

The Borealis Conference 2007:

*Building capacity for sustainable places in the Circumpolar North
- through an integrated local/global problem-solving perspective.*

One of next year's most relevant and challenging conferences on housing, city planning and regional development in the Circumpolar World is taking place in Alta, the Northern Light City of Norway, March 5 - 7.

The Borealis conference will focus on the special architectural and technological, as well as cultural, environmental and economical challenges different places in the North are facing - small rural communities as well as middle range and bigger cities. Based on considerable knowledge we have accumulated in the different research areas, we are asking questions about how to develop more attractive and sustainable places in the North? It is not only a matter of natural environment and resources - our places also have to be socially sustainable. In other words, our communities have to be attractive enough to keep "northerners" from leaving and/or persuade "southerners" to move North. The fascinating Northern Light is not enough.

TWO PLENARY SESSIONS

Main topic: Putting the North First:

The future of northern places caught in the dynamics between the local, regional and global. Will we all be winners?

Followed by a presentation of success stories from the Circumpolar North:

From creating new relations and partnerships through urban reserves in Saskatchewan, Canada and the newly established Avjovarri Indigenous (Sami) Region in Finnmark, Norway to transforming central Kiruna, Sweden, into the winter city of the future, joint cross-border city planning and development in Haparanda-Tornio and demographic and economic growth in the Alta-Hammerfest region, based on knowledge and competence.

THREE PARALLEL SESSIONS

1. Northern values and ways of life
2. Creating attractive places in the North
3. Northern Governance and Development



Conference web-site:
[www.hifm.no/
borealis](http://www.hifm.no/borealis)



"Sustainable development in the North can only be supported by a strong, educated public. A priority should be the cultivation and communication of indigenous knowledge".

Sergey Kharuchi, president, Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North (RAIPON)

The Borealis Festival:

After the Borealis Conference 2007 you can experience one of the winter highlights in Alta, the Borealis Festival, with its cultural and musical activities, the traditional winter market and the start of the famous "Finnmarksløpet" dog sled race. You can also take part in the many exotic winter activities for tourists in Alta.

Executive committee:

- **Finnmark University College / Uarctic Thematic Network on Regional Development in the North:**
Associate professor Tor Gjertsen
- e-mail: tor.gjertsen@hifm.no
- **The Norwegian State Housing Bank, regional office Hammerfest:**
Assistant director Lene Edvardsen
- e-mail: lene.edvardsen@husbanken.no

Contact:

- **Finnmark University College:**
Senior officer Silje K. Muotka
tel: +47 7845 0401 / e-mail: silje.muotka@hifm.no
- **The Norwegian State Housing Bank, Hammerfest:**
Adviser Carina Stokke
Tel: +47 7842 7426, e-mail: carina.stokke@husbanken.no

Partners:

- Arctic Council
- The Norwegian Sami Parliament
- Finnmark County Council and Administration
- Municipality of Alta
- Winter Cities
- The Norwegian Barents Secretariat
- Sami Centre, University of Tromsø
- Sami Trade and Development Centre (SEG)
- The Executive Committee for Northern Norway

www.hifm.no/borealis

e-mail: borealis@hifm.no



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC



ALTA – the City of Northern Lights - is the largest city in Finnmark with its 20.000 inhabitants. Here you find higher education, all public facilities, a nice and dry climate and good infrastructure, only 2 hours away from Oslo. During your stay you may go dog-sledging, snow-scootering, skiing, visit Alta Ice Hotel with its outside bath-tubs while you enjoy the Northern Lights up above.

