



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11th meeting of the Council of UArctic: strong support for new Strategic Plan 2008-2013 for UArctic

Edmonton, Canada, June 5, 2008 - The Council of the University of the Arctic (UArctic) met for a three-day intensive meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, hosted by the University of Alberta. The Council meeting is the annual general assembly of the over 100- member network and took key decisions about its future development.

“UArctic has passed an inflection point in its evolution. From an extended period of steady growth and continuing contribution to northern education and research , we now enter an era of accelerated activity , increased visibility, and more significant and positive impact on living, learning, and serving in the Circumpolar North,” comments Steve Jones, Chair of UArctic’s Board of Governors and Chancellor of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, in his opening greeting to the Council.

Six new members were accepted to the UArctic family, making the total number of members now 116. The new members are:

- Centre of Arctic Technology (ARTEK) at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Greenland
- Komi State Pedagogical Institute, Russia
- Narjan-Mar Social Humanitarian College, Russia
- University of Alaska Anchorage, United States
- University of Washington, United States
- Vancouver Island University, Canada

The Council accepted the general principles of the UArctic’s new Strategic Plan 2008-2013, put forward to the Council’s consideration by the Board of UArctic which has the overall responsibility for strategic development of the organization. The Strategic Plan introduces the following three pillars as the overarching thematic framework for the 2008- 2013 strategy:

- Adaptation to Climate Change: challenges to human society as well as nature
- The Arctic as an Energy Region: economic, cultural, environmental and technical opportunities, demands and impacts
- Building Human Capacity in the North, culturally relevant training and education for sustainable Northern communities

“These strategic foci highlight the most important potentials and challenges for the North. UArctic will be the vehicle for northern universities and colleges to jointly address these key issues, “ says Lars Kullerud, President of UArctic.

The Council also accepted several new Thematic Networks. These were: Energy in a New Time; Arctic Engineering and Science; Northern Tourism; Journalism; Digital and Media Arts; and Distance Education and e-Learning. “I am very impressed about the breath and scope of the new networks, all clearly demonstrating the capacity of UArctic members to be global leaders in these fields,” commented Claudia Fedorova from Sakha State University, Russia, Chair of the Council of UArctic.



UArctic is endorsed by the
International Polar Year (IPY)

The University of the Arctic is a cooperative network of over 100 universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Our members share resources, facilities, and expertise to build post-secondary education programs that are relevant and accessible to northern students. Our overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and northern communities through education and shared knowledge.

We promote education that is circumpolar, interdisciplinary, and diverse in nature, and draw on our combined strengths to address the unique challenges of the region. The University of the Arctic recognizes the integral role of indigenous peoples in northern education, and seeks to engage their perspectives in all of its activities.

For more information:

Lars Kullerud
President, UArctic
+47-908-70099
lars.kullerud@uarctic.org

Outi Snellman
Director of Administration and
University Relations, UArctic
+358-16-341 4210
outi.snellman@uarctic.org

UArctic International Secretariat
University of Lapland
Box 122, 96101 Rovaniemi, Finland
+358-16-341 4211
secretariat@uarctic.org