

ARCTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KEY THEMES

February 2019



- Putin signs decree renaming Ministry for Development of the Russian Far East as Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic.
- Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic to evaluate all measures included in Arctic development national projects.
- Main theme of upcoming 5th 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum to be 'The Arctic. An Ocean of Opportunities'.

STATE POLICY IN THE ARCTIC REGION

27 February 2019, Vedomosti, TASS, RBK, Rossiyskaya Gazeta, Komsomolskaya Pravda, et al

Powers of Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East expanded to Russia's Arctic Zone

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree transferring the functions for the formulation and implementation of the state policy and regulatory framework for the socioeconomic development of the Arctic to the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and renamed it the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev proposed entrusting the Ministry with additional responsibilities during a meeting with Putin on 18 January 2019.

At present, the Ministry is overseeing two major projects in the Arctic zone – the development of Peschanka, one of the world's largest copper deposits located in the Baim ore zone in the Chukotka Autonomous District, and the construction of an offshore liquefied natural gas transshipment complex in the Kamchatka Territory's Bechevinskaya Bay for the transshipment of liquefied natural gas to be exported from the Yamal LNG plant and in the future from the Arctic LNG 2 to countries of the Asia-Pacific region via the Northern Sea Route.

<https://www.spb.kp.ru/daily/26948.4/3999345/>

27 February 2019, TASS

Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East to evaluate development plans included in Arctic development national projects

The Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and the Arctic will evaluate all measures included in national projects related to the development of the Arctic region, Minister Alexander Kozlov told journalists.

"As part of the development of the economic part, we see the Northern Sea Route as a key integral", he said, noting that the ministry will support enterprises that form the region's freight base. For its part, the Ministry of Transport will monitor the timely construction of the fleet that will be operating on the Northern Sea Route.

https://tass.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/6165964?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop

22 February 2019, RIA FEDERALPRESS

Special working group to be created to prepare for International Arctic Forum

Technical issues were discussed concerning preparations for the upcoming 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' Forum at a meeting chaired by St. Petersburg Deputy Governor Eduard Batanov. The meeting was also attended by representatives of committees and city departments involved in organizing the event.

The main topics discussed were the division of areas of responsibility to ensure effective preparations for the forum as well as methods for collaboration on key organizational issues. In addition, a number of decisions regarding the formation of a working group and the approval of a further action plan were adopted at the meeting.

Adviser to the Russian President Anton Kobayakov said the forum is one of the primary platforms for an international discussion of the Arctic's development.

<http://fedpress.ru/news/78/preview/2195675>

1 February 2019, RIA Novosti

System of preferences for companies in the Arctic to be presented in St. Petersburg

A new system of preferences for companies investing in projects in the Arctic will be presented at the International Arctic Forum in St. Petersburg, according to a message from the Roscongress Foundation, citing Deputy Minister for the Development of the Russian Far East Alexander Krutikov.

<https://ria.ru/20190201/1550243938.html>

INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC FORUM NEWS

21 February 2019, TASS

Management of the World Ocean to be discussed at International Arctic Forum

The theme of the World Ocean will be actively covered during the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum, which will be held on 9–10 April 2019 in St. Petersburg. Topics to be discussed at the Forum include: the development of cruise tourism in high latitudes, intensifying the construction of a modern high-tech fleet for the development of the Northern Sea Route, and the construction of infrastructure facilities for northern territories. In addition, issues concerning the development and production of marine technology to manage and study the Arctic zone of the oceans will be considered.

<https://tass.ru/novosti-partnerov/6144740>

18 February 2019, RIA Novosti, TASS, Izvestiya, Komsomolskaya Pravda, Argumenty i Fakty, et al

UN representatives invited to Arctic Forum in Russia

Representatives of the United Nations and foreign delegations from the observer countries of the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC) will take part in the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum, said Nikolai Korchunov, Ambassador-at-large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who is responsible for international Arctic cooperation,.

"We expect foreign representation in the spring both from our neighbours in the region and partners in the Arctic Council as well as the observer countries of the Arctic Council and other states that are interested in contributing to the sustainable development of the Arctic region and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation," Korchunov said at a meeting of the diplomatic corps of the member countries and observer countries of the Arctic Council.

<https://ria.ru/20190218/1551008411.html>

07 February 2019, RIA Novosti

Test drive of all-terrain vehicles to take place at International Arctic Forum 2019

A test drive of all-terrain vehicles manufactured in St. Petersburg will be organized as part of an exhibition by the municipal authorities at the International Arctic Forum in St. Petersburg, according to materials on the state procurement website, where a report from the Arctic Affairs Committee was posted on the search for a company to organize the business programme and exhibition site in Russia's northern capital.

According to the tender documentation, the winner of the tender for the right to organize the St. Petersburg exhibition at the Arctic Forum is to be determined in early March. The winner's responsibilities will include, in particular, developing a design project of the exhibition on an area of at least 200 square meters and the organization of the exhibition space itself.

<https://ria.ru/20190207/1550534468.html>

01 February 2019, TASS, Izvestiya

Vladimir Putin to take part in International Arctic Forum 2019 in St. Petersburg

Russian President Vladimir Putin will take part in the International Arctic Forum in St. Petersburg on 9–10 April, the Roscongress Foundation's press service reported following a meeting of the working group of the organizing committee in charge of preparing for and holding the event chaired by Adviser to the Russian President Anton Kobaykov.

"The main theme of the upcoming forum will be 'The Arctic. An Ocean of Opportunities'. The business programme will be centred around three focuses: 'Coastal Territories', 'The Open Ocean', and 'Sustainable Development'", Roscongress said in the report.

<http://tass.ru/obschestvo/6067262>

NEW MECHANISMS FOR THE ARCTIC'S DEVELOPMENT: SUCCESS STORIES

18 February 2019, Regnum

Arkhangelsk Region finds new growth opportunity

Representatives of science, government, and business are holding discussions in Arkhangelsk on the establishment of a world-class research and education centre (REC) called 'New Materials and

Technologies for the Arctic'. The work is being conducted under the guidance of Skolkovo Moscow School of Management Professor Andrei Volkov. The establishment of at least 15 such centres is mentioned in the Decree "On the National Goals and Strategic Objectives for the Development of the Russian Federation until 2024", which was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin in May.
<https://regnum.ru/news/2575129.html>

1 February 2019, TASS

Arkhangelsk Region authorities say infrastructure for Arctic Forum will attract tourists

The infrastructure built in the Arkhangelsk Region for the 'Arctic: Territory of Dialogue' International Arctic Forum will contribute to an increase in tourism traffic to the region, Arkhangelsk Region Deputy Minister of Culture for the Development of Tourism Svetlana Zenovskaya told TASS.

At present, the 30 hotels in Arkhangelsk and Severodvinsk can comfortably accommodate over 1,500 guests. "The demand for hotel rooms depends on seasonal factors. The average annual hotel occupancy rate in Arkhangelsk is about 50%, but is slightly lower for the region as a whole at around 45%", she said.

<https://tass.ru/v-strane/6067820>

PRESERVING THE ARCTIC REGION'S ECOLOGY

27 February 2019, REN TV

Kobytkin comments on UN response to Russian bid for Arctic shelf

UN experts offered high praise for the elaborate nature of the Russian application for the extension of the Arctic shelf during preliminary discussions, Russian Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Dmitry Kobytkin said. The UN subcommittee will consider the document in March and August. The first meeting will be attended by First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Dmitry Khramov, RIA Novosti reports.

Last autumn, Kobytkin noted that there was little hope for a favourable decision from the UN Commission in the near future due to the difficult foreign policy situation.

Russia made its claims to part of the shelf, including the Lomonosov Ridge and Mendeleev Ridge, back in 2001, but the application was rejected at that time due to a lack of geological information. More than ten years have been spent on new expeditions, research, and a bathymetric survey.

<https://ren.tv/novosti/2019-02-27/kobytkin-rasskazal-o-reakcii-oon-na-rossiyskuyu-zayavku-na-shelf-v-arktike>

Roscongress Foundation is a socially oriented non-financial development institution and a major organizer of international conventions, exhibitions and public events.

The Roscongress Foundation was founded in 2007 with the aim of facilitating the development of Russia's economic potential and strengthening the country's image by organizing international conventions, exhibitions, and public events. The Foundation develops substantive content for such events, providing companies and organizations with advice, information, and expert guidance, and offering comprehensive evaluation, analysis, and coverage of the Russian and global economic agendas. It offers administrative services and promotional support for business projects and helps to attract investment, including in the form of public-private partnerships.

Today, its annual programme includes events held from Montevideo to Vladivostok, offering an opportunity to bring together global business leaders, experts, the media, and government officials in one place, creating favourable conditions for dialogue and the promotion of new ideas and projects, and assisting in the creation of social enterprise and charity projects.

www.roscongress.org