

International Conference on Arctic Research Planning II, also abbreviated by ICARP II.

The first International decade of arctic research planning found place in late 1990's, and now the next is being planned since the last year.

The organizational responsibility for this is based on national research institutions and International Committee on Scientific Unions, ICSU.

When invitation for participation from Arctic Council was announced Permanent Participants readily announced their interest and required that "human dimension" be one of the highlighted themes, and set a special emphasis on indigenous issues.

The background for that is that the former international polar years and research planning initiatives had really had omitted the indigenous issues, or "the man in the arctic issues".

The second motivation for inferring the human and indigenous issues is that even though social sciences had been named as focus areas the work on those in the context of research planning had not been sufficiently covered and had lack resources allocated for that purpose.

The third thing to say in this context is to say that dialogue between the two set of knowledge bases – the so-called western scientific knowledge and the indigenous traditional knowledge, in many respects also referred to as local knowledge – simply has been lacking due to recognition of the last mentioned in some regional academic environments.

These as motivational backpack I was appointed to represent permanent participant's organizations to the Arctic Council in the Steering Committee for the ICARP II. These organizations are: Aleut International Association; Arctic Athabaskan Association; Quech'in International Association, Saami Council and Russian Association of Indigenous Populations n Siberia and the Far East and Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

The concept of “human dimension” was well accepted by the organizing committee, partly due to lobbying by the IASSA (International Arctic Social Sciences Association).

I will say that dialogue between the parties in the conference committee is well balanced and respectful. All scientific branches and aspects are accommodated to the extent they want to highlight in their respective concerns.

What else can we expect of the Arctic Research Planning in regards to Indigenous Issues:

1. We are now in the era where indigenous peoples take active part in the wordings of goals for the regional and international policy planning.
2. Permanent participant contributions in the forming of some aspects of international law are now actual, provided they are taken seriously.
3. Extensive research projects are now available with a direct input from the indigenous peoples:
 - a. Survey of Living Conditions of Arctic Peoples;
 - b. Arctic Human Development Report is available
 - c. UNESCO’ s draft convention on intangible cultural heritage sets the focus on identity in the context of diversity
 - d. Studies on customary law of the indigenous peoples is being revitalized in the context of growing awareness of the rights, plights and ethics in the dialogue between national states and indigenous organizations.
 - e. Intellectual property rights in relation to indigenous peoples of paramount importance in the globalized world of trade; design and medical industry as well as creative productions in literature and art. Availability of access to original written and oral sources of literature must be one of the priorities.
 - f. The quest for meaningful participation in research projects needs to be implemented instead of expressions of retorics.
 - g. It is important that the above mentioned issues be retained not only in the boost of IPY but also on the on-going research planning in the Arctic.

