

ARCTIC NGO FORUM

WORKSHOP #1

ARCTIC OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT
– CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

HAPARANDA, SWEDEN, 12–13 NOVEMBER 2012



It is estimated that the Arctic sea bed may hold as much as one-quarter of the world's undiscovered oil and gas reserves. The rapid retreat of multiyear sea ice coupled with the rising demand for petroleum products has drawn attention to the Arctic as never before. Even as the world discusses the need to switch to climate-friendly energy sources, there are powerful economic and strategic incentives for companies and countries to push ahead with Arctic exploration in places like Alaska, the western Canadian Arctic, the Greenland and Barents and Kara seas and in northern Russia.



At their first meeting, the participants in the Arctic NGO Forum decided to hold a workshop on oil and gas development in the Arctic. This draft agenda is a product of discussions among Forum participants and is still subject to review.

The workshop will look at both offshore and onshore development issues. In this way, it will provide background and context for future workshops on marine and land-based activities.

The oil and gas workshop will take place on Monday 12–Tuesday 13 November 2012 in Haparanda, Sweden, immediately before the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) meeting on 14–15 November in the same city.

The workshop is designed to expand knowledge and build capacity among NGOs on the subject of oil and gas development, and provide an opportunity for involved organizations to strategize around the topic.

Our two days will be divided into three thematic sessions.

- 1. Arctic Oil and Gas in a Global Context** – the scope of current and future development and the drivers behind it
- 2. Addressing the Challenges** – examples of current policy initiatives
- 3. The Way Forward** – the role of NGOs and how to influence the debate

The workshop will focus on knowledge sharing and capacity building on a variety of topics related to oil and gas development, on both big picture issues and concrete initiatives like oil spill response plans of the Arctic Council and EU perspectives and policy processes.

Outcomes include (i) informing and building capacity on oil and gas issues in the Arctic, (ii) engaging with Arctic and EU representatives on policy development, (iii) sharing information about NGO activities in the Arctic, and (iv) strategizing on possible joint NGO initiatives on the issues identified.

08:30 Introduction to the forum and goals of the conference

1 ARCTIC OIL AND GAS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

09:00 Overview on the Future of Oil and Gas Development in the Arctic
Lucia van Geuns, Deputy Head, Netherlands Institute of International Relations (CIEP) (confirmed)

09:30 Arctic Vulnerability and the Emerging Regulatory Framework
Jacqueline McGlade, Executive Director, European Environment Agency (invited)

10:00 Facilitated Discussion
How can NGOs influence the future of oil and gas development in the Arctic? What are the minimum conditions needed? How could they be achieved? What are the priority issues for NGOs?

11:00 Break

2 ADDRESSING THE POLICY CHALLENGES

11:30 Costs and benefits – socio-economic and cultural effects of oil and gas development
A roundtable discussion with NGO and industry representatives

13:00 Lunch

14:00 “Oil and Gas and the Arctic Council”
Ambassador Gustaf Lind, Chair, Senior Arctic Officials (invited)
A summary of Arctic Council activities on oil and gas development, including the work of the task force on oil spill response, existing guidelines, significant marine areas, etc.

14:30 Panel Discussion on EU Arctic Policy and oil and gas
DG Energy and DG Marine (invited)
This session will identify key EU divisions working in the Arctic; update the latest Arctic Communication and next steps; and explore mechanisms for engagement on oil and gas development (and other issues).

15:00 Break

15:30 Facilitated Discussion

17:00 Summary of the day, planning for tomorrow, housekeeping

18:00 DINNER
Excursion to Kukkolarforsen, located 15 km from Haparanda on the Tome River, which forms the border between Sweden and Finland. We will have the opportunity to try out their famous traditional saunas and hot-tubs before a delicious dinner.

3 THE WAY AHEAD

09:00 Plan for the day, housekeeping

09:15 NGO experiences on the ground
Discussion about successes and challenges of NGOs working on Arctic oil and gas, working with companies, regulations, etc.

10:45 Break

11:15 Next Steps
A common statement, strategy, language for Arctic Council Kiruna Statement, etc.?

12:45 Workshop Closing

13:00 Lunch

*** SECOND ARCTIC NGO FORUM MEETING**

FORUM MEMBERS ONLY

Purpose: Follow up discussions on the workshop, strategize on intervening with the Arctic community, the EU and other stakeholders and cover needed operational issues of the Forum (as a continuation of the Arendal Forum meeting January 2012).

14:00 Conclusions from the conference and future action

15:30 Break

16:00 Forum's interactions with the Arctic Council, Arctic stakeholders, the EU, etc.

16:45 Next meeting, next workshop, any other business

TRAVEL TO/FROM HAPARANDA

There are several options to travel to Haparanda, with daily flight connections to the airports of Luleå, Sweden (from Stockholm) or Kemi-Tornio (from Helsinki).

The closest airport to Haparanda city centre is Kemi-Tornio airport, but there are fewer daily connections than Luleå. Depending on participants' travel schedules, we may organize a group shuttle if many arrive on the same flight.

One of the fastest and efficient ways to check connections to either airport is through www.skyscanner.net.

Kemi-Tornio Airport (Finland). Direct daily flights from Helsinki with:

- Finnair, www.finnair.com, +46 (0)771 78 11 00
- Flybe, www.flybe.com, +358 600 9 4477

The airport is located 26 km from Haparanda City Centre, a 20 minute drive. Transfers from the airport can be arranged through:

- Meri-Lapin Taksi (taxi), +358 (0)200 680 00
- Taxi Haparanda, +46 (0)922 150 00

Luleå (Sweden). Direct flights from Stockholm to Lulea Kallax (LLA) with:

- SAS, www.flysas.com, +46 (0)770 727 727
- Norwegian, www.norwegian.com, +46 (0)770 45 77 00.

The airport is located approximately 135 km from Haparanda city centre. Travel time for a transfer is approximately 2 hours.

Transfers from Luleå Airport can be arranged through:

- Sverigetaxi, +46 (0)771 999 999, www.sverigetaxi.se
- Länsstrafiken Buss (bus), +46 (0)771 100 110, www.ltnbd.se
- Flygtaxi (connection taxi), +46 (0)8 120 920 00, www.flygtaxi.se

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

The workshop will take place at Svefi Hotel, located in the centre of Haparanda equipped with conference facilities. For further information, visit: www.svefi.net/hotel/?lang=en

Accommodation in single rooms has been booked at Svefi and two other hotels (Haparanda Stadshotell and Tornea City Hotel) from Sunday 11–Wednesday 14 November (x3 nights). If participants wish to share, there are also double rooms available at Svefi Hotel.

How to reserve your accommodation: By replying to the Invitation RSVP, we assume you will need accommodation and we will make a preliminary reservation for you. When you have finalised your plans for travelling to Haparanda, please complete a small form (this will be sent to you by Björn in a separate attachment), which will ask for your flight details and accommodation preferences (i.e. single or double room) and any special dietary requirements we should be aware of.

Upon your departure, the cost of the room will be at the participants' own expense. This varies in price depending on the type of room, between 650 SEK/person/night sharing a double room, to 1185 SEK/person/night in a single room. All prices include breakfast.

Complimentary dinners (excluding beverages), snacks and lunches will be provided for the duration of the workshop, including:

- Dinner at Restaurant Minerva (minerva.svefi.net) on Sunday and Tuesday evenings
- Snacks and lunches provided on Monday and Tuesday during the workshop

MONDAY EVENING EXCURSION

On Monday evening we have organized an evening excursion to Kukkolarforsen (www.kukkolarforsen.se/utland/eng), located 15 km from Haparanda on the Tome River, which forms the border between Sweden and Finland. We will have the opportunity to try out their famous traditional saunas and hot-tubs before a delicious dinner.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Currency: Although part of the EU, Sweden has maintained its own currency – the Swedish Kroner (SEK). The latest exchange rates can be found on www.xe.com. As of June 2012:

- 1 Euro = 8.81 SEK
- 1 USD = 7.05 SEK

Contact numbers for the workshop: For all logistical matters related to the workshop (e.g. flights, hotels, transfer, dietary requirements), please contact Björn Alfthan by email (bjorn.alfthan@grida.no) or by telephone: +47 907 344 32.

Weather: Haparanda has sub-zero (°C) temperatures in November, averaging -4.1°C . The latest weather forecast can be checked here: www.yr.no/place/Sweden/Norrbotten/Haparanda



The Arctic NGO Forum is coordinated jointly by UNEP/GRID-Arendal and ECORYS. The European Commission Directorate General for the Environment has provided initial funding for three years in order to establish the Forum and to attract wider funding support.

