

RESOLUTION

of the International Seminar on the Preservation and Popularization of the Arctic Indigenous Languages

The International Seminar on the Preservation and Popularization of the Arctic Indigenous Languages took place on 17–18 March 2022 in St. Petersburg in accordance with clause 54 of the Schedule of the Main Activities in Connection with the Russian Federation's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2021–2023.

The seminar was organized by the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North and the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs with the support of the Russian Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic and the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The seminar was attended by more than 100 people, including teachers, specialists in teaching methods, authors of textbooks and manuals on the languages of the Indigenous People of the Arctic, publishers, language activists, developers of IT projects, media members, and representatives of scientific, cultural, and public organizations from the nine Russian regions that are part of the Russian Arctic zone, as well as representatives of the relevant federal executive authorities and executive authorities of the Russian regions.

The seminar programme included the thematic sessions 'Digitalization of the Arctic Indigenous Languages', 'Methodological Support for Teaching Arctic Indigenous Languages', and 'Promotion of Arctic Indigenous Languages in the Public and Information Space' as well as breakout sessions and master classes on teaching technologies, literary creativity, and IT technologies.

The seminar participants discussed the project 'Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Arctic Indigenous Peoples', which is supported by the Arctic Council, and the project 'Interactive Atlas of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East'.

The seminar also featured a presentation of the 3rd 'Voice of the North' Literary Competition, an educational project of the Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North as well as an official awards ceremony for the winners of the competition.

Prosveshchenie Publishing House and the Russian regions that are part of the Russian Arctic zone also presented an exhibition of textbooks and teaching aids on the native languages of the Indigenous People of the Arctic during the seminar.

After hearing and discussing more than 80 reports at thematic sessions and workshops, the seminar participants noted the positive results of the joint work that has been carried out to create conditions for the preservation and promotion of the languages of the Indigenous People of the Arctic.

Of the 15 native languages of people living in Russia's Arctic zone, Russian educational institutions offer the opportunity to study 11 languages as part of the subjects 'Native Language and Native Language Reading' and 'Native Language and Native

Literature’, while ten languages are offered as part of elective classes. The pre-school educational system works with children in 12 languages.

In 2021, exemplary basic general educational programmes were drafted on Native Language and Native Language Reading, Native Literature in ten languages were developed, manuscripts of ten textbooks and manuscripts of four teaching aids in four languages of people living in the Arctic zone were prepared, and textbooks in the Vepsian, Nenets, and Khanty languages for grades 1–4 were included in the federal list of textbooks. A total of 85 books have been published in 14 languages of the people of the Arctic with a total circulation of more than 18,000 copies. Twelve newspapers are published in seven languages of the people of the Russian Arctic, and regional branches of The Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Company produce television and radio programmes in eight languages.

The Institute of the Peoples of the North of the Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia continues to offer a unique system for the employer-sponsored training of personnel. Popular literary and publishing projects and competitions are being implemented to preserve the languages of the Indigenous People of the Arctic.

Recognizing the significant role that the preservation and development of the languages and culture of the Indigenous People of the Arctic plays in the sustainable development of the Arctic zone, the participants in the International Seminar on the Preservation and Popularization of the Arctic Indigenous Languages underscored the need for further cooperation and joint efforts among all Arctic countries.

The seminar participants call on the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council to act as partners in implementing the following joint projects:

The inclusion of native languages in the modern cyberspace;

The development of digital education through the creation of electronic educational resources and drafting and introduction of electronic textbooks and teaching aids;

The promotion and enhancement of the prestige of the traditional culture and native languages of the Indigenous People of the Arctic in the public and information space;

The publication of literature in languages of the Indigenous People of the Arctic.

The seminar participants recommend the following:

The coordinators of the projects ‘Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ and ‘Interactive Atlas of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East’ should work on clarifying the concept and structure of projects to involve a wide range of developers that use modern IT technologies in preserving and developing the languages of the Indigenous People of the Arctic.

The relevant federal executive authorities, along with the executive authorities of the Russian regions, should continue to provide organizational and financial support for initiatives as part of the projects ‘Digitalization of the Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ and ‘Interactive Atlas of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East’.

Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, along with the executive authorities of the Russian regions and Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia, should continue working on the targeted recruitment of high school students to train teachers of native languages from among the Indigenous People of the North, Siberia, and the Far East.

The Federal Institute of Native Languages should continue work to:

Organize and collect statistics regarding information on the introduction of educational programmes in the native languages and native literatures of the Indigenous People of the Russian Arctic at general educational organizations and children's supplementary educational institutions;

Organize and collect statistics regarding information on the availability of teaching staff and their training, retraining, and advanced training, including scientific and pedagogical staff with the highest qualification category, on the native languages and native literatures of the Indigenous People of the Russian Arctic;

Draft outlines of teaching programmes on native languages, native language reading, native literature of people living in the Arctic zone as part of the federal register of exemplary educational programmes;

Draft textbooks on native languages, native language reading, native literature of the Indigenous People of the Russian Arctic and include them in the federal list;

Draft and publish educational and methodological manuals, dictionaries, and reference books and create electronic educational resources for preschool and general educational organizations.

The seminar participants call on local national communities to focus their efforts on activities to preserve, develop, and strengthen the native languages and cultures in all areas of public life as part of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

The seminar participants note that the seminar was organized and held at a high level, express their gratitude to the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs, the Russian Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Roscongress Foundation, and Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia and anticipate further productive cooperation and a constructive dialogue between the Indigenous People of all countries in the Arctic region and the parties that are interested in the development and preservation of native languages.