

## Fulbright Arctic Initiative (FAI) Program Finland Plenary Meeting 2016 (8-12 February 2016, Oulu, Finland)

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Fulbright Arctic Initiative (FAI) Program held a one-week plenary meeting in Oulu, Finland, on 8-12 February 2016 hosted by Fulbright Finland Center in cooperation with the Thule Institute and University of Oulu.

Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars – 16 scholars and two lead scholars from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States - and participants started to arrive on 6 February and had advance team meetings.

**On Monday, 8 February**, the scholars from Fulbright Arctic Initiative Program spent a day at the Kierikki Stone Age Centre, a European Nostra Cultural Heritage Award 2002 winning pre-historic settlement and research site. It was a great visit to look around a Stone Age Village with habitations showing daily life on the banks of the River Ii thousands of years ago. An easy-to-walk boarded walkway led from the village and its neighbouring snare path to the Kierikki Stone Age Centre, where scholars could learn more about Stone Age life and artefacts through films and an exhibition.



**On Tuesday, 9 February**, Fulbright Arctic Initiatives Scholars had meetings and discussions with progress reports and it lasted all day at Merikoski Hall, Lasaretti in Oulu. During the morning, in the plenary session, scholars overviewed agendas and updated and reported on each working groups activities. In the afternoon, in the breakout sessions, each working groups: Energy, Water and Health and Infrastructure, prepared for presentations for the symposium on Thursday. In the evening, an event, “[At the Crossroad of Business, Art and Science](#)”, held at Tellus Innovation Arena, University of Oulu. This event provided several presentations and good opportunities of meetings and connections with the business sector in Oulu to learn more about the research innovations and business in the region. Afterwards, there was an opening ceremony of an art exhibition, Ice See Level by Itty Neuhaus, Fulbright Arctic Initiatives Scholar and Artist. Itty Neuhaus’s installation arts and art pieces, which were inspired by icebergs and the Arctic nature, showed amazingly beautiful reflections and changes of the icebergs under the ocean. The exhibition will continue until 3 March 2016 at Tellus Innovation Arena (Erkki Koiso-Kanttilan katu, entrance R), University of Oulu.



**On Wednesday, 10 February**, at Lasaretti, Merikoshi-hall, presentations and dialogues on working groups' progress and results with comments and thematic feedback were lasted with invited experts for a full day.



**On Thursday, 11 February**, Fulbright Arctic Symposium: Towards a Sustainable Arctic Future took place at Saalasti Hall, University of Oulu. After the opening session, scholars and participants gave presentations over three sessions, each related to a different aspect of the Arctic: Arctic policies and science, Collaborative researches of energy, water health and infrastructure between Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars, and the Role of scholars and the media in translating science to the public. The sessions were followed by a plenary session, two panel discussions, and a closing session concluded the symposium.

#### **09.00 -09.40 Opening session**



The opening session was filled with opening remarks by University of Oulu Rector, Jouko Niinimäki, remarks by City of Oulu Mayor, Matti Pennanen, a video greeting from the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, and Fulbright welcoming remarks by Fulbright Center Finland Executive Director, Terhi Mölsa.

First, in the opening remarks, Jouko Niinimäki presented Strategy of University of Oulu 2016-2020 with a theme, Science with Arctic attitude. As one of the Northernmost Universities in the world, he wished that University of Oulu actively seek partnerships to increase the effectiveness and impact of its activities. Since Finland will take a chairmanship of Arctic Council in 2017 after the United States, he addressed that University of Oulu would be willing to collaborate and support the implementation of Finland's Arctic strategy.

In the welcoming remarks, Terhi Mölsa said, "We cannot choose separate futures and they are all linked together. In the end, there is only one globe." and also "We need to bridge the gap between science, the general public and the media".

#### **09.40 - 12.00 Bridging Arctic Policies and Science Update on Arctic Policies, Priorities and Challenges**





First of all, Ambassador of the United States of America to Finland, Charles C. Adams talked about the United States Arctic Council Chairmanship Program Goals. He addressed that the United States of America President Barak Obama's trip to Alaska. He said, "Even yet the vast majority of the American population had no conception or consciousness of America has an Arctic nation. However, that began to change". Also, he mentioned that the theme of current US Arctic council chairmanship is simple: One Arctic with shared opportunities, challenges and responsibilities. He, in addition, said that the US government is already working closely with the Finnish government and wished to continue their dialogues, priorities and goals smoothly to the next chairmanship, Finland next year.

Department for Higher Education and Science Policy, Ministry of Education and Culture Director General, Tapio Kosunen delivered a speech on Arctic Change and the Role of Education and Research-Finnish Perspective. He spoke, "We still need more intensive international collaboration in education and research in order to understand Arctic change".

In the following presentations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Ambassador for Arctic Affairs Aleksi Härkönen, Canadian Ambassador to Finland Andrée Noëlle Cooligan, Chief of Staff to the Special Representative for the Arctic at the U.S. Department of State Jennifer Ey, The Sámi Education Institute Rector Liisa Holmberg, and Ambassador of Norway to Finland Åge B. Grutle spoke on the subject of 'Government and Indigenous Perspectives on Arctic Policies, Priorities and Challenges'.

Aleksis Härkönen mentioned the risk of military concentration in the Arctic. He said, "It needs to be emphasized that the Arctic region continues to be an area of low risk of military concentration. There are some dramatic descriptions of a military build-up in the North. Of course it is understandable and maybe even prudent to ask whether a new period of uncertainty in international relations will affect Arctic cooperation. So far pragmatic cooperation has continued in spite of the tensions arising elsewhere". Also, he added, "The conclusion of the Arctic countries has been that Arctic cooperation will make sense only if all the arctic countries participate" and "Partnership with University of Arctic is also important using UArctic Network to bridge Arctic policies and science and look for creative solutions for sustainable Arctic future".

Åge B. Grutle said, "The Arctic Council has been successful because the Arctic countries have found common course on global issues such as climate change and environmental hazards" and also he added, "The Arctic Council is the only international forum where representatives of indigenous peoples sit at the same table of as representative of states". He considered one of the key success of the Arctic Council is that 'The ability to build concessions sustainable development among all key stakeholders'. In addition, he emphasised how Northern Norway is important in terms of economic aspects in Norway. He explained, "The Norwegian income generated in the North. Economic growth is currently stronger North Norway than in the rest of main land Norway".

Terry Callaghan gave a presentation about Challenges for the Arctic Environment and Communities. Specifically he spoke three small subjects: Challenges along a time axis, Challenges along a space axis, and Challenges of approaches. He said, "Adaptations from before the last Ice Age persists in a new context: we cannot assume an equilibrium between biodiversity and current climate". Also, he added that we had a big change of the way of land-use on the Sub-Arctic by the indigenous people for the last 100 years. Mentioning how difficult to get out paradigm, he said that in 1967 he researched how Arctic species survive in a cold climate however in 1990 researchers have studied how Arctic species survive in a warming condition.

### **13.00 - 14.30 I Panel Discussion**

#### **Fulbright Arctic Initiative: Informing Policy through Collaborative Research**



In the first panel discussion, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs U.S Department of State, Academic Exchange Specialist Stephen Money and Co-Lead Scholars of Fulbright Arctic Initiative, Dartmouth, Institute of Arctic Studies, Director Ross Virginia, and University of Alaska Fairbanks, Vice Chancellor Mike Sfraga gave an introduction of the first panel discussion session, Fulbright Arctic Initiative: Informing Policy through Collaborative Research.

In this session, Fulbright Arctic Initiative Scholars gave presentations on the three Fulbright Arctic Initiative themes: Energy, Water and Health and Infrastructure.

In the Energy part, Gregory Poelzer, Maria Tysiachniouk, and Bjarni Magnússon spoke their researches.

First, Gregory Poelzer from University of Saskatchewan spoke that the future energy production would go through indigenous land and this would be a positive change. He added that community well-being and sustainability would give the local benefits not only economically but also socially. Maria Tusiachuniouk spoke about benefit sharing between oil companies and indigenous people focusing on Russia by mentioning cooperating social responsibility and partnerships. Bjarni Magnússon introduced the homepage included scholars' researches of the Energy section.

In the Water part, Niels Vestergaard, Tamara Harms, and Øystein Varpe gave their outcomes.

Øystein Varpe from University Centre in Svalbard spoke about sea ice changes and impacts on Arctic marine ecosystems. He gave a different perspective of decrease sea ice in the Arctic. He explained that if there is less sea ice and more lights, there will be abundant fish, phytoplankton and zooplankton so it would offer more productions at based on the food level.

In the Health and Infrastructure part, Susan Chatwood, Gwen Holdmann, and Linda Chamberlain presented their researches.

Gwen Holdmann from Alaska Center for Energy and Power USA gave a presentation about 'Renewable Energy Development to Support a Knowledge Export Economy'. She mentioned 'disconnected Arctic nations' that have different paradigms such as Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Russia unlike the connected European Arctic nations. She is researching on "How do we deliver the energy services to these places and more importantly how can we cooperate in renewable resources in to this grid".

Linda Chamberlain from State of Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project, University of Alaska, said that climate change could be a trauma such as food scary, drastic change of diet, etc. Her research project is going to be continued in Finland.

#### 14.45 - 15.45 II Panel Discussion

#### Presenting the Arctic to the World: The Role of Scholars and the Media in Translating Science to the Public



In the second panel discussion, two moderators, Professor Bruce Forbes from Arctic Centre, University of Lapland and Institute of Arctic Studies, Dartmouth College and Head of Science Communication Markku Heikkilä from Arctic Centre, University of

Lapland led the second panel discussion. Editorial Writer Yrsa Gröne from Hufvudstadsbladet, Researcher of Sámi Research Anne Nuorgam from University of Lapland, Director and Head of Yle Sápmi Pirita Näkkäljärvi from the Sámi-speaking arm of the Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle, and Student from University of Oulu, Laura Tauriainen discussed about 'Presenting the Arctic to the world: The Role of Scholars and the Media in Translating Science to the Public'.

First question was 'When you use the word, Media in the context of this panel, what media are you thinking of: is there any difference between regional media in Arctic Countries and national media in Arctic countries and international media in the Arctic countries'. Yrsa Gröne answered that she does not like to make differences between those three terms. She likes to divide according to topics. Pirita Näkkäljärvi said, "In the digital world, anyone with a good story can be a media. Everyone with a good story has the opportunity to spread around the world without digital means" and "When you hear a good story whether it is a piece of bad news or a piece of good news, you stop what you are doing and you start listening". Laura Tauriainen said that for her, media is social media and she lives with and breathe it and everything she is doing is digital.

Second question was 'What kind of expressions you have in translating science to the public between both languages itself and the language of science. What kind of challenges are you faced in different levels: local, regional, and international levels and Do you have any solutions of this'. Pirita Näkkäljärvi mentioned that for Arctic scholars, words they use in the Arctic context are so obvious to them however those who are not inside of the discussion might not understand and think what is going on. In comments from the public, one of the Fulbright Arctic Scholars, Tom Arnbom emphasised the importance of the image. He spoke that even if there is a good context, if there is no image, it is nothing. Lastly, Pirita Näkkäljärvi delivered a message to universities, "Please let scientists and researchers speak directly to the media".

#### 15.45 - 16.30 Closing Session Future Directions in Research and Education



In the closing session, Professor David Hik, University of Alberta and University of the Arctic, President Lars Kullerud spoke about the future directions in research and education. David Hik spoke that global science and science in the community are intimately connected each other. He also mentioned that Fulbright Arctic Initiative themes: Energy, Water and Health and Infrastructure, as key questions, approaches across disciplines and across countries are going to lead to welcome proposals and particularly scenario approach is going to be useful because we can anticipate the unexpected situation. Lars Kullerud spoke that the Fulbright Arctic Initiative Programme is the beginning of the relationship that need to last.

Finally, the symposium was closed with closing words by Kari Laine. He reminded scholars and the public a slogan of the Arctic Science Summit Week 2012 Montréal Canada, 'From Knowledge to Action' and he wished to keep doing action also in the future like people have done so far. Also he expressed his appreciation of the scholars and participants' enthusiasm and gave thanks to the public. The symposium has gathered some 50 scholars, Arctic experts and applied researchers from the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden and 130 public.

**On 12 February**, the last day of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative Plenary meeting, a plenary session was led by Co-Lead Scholars, Mike Sfraga and Ross Virginia during the morning at Merikoski Hall, Lasaretti in Oulu. Fulbright Arctic Scholars summarised outcomes of the symposium and discussed next steps for working groups and group products including publications. Scholars finalised Fulbright Arctic Initiative Plenary meeting in Finland, by planning for the final meeting which will be held in Washington, DC, 24-28 October, 2016.