



# ISIRA WORKSHOP

*NOVEMBER 2017, MOSCOW*



*Photo: Ilya Abramov*

# WORKSHOP BACKGROUND

- 7-8 November 2017 at the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow
- Purposes: to build the ISIRA network, revisit challenges facing international and interdisciplinary Arctic science, and provide suggestions as to how IASC, through ISIRA, could help overcome some of these issues
- Over 50 participants (half Russian, half representing 12 other countries) participated, including a number of Indigenous participants (from RAIPON and other groups), as well as early career researchers

# WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

- Icebreaker
- Breakouts and Reports Back
  - *Breakout 1: Research Priorities*
  - *Breakout 2: Status/Challenges on Working the Russian Arctic*
  - *Breakout 3: Solutions to Challenges*
  - *Breakout 4: Implementation*
  - *Breakout 5: Future of ISIRA*
- Report / Actions

# RANKING OF SOLUTIONS

*Workshop participants were asked to rank the tangible solutions suggested by the previous breakout groups, to help guide continued discussions and future ISIRA directions.*

## **High**

- o ISIRA Letter of support to governmental level - 32
- o Arctic Science Agreement TF with IASSA and UArctic - 34
- o Making education and research opportunities for indigenous and local people possible - 30

## **Medium**

- o Mobility programs (for young researchers) – 25
- o Publication training, resources, support - 18
- o Field measurements support - 16
- o Support Field Schools - 16
- o Community-building (platform, etc.) - 16
- o Work with industry on data sharing - 17

## **Low**

- o Research program information gathering and distribution - 9
- o Science education/outreach activities – 8

# POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Follow up on ranked “solutions”
- Consider Starting an ISIRA Email Newsletter
- Encourage people to “tell a friend” – ask collaborators to sign up
  - Need materials to help people share what ISIRA is
- Add Russian-language information to IASC website
- Rather than traditional National reports via Excel sheet - Facilitate reporting with a Google(-type) form, and wider solicitation
- Arctic Science Agreement: Participants thought that drafting of letters seeking cooperation of local authorities could be readily accomplished and provides for some practical support
- Revisit the concept of ISIRA “Membership”



# SUMMARY

Workshop participants highlighted bureaucracy, institutional silos, lack of communication regarding ongoing projects, and logistical issues as some of the largest challenges facing science in the Russian Arctic. Suggestions for IASC actions included:

- *A mechanism for IASC to help implement the recently signed 'Arctic Science Agreement'*
- *Letters of support from ISIRA, to endorse projects at the governmental level*
- *Making education and research opportunities for indigenous and local people possible*
- *Increased reporting and (bilingual) communication within IASC of scientific activities in the Russian Arctic*
- *Support for capacity building and mobility activities*

