

Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium

Tromsø, Norway, October 19-21, 2008

Agenda

Sunday, October 19, 2008

- 1200-1700 **Cultural Event**
Enjoy a traditional Saami lunch and musical performance in a scenic venue overlooking Tromsø.
- 1800-2000 **Welcome Reception**
- Stein Rosenberg, Chair, SDWG
 - Duane Smith, President, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Canada
 - Olav Mattis Eira, Vice President, Saami Council

Monday, October 20, 2008

Chair: Duane Smith, President, ICC Canada
Facilitator: Liv Inger Somby

- 0900-1000 **Opening and Welcome**
- Opening remarks: Duane Smith, President, ICC Canada
 - Yoik: Lars Magne Andreassen, Saami
 - Welcome to Sápmi: Olav Mattis Eira, Vice President, Saami Council
 - Opening comments: Norwegian Government representative, Arctic Council
 - Opening comments: Harald Finkler, Director, Circumpolar Liaison Directorate, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.
- 1000-1030 **Keynote Address**
- Mary Simon, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
- 1030-1100 Coffee Break
- 1100-1105 **Symposium Business**
- Duane Smith

SESSION 1: STATUS AND TRENDS OF ARCTIC INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

- 1105-1150 **Presentations**
- Hugues Sicard, UNESCO
 - Fenya Lekhanova, Russia
 - Jose Kusugak, Canada
- 1150-1230 **General Discussion**
- 1230-1245 **Conclusions**
- Carl Christian Olsen, Greenland (ICC)
- 1245-1400 Lunch Break

SESSION 2: PROTECTING CULTURE AND TRANSFERRING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE – THE CRITICAL ROLE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE

To focus on the centrality of indigenous language in promoting indigenous culture and knowledge. Best practice examples to be incorporated.

- 1400-1445
- Presentations**
- Tatiana Achirgina, Russia
 - Ronald Brower, Alaska
 - Inger Marie Gaup Eira, Saami

1445-1530 **General Discussion**

1530-1600 Coffee Break

SESSION 3: TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA AS TOOLS TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

As technology and its terminology evolve, indigenous peoples need to look at ways to use and incorporate them into everyday usage. The media has a significant role to play in this. This session will look at new initiatives using technology and the media.

- 1600-1700
- Presentations**
- Zacharias Kunuk, President, Igloodik Isuma Productions
 - Linda Lee, Alaska
 - Per Langgård, Oqaasileriffik / Greenland Language Secretariat
 - Trond Trosterud, University of Tromsø
- 1700-1800 **General discussion on the day's sessions**
- 1800-2100 **Youth Dinner (with Youth Languages Forum to follow)**
- Facilitator: Shelley Tulloch, Canada

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Chair: Duane Smith, President, ICC Canada
Facilitator: Liv Inger Somby

0900-0905 **Cultural Presentation**

SESSION 4: INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES: AN IMPORTANT KEY TO PROTECTING THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT

Arctic peoples have a very close connection to the environment. Traditional knowledge expressed through language plays a critical role in helping to protect the environment. With climate change in the Arctic environment, indigenous languages have a major facilitating role in disseminating valuable knowledge of the changing environment.

Presentations

- 0905-1000
- Hishinlai' Kathy R. Sikorski, Gwich'in Council International
 - Gunn-Britt Retter, Norway
 - Vera Metcalf, Alaska

1000-1045 **General Discussion**

1045-1115 Coffee Break

SESSION 5: LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND STANDARDS SETTING TO PROMOTE AND ENHANCE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES – THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Community efforts in promoting indigenous languages need to be reinforced by appropriate legislation which recognizes the value and uniqueness of each Arctic indigenous language. Ways to ensure appropriate standards are set also need to be explored and implemented. This session will look at action that needs to be taken in this area.

Presentations

- 1115-1145
- Lars Anders Baer, Sweden
 - Svetlana Semenova, Russia
 - Minister Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Languages, Elders and Youth, Government of Nunavut

Response from Governments

- 1145-1245
- Representatives of the 8 Arctic Council governments
While representatives of the Arctic Council governments are welcome to comment during the preceding agenda items, they are particularly invited to comment at this time.

1245-1400 Lunch Break

SESSION 6: NEXT STEPS

- 1400-1500 **Adoption of Conclusions and Recommendations**
- Drafting Committee representative

- 1500-1600 **Closing and Final Remarks**
- Youth representative
 - Ole Henrik Magga, Norway
 - Duane Smith, President, ICC Canada