Winter Weather and Climate Extremes: how can researchers, authorities and local peoples work together to record, predict and adapt?

An Interactive Workshop to Initiate a Discussion among a Multidisciplinary Research Community was held at the Department of Science and Innovation of the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District Government, Salekhard, between the 31st October and 4th November 2017. The workshop was held under the auspices of the Siberian Environmental Change Network (SecNet) in collaboration with INTERACT, a pan-Arctic network of research stations and field bases. The workshop was supported by SecNet at Tomsk State University, the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous District Government’s Department of Science and Innovation, the Science and Innovation Network of the British Embassy in Moscow, and INTERACT.

Thematically, the workshop addressed the challenges associated with extreme weather events that are occurring at greater frequency and with greater intensity in the Arctic and climate change impacts in the North in general. Strategically, the workshop explored how scientists, local authorities and local peoples can improve how they work together to respond to such extreme events and other climate change impacts. Geographically, we focused on Siberia. To understand the changes in environment of planet Earth, we need to understand the rapidly changing Arctic. To understand the Arctic, we need to understand the changes in its largest and most environmentally diverse landmass - Siberia. Societal consequences of changes in the Siberian environment and its resources are likely to have implications for the global community as well as for local residents.

The main aims of the workshop were:

1. To bring researchers, local administrators and local peoples together to exchange information on extreme weather events and their impacts.
2. To learn from the dialogue -
   a) best practices of working across sectors
   b) how to respond to local concerns through appropriate adaptation strategies and
   c) how such actions can enrich the knowledge of local people in areas outside northern Siberia while learning of similar processes in other regions.

Participants included specifically invited Russian and Foreign researchers, local peoples and decision makers working, or planning to work in Siberia and representation of major relevant institutions and networks. Young career researchers who represented the Association of Polar
Early Career Scientists (APECS) were targeted and made a large contribution to panel discussions and to the breakout groups’ work. Altogether, about 50 people participated. The participants from Russia (38) represented the vast geography of Siberia and its wide range of bioclimatic zones. Foreign participants came from the UK, the Czech Republic, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Sweden. The participants represented nationally and internationally important institutions and networks.

The programme consisted of breakout groups to assess pre-defined topics, plenary reports, and breakout groups to draft the outline and contents of a manuscript to be published and an overall workshop resolution.

The workshop resolution contents were drafted in plenary by the assembled participants and these were later refined by delegation to a group consisting of Ruth Hindshaw (APECS and UK), Alexander Sokolov (Russia), Niklas Labba (Norway) and Terry Callaghan (UK and Russia).

The complete report of the workshop can be found on the SecNet web site and the Resolution is presented below.