

Dear all,

Winter is here, the Mistra Arctic Sustainable Development (MASD) programme is proceeding, and the first programme board meeting has been held. A revised and concretized ethical policy has been published at the web site: www.mistraarctic.se. During autumn, other parts of the programme plan have also been revised. For example, the new delivery plan includes adjustments according to suggestions from participants at the public meeting in Storuman in August. Researchers at KTH and Umeå have been busy preparing field work in the Malmfälten area (mainly Kiruna), which will take place in January. The field work will consist of interviews with various actors as well as site documentation. The data will be used by several researchers in the MASD program within the workpackages 2 and 4.

Next public meeting in Pajala

Time for next public meeting is set to March 11th, 18.30, at Folkets hus, Pajala, originally chosen to review recent mining developments. After the bankruptcy of the Northland mine, new and even more pertinent questions have arisen: following high hopes and large investments, how does a small municipality like Pajala cope with the disturbances and unpredictability of extractive industries in cases like this?

IASC workshop on indigenous peoples and extractive industries

In November 26-27, MASD researchers participated in the international IASC (International Arctic Science Committee) workshop Extractive Industries and Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic: Past, Present and Future. The workshop discussed the pros and cons of extractive industries for indigenous peoples drawing upon cases in both North America and Europe: http://www.arcum.umu.se/digitalAssets/153/153117_programme.pdf

Russia goes east to reach natural resources in the north

Arctic issues have never been on the official agenda of meetings between China and Russia. Most of their cooperation regarding oil and gas has been focused on the Russian Far East and East Siberia. However, in 2013 and 2014 the Arctic became part of the two countries' increasing cooperation in the field of energy. Read more in the paper *Russia's Evolving Arctic Strategy, Drivers, Challenges and New Opportunities* by the MASD researcher Ekaterina

Klimenko: <http://www.mistraarctic.se/wp-content/uploads/Klimenko-2014.pdf>

Nature protection does not promote positive economic development in northern Sweden

In a recent paper MASD researchers show that the assumption that nature protection promotes positive economic development through tourism is not applicable in a northern Swedish context. Hence, the study rejects the often suggested positive relationship between nature protection and tourism labor market development. Read more in the paper *Tourism labor market impacts of national parks, The case of Swedish Lapland*, by Joakim Byström and the MASD researcher Dieter Müller: <http://www.mistraarctic.se/wp-content/uploads/Bystr%C3%B6m-M%C3%BCller-2014.pdf>.

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