



ctic
OSIUM
11 FEBRUARY 2016
ds a
nable
Future



Towards a Sustainable Arctic Future

Fulbright Finland together with the Thule Institute of the University of Oulu organized a week-long plenary meeting of the inaugural Fulbright Arctic Initiative – an 18-month collaborative research program for scholars to study and assess the changing Arctic region. This inaugural group of researchers representing all of the eight Arctic Council member countries came together in Oulu in February to discuss their research challenges and for the first time as a cohort to present their work to the public.

“The Fulbright Arctic initiative scholars had an amazing week in Oulu meeting colleagues from across the Arctic, working on our team research in the areas of water, energy, health and infrastructure, and sharing our research at the public symposium on Towards a Sustainable Arctic Future,” says Dr. **Ross Virginia** from Dartmouth College, a Co-Lead Scholar of the FAI program. “As co-lead scholar I came away energized by the interest shown in our work. I was gratified to hear from a diversity of stakeholders that Fulbright scholarship will have real policy impact on address-

Rector of Sami Education Institute **Liisa Holmberg** shared indigenous perspective on Arctic priorities and explained Sami political involvement internationally. In the photo rector Holmberg and **Åge B. Grutle**, Ambassador of Norway to Finland.

Dr. Terry Callaghan, the “Most Cited and Influential Researcher” on the Web of Science and a joint awardee of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 has worked in the Arctic for nearly 50 years on plant ecology, ecosystem science and environmental change. Callaghan spoke about Challenges for the Arctic Environment and Communities. In his presentation Callaghan emphasized the importance of cross-disciplinary research and the dialogue with the indigenous people to learn more about the climate change.

The Arctic Symposium brought a large number of change makers across many fields together to discuss new solutions to Arctic challenges. Many more followed the Symposium through live streaming, including a viewing party organized at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid. The event was covered by media in Sami, Finnish, Swedish, and English.

Itty S. Neuhaus, a member of the FAI Water working group, combines ice science and art to communicate sea level rise. “Advances in polar science have begun to demystify our knowledge of the Arctic.” Neuhaus’ Ice See Level exhibition at the University of Oulu TELUS Arena showroom was a part of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative Plenary Week.

The scholars had a fun-filled kick-off for their Fulbright Arctic Initiative plenary week at the Kierikki Stone Age Centre, where they built up true team spirit and competed in a pre-historic style in various survival skills.

ing sustainability challenges facing the Arctic and its peoples. All of us will remember the hospitality we experienced in Oulu. Our efforts are better in every dimension from this experience,” Virginia concludes.

Scientists, students, policy makers, industry, and NGO representatives, as well as other key stakeholders connected with the Arctic scholars at the Symposium held at the University of Oulu at the end of the plenary week. **Jennifer Ey**, Chief of Staff to the Special Representative for the Arctic at the U.S. Department of State, was one of the Symposium speakers. “I was pleased to be asked to participate in the Fulbright Arctic Symposium to represent the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council,” says Ey.

“A key part of the Chairmanship Strategy is supporting international scientific collaboration in the Arctic, and the Fulbright Arctic Initiative is a prime example of that. Our hosts in Finland were extraordinarily gracious. I was

particularly glad that they hosted this meeting, since Finland will follow the U.S. as Chair. I truly enjoyed interacting with the Fulbright Fellows and the other speakers and experts – what a great way to bring to light the fantastic work that is being conducted by this diverse group,” Ey concludes.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary **Mala Adiga** notes that the Fulbright Arctic Initiative has successfully strengthened ties between the United States and other Arctic nations.

“In organizing this symposium, the Finnish government, the city of Oulu, and the University of Oulu created a platform for the Arctic Scholars and Arctic policymakers from around the world to collaboratively address the impacts of climate change. We must continue to undertake urgent, ambitious action in the Arctic to promote resilience, increase international scientific cooperation, and help communities adapt,” Adiga says.

The Arctic scholars will have their final meeting in Washington, D.C. in October, and Finland will again have an important role in the program. The diplomatic reception of the Fulbright Arctic Initiative’s final plenary week will be hosted by the Ambassador of Finland to the United States, **Kirsti Kauppi**, at the Embassy of Finland.

Fulbright Arctic Symposium Coverage Online

The Fulbright Center website houses a comprehensive coverage of the Arctic Symposium: check out the program, speaker bios and presentation slides, and view the recording of the Symposium, including U.S. Secretary of State **John Kerry’s** greeting. The website also includes transcriptions of the remarks and panel discussions, media reports, blog posts, and tweets about the event.

www.fulbright.fi/en/fulbright-seminars/fulbright-arctic-symposium



#FulbrightArcticOulu

The Arctic Symposium’s hashtag (#FulbrightArcticOulu) was the most popular hashtags in Finland for several times during the Symposium day. The importance of involving indigenous people with research, conducting cross-disciplinary research, and creating dialogue were the most popular themes of tweets.

@deruislr Arctic communities especially indigenous peoples need to be involved with research priorities. #hik #FulbrightArcticOulu

@FulbrightArctic Dr Terry Callaghan: cross-disciplinary research like #fulbrightarctic is the way forward #fulbrightarcticoulu

@Asli_TepecikDis Create dialogue with the local community get under the skin of the audience. Pirita Näkkäläjärvi #FulbrightArcticOulu

@jurpelai #FulbrightArcticOulu is probably the most interesting event ever held in my home town, and I am not there. :O