and politicians from all parts of Russia. The articles outline the history of indigenous peoples' struggle, events and conditions of the recent decade.

The indigenous umbrella organisation in Russia, the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2000, an occasion for looking back at its work during its 10-year history and at the same time looking forward to the new millennium. The articles were originally produced as a book for this occasion. Towards a new Millennium is a translation of the original Russian version of the book and an attempt to strengthen the awareness outside the country of the struggle of indigenous peoples in Russia.

The book can be directly ordered from: [http://www.iwgia.org/order\\_book.html?id=17](http://www.iwgia.org/order_book.html?id=17) or by contacting the IWGIA's secretariat: [iwgia@iwgia.org](mailto:iwgia@iwgia.org)

**KAMPEN OM TUNDRAEN. NENETSERNE OG DERES HISTORIE  
(THE STRUGGLE FOR THE TUNDRA. THE NENETS AND THEIR HISTORY)**

In Norwegian, summary in English, Saami and Russian

*Øyvind Ravna*

Nordic Saami Institute, Dieðut series No. 4/2002. 180 pp., 40 illustrations, 4 maps.

ISBN: 82-7367-008-2. ISSN: 0332-7779. Price: NOK 280,- <http://www.ravna.com>; <http://www.nsi.no>

The book deals with the history and present of the Nenets, of 40 indigenous peoples of the Russian North, Siberia and Far East. It looks at the present and the juridical status of this indigenous people as a minority within the Russian Federation.

Even though the author has followed the standards for scientific publications, he has managed to make the dramatic history and present situation of the Nenets appear alive and accessible. For people interested in indigenous peoples and Arctic history, this book is a must. Since ancient times, the Nenets and Saami peoples have been neighbours, and they are related through language and culture. Long-time adaptation to Arctic climate has led to the Nenets possessing what is probably the most specialised reindeer husbandry culture in the Northern areas. For several centuries, the Nenets attempted to withstand the onslaught of the Russian colonists. Ultimately this was a fight they were destined to lose, however violently they resisted (even up to the present there have been riots); the Soviets came to the tundra in the 1920s with schools and educational programmes, but also with collectivisation, linguistic and cultural suppression.

In this book, the author focuses on this little-known anti-colonisation struggle, a fight not unlike that of the North American Indians, who also fought for their land areas and strived to protect their way of life. The author also analyses the present situation, the struggle to re-establish private reindeer husbandry, and the juridical status after Russia passed a constitutional law aiming at the protection of its indigenous peoples. The book is illustrated with many illustrations and several maps, an index, and a detailed table of contents.

*Govert de Groot, Arctic Peoples Alert***NARRATING THE ARCTIC. A CULTURAL HISTORY OF NORDIC SCIENTIFIC PRACTICES***Michael Bravo & Sverker Sörlin, eds.*

Published in 2002. 384 pp., illustrated. ISBN 0-88135-385-X. Price: US\$ 39.95, UK£ 25.00.

To order this book see: <http://www.amazon.com>; <http://www.shpusa.com/books/arctic.html>;<http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk>

Arctic exploration has long been treated as a history of heroes, left by and large to writers of popular non-fiction. A new interest in the Arctic as an arena for questions concerning the interplay of science, national aspiration, and aboriginal rights, has recently emerged. Narrating the Arctic reflects this shift within modern history writing. With its coverage of themes such as travel, geopolitics, nationalism, and colonial field practice the book also intersects with growing or emerging topics within cultural, ethnic, and political history. This book demonstrates how two Nordic nations have to a large extent shaped their identities, and legitimated their interests, through narratives of northern exploration and colonisation. Inuit and Saami have been prominent in these narratives. At the same time native populations and postcolonial fiction have articulated counter-narratives and alternative routes to the past and to the future. This is also an attempt to approach the politics of science from a cultural perspective. The authors – historians of science, anthropologists, postcolonial

## NEW BOOKS

geographers, and literary scholars – examine the role of scientists, missionaries, and other Arctic field workers in shaping narratives through their practices of telling stories of places and peoples.

### **THUNDER ON THE TUNDRA. INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT OF THE BATHURST CARIBOU**

*Natasha Thorpe, Naikak Hakongak, Sandra Eyegetok & the Kitikmeot Elders*

Published: 2002. 200 pp., illustrated.

ISBN: 0-9689636-0-9. Price: CND\$ 39.25 plus \$2.75 GST; S&H: \$8 (Canada); \$15 (USA); \$22 (other)

To order please contact: Natasha Thorpe, 231 Irving Road, Victoria, BC V8S 4A1 Canada, Phone: 250/995-9388.

Email: [tnp1@hotmail.com](mailto:tnp1@hotmail.com); <http://www3.telus.net/tuktu>.

Inuit elders share their insights of caribou and explore the link between Qitirmiut and caribou.

Caribou have always been central to Inuit identity, subsistence, culture and tradition. From 1996 through 2001, the Tuktu and Nogak Project brought together elders, hunters, youth and researchers to record stories about the Bathurst caribou and their calving grounds. Thunder on the Tundra is one result of this project. Based on more than thirty-seven interviews, this chronicle provides a fascinating view into the world of caribou as understood by Inuit from the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut. In the words and illustrations of the people themselves, it presents Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), traditional knowledge, for the benefit of present and future generations.

This 200-page collection includes over 100 drawings, photos and maps and was illustrated by local elders and youth. Well-known northerners and arctic photographers, Paul Nicklen and David Pelly, contributed their photos, while northerner Lynn O'Rourke provided her graphic design talent. This work is the result of a community effort that was made possible through the dedication and hard work of many people and the support of several generous agencies.

### **THE EARTH IS FASTER NOW: INDIGENOUS OBSERVATIONS OF ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE**

*Krupnik, Igor & Jolly, Dyanna (eds.)*

Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS), Fairbanks, Alaska, 2002. 384 pp. ISBN 0-9720449-0-6. Price: US\$ 20.-

"The Earth is Faster Now" reviews major individual studies on indigenous knowledge and climate change undertaken during the past few years, primarily in North America. The volume offers a comparative survey of research practices and paradigms used in current documentation studies of indigenous knowledge, and a general assessment of the field and of the data collected. The text is accompanied by local observations, quotations from interviews, personal observations, illustrations, and photographs. Contributors include well-known academic researchers and Native people from Canada, Finland, and the United States. The publication is designed to be useful to both researchers and communities as a tool for networking and communication.

To order a copy, download (<http://www.arcus.org/EIFN/index.html>) and print the order form and enclose a check or money order in U.S. dollars for \$20 per copy. Discounts are available for resellers and for orders of 10 or more copies. To ask about discounts, e-mail [arcus@arcus.org](mailto:arcus@arcus.org), phone 907/474-1600, or fax 907/474-1604. For more information about the publication described here, please contact ARCUS Project Manager Sue Mitchell at: phone: 907/474-1600, fax: 907/474-1604, Email: [sue@arcus.org](mailto:sue@arcus.org)

### **ARCTIC POLLUTION 2002**

*Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)* Published by the AMAP Secretariat, Oslo, 2002. Illustrated. 112 pp.

This is the second report of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, mainly focussing on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), heavy metals, radioactivity, human health and changing pathways in the Arctic environment.

The report can be order from AMAP; P.O.Box 8100, N-0032 Oslo, Norway, e-mail [amap@amap.no](mailto:amap@amap.no), or downloaded from the website <http://www.amap.no>.

### **INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES ACROSS THE COMMUNITY**

*B.J. Burnaby & J.A. Reyhner (eds.)*

Northern Arizona University. Flagstaff, Arizona, 2002. 264 pp. ISBN 0-9670554-2-3. Price is US\$ 15.-

Since 1994, the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Conferences have provided an unparalleled opportunity for practitioners and scholars dedicated to supporting and developing the endangered indigenous languages of the world. The papers in this volume describe indigenous language efforts in Canada, the United States of America, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Russia, and the Caribbean. They are divided into six sections: Broad perspectives and policy, language and whole community development, educational advances, languages and literacy development, the media, and the meeting of Inuit and Yupik participants. The papers discuss issues such as bilingual education, adult education, literacy, teacher training, orthography and dictionary development, the role of religion and culture, and language planning and advocacy strategies.

Web-site: <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/TIL.html>.

**REINDEER HERDING IN TRANSITION. REINDEER HERDING IN THE REINDEER HERDERS ASSOCIATION OF KYRÖ IN KITTILÄ AND IN THE COLLECTIVES OF LOVOZERO ON THE KOLA PENINSULA, RUSSIA FROM 1930–1995**

Helena Ruotsala (PhD Thesis)

"Volkskundliches Archiv" No. 49, 2002. Helsinki: Finnish Antiquarian Society. Order from Bookstore Tiedekirja, Kirkkokatu 14, FIN-00170 Helsinki, Finland, Tel. +358 9 635 177, FAX +358 9 635 017. E-mail: [tiedekirja@tsv.fi](mailto:tiedekirja@tsv.fi); see: <http://www.tsv.fi/engl/bookstor.html>

Reindeer herding has been of great significance to the people living in the harsh conditions of the Arctic regions, playing a decisive role in guaranteeing the viability of the sparsely-populated areas. This study focuses on reindeer herding in two different areas, Finnish Lapland and the Kola Peninsula. This is an intriguing approach both because such a comparison has not been done before, and because it offers an important contrast in ethnic construction and maintenance of identity.

The reindeer herders association, or *paliskunta*, of Kyrö is situated in the fringe area of Sápmi and Finnish Lapland. The reindeer herding collectives on the Kola Peninsula are situated in the villages of Lovozero and Krasnoshchele. The latter have been reorganised during the last decade, transforming in the beginning of the 90s from *sovhozes*, or collectives, into *tovarichestvos*, or cooperations. In spite of differing economical and political structures, though, the Finnish and Kola groups have much in common. The working methods in the *reindeer forest* or on the *tundra*, as the term is used in Russia, are in principle the same in both places (differences are based on the available technical equipment and distances). Both are also multi-ethnic communities; the reindeer owners in Kyrö belong to Finnish and Saami ethnic groups, while the reindeer herders of the Kola Peninsula belong to Saami, Komi, Nentsy and also Russian ethnicities. Finally, reindeer herds are managed according to traditional ecological knowledge in both regions.

This study is based on extensive fieldwork. The theoretical framework derives from ethnobiology and economical anthropology. There is a highly personal point of view imbued in this study, since the author grew up in the research area. Indeed, the role of the researcher has been deeply analysed in this study. Another innovative aspect of this research is that it studies reindeer herding at the family level. All members of the extended family participate in the economic aspects of reindeer herding. Previous research has overlooked the role of women, children and the elderly in reindeer herding.

The changes in reindeer herding has been analysed according to five different themes: 1) forms of cooperation, the ownership of reindeer and the organisation of reindeer herding; 2) the distribution and marketing of reindeer meat; 3) reindeer herding on a family level (e.g. choice of a career, division of labour and survival strategies of family economies); 4) environmental management; and 5) identity and ethnicity.

During the research period, reindeer herding has undergone a distinctive change from reindeer herding as a natural source of livelihood to that of modern reindeer management. At the same time reindeer herding has been forced to adapt to increased competition in the grazing land from other types of land use, such as tourism, agriculture, waterway construction, forestry, environmental protection, and the arrival of other people. In spite of these changes, reindeer herding still has many cultural and social values. Reindeer herding on the Kola peninsula has been particularly important as a means of survival in the difficult economical situation following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of collectivisation. The future of reindeer herding is unclear in both the Finnish and Russian communities. Lack of labour and the low price of reindeer meat create insecurity. Insufficient pastures (partly due to overgrazing) are a problem mainly in Kyrö.

While reindeer herding is a traditional source of livelihood, it is today a highly mechanised profession, which depends increasingly on technology and on applying rational methods of animal husbandry. Reindeer herding in Kyrö can even be regarded as a form of entrepreneurship. In spite of these economic facts, though, people engage in reindeer herding because it is strongly bound up in identity and traditions, both for the reindeer herders themselves and for their family members.

## Meetings and conferences:

### **21-26 February 2003: SNOWCHANGE 2003 - Indigenous Observations of Climate Change**

Murmansk, Russia

Global climate change will affect the entire North and Arctic, and is the largest and most widespread environmental threat the region faces over the coming years and decades. Circumpolar communities will be in the front-line when the warming of the climate occurs. The aim of the project is to enhance the participation of the indigenous communities and peoples in the North and bring their voices to one forum to send a clear and coherent message about the present climate change situation to the decisionmakers and general public.

The workshop is a part of continuing project "Indigenous Observations of Climate Change" around the circumpolar north. The aim of this workshop is to bring together the Scandinavian and Russian Saami People and the various representatives of Indigenous communities from the Russian Federation and the Canadian Arctic. The project was started in Spring 2001.

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**E-mail:** Tero Mustonen [tero@snowchange.org](mailto:tero@snowchange.org); Aleksey Cherenkov [mqi@mail.ru](mailto:mqi@mail.ru)

**Website for more information:** [www.snowchange.org](http://www.snowchange.org)

### **24 February - 1 March 2003: Arctic-alpine ecosystems and people in the changing environment**

Tromsø, Norway

The conference will address the broad field of "Environmental Change research in Northern Europe, Arctic and Alpine areas". The main idea is to identify the challenges in Arctic-Alpine Environmental Research along the main transport routes from Europe to the Arctic. The conference is multidisciplinary in scope both in science and space, and shall create new links and understanding across the disciplinary boundaries and among European researchers and research infrastructures.

More than 150 abstracts have been submitted to the conference to the deadline. The deadline 1 Nov. has now passed and the abstracts are being evaluated by the scientific program committee. Those that still consider a paper/poster/exhibition contribution to the conference may contact the conference secretariat directly. We would like to encourage young scientists to register for the conference. Travel grants will be established for the young scientists, and a poster prizewill be given to the best poster.

#### **Symposium Topics:**

1. Long Range Transport of Pollutants
2. Effects of climate variability on the Arctic Seas Ecosystem
3. Effects of climate variability on the terrestrial systems
4. UV-radiation and biological effects
5. Socio-economic effects on environmental change
6. Integrating sessions on the effects of environmental change

**Organisers:** Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA), University of Tromsø Institute of Marine Research, European Network for Arctic-Alpine Multidisciplinary Environmental Research (ENVINET), Nordic Arctic Research Programme (NARP), Arctic Seas Consortium, Ny-Ålesund Large Scale Facility (LSF), European Commission

**Language:** English

**Contact:** Ingrid Storhaug, Norwegian Polar Institute, N-9296 Tromsø, Norway

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**Website for more information:** <http://npolar.no/ArcticAlpine2003/>

### **26 February - 2 March 2003: Remote Regions/Northern Development sessions at the Regional Science Association, Forty-Second Annual Meeting**

Rio Rico Resort near Tucson, Arizona

The WRSA meeting includes a series of Remote Regions/Northern Development sessions to accommodate social scientists who have a special interest in research on economic, social, political, and cultural issues in remote, sparsely settled regions in the circumpolar north and elsewhere. In the past, researchers from Canada, Alaska, Scandinavia, Australia, Micronesia, Israel, Russia, and the coterminous United States have presented

## MEETINGS – CONFERENCES

papers. The Remote Regions/Northern Development sessions are in their twentieth year. We are again issuing a general call for papers from economists, political scientists, anthropologists, sociologists, historians, planners, and others involved in research in northern and other remote regions.

### **Symposium Topics:**

General topics include the analysis and discussion of economic, political, and social-cultural change in remote and sparsely settled regions. While papers on any topic consistent with the general theme are welcomed, examples of specific topics might include: the consequences of new technology; the effects of government expenditures; the conditions of success or failure of development projects; sustainable development; relations between the subsistence and market economies; Native labor force participation; regional benefits and costs of development; economic integration and cultural preservation; migration; changing social patterns; housing, health, education, and community development; Native sovereignty and federalism; comparative Native claims; political movements, settlements, and outcomes; development of local and regional political institutions; resource ownership and management regimes.

**Organisers:** Western Regional Science Association (WRSA)

### **Languages:**

**Contact:** Professor Lee Huskey, Dept. of Economics, College of Business and Public Policy University of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, USA 99508

**E-mail:** [aflh@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:aflh@uaa.alaska.edu)

**Website for more information:** <http://geog.arizona.edu/wrsa>

### **27-28 March 2003: The Nenets written language and development of national traditions**

Naryan-Mar, Nenets AO, Russia

### **Symposium Topics:**

1. History of the Nenets written language;
2. Creators of the Nenets written language, folklore collectors and ethnographers;
3. Nenets folklore and literature;
4. Traditional nature-usage and problems of the language;
5. Language and population: reservation problems and development perspectives;
6. Role of the language in the social ecology of the Nenets people;
7. Language and national-regional component in education;
8. Language as the base of education of national consciousness in the family and at school;
9. Social pedagogy and social psychology in organization of the educational process.

**Organisers:** Nenets regional public organization 'Society of regional historians', Association of Nenets People 'Yasavey', Administration and Chamber of Deputies of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Nenets regional museum of local lore, history, and economy

**Deadline:** 1 February 2003

**Contact:** Elena G. Menshakova, The Nenets regional museum of local lore, history, and economy: Smidovich st. 6-a, Naryan-Mar, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, 166000 Russia

**Phone:** +7 - (81853) 4 03 51

**Fax:** +7 - (81853) 4 20 60

### **30 March - 4 April 2003: 7th International Symposium on Mining in the Arctic**

Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada

The Seventh Symposium on Mining in the Arctic will be held in Iqaluit, Territory of Nunavut, during the early spring of 2003. Iqaluit, the capital of Canada's newest Territory, is easily accessible from Nuuk, Greenland, from Ottawa, Montréal, and Yellowknife, Canada, and from other communities in Canada's far north. The pre and post-symposium field trips will all depart from Iqaluit.

A comprehensive technical program is planned. Social events will focus on local cultural and leisure activities. Presentation of a paper at the Symposium is a requirement for its inclusion in the Proceedings.

### **Symposium Topics:**

- 1) Mining Industry Case Histories
- 2) Mining under Hostile Conditions
- 3) Arctic Exploration Technologies
- 4) Arctic Environmental Issues
- 5) Arctic Mining regulatory Issues
- 6) Economics of Arctic Mining Developments
- 7) Decommissioning of Arctic Mines

**Deadline for abstracts:** 1 April 2002. Please send abstracts to: Dr. John E. Udd, Principal Scientist

**Contact:** Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories, Natural Resources Canada, c/o 555 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0G1

**Phone:** +1 613/947-8383

## MEETINGS – CONFERENCES

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### **6-7 June 2003 – Ninth International Conference on Minority Languages, ICML-IX**

Kiruna, Sweden

The main theme of the conference will be revitalization of use of languages, especially languages spoken by small groups of people. The conference offers an opportunity to discuss:

- Case studies of revitalization of minority languages
- Language emancipation
- Implementation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages with particular attention to smaller language groups
- Language policies and language planning
- Cultural development (literature, theatre, music etc.) and social capital in minority regions
- Experiences from bilingual education and immersion classes for children who use smaller languages
- Any topic concerning minority languages in the Barents and Baltic regions

**Deadline for abstracts:** 17 January 2003

**Language:** English, presentations in Nordic languages are permitted

**Contact:** Birger Winsa, Chair of the Organizing Committee

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**Website for more information:** <http://www.finska.su.se/konf03.html>

### **19-23 May 2004: Fifth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS V)**

Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

These international congresses are held every three years, bringing together people from all over the world to share ideas about social science research in the Arctic. ICASS V's theme is *Connections: Local and Global Aspects of Arctic Social Systems*.

**Deadline for proposals for sessions:** 15 April 2003

**Deadline for abstracts:** 31 December 2003. People already planning to attend are encouraged to notify IASSA now.

**Contact:** Anne Sudkamp, International Arctic Social Sciences Association, University of Alaska Fairbanks, PO Box 757730, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7730, USA

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**Fax:** +1 (907) 474-6370

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