

Drawing by Alooook Ipellie

In 1982-83, ICC successfully lobbied against the Arctic Pilot Project (AAP) which would have brought icebreaking supertankers through the Northwest Passage. This drawing was used in the campaign. The concern was potential environmental impacts but more concerning was the potential impact on the Inuit way of life. In the Inuit Arctic Policy Review (1/1984), Hans Pavia Rosing was quoted to say, "Everybody agrees that the APP, as we know it is dead. But there is also a general understanding that the project may be revived some day in a different form." Today, with the melting of the Arctic ice pack, the issue has resurfaced. Through the Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment, ICC represents Inuit interests, ensuring that Inuit concerns are considered and addressed. Drawing by: Alooook Ipellie (Taken from: *The Magazine of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Summer 1986*).

# DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN  
Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA  
Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 20-21 • AFN Youth and Elders Conference • Anchorage, Alaska • [www.nativefederation.org](http://www.nativefederation.org)

October 21-22 • Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium • Tromso, Norway • [www.arcticlanguages.com](http://www.arcticlanguages.com)

October 23-25 • Alaska Federation of Natives Convention • Anchorage, Alaska • [www.nativefederation.org](http://www.nativefederation.org)

October 24-25 • Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) • Tromso, Norway • [www.arcticportal.org/en/sdwg](http://www.arcticportal.org/en/sdwg)

October 28-30 • Arctic Council Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) • Helsinki, Finland • [www.arcticportal.org/en/pame](http://www.arcticportal.org/en/pame)

November 6-7 • Arctic Sovereignty Workshop • Kuujuaq, Canada •

November 18-20 • Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) • Kautokeino, Norway • <http://arcticportal.org/en/arctic-council2>

December 1-12 • UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) • Poznan, Poland



## An Update on AMSA By ICC Alaska Staff

As global warming shrinks the Arctic ice pack and commercial shippers plan for new transport routes across the top of the world, what can we do to protect the Arctic? A working group of the Arctic Council (AC) aims to answer that question through its Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA).

AMSA's goal is to understand how marine activities will develop in the future and what impact increased activity will have on the environment, economy and society in the Arctic. AMSA would develop recommendations for consideration of AC member states and international organizations in support of sustainable development of marine activities.

At the AC Ministerial Meeting held November 2004 in Reykjavik, Iceland, the Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group (PAME) was asked to conduct a comprehensive assessment on this subject with support from the other AC working groups.

At the following PAME meeting in February 2005 it was agreed that the assessment would: cover all ship-based activities and all ship types; cover the geographical area defined by the member states; use the Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) approach; use projections up to 2020 for economic development and 2050 for Arctic climate change.



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## A Message from ICC-AK President Edward S. Itta



Nothing threatens the future of Inuit communities more than the price of fuel. From Greenland to Russia, remote Native villages suffer from energy prices spiraling out of control and consuming an ever-larger share of family income.

It is strange to live in a state that is awash in public money because of high oil prices, and at the same time those high energy prices are siphoning cash out of the villages. In some cases, residents are even forced to abandon their homes and villages because they can no longer afford local energy costs. It's a very sad situation, with no simple solutions. The future looks grim unless one of two things happens: 1) the price of oil goes back down, or 2) communities find alternatives to our dependence on oil.

The price of oil is not as high as it was a few months ago, but I don't hear anybody predicting a return to the "good old days" of 1999 when a barrel of oil sold for \$20 or less. In fact, communities are reporting that diesel supply contracts this year will more than double last winter's fuel prices. The only way we are going to drive fuel prices down is by using less of it. That means we have to get more efficient use out of each gallon and we have to find locally-appropriate alternative sources of energy.

Remote communities have figured this out and are getting serious about reducing dependence on the annual fuel barge. It starts with insulating our homes and public buildings better, so they won't take as much fuel to keep them warm. The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) has three different programs aimed at helping to "weatherize" Alaskan homes. Every village in Alaska should look into this program, which can create local employment at the same time as it protects our homes from the cold.

Wind power is playing a bigger role in the shift to renewable energy sources. Kotzebue has led the way with its wind farm of 17 generators producing enough electricity to replace more than 100,000 gallons of diesel each year. That's 100,000 gallons of diesel they don't have to buy. Wind power is cheap but it's not free, because you have to maintain the machinery and monitor the system. But that means villages are paying for local technicians and keeping the money circulating in the community.

Smaller communities are also creating power from the wind. These include Wales, Selawik, Toksook Bay, Kasigluk, Pilot Point and St. Paul Island. Four villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta region have formed the Chaninik Wind Group and are building wind turbines to lower electric rates. The Denali Commission and the Alaska Energy Authority have begun to award alternative energy grants to encourage more projects like these.

So there is a lot to get excited about in areas where wind or hydro or some other energy alternative offers hope. Some villages don't have those options and the vast majority of our rural communities will rely heavily on diesel fuel for years to come. That's why the State needs to make sure that rural Alaska – which is the

*continued on page 6*



## Circumpolar Inuit Field Program

### A Report from Ralph Sinnok




Participants in the Circumpolar Inuit Field Program aboard the CCGS Amundsen. Ralph Sinnok is fourth in line from the left.

Understanding integration of traditional knowledge with western science was the Circumpolar Inuit Field Program's ultimate goal for students. My two-week program experience with seven other youth from throughout the Circumpolar North was an experience I will never forget.

Before the program, we were all required to interview at least two elders of our communities. With the information we gathered from our elders, we had to give a presentation to a ship full of scientists aboard the CCGS Amundsen out in the Beaufort Sea. It was difficult to explain my elders' wisdom, life-lived knowledge, experiences and perspective on climate change to a group of scientists who showed us their complicated instruments that measured climate change.

During the preparations for our presentations we came to realize common experiences. Environmental changes and the way our people have adapted were similar. It felt like we were all connected and understood what each of us had gone through. Sure, we all come from different areas of the Arctic, but we all have experienced similar upbringings and faced similar challenges.

The experiences we shared during the two weeks exposed us to our elders, communities, climate change, environment, science, and most importantly, in my view, traditional knowledge. Our experiences together did not begin when we started the two-week program. It had already begun for us all while we grew up living and learning with our elders in our communities.. At the end of the program we knew what traditional knowledge was, what it can do for each of us, how our experiences were very alike, and the value or traditional knowledge in research alongside western science. Traditional knowledge is our elders' wisdom, experiences and perspectives of climate change. It is also what connects us to one another. 



A water sample collector being pulled up onto the CCGS Amundsen.



Participants James Kuptana from Ottawa/Sachs Harbour, Canada (furthest left) and Ralph Sinnok (kneeling) visit with scientists aboard the CCGS Amundsen.

## ICC Alaska Elders Plan Meeting

By ICC Alaska Staff

Willie Goodwin Jr., ICC Alaska Elders Council Chair recently proposed to hold an ICC Alaska Elders Conference during the Kotzebue Trade Fair in the summer of 2009. His idea was accepted by the ICC Alaska Board at their June 14th meeting. Planning is underway with more information to come in future issues of DRUM.




## UN NGO Status Continues to Prove Beneficial

By ICC Alaska Staff

In the year this photo was taken, Inuit Circumpolar Council was granted Category II Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Status from the United Nations. Hans Pavia Rosing, President of ICC during that time said in an interview, "This is a great achievement for such a relatively young organization and provides the ICC with an important forum to present our views and exchange ideas. We take this acceptance of our NGO application as recognition by the United Nations of the important role Inuit can play in promoting the objectives of the UN and in assisting the international community in developing a greater awareness of and sensitivity to the Arctic Region, its environment and its inhabitants."<sup>1</sup>

Today, Inuit Circumpolar Council continues to be involved at the United Nations, representing Inuit in various UN groups such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Convention on Biodiversity, and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

A recent example of progress by indigenous peoples that involved ICC participation was the passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007. Unfortunately, four countries, including the United States and Canada, voted against it. Although the Declaration is not legally binding, according to a UN press release, it does "set out the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health education and other issues." It also "emphasises the rights of indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures, traditions and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations."<sup>2</sup> ICC continues to lobby and work with other indigenous groups to implement the Declaration at the national level. 



ICC Executive Council in 1983: Oscar Kawagaley (Alaska), James Stotts (Alaska), Lars Chemnitz (Greenland), President Hans Pavia Rosing (Greenland), Mary Simon (Canada), John Amagoalik (Canada), Aqqaluk Lyngse (Greenland). (Taken from: ICC Greenland Newsletter, December 2006, Available at: [www.inuit.org](http://www.inuit.org))

<sup>1</sup> From: The Arctic Policy Review, North Slope Borough, March 1983, p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> Complete text of the press release is available at: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=23794&Cr=indigenous&Cr1>

# Report from ICC Chair, Patricia Cochran



## Worldwide Observations of Climate Change

Do you know what's happening in other indigenous communities across the planet? Here are just a few observations of climate change impacts that have come across my desk:

*I am very concerned about climate change, since I live on a small island in the middle of the **Indian Ocean**. With the current climate change, what we have suffered from the most is the El Nino phenomenon. It has destroyed a large percentage of reef structures due to coral bleaching, which in turn affects tourism and the fish population. After the great El Nino of 1998, this coral barrier has been structurally weakened and in some instances has collapsed. The barrier is lower and less effective at wave breaking. So now more water with more energy is coming into the lagoon and this is creating coastal erosion.*

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*Climate change has had adverse affects on water availability in parts of **India**. Famed as the world's wettest point because of its abundant rainfall, Cheerapunji has been unusually dry. The glaciers in Ladakh, which account for 13% of Kashmir's land area, are now fast receding. The impacts of these changes, including on agriculture, are already visible in **India**.*

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*During the last few decades, the hurricane season has become more extreme in the **Dominican Republic** (Caribbean). Last year, the Dominican Republic was struck by two tropical storms during October and November, with precipitation in some parts of the country exceeding regular monthly levels by as much as 300%. The storm Olga happened out of season - during December. Precipitation patterns are changing. During a normal year, the highest rainfall occurs in May, but this year May was dry.*

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*Dear Sister: I send you some photos of my place in Ayacucho, south central part of **Peru**. We have many problems because the water is drying. No food for animals, no water for agriculture or to produce the food. In this river were many fish, now no fish. In other parts of the Andes we have problems of glaciation like en Puno and the animals and children are dying. In other parts, like Huascaran, the glacier is losing the snow.*

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*The rains that once fell between March and September have now been reduced to only thrice or four times a year in western **Kenya**. Subject to drought and famine for the last two decades, the vast and arid Turkana District - once a savannah - is now a no-go zone. The water table is sinking and pastoralists have to trek up to 70 kms in search of water. Climate change is worsening problems*

*already created by human activity. Irrigation and hydropower schemes have reduced the flows of the Omo and Turkwell rivers and contributed to the decline of Lake Turkana. This has resulted in the dying of indigenous trees and plants along the river where the Turkana people live. Even tree pods which enabled the livestock to live are no more. Animals are dying from the severe drought. Furthermore, the famous Ferguson Gulf in Lake Turkana - once a breeding ground for tilapia fish - has disappeared. The fisherfolk in the area now have nothing to eat. The area once occupied by the Gulf has been invaded by foreign plants called acacia prosopis.*




Ayacucho, Peru Photo by: Tarcila Rivera Zea (IPGSCC Steering Committee Member)

*When local donkeys eat them, they become toothless after some months and die. Inhabitants have opted to move to urban areas to work as labourers, while others have resorted to making charcoal from the dying trees to supply refugee camps in Kakuma and urban areas. Turkanas are now dependant on emergency relief aid from the international community through the World Food Programme as a result of this catastrophe.*


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*In the Queen Charlotte Islands in **Canada**, this year berries and fish are later than usual - at least one month behind the time when they usually are ready to eat. The coastline has suffered erosion along the eastern shores of our islands. This year the herring and whales did not show up in our inlet as they usually do. A few gray whales came into the inlet but left shortly after - in the past we could count on enjoying their visit for anywhere up to a couple of months.*

These reports from indigenous communities worldwide paint a graphic picture of how climate change is impacting and in fact, changing indigenous societies and cultures. Because of our first hand knowledge and expertise, ICC is looked to for leadership. That is why we are planning the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change. You can find out more information at our website which will be up shortly [www.indigenoussummit.com](http://www.indigenoussummit.com). 

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source of our vast public wealth – does not freeze in the dark due to high oil prices. Power Cost Equalization (PCE) should be fully funded. Low-income energy assistance should be boosted. And that \$1,200 energy rebate to all Alaskans will be a real blessing throughout our rural areas this winter.

There is no magic solution to the crushing price of fuel, but there are many ways we can move away from dependence on oil. Some of these solutions mean we take a closer look at the resources we already have – natural and human resources – and put them to work. 

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It should be emphasized that AMSA does not include impacts of specific industrial activities such as mining, fishing, and oil and gas development, only the impacts of increased shipping.

The AMSA project is divided into eight work packages: project planning and management; determination of current levels of marine activity (database collection); projecting levels of marine activity in 2020 and 2050; environmental impacts of marine activity today; environmental impacts of marine activity in 2020 and 2050; risk analysis; social and economic impacts; and analysis and recommendations.


A key element of AMSA is the inclusion of the indigenous Permanent Participants (PP's) at every step of the project and sharing information among all Arctic Council member states.

ICC and the other PP's have been involved in the AMSA process since inception ensuring our concerns are considered and addressed. ICC Canada contributed a publication to

AMSA titled, 'The Sea Ice is Our Highway', which is an Inuit perspective on Arctic transportation. The final AMSA will have a chapter dedicated to the indigenous people's perspective titled, 'Human Dimensions of Arctic Shipping'.

PAME has conducted four Town Hall meetings in Canada, three in Norway, and two in Iceland. The purpose of these meetings is to present AMSA's progress to Arctic residents and communities. Recently PAME held a Town Hall meeting in Nome on September 3rd. The Nome meeting was organized by Dr. Lawson Brigham, US Arctic Research Commission with the help of Jim Stotts, ICC Alaska Executive Director. Future Town Hall meetings are in the works for Kotzebue and Barrow.

Five years and numerous PAME workshops later, AMSA is nearing completion. The latest AMSA draft will be discussed at the next PAME meeting to be held in Helsinki, Finland on October 28-30. The AMSA then goes for review to the Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting in Kautokeino, Norway on November 18-20. Finally the AMSA goes to the AC Ministerial Meeting to be held April 28-29 in Tromso, Norway for the adoption of recommendations by the AC member states.

The Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment will likely be published and distributed to the public in the (fall/ winter) 2009 time frame. 

*Check Out Our Website!*

**[www.iccalaska.org](http://www.iccalaska.org)**

*"DRUM" is now online!*

## **Unalakleet Culture Camp Canceled**

**By ICC Alaska Staff**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, ICC Alaska was forced to cancel this year's Unalakleet Culture Camp. First, our grant application to the State of Alaska was vetoed by Governor Palin, eliminating funds that had been approved by the Alaska Legislature. Despite the loss of these funds, we decided to move ahead with the project. However, numerous last-minute cancellations by our youth participants, cultural presenters and invited VIP's forced us to cancel the event. We did not want to move forward with a Camp that would be less than expected or desired. We're sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused and we thank everyone who worked on the project.

# Executive Council Meets in Alaska

## By ICC Alaska Staff

The Executive Council (EC) met August 7-8 in Nome, Alaska. Originally the meeting was to be held in Anadyr, Chukotka, but logistics for the meeting proved too hard to overcome with recent changes in leadership occupying the Chukotkan government's attention. ICC was fortunate to have both Executive Council members from Chukotka at the meeting.

The meeting was held in the Kawerak Board Room with several Inuit attending as all Executive Council meetings are open to interested Inuit. During the meeting Kawerak and Bering Straits Native Corporation gave overviews of their organizations much appreciated by the EC. Kawerak proved to be a gracious host and our thanks to them for their interest and assistance.

Thursday, August 7, was occupied with reports, including the Chair's report, national reports and various reports on United Nations (UN) and Arctic Council (AC) activities.

UN reports included updates on the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism, UN Convention on Biodiversity, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Reports on activities of AC working groups included: Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) meeting next October 24-25 in Tromso, Norway; Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) meeting in Helsinki, Finland on October 28-30; Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), which meets September 29-October 3 in Ilulissat, Greenland; Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting November 18-20 in Kautokeino, Norway; and the Arctic Indigenous Languages Symposium (AILS) scheduled for October 21-22 in Tromso, Norway.

Jim Stotts attends PAME meetings and Taqulik Hepa attends CAFF meetings on behalf of ICC Alaska. ICC Canada and ICC Greenland also send representatives to the AC working group meetings and all offices share information.


Thursday evening the Council and staff were treated to a delicious crab and native food feast compliments of Charley and Brenda Johnson. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Brenda and Charley for their wonderful hospitality.

Friday featured discussions on climate change issues, including an update on the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change and the Sila-Inuk Project managed by ICC Greenland.

There was a lively discussion on the upcoming Arctic Sovereignty Workshop scheduled for November 7 in Kuujuaq, Quebec. Look for an article on this meeting in the next issue of DRUM.

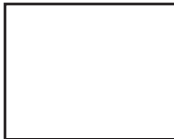
Following an update on the Circumpolar Inuit Health Action Plan, the EC discussed several wildlife issues including: the European Union's ban on seal skin products; the US government listing of the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act; and activities of the International Whaling Commission meeting recently held in Santiago, Chile.

The EC meeting concluded by addressing several housekeeping issues such as the restructuring of ICC, revisions to the ICC Arctic Policy, defining the relationship between the Chair and the Executive Council, and the upcoming 2010 General Assembly to be held in Nuuk, Greenland.

The next EC Meeting will be held in February 2009 in Greenland. 



*L to R: Natalia Rodionova (ICC Chukotka EC), Kelly Eningowuk (ICC Alaska Staff), Violet Ford (ICC Canada EC), Corinne Gray (ICC Canada Staff), Duane Smith (ICC Canada EC), Charlie Johnson, Jim Stotts (ICC Alaska EC Alternate), Roy Ashenfelter (Bering Straits Native Corporation), Carl Chr. Olsen (Puju) (ICC Greenland EC), Willie Goodwin, Jr. (ICC Alaska EC Alternate), Vera Metcalf (Kawerak Staff), Valentina Leonova (ICC Chukotka EC). Sitting: Aqqaluk Lynge (ICC Greenland EC), Loretta Bullard (Kawerak President), Patricia Cochran (ICC Chair). Photo by: Oxana Golovkina*



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*The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) representing the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC Alaska, along with other members, strives to strengthen, protect, and develop Inuit rights in the circumpolar region.*

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