
Youth in the Arctic: A Discussion Connecting the Leaders of Tomorrow and Today

Event

[Discussion](#)

Date

31 October 2014

Location

Reykjavik, Iceland

The Arctic Climate Change Emerging Leaders Fellowship (ACCEL), Barents Regional Youth Council, Emerging Leaders in Environmental and Energy Policy Network (ELEEP), Reykjavik University, and Youth Arctic Coalition convened a workshop as well as a question and answer session with Admiral Robert J. Papp, U.S. Special Representative for the Arctic and the top U.S. Government Arctic official. The session took place at the 2014 Arctic Circle Assembly on 31 October 2014. A video of the event is available online.

As the leaders of tomorrow, today's Arctic youth will face the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly developing Arctic region, ranging from economic development, geopolitical pressure, and energy extraction to environmental protection, health, food security, education, and employment. The Youth in the Arctic breakout session created a space for young leaders to discuss these issues, determine priorities for their generation, and engage the leadership of today directly with their thoughts and questions.

The event featured a question and answer session with the recently nominated Admiral Robert J. Papp, as well as roundtable discussions emerging regional issues. The United States will take on a greater leadership role in the Arctic Council, as it steps into its 2015-2017 chairship of the intergovernmental forum on arctic topics that range from environmental protection to development.

The event was moderated by Dr. Edvard Gísláksman, a member of the [ELEEP](#) Network and co-founder of the ACCEL Fellowship. The ACCEL Fellowship aims to train the next generation of Arctic ambassadors. Two co-organizers of the "Youth in the Arctic" event were the first class of ACCEL Fellows, Eleanora Milazzo and Dayanita Ramesh, who developed dynamic informational and outreach content on the arctic during their time in the ACCEL Fellowship, which was compiled into an "Arctic 101" series.

In addition to the Ecologic Institute and the Atlantic Council, the ACCEL Fellows and the ELEEP network partnered with young leaders from the [Barents Regional Youth Council](#), [Reykjavik University](#), and the [Youth Arctic Coalition](#) to host the session. These young leaders joined the ACCEL Fellows in leading roundtable discussions on the aforementioned emerging arctic issues.

ELEEP is a transatlantic joint venture between the [Atlantic Council](#) and the [Ecologic Institute](#). Founded in 2011, ELEEP is funded by the European Union, the [Robert Bosch Stiftung](#), and the [Allianz Foundation for North America](#).

Funding

[Allianz Foundation for North America](#) (Allianz), United States
[Robert Bosch Foundation](#), Germany
[European Union](#)

Organizer

[Ecologic Institute US](#) (EIUS), United States
[Atlantic Council](#) (ACUS), United States

Partner

[Ecologic Institute](#), Germany
[Barents Regional Youth Council](#) (BRYC)
[Reykjavik University](#) (RU), Iceland
[Youth Arctic Coalition](#) (YAC)

Team

Eleonora Milazzo
[Dominic Marcellino](#)
Adam Pearson
Dr. Edvard Gísláksman, Associate Research Fellow , Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter
[Admiral Robert J. Papp](#), U.S. Special Representative for the Arctic , United States Department of State
[Dayanita Ramesh](#) , ACCEL Fellow
Daniel Bennet, Atlantic Council of United States

Date

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Location

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Participants

60

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