

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL TN AES MEETING ON NOVEMBER 10TH 2008 AT ARTEK, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK

THE MEETING WAS THE 1ST OFFICIAL AFTER THE TN GOT APPROVED IN EDMONTON

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Participants:

Arne Villumsen (AV), Morten Holtegård Nielsen (MHN), Pernille Erland Jensen (PEJ), ARTEK, Technical University of Denmark

Hannele Zubeck (HZ), School of Engineering, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA

Sven Knutsson (SK), Dept of Civil, Mining and Environmental Eng., Luleå University of Technology, Sweden

Eva Pongracz (EP), Thule Institute, University of Oulu, Finland

SELECTION OF SECRETARY FOR THE TN AES

It was established that the tasks of the secretary is to: Write and hold meeting minutes, Annual report and Five year report. Make sure we meet quality control guidelines.

PEJ was chosen as secretary with assistance from MHN.

TN QUALITY CONTROL GUIDELINES

Our focus should be on the work itself and not the quality control. If we are active, we will meet the quality demands. In the yearly reports we will simply collect our agendas and minutes and draw conclusions based on that.

The network hesitates about the 5-year evaluation. Who are the external evaluators? What is the definition of quality?

1-YEAR PLAN

- a. Education – distance courses, other courses, field schools

All represented institutions have interesting educational activities in the frames of which teacher- and student- exchange can take place:

DTU: International semester in Sisimiut, spring 2009 + future. Relevant to bring in teachers from other TN-member institutions. Relevant for students from other TN-institutions to participate.

UAA: MS in Arctic engineering. Needs to bring in teachers for the courses ME A687 “Arctic Materials Engineering” and CE A688 “Snow Engineering”. Anyone interested from the network should contact HZ. Possibility to exchange by tuition waivers for students from home institution. Student exchange possible. UAA welcomes 2 students for Spring 2009 without charging tuition (only applicable fees).UO: Starting online teaching in 2012. Topics: “clean technology”, “water & environment”.

LUT: Already collaboratoion between Oulu and Luleå. Students form Oulu participate in course on “snow and ice”. That is only possible because the two universities lie close geographically and the students can commute for lab.- and fieldwork.

It was agreed upon that hands-on experiences are important & challenging for learning, although hard to arrange for online teaching.

It is our plan during the 1st year to:

1. Establish a list of all the courses the TN AES offer on arctic issues (PEJ/MHN distribute form to be filled in with “course name”, “where”, “when”, “credits”, “contact person” “web-page” and collect information from all members).
2. Make sure the list becomes available on the TN AES homepage (help from Kirsi)
3. Make a poster which advertise the courses to students (UO offers graphical support)
4. All member institutions volunteer to advertise the educational possibilities to their students through the poster and by oral introduction e.g. during a lecture of an introductory course etc.
5. All TN AES are encouraged to recruit teacher assistance among other members for relevant courses. The most likely economical agreement would be that visiting teacher pays with time and hosting university pays travel and accommodation. The northTRES program is also an appropriate framework for making teachers available and recruiting them for our courses that should be exploited.

b. Research – Ongoing, future, possible co-operation

A number of common research topics were listed: bioenergy, waste handling (industry, mining, household), design and use of snow and ice, sustainable tourism, health issues, microscale energy supply.

Possible sources of common research projects mentioned: NPP (marine transportation, infrastructure and communication, small scale/microscale energy supply), EU, Alaska,

It was discussed that collaborative projects between e.g. Alaska and European countries probably needs separate funding from US and EU.

It was discussed that we do not wish to apply for funding for the networking activities themselves, but rather base the network activity on specific teaching and research collaborations.

It is our plan during the 1st year to:

1. Establish a list of persons (researchers) at TN AES member institutions with interest in collaboration on future research proposals. The list should include: Name, position, research interests, contact information as well as contact information of the member institutions UARCTIC TN AES contact person who will be responsible of updating ht information (e.g. in the case people change job/ new people arrive). (PEJ/MHN collects and distributes information).

c. Indigenous point of view

The network wishes to accept the offer made by the UARCTIC Indigenous Issues Committee to check and approve any research activities within the frames of the network from an indigenous people’s point of view (presentation of Indigenous Issues Committee from Edmonton, June 2008 attached)

d. Funding

It was discussed that we do not wish to apply for funding for the networking activities themselves, but rather base the network activity on specific teaching and research collaborations.

e. Knowledge sharing

1. Knowledge sharing is included in the expected teaching and research activities.
2. ARTEK's annual event in Sisimiut Greenland on shifting current topics is open for topics suggested by members of TN AES (please contact AV: av@byg.dtu.dk). Also, members are more than welcome as participants. The events are knowledge sharing events where researchers meet local politicians, technicians, municipalities and discuss present knowledge on a current technological topic relevant to the Arctic community.

f. UArctic Programs, North2North, etc.

As interests of student and teacher exchange is expressed the programs of UARCTIC should be consulted and utilized to implement the activities.

5-YEAR PLAN (SAME OUTLINE)

At the present stage we wish to maintain only a 1-year plan, and establish the 5-year plan as the sum of 5 1-year plans. We wish to avoid artificial structural frames. We (hz/sk) will contact the Thematic network Program Office and express our views and intentions, whereupon we will consider their feedback.

It is our view that external evaluation is welcome, but the network will not be able to fund such an activity.

For the first couple of years we intend to keep the network small though not closed. At a later stage we may wish to advertise for new members. We will post minutes and meeting dates on homepage – meetings are open to all interested parties.

We (hz and sk) will present the network and our planned activities at the ASCE 14th conference on cold regions engineering in Duluth Minnesota, September 2009. Several TN AES members will participate in the conference and make use of the opportunity to hold the next official TN AES meeting. In addition several TN AES members will participate in POAC 09 in June 2009 Luleå .

pej, mhn/ 2008.11.24