

# Year In Review



## Thematic Network on Arctic Law

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### Building Global Bridges in Arctic Law

The year 2025 marked a dynamic and highly productive period for the Thematic Network on Arctic Law, characterized by strong engagement in major Arctic fora, strategic networking, and notable funding successes.

Throughout the year, the Network advanced a wide range of scholarly, educational, and collaborative initiatives that addressed Arctic law from a cross-disciplinary perspective. Among its most significant achievements was organizing the **Second Inter-Polar Conference, Connecting the Arctic with the Third Pole HKH 2025**, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, which fostered dialogue between the Arctic and the Himalayan regions. The Network also convened the **40th Anniversary Seminar of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law**, reflecting on key developments in Arctic environmental and human rights law. In addition, it co-organized the **18th Polar Law Symposium** in Nuuk, Greenland, focusing on Indigenous rights, autonomy, empowerment, and environmental governance. Other major events included the **Okinawa International Seminar**, which explored contemporary dimensions of decolonization, and the **NORSIL Seminar 2025** at Luleå University of Technology, which focused on transnational comparison and learning through current cases, legal reforms, policy strategies, and emerging research findings.

The Network also strengthened its scholarly impact by publishing **Current Developments in Arctic Law, Volume 13**—an open-access collection of articles and reports addressing diverse legal issues across the Arctic, from Indigenous knowledge systems to climate adaptation and science diplomacy.

Under the Network's leadership and in close partnership with international collaborators, three major networking projects were successfully launched. These include the **Finland-Japan Collaboration Project on the Arctic**, the **Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Arctic project**, and the **NOESIL project**.

Taken together, these activities underscore 2025 as a year of strategic growth, intellectual leadership, and strengthened international collaboration for the Thematic Network on Arctic Law.

### Highlights of the upcoming Activities

- Side Event Session Proposal for the World Day for Glaciers 2026, Cryosphere–Climate Interactions Across Poles: Strengthening Interpolar Action Between the Arctic and the Hindu Kush Himalaya (Third Pole), proposal submitted in January, and the session to be held in the UNESCO Headquarters on March 10-20.
- TFK Funding application on Finnish-India Collaboration on Inter-Polar Studies: The Arctic–Third Pole Linkages in Adaptation and Society (ATLAS), the application deadline is April 27.
- Workshop on Transfer of Good Practices in MSWM, to be held in Tromsø on May 19-20.
- Session organized at the UArctic Congress on Municipal Solid Waste Management, to be held in the Faroe Islands on May 25-29.
- NORSIL Seminar on What is the content of árbediehtu and Sámi norm systems and how is it relevant in the green transition, to be held in Tromsø on June 17-18.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> Polar Law Symposium, Regime Interaction: Biodiversity, Climate, Ocean, and Protecting the Polar Environments, and Biculturalism and Polar Governance, to be held in New Zealand on 9-11 November.
- Call for papers, the annual Current Developments in Arctic Law, Volume 14, July-August, with publication scheduled for December, continuing the Network's tradition of providing an open-access platform for timely scholarship on Arctic legal developments.



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