



Dear all,

Spring is coming, the Mistra Arctic Sustainable Development (MASD) programme is proceeding, and the second programme meeting has recently been held in Pajala in northernmost Sweden. Work within all work packages is making good progress, with all personnel hired and working towards publication goals at speed.

In the historically oriented work package (WP1), an impressive amount of publications are already finished or in progress, which will lay the foundation for integration with other work packages. In the WP focusing on existing law and policy development (WP2), studies have started of amongst other mining and environmental impact assessment processes. WPs 2 and 4 have also started field studies in Kiruna, Pajala and Luleå including interviews amongst other on mining, tourism development and possibilities for long-term strategic planning at municipal level.

In work package 3, a so called “scenario workshop” was arranged in close connection to the programme meeting. In this workshop, built around exploratory scenario methodology, local and regional actors discussed potential local futures together with researchers from the programme at large. The participants identified what local and regional developments might look like given different global changes, and what drivers of change might be the most relevant from a local perspective. The workshop featured broad participation including presentations amongst other from Pajala municipality, the Regional Council of Lapland, and Muonio reindeer husbandry.

## **Russia and the Arctic: an end to cooperation?**

For the past five years the Arctic region has enjoyed a high level of cooperation not least because Russia has opted for collaboration with its Arctic neighbours. However, geopolitical tensions between Russia and the West have raised questions regarding the sustainability of that cooperation. The recent increase in Russia’s military activities in the Arctic have raised concerns over whether the Arctic can continue to be a ‘zone of peace and cooperation’ in the foreseeable future.

Read more in the publication: Russia and the Arctic: an end to cooperation? written by MASD researcher Ekaterina Klimenko. The essay is available at Sipri's homepage: <http://www.sipri.org/media/newsletter/essay/mar-15-russia-and-the-arctic>

### **Re-opening of abandoned mining sites.**

In a recent paper by MASD researcher Dag Avango Industrial heritage is discussed. This paper deal with a phenomenon which appeared in the context of the global mining boom from the mid 2000's to early 2014 – the re-opening of previously closed and abandoned mining sites. Internationally some of these mining sites have been inscribed on the UNESCO world heritage list, such as the tin mining district of Cornwall in Great Britain. A copy of the paper is available at the MASD homepage: [www.mistraarctic.se](http://www.mistraarctic.se)

The next programme meeting will be held in Kirkenes in northernmost Norway in October, where we hope to focus in particular on fishing, oil and gas issues.

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communicator for MASD