

“Sustainability that Works” Community Knowledge Sharing Workshops
Arctic-FROST-ReSDA Community Workshop Series

ACTIVITY REPORT
KNOWLEDGE SHARING WORKSHOP

**“Cultural economy and new
technologies as a part of sustainability
for the indigenous and local
communities”**

14–17 May 2018

Moscow, Russia

*Prepared by Varvara Korkina
and Andrey N. Petrov*

ARCTICenter
Cedar Falls
2018

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We would like to thank all workshop speakers and participants. In particular we are thankful to the members of the program and organizing committee:

The workshop was organized and report was prepared with support from UNI graduate student Varvara Korkina, ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa.

Summary

Background. This activity is a follow-up workshop for a number of previous events starting from ICASS VIII in Prince George, BC, to ICASS IX in Umea, Sweden, and to Indigenous community knowledge-sharing workshops held as a part of the ReSDA-Arctic-FROST community knowledge sharing partnership. Continuing our discussions about the sustainable development for the Arctic local communities, we arranged the second knowledge workshop on Cultural economy in Altai republic (the previous workshop took place in May 2017 in Moscow). From the discussions in the past activities and also at Arctic Horizons workshops, the planning group placed forward several ideas for the further agenda. Since the People is the main focus for the social scientists in the Arctic social sciences should produce knowledge and products be useful for communities, not only for academics. The premise of this activity that the People is main ‘treasure’ in the Arctic. The second goal of this activity was to develop a knowledge-sharing network with different stakeholders like Indigenous and local communities, policy makers, scientists. Because only in this collaboration we can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The purpose of this workshop was to follow up on past workshops conclusions and continue work on cultural economy agenda with broader audience such as policy makers, local communities and scientists from the local University. The workshop coincided with the largest entrepreneurial event in Altai republic “The Business week” and attracted entrepreneurs participants to our audience. The workshop gathered academics, fashion designers, Indigenous artists, businessmen and government representatives to discuss this important issue. In addition to formal presentations and discussion, we also held a panel with the Russian Indigenous speakers. We also had follow up interviews with Indigenous artists in the remote region on the border with Mongolia.

Altai republic is a small region in Russian Siberia with complicated economic situation. This region has 7 preserved lands and 5 national parks, which is a majority of the territories of the lands. It has a special law about economic activities and manufacture responsibilities in the clean and eco – friendly producing.

Summary of results. Altai government is strongly interested in the economic development with using new technologies and non-extractive industries. Government, Indigenous peoples, environmental NGOs want to protect this region and save the wild nature untouched. Region is open and less remote then other Arctic territories and they are getting more innovations from ‘the mainland’. At the same time, local communities they preserved traditional knowledge and this knowledge system is protected.

In respect to science-community knowledge co-production and practical application of the new knowledge, many local communities complain about their remoteness and lacking access to knowledge hubs. Sometimes, scientists came to communities, collected data, wrote their papers and never gave feedback in a useful format and with ideas how The Indigenous Peoples can implement it.

In summary, it can be assumed that regions with similar nature protection regimes to the Altai Republic can be uniquely positioned to benefit from economic benefits of cultural activities, while preserving their identity and control over material and spiritual culture. Elements of traditional knowledge, such as arts and crafts, are not only important components of Indigenous culture, but can also be commodities that can bring economic profit (this economic sector is known as ‘cultural economy’) with using decomposing materials.

Workshop participants

Workshop participants (key speakers and discussants)

Aisura Tahanova (Indigenous Youth Organizer, Altay Republic, Russia)

Alisa Gennadieva (Dean of Arts, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia)

Anna Pestereva (GIS specialist, USA)

Andrey N. Petrov (Director, ARCTICenter, University of Northern Iowa, USA) by Skype

Astkhik Sagayan (Representative, Parsadanelli Art Agency, St. Petersburg, Russia)

Surna Sarbasheva (Dean of Altai culture Department Gorno- Altaisk State University)

Svetlana Buidysheva (Minister of Economic development and Tourism in Altai republic)

Svetlana Konunova (The chief of Бизнес инкубатор)

Tatiana Egorova (The chief of indigenous working group Barents secretariat)

Varvara Korkina (Graduate Student, University of Northern Iowa, Russia)

Other participants:

50 participants



Presentation: Tatiana Egorova (Murmanskiy territory) Project IndiGe Entrepreneur's indigenous network

“Cultural economy and new technologies as a part of sustainability for the indigenous and local communities”



Presentations and discussion at the workshop and in the following day allowed identifying the key themes and findings associated with cultural economy in Indigenous communities. The participants emphasized a number of needed actions on agenda.

Workshop agenda included four components: oral presentations, practical workshops and business strategy brainstorming, and personal consultations/training. Our target groups were indigenous scholars and the artists from the local

communities. We brought our experts from large knowledge hubs for sharing their international and regional experiences.

Discussion/Brainstorming:

What do we need to do for the Sustainable development of the Local Communities?

What social scientists can do to assist Indigenous communities to be more economically sustainable?

From Local communities:

Scientists

- To provide information about the researches in this area
- To provide the opportunities for the business education
- To arrange the master – classes with successful foreign business, artists
- To create the guidelines/best practices for the local artists

The government

- To provide the investments tools for local business
- To provide the access to the market
- To provide the opportunities to participate in the markets and exhibitions
- To create the market in the town

To all

- To cooperate and exchange the experience.

Main questions from our participants for further consideration:

How produce the marketable items? How compete with Chinese souvenirs industry? How promote the indigenous business?

Cooperation vs. competition: Indigenous items from the local artists more successfully sell with product bundling or in the place there you can find something similar with different quality and price. This is a weakness of indigenous souvenirs market in Russia. They are scared about competition, stealing ideas etc.

Traditional arts vs. new technologies: Many participants did not know about new technologies and sometimes do not want to learn a new knowledge or get a new skill. Some pointed out the lacking of education on new technologies and opportunities.

"I know how to produce this carpet. I do not have money for buying a loom".

Local community members are ready to use new technologies for new activities instead of adaptation existing arts to the new technologies. For example they supported idea about GIS atlas of Altay Indigenous artists. Majority of them do not have even a selling page on SMM.

Entrepreneurship mindset vs. paternalistic approach: Indigenous artists and carter are not much interested in the entrepreneurship activities prefer to sell it to the stores then run their own business. Many want to get more information on it and get this type of education.

Post-workshop activities

Post – workshop activities

Master – class “New ideas for the traditional pottery” by Alisa Gennadieva

Participation in the International conference “Turk-Mongolian world: challenges and opportunities in the traditional culture”

The group was presenting the cultural projects with using the new technologies. We shared how it helps to keep Youth around traditional culture.

Meeting with the rector GASU

Meeting with the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism



Workshop Program

10:00-14:00

Gorno-Altaysk State University



Alisa Gennadieva is leading her master-class “New ideas for the traditional pottery”;

Opening remarks:

Andrey Petrov (USA)

Panel and Discussion: technology, culture and

Moderator: Varvara Korkina (USA)

Keynote Speakers:

Anna Pestereva (GIS specialist, USA)

Alisa Gennadieva (Dean of Arts, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia)

Astkhik Sagayan (Artist, Parsadanelli Art Agency, St. Petersburg, Russia)

Tatiana Egorova (Chair, Indigenous Peoples Working Group, Barents Secretariat)

Varvara Korkina (Graduate Student, University of Northern Iowa)

Discussion participants:

Aisura Tahanova (Indigenous Youth Organizer, Altay Republic, Russia)

Surna Sarbasheva (Dean of Altai Culture Department Gorno- Altaisk State University)

Svetlana Buidysheva (Minister of Economic Development and Tourism in Altai republic)

Svetlana Konunova (Director of Altai Business Incubator)

50 participants of “Business week”

Concluding remarks

Varvara Korkina (USA)