



ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ И ВНЕШНЕЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИХ СВЯЗЕЙ
ЯМАЛО-НЕНЕЦКОГО АВТОНОМНОГО ОКРУГА

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS
OF THE YAMAL-NENETS AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT

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11. 10. 20 17г. № 601-14-03/65

На № _____ от _____

Dear members of the UArctic,

Re: Invitation to the V International Arctic Legal Forum “Protection and Sustainable Development of the Arctic: Legal Aspects”

From 29th of November to 2nd of December 2017 the V International Arctic Legal Forum “Protection and Sustainable Development of the Arctic: Legal Aspects” will take place in Saint Petersburg, Russia. You are courteously invited to participate in the upcoming event and to share your weighty opinion and expertise.

Forum will be organized by the Government of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug together with the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law under the Government of the Russian Federation.

A lot of large-scale transnational projects are being actively implemented in the Arctic today, interregional and international spheres of cooperation are expanding. Due to the Year of Ecology in the Russian Federation, particular attention within the frame of the Forum will be paid to the legal aspects of the environmental protection and conservation of unique ecosystems of northern territories. The experience of holding the International Arctic Legal Forums since 2011 has had the favorable impact on completing a wide range of legal tasks that have proved to be vital for sustainable development of the Arctic zone.

The 2017 Arctic Legal forum will particularly address problems such as gaps in the legal framework regarding the rights of nomad and part-nomad indigenous Arctic citizens, the importance of efficient resource management and preservation of nature, and the vital role of attracting youth to the Arctic regions. The program of the Forum is attached.

There is zero registration fee, but the guests should cover travel and transportation costs on their own. The organizing committee is able to provide accommodation discounts at the Ambassador Hotel, the principal place of the Forum events, as well as organize transfers from the airport or a railway station to the accommodation and Forum venue and back.

Regarding the conditions of participation in the Forum and for general queries, please, contact Marat Shaizhanov, the member of the Organizing Committee: +7(812)4973370 / MVShaizhanov@yanao.ru.

We will be grateful for your answer by the end of October.

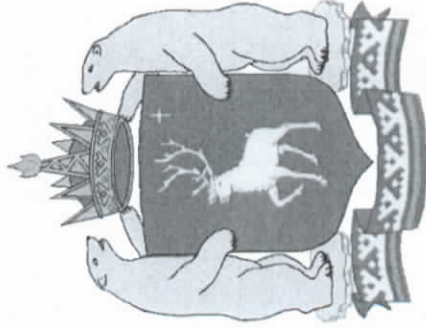
Sincerely yours,



Aleksandr V. Mazharov
Deputy Governor
of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Okrug,
Director of the Yamal-Nenets Department for International
and External Economic Relations

PROJECT
INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATION AND COMPARATIVE
JURISPRUDENCE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

GOVERNMENT
OF THE YAMAL-NENETS AUTONOMOUS OKRUG



V INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC LEGAL FORUM
«PRESERVATION AND STABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARCTIC
REGION: LEGAL ASPECTS»

November 29 – December 2, 2017
Saint Petersburg

PROGRAM

V International Arctic Legal forum “Preservation and stable development of the Arctic Region: legal aspects”

November 29 – December 2, 2017
Saint Petersburg, local time

November 29, Wednesday	
00:00 – 24:00	Arrival of participants and guests of the forum: - from the Pulkovo Airport - from the Moscow, Baltic, Vitebsk, Ladoga and Finnish Railway Stations in Saint Petersburg - via personal transfer
00:00 – 24:00	Check-in at the hotels <i>Note: The main accommodation for the participants of the forum is the Ambassador Hotel</i> <i>Address: Rimsky-Korsakov Prospect, 5-7</i>
12:00 – 21:00	In the Lobby of the Ambassador Hotel: - registration of Forum participants - distribution of handouts for the participants and guests of the Forum - collection of participants' reports (from electronic storage devices) - meeting point
20:00 – 22:00	An evening bus tour around St. Petersburg

November 30, Thursday	
07:00 – 8:30	Breakfast at the Ambassador Hotel
08:00 – 8:45	Transfer to the Mariinsky Palace (the main Forum discussion platform) <i>Address: St. Isaac's Square, 6</i> <u>Note: Entrance to the Mariinski Palace is via passport</u>
09:00 – 10:00	Registration of the participants

10:00 – 11:30	Plenary session “Global tendencies of the arctic space: Society. Ecology. Law.”
10:30 – 11:30	Speeches:
11:30 – 12:15	Break and briefing
11:30 – 12:15	Coffee pause Presentation of the photo exhibition dedicated to the Arctic Region
12:15 – 14:00	Work on the 1st section: “Society, ecology and law in high latitudes” Interactive transmission through the informative (tele)communicational network “Internet”
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch and Coffee Break
15:00 – 17:00	Resumption of the 1st section: “Society, ecology and law in high latitudes” Interactive transmission through the informative (tele)communicational network “Internet”
17:00 – 17:30	Remarks in the “free microphone access” format Concluding the 1st section (“Society, ecology and law in high latitudes”)
17:30 – 19:00	Transfer to the Ambassador Hotel Free time
19:00 – 21:00	Buffet dinner for the guests and participants of the forum (access via invitations)

December 01, Friday

07:00 – 8:45 Breakfast in the Ambassador Hotel

Conference Halls of the Ambassador Hotel

Note: Access to the Forum events is via personalized participant cards

09:00 – 11:30	Work on the 2 nd section: “The modern model of public resource management on the Arctic territories: problems and perspectives” (1 st Hall)	Work on the 3 rd section: “Arctic region in the light of international law” (2 nd Hall)
10:30 – 11:30	The round table of the Arctic Youth Competence Centre: “Personnel. The needs of a business – competence of youth”	
11:30 – 12:00	Reinforced coffee break.	
12:00 – 13:00	The final meeting of the forum Discussion and approval of the Forum’s resolution as well as the implementation plan for the adopted decisions Interactive transmission through Internet	
13:00 – 13:30	Press conference	
14:00 – 18:00	Tour	
18:00 – 24:00	Free time	

2 December 2017, Saturday

07:00 – 8:30	Breakfast at Ambassador Hotel
0:00 – 24:00	Departure from the hotels: - to the Pulkovo Airport; - to the Moscow, Baltic, Vitebsk, Ladoga and Finnish Railway Stations in Saint Petersburg - via personal transfer

ANNOTATION

First section “Society, ecology and law in high latitudes”

In the first section we plan to discuss the issues of global trends in the development of high latitude societies in the context of legal aspects and contemporary challenges. By putting human beings at the top of the value pyramid and focusing on their rights and freedoms, the forum allowed to work out calibrated and effective legal solutions and to formulate practical proposals, directed at perfecting the law system based on the interests and unique features of the Arctic Regions' population.

Owing to the consolidation of efforts, the question of registering nomad and part-nomad citizens, who have no constant place of residence, was solved, which allowed those citizens to use their rights to the fullest extent as well as adopt modern methods of domestic management.

However, despite the positive achievements and strides, some legal questions of ensuring the realization of citizen rights determined by the territorial characteristics as well as way of life of indigenous northern population remain to be resolved. One of the aspects that needs immediate attention is the legal gap that requires people to have a constant place of residence in order to be able to adopt children, while the indigenous nomad and part-nomad population of north leads a type of life that does not provide such accommodation, which makes them unable to adopt.

It should be noted that the legal aspects of social and domestic infrastructure of health care, housing, and communal services of the Arctic region will be, as before, heavily focused on. Solving these problems would positively influence the demographic indicators of the forum's expert community.

Comfortable accommodation, wide infrastructure and perspectives of developing along with the region can become a decisive factor in attracting young qualified staff and their families for constant residence in the Arctic latitudes. The legal problems of creating such conditions are one of the key moments of discussion within the framework of this section's meeting.

The issues of: supporting the traditional way of life, as well as culture in the modern social and economic realities, of the small indigenous northern population; legal regulators of the integration of their traditional way of life (as one of the ethnopreserving factors) into the market economy; attracting these people to open their own businesses based on the traditional forms of domestic hosiery (gathering and preparing of wild herbs, artwork production, event and ethnic tourism) will also not be ignored.

Global processes are very inert, which, taking into account the contemporary trends, suggests that in medium-term the consumption of energy resources will grow, therefore increasing the extraction rate, which will inevitably affect the territories of traditional nature use.

Through discussing these problems, we are planning to find the model of the balance of interests, which would contribute to the harmonization of industrial and traditional nature use processes.

Undoubtedly, throughout the “Year of Ecology in Russian Federation”, special attention will be paid to the questions of environmental protection and preservation of unique ecosystem.

The subsoil of the Arctic Region is a strategic resource base of a number of countries, and is able to provide solutions to the arising strategic tasks it faces, including the tasks of social and economic development.

However, the subsoil of the Arctic Region is not only a large-scale natural resources storage, but also a unique vulnerable ecosystem that could be damaged by an ineffective and irresponsible use of nature.

This thesis predetermines the relevance of finding qualitatively new legal approaches to responsible uses of nature, insuring against ecological risks, minimizing the environmental damage depositing, liquidating the damage that has been accumulated, compensating for the environmental damage dealt, and actively introducing ecological monitoring practices.

We also plan to consider the best international practices of legal regulation in the relevant public relation spheres and their approbation in the conditions of Russian Arctic.

Overall, the dialogue between statesmen, leading scientists and experts, representatives of the business society and publics will be directed at suggesting real mechanisms of legal regulation that are capable of providing a stable balance between public and private interests in the Arctic region.

Second section: “The modern model of public resource management in the Arctic territories: problems and perspectives”

The modern Arctic Region is a colossal resource potential that needs weighted, zealous and at the same time effective approaches to its management.

Stating the public understanding that a stable development of Russian Arctic should be based on a clear and transparent legal nature, both defining general legal requirements to the sides of a relationship (and guaranties of the stability of legal regime rules) and taking into account the unique characteristics of arctic territories, actualizes the problems of building the modern governmental model of administration in the regions of high latitudes.

One of the national decisions based on the project approach is a concept of forming support zones of focused development in the Russian Arctic.

The approach presupposes a complex aid to the development of support zone territories as a single project that is firstly oriented in the infrastructure and resource-extracting vector that has a multiplicative effect and functions as a powerful catalyst to the positive socio-economic processes of the macro region of the Russian Arctic Zone.

Implementation of this large-scale and ambitious project could not be possible without the complementary legal regulators that allow deviations from the general, sectoral regulation principles, which do not take the specifics of the Arctic region into

account, towards the approaches of comprehensive special regulation of territorial activity among the support zones of development. This fact by itself assumes the transition back to the open dialogue about the concept of implementing a “systematic” federal law that would define the approaches to the development of Russian Arctic.

In addition, the transition from the sectoral principles of regulation assumes the construction of scientific, evidence-based approaches to the inventorying of the legal regulators.

The outlined questions will become discussion topics within the framework of the second section of the forum.

The attention of the participants will also be drawn to the question of rearranging the administrative power among the levels of management and looking at such more successful practices more closely.

One more direction the discussion will take will be the issues of further development of the public-private partnership that demonstrated positive results in implementation of joint projects.

It is clear that the states that will create the most loyal conditions for the partnerships of the transnational extraction sector giants will enjoy noticeable competitive advantages in dynamic development.

By demonstrating a significant dependence on the governmental support, the projects of the public-private partnerships do not always bring a stabilization effect for the arctic territories upon implementation. Indeed, despite the accumulation of financial resources and erection of large-scale projects, there is often a capital outflow from the Arctic Region. It can be confirmed that on the modern stage it is not enough to simply find an investor with capital, but is more important to build a system of partnership that will use his resources to benefit the arctic regions and to carry the burden of the socio-economic commitments.

This state of affairs poses another challenge for the state administration: to increase the level of constant residents of the arctic region that provide capital. This challenge requires all-round studying and discussing as well as consolidation of potentials.

Undoubtedly, the future of Arctic rests in the hands of young specialists. Young scientists, activists, public figures demonstrate a stable interest in investigating high latitudes. We plan to hold a round table of the Arctic Youth Competence Centre “Personnel. The needs of a business – competence of youth” within the framework of the second section of the forum and in this vector of arctic territories exploration.

Third section “Arctic region in the light of international law”

According to the regulations on Strategies of Russian Federation Arctic zone Development and Ensuring of national security until 2020 (enacted by the president of Russian Federation), one of the prioritized directions of Russian Federation Arctic Zone development and national security provision is the creation of international partnerships in the Arctic region and ensuring military safety, defense and protection of the Russian Federation state border in the Arctic Region.

The international cooperation practice that has established over the past 30 years has shown a positive effect of multilateral interstate interaction, as well as the interaction of business institutions, representatives of indigenous minorities, public associations and the scientific community.

As the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, has noted, new promising large-scale projects will be launched in the richest Arctic region, including some in collaboration with our foreign partners. Undoubtedly, such cooperation should be based on a stable international legal framework in an atmosphere of full mutual understanding and mutual respect.

Taking the guidelines set by the Head of State into account, we plan to discuss issues of ensuring the security of the Arctic space, conducting interstate rescue missions and actions, international legal regulations of the maritime navigation regime along the Northern Sea Route, legal aspects of using modern GIS technologies.

The contemporary global vectors of the Arctic law development clearly influence the formation of Arctic law in Russia as a separate industry. Specifics and dynamics of relations in high latitudes imply the search for a new concept for their regulation.

The peculiarity of the legal activity regime in the Russian Arctic is that regulation is based, on one hand, on the norms of international conventions, and on the other, on sectoral national legislation, taking into account regional specifics applied to a specific subject, which does not fully correspond to the current trend of global unification and simplification norms of the international legal regime. Consideration of this problem should become an important part of the forthcoming discussions.

An equally important part of the discussion should be the implementation of resource-intensive projects related to the use of intellectual foreign capital and investment in the production of the Arctic region in the context of the legal field. The unilateral refusal of foreign partners to implement joint projects in the Russian Arctic in connection with the application of Western sanctions often has negative legal consequences requiring their resolution.

Overall, such circumstances actualize the issue of introducing alternative regulators, capable of providing a stable and comfortable investment climate for our new partners.

A separate area of discussion will include the theoretical issues of regulation of international relations in the field of development of bioresources arising from the processes of ice surface reduction in the Arctic due to the global warming. Theoretical views in this direction, given the interest in these resources by many, including non-Arctic, states, are very relevant today.

Summing up, according to the results of this section's work, we expect to draw the main conclusions about the directions of development of the international legal regulation of the Arctic regime, and to adopt recommendations for its improvement.