

THE 'ARCTIC: TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE' INFORMATION DIGEST

№ 1. December 2016



INTERNATIONAL
ARCTIC FORUM
ARKHANGELSK • RUSSIA • 2017

KEY TOPICS:

- ▶ Dates and format confirmed for 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' 4th International Arctic Forum
- ▶ The Russian Arctic: priority development areas

CALENDAR OF PLANNED EVENTS IN WHICH 'ARCTIC: TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE' FORUM REPRESENTATIVES WILL TAKE PART

Period: January 2017

- January 18** Special presentation for ambassadors from Arctic states to the Russian Federation
- January 22–27** 11th Arctic Frontiers conference (Norway)

Registration for media representatives and participants is open:
forumarctica.ru



NEWS FROM THE ‘ARCTIC: TERRITORY OF DIALOGUE’ INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM

Format confirmed for ‘Arctic: Territory of Dialogue’ 4th International Arctic Forum, to take place on March 29–30, 2017 in Arkhangelsk

The Forum’s two-day programme will include two plenary sessions (‘The Arctic: Territory for Life’ and ‘People and the Arctic’) and nine topical sessions in three key areas: Human Capital, Sustainable Development of the Arctic, and Science and Technology.

Participants at the highest level will discuss international and interregional cooperation in the Arctic in the fields of high technology, business relations, and energy security, the region’s tourism potential, the development of transport infrastructure, and the training of qualified personnel to secure the development of the Arctic. The next session of the State Commission for Arctic Development will also take place under the auspices of the International Arctic Forum.

PLENARY SESSION. THE ARCTIC: TERRITORY FOR LIFE		PLENARY SESSION. PEOPLE AND THE ARCTIC			
MAIN THEMES:					
Human capital	Sustainable development of the Arctic			Science and technology	
The Arctic: territory of history, culture, and tourism	The Arctic: territory of ecology			The Arctic: territory of modern energy	
The Arctic: territory of professionals	The Arctic: territory of transit opportunities				
The Arctic: territory of health	The Arctic: territory of sustainable development and major international projects				
	New mechanisms to develop and enhance the investment appeal of the Russian Arctic in the Far East			The Arctic: territory of cutting-edge technology	
EVENTS ON THE SIDELINES					
EXHIBITION	‘The Arctic. Made in Russia’ International Youth Educational Forum	Northern Cities Forum	Arctic Business Forum	Northern Forum – meeting of heads of regions	Session of the State Commission for Arctic Development
Business breakfasts:					
An Arctic for the future: preserving the present					
Warm conditions for a cold climate					

Please see the official Forum website at <http://forumarctica.ru/en/business-programme-architecture/>



INTERNATIONAL
ARCTIC FORUM

ARKHANGELSK • RUSSIA • 2017

FORUM
NEWS

December 13, 2016, Kommersant.ru

Vladimir Putin to participate in International Arctic Forum

“We are planning for Russian President Vladimir Putin to participate in the event (the International Arctic Forum) on March 30, and for a major plenary session to take place including honoured guests”, announced Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin after a meeting of the State Commission for Arctic Development. Rogozin said that the next meeting of the State Commission, in which the President would also participate, would take place on the margins of the Forum.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/3169927> (Russian only)

December 13, 2016, TASS

Russian Ministry of Economic Development: record cargo volumes shipped via Northern Sea Route in 2016

The volume of cargo shipped via the Northern Sea Route increased by 1.2 million tonnes compared with 2015. “The development of this transport artery in 2016 is giving us reason for cautious optimism. As of December 1, 2016, 6.9 million tonnes of cargo had already been transported via the Northern Sea Route, setting a new record for this transport corridor, even taking the Soviet period into account”, said Deputy Minister of Economic Development Alexander Tsybulskiy, speaking at the State Commission for Arctic Development.

<http://tass.ru/transport/3868849> (Russian only)

December 9, 2016, RIA Novosti

Medvedev and Finnish Prime Minister discuss Arctic cooperation

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and his Finnish counterpart Juha Sipilä touched on current issues in Russia–EU relations and prospects for international cooperation in the Arctic during talks in Finland. Notably, the two sides discussed plans to lay a telecommunications cable along the Northern Sea Route. “This is an intriguing idea with the potential to serve a whole array of communications-related purposes”, commented Medvedev. “We believe that this project could have a bright future.” He emphasized that an economic analysis of the project was still required.

<https://ria.ru/politics/20161209/1483244878.html> (Russian only)

December 9, 2016, RIA Novosti

Likhachev: Rosatom to continue development of nuclear-powered icebreaker fleet

Rosatom intends to continue its project to develop a nuclear-powered icebreaker fleet, which provides Russia with a unique competitive advantage, announced the company’s Chief Executive Officer Alexey Likhachev. Likhachev was visiting Rosatomflot in Murmansk, where he met with the captains of nuclear-powered icebreakers.

<https://ria.ru/atomtec/20161209/1483242635.html> (Russian only)



December 9, 2016, TASS

A new station for Arctic climate research

Scientists are set to build a new research station to study the climate and the state of the permafrost near the Nadymy scientific research facility operated by Tyumen State University (TSU) as part of the Pan-Eurasian Experiment (PEEX) international project, a university spokesperson told TASS.

“PEEX project participants held a coordination meeting in Nadym. After considering several locations nearby (in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Area), the decision was taken to begin work to install equipment for a SMEAR station near TSU’s planned Nadymy scientific research facility”, the spokesperson explained.

<http://tass.ru/ural-news/3857097> (Russian only)

December 7, 2016, Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Made in the Arctic

Government authorities in the Russian Arctic are calling on young entrepreneurs to find the next ‘blue oceans’. They expect innovative solutions to come out of small businesses in the Arctic. The most successful will receive financial and technical support from the authorities. What exactly is needed for new discoveries to be made was the subject of a panel discussion in Arkhangelsk.

The ‘blue ocean strategy’ in business refers to finding a market where there is no competition, which could yield a profit to whoever discovers it first. Igor Orlov, Governor of Arkhangelsk Region, believes that young, creative entrepreneurs will be the ones to propose new solutions to problems faced by major companies working in the polar regions.

<https://rg.ru/2016/12/06/reg-szfo/kak-sdelat-biznes-v-arktike.html> (Russian only)

December 6, 2016, Federal News Agency

Technology boom: how polar robots will help Russia study the Arctic

The first prototype robots for studying the subsoil and underwater processes in the Arctic world may appear as soon as 2018, according to Viktor Litvinenko, Director of Physics and Technology Research at the Advanced Research Foundation. “In the coming year, we will be wrapping up advance planning for all five independent devices being developed as part of the Iceberg project, and we’ll move on to creating prototypes. We plan to begin building actual hardware prototypes in 2018”, Litvinenko noted. He said that all devices being created would be autonomous and robotized. The only exception will be a version of a civilian nuclear-powered submarine, which will be controlled by humans.

<https://riafan.ru/581723-tehnologicheskii-bum-kak-roboty-polyarniki-pomogut-rossii-issledovat-arktiku> (Russian only)

December 1, 2016, RIA Novosti

Russia will thwart efforts to introduce conflict to the Arctic

The new Russian Federation foreign policy concept devotes significant attention to the Arctic. In particular, the published text of the policy states that “Russia will firmly resist all attempts to introduce to the Arctic any elements of a policy of confrontation or military conflict, as well as attempts to politicize international relations in the region as a whole.”

<https://ria.ru/politics/20161201/1482634778.html> (Russian only)



INTERNATIONAL
ARCTIC FORUM
ARKHANGELSK • RUSSIA • 2017

BACKGROUND
INFORMATION

THE RUSSIAN ARCTIC



The size of the continental shelf under Russian jurisdiction is around 5 million km² (about 20% of total ocean shelf area worldwide).



The Russian sector of the Arctic is around 9 million km² (6.8 million km² is covered with water).



Russia is the only country in the world that uses drifting ice stations. The North Pole-1 drifting station was the world's first year-round research base built on drifting ice. It was opened on May 21, 1937.



The five biggest Russian companies working on Arctic projects are Norilsk Nickel, Rosatom, Rosneft, Gazprom, and NOVATEK.



Over 160 initiatives and investment projects are under way in the Russian Arctic. The total volume of investment in these initiatives and projects is around RUB 1 trillion.



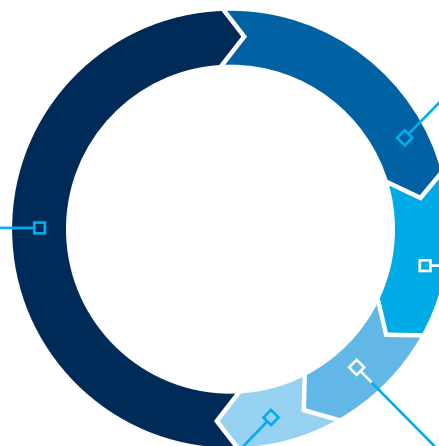
The area has a total population of over 2.3 million people, making up more than half of the world's Arctic population.

PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Developing transport infrastructure

RUB 511.7 billion, around 50% of the total volume of activity

Other



Developing the energy industry

RUB 198.3 billion, around 20%

Developing the mining and processing industries

RUB 145.3 billion, over 13%

Developing shipbuilding

RUB 120 billion, 11%

* Source: Russian Ministry of Economic Development data, 2015