THE US AND ITS EMERGING ARCTIC INTEREST

A talk by
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6:30 pm

Haldane Room, Wilkins Building
University College London
Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
The Dynamic Arctic

- New US Administration
- Clarity in US Policy?
- Strategic Bering Strait
- Asian interests in the Arctic
- Russia and North Korea?
- Sustainable Arctic communities
- SAR
- Security: Environmental, Political, Economic, Social, Military
- Infrastructure
The Arctic is Changing

• Climate variability: temperature, phenology, hydrology
• Landscape transformation
• Increased use of resources
• Energy, mineral development and shipping
• Changing economies
Shipping, Commerce, and Tourism

- Northwest Passage
- Northern Sea-Route
- Search and Rescue Dilemmas
Circum-Arctic Resource Appraisal: Estimates of Undiscovered Oil and Gas North of the Arctic Circle

- 13% Undiscovered Oil
- 30% Undiscovered Natural Gas
- 20% Undiscovered Natural Gas Liquids

http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2008/3049/

New Arctic Resource Discoveries
Ice-Breakers and Polar-Class Vessels
Russia in the Arctic

- The Arctic is an Important Component of Russian Identity, Economic Development, Security Buffer, and Projection of Force and Influence
The US, RUSSIA and the Arctic
The Northern Sea Route

The thicker regions of Arctic ice cover (white) and marginal ice zones (dirt white) represent those of late June, 2012 when the Murmansk Shipping Company launched the Northern Sea Route shipping season with 2 tankers destined for Siberian settlements.

**Arctic Sea Ice**
(21 June, 2012)

**Sources**
- Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment 2009 Report, Arctic Council, April 2009
- NASA, ENVISAT, DMSP OIS, AVHRR, and RADARSAT, Marginal Ice Zone, 2012 - Daily Ice Analysis Products, Sattelite, Maryland USA, National Ice Center, Digital Media

http://arcticcon.wordpres.com
10039424
North Pole Lambert
Arctic Easing Area

Wilson Center
Yamal Project: LNG Icebreaking Carrier Plan

**WINTER** (mid Nov～June)
- ARC7 15 LNGCs shuttle to Europe
- Light ice-class LNGCs (ARC4 or less, up to 11 ships) to Asia
  - Distance: 13,700 miles
  - One voyage: 55 days @10 knots

**SUMMER** (July～mid Nov)
- ARC7 15 LNGCs to Asia via NSR transit.
  - Distance: 4,900 miles
  - One voyage: 20 days @10 knots

Trans Shipment in Europe (Zeebrugge port)
YAMAL Arc7/PC4 LNG Carrier PROJECT
“Of the 18 vessels going transit on the NSR in 2015, ten were Russian, two were Chinese, one Dutch and one Swedish. The Chinese general cargo carrier «Yong Sheng», which shipped twice along the route, alone accounted for more than 75 percent of the 2015 NSR cargo”

http://www.thebarentsobserver.com/industry/2016/02/historical-low-northern-sea-route
"One Belt One Road" is China’s roadmap for building infrastructure and trade ties. It consists of a land route from Beijing to the Netherlands, and a sea route from Quanzhou to both Antwerp and Australia.
New Connection
Weekly service to Greenland

- Eimskip and Royal Arctic Line, the national carrier of Greenland, signed a cooperation agreement in January
  - Connect Greenland to the rest of the world
  - Vast natural resources
  - Capacity sharing on larger vessels
  - Increases efficiency and service reliability
The Wilson Center - Arctic Circle Forum:
The United States and Russia in the Arctic
June 21-22, 2017
#ArcticinDC

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Arctic Council Structure
2015 – 2017 Chairmanship: UNITED STATES
*Six indigenous groups (‘Permanent Participants’) participate at all levels

Ministers

Senior Arctic Officials (SAOs)

Task Force on Scientific Cooperation
Co-chairs: US, RUS

Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation
Co-chairs: US, NOR, IC

Task Force on Arctic Telecommunications Infrastructure
Co-chairs: NOR, DK

Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane
Chair: US

Working Groups

Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)
Chair: Finland

Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP)
Chair: Sweden

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
Chair: Canada

Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
Chair: United States

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
Chair: Norway

Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
Chair: United States
Chairmanship Thematic Pillars and Projects

**ARCTIC COMMUNITIES**
Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention ● Clean Energy ● Water
Sanitation and Health ● Telecommunications Infrastructure ● Freshwater Security

**ARCTIC CLIMATE**
Short Lived Climate Pollutants ● Arctic Resilience ● Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Model ● Climate Change Indicator System

**ARCTIC OCEAN**
Search and Rescue Exercises ● Ocean Acidification ● Marine Environmental Protection ● Marine Protected Areas Network
THE ARCTIC
This fitting image commemorates the first-ever White House Arctic Science Ministerial held September 28, 2016, convening 25 foreign governments to build an international response to the Arctic science challenges of today and tomorrow.

True-color image of Arctic sea ice on 2 September 2016 from the Suomi NPP VIIRS instrument, jointly operated by NASA and NOAA. Background imagery is from the NASA Blue Marble. Image created by the NASA Earth Observatory with input from the NASA Goddard Cryospheric Sciences Lab.

Themes and Deliverables

1. Arctic Science Challenges and their Regional and Global Implications
   Diminishing Sea Ice — Warming and Thawing Permafrost — Glacier Mass Loss — Ecosystem Responses

2. Strengthening and Integrating Arctic Observations and Data Sharing
   An Integrated Arctic Observing System & Strengthening Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) —
   Multidisciplinary Drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate — Community-based Observing —
   Year of Polar Prediction

3. Applying Expanded Scientific Understanding of the Arctic to Build
   Regional Resilience and Shape Global Responses
   Societal Challenges — Community Adaptation — Operational Forecasting — Global Responses

4. Arctic Science as a Vehicle for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Education and Citizen Empowerment
   Arctic Science for Arctic STEM Education — Arctic Science for STEM Education Outside the Arctic —
   Arctic Education Summit
Finish Arctic Council Chairmanship

Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change and on Sustainable Development

- Search and Rescue
- Satellite Use in the Arctic
- Addressing basic education
- Symposium of Arctic educators
- Addressing global warming through scientific cooperation and the Paris Climate Agreement
- Public environmental impact assessment
- Three pillars of sustainable development for Arctic populations
  - Economic
  - Social
  - Environmental
- Cooperation in maritime security
- Strengthening the role of the Arctic Council Secretariat
- Disaster Response
  - Oil spill cleanup
- Energy development in the Arctic
- Strengthen relationships with other Arctic groups and forums
- Continue long-term strategic planning
- Strengthen relationships with other Arctic groups and forums