



Dear reader,

The aftermath of the storm Urd, which crippled Norway, the mountains and the southern parts of Scandinavia during the holiday season, is now sweeping across the central coast of the European Arctic. The Christmas snow is swirling around my house. Gale force gusts toss about civilization's waste: plastic bags, cigarette butts, and assorted stray winter toys. The year is coming to an end, and the researchers at Mistra Arctic are happy about what they have accomplished and what lies ahead...

Work with the programme book progressing

More than half of the programme period is now behind us. The main priority for our researchers is to complete the big joint programme book, which was began at the programme meetings in Äkäslompolo and Stockholm in 2016. The book will shed light on the conditions for future management of natural resources in northern-most Europe. A particular focus will be on mining, forestry, oil and gas, fishing, reindeer herding, tourism and municipal planning. Drafts of completed chapters will be available for joint review and critique in the spring of 2017, and the book is to be completed at the programme meeting in Umeå in April.

Arctic theme year at Umeå University

Umeå University has declared 2017 as an Arctic theme year. During the year, Arctic research will be highlighted in a very special way. An example of this is Kunskapsnoden. Kunskapsnoden is an annual promotional event at the Grand Hôtel in Stockholm arranged by Umeå University. In 2017, Kunskapsnoden will have an Arctic theme. In its press release about the Arctic theme year, Umeå University also noted two major scientific conferences in the spring and summer of 2017, both of which touch on the work being done as part of Mistra Arctic: Pax Nordica and ICASS 9.

Pax Nordica 2017

Since 1994, Pax Nordica has promoted the discussion of security and sustainability of northern Europe. Mistra researcher Niklas Eklund is deeply involved in this conference. During the 2017 Arctic theme year, Pax Nordica will highlight security issues related to the Arctic.

ICASS 9 brings together Arctic social scientists in Umeå

IASSA (International Arctic Social Sciences Organization) is the world's leading organization for social sciences and humanities research in the Arctic region. IASSA is also organizing the ICASS 9 conference 8-12 June in Umeå. Mistra Arctic researchers are naturally eager to participate in this conference. Many of them have already submitted summaries of the research that they would like to present during ICASS 9 to the organization committee. Carina Keskitalo, scientific programme manager for Mistra Arctic, has also announced a special scientific session at the conference to present the Mistra Arctic programme's joint book for other Arctic social scientists. Peter Sköld, Mistra Arctic's administrative director, has been president of IASSA since 2014. He thinks that between 500 and 600 Arctic scientists from around the world will participate in ICASS 9.

Sami jubilee during the theme year

Even from an indigenous perspective, 2017 will be special since it is the 100th anniversary of the first Sami national congress, held on 6 February 1917 in Trondheim, Norway. This year's Sami National Day – 6 February – will actually be celebrated in memory of this congress. One of the initiators of the first Sami congress was Elsa Laula Renberg, ideologue and writer from Tärnaby, Sweden, who lived and worked in Sweden and Norway from 1877 to 1931. This year's 100th anniversary celebrations will last for the entire week of 5-12 February. Just as 100 years ago, many Sami from throughout Sápmi, Norway, Sweden and Finland will gather in Trondheim. Much has happened since the first national congress, including changes in the reindeer husbandry industry, and future research papers from Mistra Arctic will likely examine these changes. These reports will describe reindeer husbandry mainly from an industrial perspective, as one of many competing uses of land in the North.

Report from Murmansk field trip

In October 2016, some of Mistra Arctic's researchers participated in a field trip to the Murmansk region, where they visited mining areas and met Russian scientists and organizations. A more detailed report about their trip will be presented in the next newsletter, which will be published in March 2017. Until then, I wish all our readers and followers a happy new Arctic 2017! And for our Sami readers and followers, I also wish you a happy and wonderful jubilee!

Lena Maria Nilsson

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