



Dear all,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Mistra Arctic Sustainable Development (MASD) programme period. From the start of the period April 1<sup>st</sup> and until now, a lot of emphasis has been put on finalizing formal requirements for the programme. Contracts have been negotiated and signed, and most of the personnel have been hired. The programme has been introduced at meetings and conferences, and held its first biannual researcher meeting with associated stakeholder consultations.

### ***ICASS VIII***

In May, the MASD research team participated with two activities during the ICASS VIII conference, in Prince George, Canada – a conference arranged by IASSA (International Arctic Social Science Association) which is an organization with over 1,500 members from more than 20 countries. During a so called “Major Sustainability Research Project Roundtable”, the previous Mistra programme Arctic Futures, the predecessor to MASD, was concluded and the new programme introduced. The scientific advisory board of the programme also got a first opportunity to meet some of the senior researchers of the research team. During the conference, Peter Sköld, administrative coordinator of MASD, was elected new president of IASSA, and the next conference, year 2017, is thus expected to take place in Umeå.

### ***Homepage***

A homepage, with essential information available on several of the different languages in northernmost Europe (Swedish, Finnish, Russian, and Sami), has also been initialized. Newsletters, translated into all these languages, will be archived at this homepage and available at [www.mistraarctic.se](http://www.mistraarctic.se).

### ***Storuman***

The research team held its first biannual programme meeting and local stakeholder meeting in the case study area of Storuman, Sweden, including a field visit to the huge wind mill farm area of Blaiken, in August 26-28.

The public meeting August 27 exceeded planned time frames with more than one hour due to a fruitful dialogue with local stakeholders, and was reported in a positive way by the regional radio news, Radio Västerbotten (In Swedish): <http://t.sr.se/1AVkoDU> . Follow up

discussions with representatives of the local sectors forestry, mining, tourist industry and community planning revealed that the research team was on the right track, also seen from the perspective of local stakeholders.

Stakeholders amongst other suggested that the space available for local decision-making, in general and in relation to specific legislation, should be highlighted, and that short summaries be included in upcoming newsletters. For instance, the interaction between planning and building legislation and the environmental code with regard to building development and long-term planning was suggested as one such area. Another was the long term consequences and scenarios for the areas, for instance with regard to changing climate and global resource demand. Researchers could also return to report for instance to the municipal executive board if requested.

The next meeting, including stakeholder consultations, will be held in March 2015 in Pajala.

Umeå 2014-09-04

Lena Maria Nilsson, communicator for MASD