

## **Social & Human Working Group Meeting**

International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) VIII

Saturday May 24, 2014, 17:30 to 18:30

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the meeting was to inform Arctic social science and humanities scholars who are attending the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences (ICASS) VIII about the activities of the Social & Human Working Group (SHWG) of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and continue discussions regarding future plans.

### **Overview of meeting**

The Chair of the SHWG Peter Schweitzer provided an overview of the coordinating role of IASC, as well as of the SHWG more specifically, including the current scientific foci and cross-cutting areas of priority which are redefined every 2 years, with the next review scheduled for 2015. It was noted that each member country could, through its own procedure, select up to two delegates to be members of the SHWG. An overview of key activities for 2014-15 was also presented including involvement in the Arctic Human Development Report II and the Third International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III).

Those who attended the meeting were given the opportunity to provide their comments and ask questions. In response to a question regarding opportunities that exist for those who are not members of the Working Group to provide input into the Working Group's priorities, people were encouraged to attend the open meeting of the SHWG during Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSW) from April 23 to 30, 2015 in Toyama, Japan to participate in discussions and the review of the scientific foci. It was also noted that there would be a call for proposals around the time of ASSW 2015, and that proposals could be communicated through members of the Working Group or directly to the Chair or Vice-Chairs.

Another question was raised about how the work of IASC can be reported back to other individuals and institutions within each of the member countries. In response, it was noted that some member countries already require that delegates report back on the work of IASC. The need to ensure that the IASC website is updated regularly was noted, as well as the need to strengthen linkages between the different planning processes and exercises that are undertaken by various groups and countries. The idea of having IASC Working Group delegates participate in outside workshops to increase integration and information exchange was highlighted as beneficial in this regard.