Kitigaaryuit Declaration Highlights
By ICC Alaska Staff

Kitigaaryuit was a traditional whaling village and meeting site located in the Inuvialuit Region that served to bring together and sustain Inuit. Inspired by the spirit and power of Kitigaaryuit we are reminded of the connection between past, present and future.

ICC held its twelfth General Assembly (GA) in Inuvik 21-24 July. The theme of the GA was “One Arctic – One future.” With a full agenda and about 600 attending it was a great success. Held every four years the GA is a time for Inuit from across the circumpolar north to meet old friends and make new ones. Topics discussed covered the full spectrum of issues important to our people. A highlight of every GA is the opportunity for Inuit to celebrate their culture and the cultural events were packed with proud and enthusiastic participants.

On the last day of the conference the delegates adopted the Kitigaaryuit Declaration, the result of much effort by the ICC executive, staff and delegates over a half-year period. The Declaration sets the priorities and agenda for ICC’s international work for the upcoming four-year term.

In the preamble the Declaration recognized past accomplishments, including the adoption of the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat, the adoption of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the establishment of a Community Based Monitoring in a Changing Arctic web atlas.

The balance of the Declaration was organized into nine subsections:

Arctic Council and International Fora: ICC will use the Arctic Council and other international forums to further Inuit interests and calls upon the Arctic states to include Inuit in all bilateral and multilateral meetings in much the same way as at the Arctic Council. We will advance the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) with member states and advance the Alta Outcome Document at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. We will continue our efforts to implement the International Labor Organization Convention 169 concerning tribal peoples.

Environmental Stewardship: ICC will continue to address climate change including creation of adaptation strategies to survive changes. ICC will keep environmental stewardship as a key priority to promote a healthy and abundant source of food for future generations, and be involved in the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international efforts concerning our food. We will work to reduce worldwide emissions of contaminants that end up in the Arctic and work for policies that protect Arctic freshwater.
President’s Message

James Stotts

ICC to Plan Three Summits…

The Kitigaaryuit Declaration mandated three international meetings be held sometime during the coming four-year term. This will not be an easy task with people’s time and potential funding at a premium. Still, that’s our plan and we’re sticking to it. The following words are directly quoted from the Declaration.

First, ICC leadership is mandated to plan and convene a Circumpolar Inuit Economic Summit that would explore potential collaborations among Inuit businesses and facilitate Inuit businesses sharing experiences amongst themselves.

Second, ICC leadership is directed to plan and host an Inuit Summit on wildlife management.

Third, ICC leadership is mandated to promote educational exchanges, share best educational practices, and host a summit of experts and practitioners from across the circumpolar Arctic to recommend ways to develop or enhance culturally appropriate curriculum.

The economic summit can be viewed as a follow-up meeting to the 2012 Inuit Leaders Summit that produced the Circumpolar Inuit Declaration on Resource Development Principles in Inuit Nunaat. This meeting is extremely important with today’s strong emphasis on economic and resource development in the Arctic. Inuit must have a seat at the table to protect and enhance our economic interests.

The wildlife management summit is crucial for the development of consistent standards in the Arctic for safeguarding the living resources Inuit depend upon for food security. Inuit need to be involved at every level in the management of our food, which is key to our nutritional and cultural survival. Food security was ICC Alaska’s number one priority during the previous ICC term.

Finally, the education summit is critical for the future of our people. Inuit youth, in particular, must obtain the necessary skills and tools to cope with the rapid changes occurring in our homeland. Education is key to this success. ICC Alaska recently started addressing this issue by hosting an Education Workshop in Nome, Alaska that will contribute directly to this important international meeting. Education was ICC Alaska’s number two priority during the previous ICC term.

ICC Alaska will be collaborating and fund raising with the other ICC offices to ensure these summits happen. In Alaska, we will consult with our member organizations and other interested parties in the planning for these events. We will be reporting on our progress in future issues of the DRUM.
At the end of September, nine Inuit Youth from Alaska, Canada and Greenland had the opportunity to travel to New York City to attend the first ever United Nations (UN) World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP). This is not to be mistaken with the UN Climate Change Summit, which occurred at the same time and received a lot of media coverage. While some of the youth advocated for the movement and participated in the People’s Climate March on September 21, 2014, they were initially in NYC for the high-level plenary meeting, the WCIP, where Indigenous leaders fought for more involvement, input and representation through an action-oriented outcome document.

Kelsi Ivanoff from Unalakleet, Jacqui Lambert from Kotzebue and Maddy Alvanna-Stimpfle from Nome represented Alaskan Inuit. There was an effort to involve Russian Inuit Youth but the necessary process to register was not completed in the given time. At the 12th General Assembly of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) in Inuvik last July, two youth delegates from Canada and Greenland, Sarah Jancke and Aili Laue, coordinated informal meetings to gather the youth and talk about how we can get involved in Inuit affairs. After our first introductory meeting, Jancke received news that Canada World Youth will be funding ten youth to attend the WCIP; Jancke and Laue were the driving forces making this opportunity available to youth; they were both selected as Arctic Youth Focal Points at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and they are also the first Inuit to be active members of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

The 2014 WCIP held two plenary meetings in the form of an opening and closing session. Between these sessions, round table and interactive panel discussions were co-chaired by one Member State and one Indigenous Peoples representative. The main goal of the conference was to adopt the action-oriented outcome document that recognizes indigenous rights through the objectives included in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), while promoting achievement of all internationally agreed upon development goals.

The Alaskan Inuit Youth representatives share their impressions below:

Jacqui Lambert--

I’m at a loss for words to describe this experience but to put it simply, it was empowering. UN vocabulary and language caught me a little off guard but attending the Arctic Caucus meeting helped me understand the mission of the conference better. Hjalmar Dahl with the Global Coordinating Group walked us through the paragraphs of the outcome document and explained which would be the most important.

What I understood was that the UNDRIP is not required in Member States which limits our participation at the UN as Indigenous Peoples so the document requested high level officials to raise awareness. It also addressed the impact of development projects on Indigenous lands, territories and resources. The last important topic cluster was based on location, health, youth, women, elders, disabilities, and education.

Walking in and out of the UN Headquarters in NYC humbled me as I passed packs of businessmen in suits and groups of Indigenous leaders flaunting their traditional clothing. The entire experience inspired me to come back home and improve my cultural skills and knowledge to represent the Inuit at a deeper level than wearing my atikluk and introducing myself in Inupiaq. This opportunity taught me that everything is possible and our Indigenous culture is collectivistic so I am never alone. “We all come as one mind,” Chief Sidd Hill said in his opening prayer. “Nature always has the final word... and this generation is the generation that makes the decision if we survive as a species.” Chief Oren Lyons stated in the opening session, “As we speak, the ice continues to melt in the North. I gave this same speech 14 years ago in this very hall. So what have we learned?”

Kelsi Ivanoff--

First of all, I cannot thank Canada World Youth enough for the opportunity to attend this high level plenary meeting. I would also like to thank ICC-Alaska for their support in allowing us to represent the Alaskan Inuit youth.

There are many things about the conference I’d like to share but, for the sake of being brief, I will reiterate an important notion Ol Johan Sikku, a representative of the Swedish Sami, brought to light. Sikku stated that in order to decolonize, people must accept they are colonized. “It is like a drug addiction, you cannot recover if you are in denial.” It is not new news that indigenous peoples around the world were once or still are colonized; however, this statement brought consciousness of the struggles we all share, as well as the

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Safe Shipping and Fisheries: ICC will increase its understanding of security and transportation safety to assert our rights and responsibilities to our waters, seas, and passages by working with Inuit experts in shipping and international bodies like the International Maritime Organization. We will present Inuit knowledge on animal behavior, sea ice and navigation to international bodies negotiating on Arctic shipping. We will advocate for taking a precautionary approach to commercial fishing in the central Arctic Ocean and support a moratorium until fish stocks have been assessed and management regimes that include Inuit are in place. We recognize that healthy fish stocks are essential to the cultural, nutritional and economic well being of our people. ICC will advocate for the reduction or elimination of salmon by-catch in commercial fisheries.

Sustainable Economic Development: ICC will build upon its Resource Development Principles. We will continue to support our hunters by fighting attempts to limit use of our food resources by listing them as endangered and opposing attempts to make the Arctic into a wildlife preserve. We will continue work on oil spill prevention, preparedness and response. We will monitor Arctic states efforts under the UN Law of the Seas Convention (UNCLOS) to ensure Inuit rights and concerns are protected. ICC will convene an Inuit Economic Summit.

Health and Well-Being: ICC will build its knowledge of Inuit health and well-being issues and advocate for our people at relevant international forums. ICC will advance the 2010-14 Circumpolar Inuit Health Strategy with national and international partners. We will advocate for improvements in core infrastructure to sustain healthy communities, and approaches that address health needs through appropriate health policies, programs, and services. We encourage education and training for Inuit health care providers.

Food Security: ICC will promote community based monitoring and research that adopt a food security lens at international forums to promote food security in all aspects of ICC’s work. We will work to ensure access to Inuit traditional foods in these times of changing economic and social conditions, contamination, climate change, and regulatory decisions impacting Inuit food security. ICC will work for Inuit empowerment grounded in our culture that results in optimal conditions for our food security. ICC will convene an Inuit Wildlife Management Summit.

Communications: ICC will work with Inuit and other media organizations to promote improved communications to promote pan-Arctic Inuit-to-Inuit interaction. ICC will work to improve the communication of our efforts between our countries and other Inuit organizations.

Education and Culture: ICC will support training, recruitment, and retention programs for Inuit in all professions. We will continue to promote and lead programs to strengthen Inuit language, including the Arctic Council Assessing, Monitoring, and Promoting Arctic Indigenous Languages project. ICC will convene an Inuit Education Summit.

Traditional Knowledge and Science: ICC will insist upon the utilization of Inuit traditional knowledge in science and at all levels of decision making by utilizing a participatory approach of both traditional knowledge and science. We will work to create ethical responsible research policies emphasizing bringing knowledge back to our communities. ICC will promote protection of Inuit intellectual property and cultural heritage at the World Intellectual Property Organization and other forums.

The complete text of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration and other documents from the Inuvik General Assembly can be found at www.iccalaska.org or www.iccga.com.

General Assembly Election Results

Greenlanders Hjálmar Dahl and Martha Abelseth, Canadians Duane Smith and Herb Nakimayak, Chukotkans Tatiana Achirgina and Elena Kaminskaya, and Alaskans Jim Stotts and Vera Metcalf were elected to the ICC Executive Council.

Hjálmar Dahl, Duane Smith, Tatiana Achirgina, and Jim Stotts were elected ICC Country Presidents within their respective countries and Vice-Chairs of ICC International.

Canadian Okalik Eegeesiak was elected Chair of ICC International.

Members of the Executive Council are elected to four-year terms.
Ullukkut,

I am honoured to be the elected Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) at a time when the Inuit is ever more interconnected. Our relationship at ICC is based on common culture and language. It is with this in mind that I come with passion and dedication as we continue to work together for the betterment of Inuit.

As we face unprecedented globalization, I often think about how Inuit envision the Arctic in 2020, 2050 and beyond. I believe this is the very foundation of why, how, and when the ICC was established. I draw from the wisdom of past ICC Chairs and the 150,000+ members, who put a human face on the issue of climate change, who keep our language and traditions alive and our children proud of their heritage. Through our involvement with the United Nations, the Arctic Council and other such forums, we continue to assert the vision and the voice of Inuit across the circumpolar regions when the Arctic is very much centre of interest around the world.

I will work to lead ICC with the strength of our communities. Through our discussions, collaboration, and engagement we will stand up for sustainable opportunities that contribute to better socio-economic well being that includes healthier, housed, and experienced Inuit labour force. The potential of a diversified Arctic economy in non-renewable and renewable resource development must be matched with educated and trained Inuit grounded by respect and appreciation of our culture.

I can say, with confidence, I will carry the flame of the qulliq and commit to working with all Inuit and our respective national, territorial, regional, and local Inuit organizations for Inuit Nunaat.

For my guy and my girl. Ataatannullu - past and present.

Aingai

Chairs Message

J. Okalik Eegeesiak

realization that some nations are still colonized because they do not know anything different.

On a lighter note, watching everyone interact throughout the two-day conference made me even more appreciative that I was born indigenous. Very few times can a large group of people arrive as strangers and leave as friends, and even family. Observing interactions during the closing event, I couldn’t help but smile in gratification seeing the unity Indigenous Peoples can establish from spending a mere two days together.

This meeting and the associated outcome document are such a big step for Member States’ Indigenous Peoples, and looking back, I’m amazed, and always will be, that I was able to participate in this very important, historical event.

Maddy Alvanna-Stimpfle--

I couldn’t be more thankful for Canada World Youth for funding our trip and for Sarah Jancke and Aili Laue for the work they did in ensuring that Inuit youth be represented at the WCIP. I am honored that I was at the United Nations surrounded by some of the world’s Indigenous leaders. I am also extremely happy that I experienced this with eight other inspiring Inuit. While in NYC the nine of us did everything together; from listening to Indigenous leaders at the UN, getting yelled at by UN officers for being in the wrong building, riding the subway, to walking the extremely busy streets of NYC filled with more people on one block than in our entire northern communities.

Aside from the hectic NYC scene, all the officers and security at the UN, there is so much to be said about my experience at the WCIP. I learned so much about the United Nations and the rights of Indigenous peoples. One of the most important things I took away from the WCIP is now that Indigenous peoples have this document (Outcome Document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly: The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples) from the United Nations it is only effective if Indigenous peoples are using it with their governments. Governments won’t acknowledge this UN document unless we as Indigenous peoples use the document in an effective manor. A Maori speaker couldn’t have said it better, “signing a document is like getting pregnant, you cannot get half pregnant!” The document has been signed now we need to use it as a tool to exercise our rights we have as Indigenous people.

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The Inuit Youth delegation at the WCIP pose for a photo at UN headquarters. Back, L-R Anguti Johnston (Canada), Kelsi Ivanoff (Alaska), Tikaajaat Kristensen (Greenland), Sarah Jancke (Canada), John Stuart Jr (Canada), Maddy Alvanna-Stimpfle (Alaska). Front, L-R Vivi Vold (Greenland), Jacqui Lambert (Alaska), Aili Laue (Greenland).
The Arctic Council (AC) chairmanship transitions from Canada to the United States of America next April. Much of the time remaining in Canada’s term will be spent finishing up and preparing for the Minister’s meeting tentatively set for Iqaluit, Nunavut. The six Working Groups (WG) and four Task Forces (TF) are frantically working to wrap up their projects and reports before the US takes over. The pressure is on.

On the other side, the US has gotten serious about deciding what its priorities will be. Retired head of the US Coast Guard, Admiral Robert Papp, has been appointed US Special Representative for the Arctic by the State Department. He has started his rounds to collaborate with stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, to help formulate the US program. As might be imagined, there is a lot of jockeying around trying to influence what that program will look like.

It’s beyond the scope of this newsletter to summarize the total effort that Canada has led during its chairmanship. The overarching theme for the Canadian chairmanship was “Development for the People of the North” with a focus on responsible Arctic resource development, safe Arctic shipping, and sustainable circumpolar communities. Some of the major points of interest to Inuit are highlighted below. To get a more thorough understanding of current efforts please visit www.arctic-council.org.

The Task Forces: 1) Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Prevention: The TF is to work out an action plan or, other arrangements on marine pollution in the Arctic, including a possible binding agreement. The group has met four times, and progress has been slow. 2) Action on Black Carbon and Methane: The TF has met 5 times and progress has been slow with different opinions between the Arctic states on how strong any agreement should be and how to differentiate between black carbon and methane. 3) Enhancing International Scientific Cooperation in the Arctic: The TF is working to finish a Memorandum of Cooperation, including a commitment to allow access across national borders to conduct research, which is considered a breakthrough. 4) Circumpolar Business Forum: This TF is substantially done and the newly created Arctic Economic Council just had its initial meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

ACAP working group: ICC has little engagement with this group. ACAP is focused on cleanup efforts of contaminated sites, primarily in the Russian Federation.

AMAP working group: Current activities include: report on Short-Lived Climate Forcers, methane, black carbon, and ozone; proposal for AMAP role in the TF on Action on Black Carbon and Methane; Human Health Assessment report; Radioactivity Assessment report; Persistent Organic Pollutants Assessment report; status report on the Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic (Part C) project. In addition AMAP is following up implementation on completed projects such as: Snow, Water, Ice, Permafrost Assessment; Arctic Ocean Assessment; and the Sustainable Arctic Observing Network.

CAFF working group: Current projects include: Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in the Arctic; Arctic Biodiversity Assessment implementation; and the Bering Sea Sub-Network report. Ongoing projects to be showcased before the Ministerial meeting includes: Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative; Land Cover Index; Arctic Migratory Birds Index; and the Arctic Biodiversity Data Service.

EPPR working group: Current projects underway include: IMO/EPPR Guide on Oil Spill Response in Ice and Snow Conditions; Arctic Environmental Hazards and National Programs document; Arctic Environmental Response Management Application, a GIS mapping application; Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural projects; Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic Oil Spill Response Workers. A large assessment under consideration at this time is the Circumpolar Maritime Environmental Risk Assessment.

PAME working group: Current work underway includes: Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment update reports; update/revision of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan; Marine Protected Areas Report; Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines follow-up; and a report on Ecosystem-based Approach to Management.

SDWG working group: ICC calls the SDWG the human dimension WG and much of its work is concerned with social and community issues, current projects include: Reindeer Herding and Youth; Circumpolar-Wide Inuit Response to AMSA; Addressing Suicide in Circumpolar Communities; Cancer Among Circumpolar Indigenous Peoples; Facilitating Adaptation to Climate Change; Gender Equality in the Arctic; Arctic Human Development Report II; Arctic Indigenous Languages. An important project under consideration is Promoting Traditional and Local Knowledge.

All working groups have numerous reports and products not mentioned above. In addition, all WG’s are busy preparing reports to include in the Senior Arctic Officials Report to Ministers. There are a number of so-called cross cutting projects that require collaboration between different WG’s that need to be wrapped up as well. Finally, WG’s are preparing their 2015-17 work plans.

The US has not yet publicly stated what its chairmanship program will be. As mentioned earlier there is no shortage of suggestions from the many interested stakeholders, ICC and other Arctic indigenous peoples, the State of Alaska, environmental NGO’s, and industry groups, to name a few. Some of the suggestions from these different groups conflict with each other and this...
is to be expected. The final decision will be made by the US government after carefully listening to the diverse opinions of those hoping to have influence.

In all likelihood the US program will follow the National Strategy for the Arctic Region issued in May 2013. The strategy is built on three lines of effort: Advance United States Security Interests, Pursue Responsible Arctic Region Stewardship, and Strengthen International Cooperation. The US approach will be informed by four guiding principles: Safeguard Peace and Stability, Make Decisions Using the Best Available Information, Pursue Innovative Arrangements, and Consult and Coordinate with Alaska Natives.

Recently Ambassador David Balton from the Department of State testified before a Committee of the US House of Representatives: “While we have not yet finalized our program, it will be in line with the priorities laid out in the National Strategy for the Arctic Region and its subsequent Implementation Plan released in January 2014. Current areas we plan to highlight during the US chairmanship are climate change in the Arctic, improving economic and living conditions for Arctic residents, and responsible stewardship of the Arctic Ocean. Examples of programs in these areas might include improving access and availability of clean energy to remote Arctic communities, improving water sanitation, improving monitoring of black carbon emissions, and pursuing an international framework to manage and protect the biological resources of the Arctic Ocean, to name a few. We are still consulting with stakeholders on these ideas and others, which will include our fellow Arctic Council members after we have completed domestic consultations. The program will be finalized by the time we assume the Chairmanship from Canada in April 2015.”

It should be interesting watching how Canada wraps up its chairmanship and the US prepares for its turn. Hopefully the transition will proceed smoothly without too many bumps in the road.

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New Youth and Elder Appointments to the Board
By ICC Alaska Staff

In 2010, the ICC Alaska Board of Directors amended the organization’s bylaws to allow for the youth and elder representatives on the Board to rotate among the four regions at the start of each new term. During the last term, Kelsi Ivanoff served as the youth representative from the Bering Straits region and Willie Goodwin, Jr served as the elder representative from the Northwest Arctic region. We are very thankful for their contributions made over the past four years.

Nicole Kannik Panigiuq Kanayurak from Barrow, Alaska was appointed by ICC Alaska members from the North Slope region to serve as the youth representative on the Board. She is the daughter of Lloyd and Abby Kanayurak and the granddaughter of Bert and Isabel Kanayurak and Lewis and Jennie Suvlu. Nicole graduated with her Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Studies from Dartmouth College in 2013 and is pursuing a the Masters of Marine Affairs at University of Washington. This past year Nicole interned with the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management where she reviewed natural resource development projects occurring in the Arctic, participated in marine mammal co-management meetings, and assisted with various research projects. Nicole also serves as the North Slope youth representative to the ICC-Alaska Food Security Advisory Committee.

Nicole Kannik
Panigiuq Kanayurak
from Barrow, Alaska

Longtime elder delegate to the ICC General Assembly, Dr. Paul John, was appointed to serve on the Board by the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP). Dr. John is a Yup’ik elder and community leader who has lived his entire life on Nelson Island. He has served in various leadership positions including the Toksook Bay Village Council, the AVCP Board, the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation Board, the Bering Sea Fisherman’s Association, and the Calista Elder’s Council. Dr. John received a honorary doctorate degree from the University of Fairbanks in 2010. Dr. John and his wife, Martina live in Toksook Bay and have 9 children.

Dr. Paul John

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Nellie Cournoyea, President of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation receives a thank you gift for hosting the General Assembly from the North Slope Borough. Photo by Bill Tracy.

Bowhead maktak provided by the North Slope Borough was shared at the Alaska Reception. Photo by Carolina Behe.

Canadian Inuit throat singers. Photo by Bill Tracy.

Quillig lighting ceremony. Photo by Beverly Eliason

Drum dancers perform at the closing ceremony of the General Assembly. Photo by Bill Tracy.

AVCP delegate James Paul listens as elder delegate Paul John speaks during the General Assembly. Photo by Bill Tracy.
The ICC Executive Council celebrate the signing of the Kitigaaryuit Declaration. Photo by Kunuunnguaq Fleischer.

Drum Dancers from Inuvik and Barrow perform. Photo by M. Jacqui Lambert.

Inuit youth from Canada and Alaska share a laugh at the Alaska Reception. Photo by M. Jacqui Lambert.

Alaskan king crab, donated by Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, was enjoyed by everyone at the Alaska Reception. Photo by Minnie Naylor.

The Alaska delegation pose for a photo. Photo provided by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.
Quyanaq! Quyanna! Taiku!

Thank You for Supporting ICC Alaska’s Participation in Inuvik!

We are grateful for your generous contributions. Quyannaqpuk!

Special thanks to our planning committee members: Margaret Opie, Kathy Sherman, Lyla Moto, Loretta Bullard, Kim Gooden, Megan Topkok, Vivian Korthuis, Brent Latham, Minnie Naylor, Beverly Eliason, and Bridget McCleskey for all their hard work and dedication to the overall success of the General Assembly. ICC’s member organizations also made in kind contributions and donated staff time and without their support, the Inuvik Assembly would not have been possible. Finally, we thank the good people of Inuvik and the Inuvialuit Region for being such great hosts. Thanks to all, who made Alaska’s participation a success!