

# **Arctic in the New Creative age**

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# Ideological platform

- To understand the effects and adaptations of Arctic communities for the climate change, we should use the tools of modern social science, the more sophisticated toolbox the better.
- In the period of global economic crisis it is critical to look for positive examples of human creativity and successful adaptations to the challenges of the climate change in the Arctic important and hopeful for the rest world.
- The point is looking not for barriers but possibilities of the climate change. I agree completely with Edward Itta, mayor of North Slope Borough “In fact, some of the greatest development opportunities arise from the most significant impacts of climate change...” Imagination is critical as Wally Hickel said in his book.
- Maintaining traditions and innovations that is the goal in the Arctic adaptations to the climate change.

# Arctic and post-industrial economy

- The fact is that the more rapid Arctic region develops post-industrial economy the more successful it is in the adaptation to the climate change. The reason is the difference between industrial and post-industrial assets.
- Since the middle of the 20th century, much of the Arctic has been in the process of entering a **post-industrial stage**. Typical for this period has been a growth of the information and service sectors, including telecommunications, education, and tourism.
- The Russian Arctic was the only one exception. Here the transition to the new economy is marked with de-industrialization, when old manufacturing industries closed down or departed. This is the most difficult case in the Arctic. The industrial exploitation of large non-renewable resource reserves has been carried out on a very large scale throughout the area for decades, and is a backbone of the Russian overall economy.

# Four major models of the Arctic economy

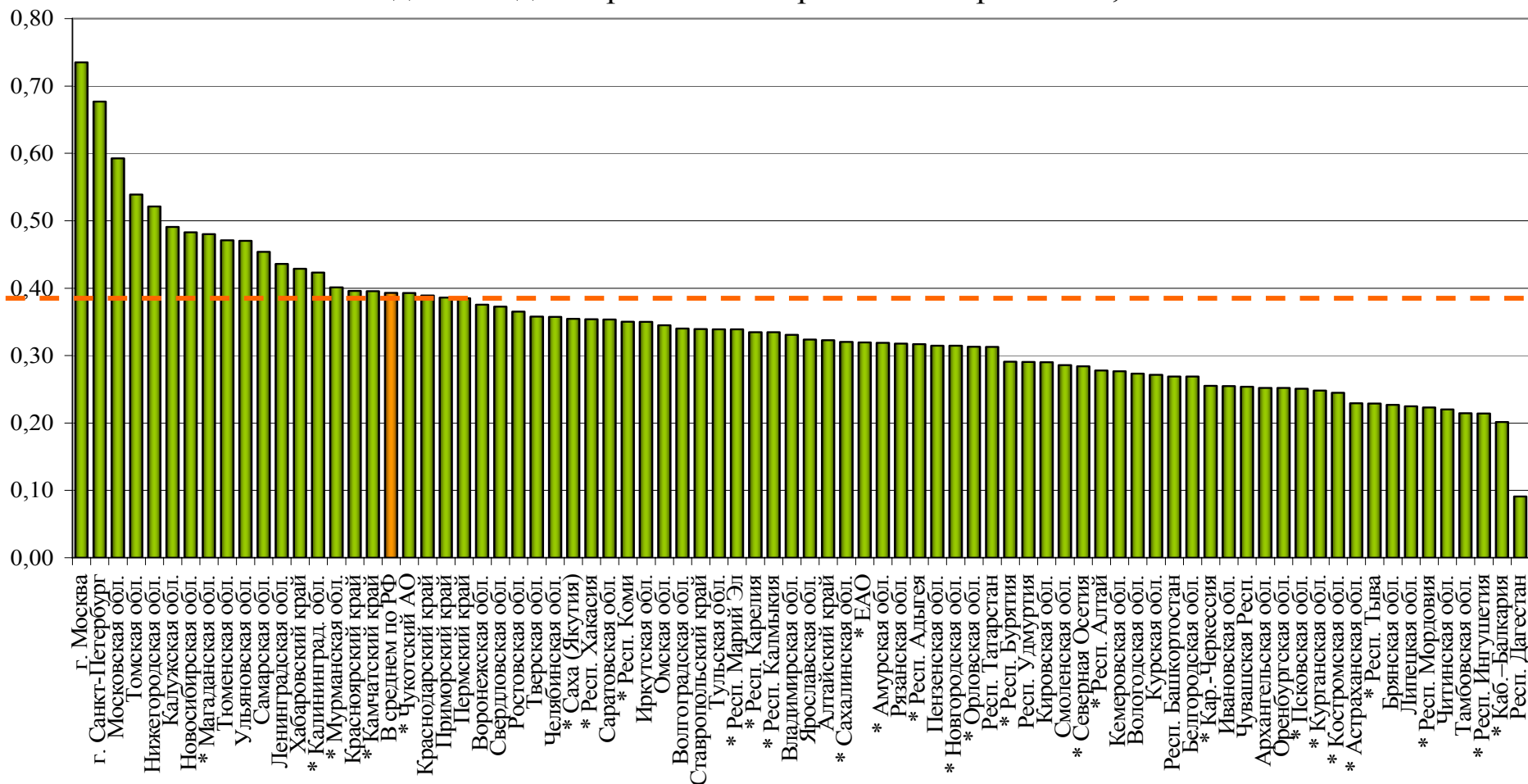
- American, Canadian, European and Russian.
- The Russian North is the widest area in the circumpolar world, and the most populated one. AHDR states that the Russian Federation produces about two-thirds of the total wealth created in the circumpolar Arctic. The Russian standard of living is the weakest in the Arctic.
- There are features of convergence between Arctic models in the last decade: privatization, neo-liberal policies – like cuts in governmental services such as healthcare, education and subsidized housing, devolution of responsibilities to local decision makers, designed to widen participation and build legitimacy in resources decision making, recognition of the Native land claims (property rights), different forms of indigenous self-government.
- Now global crisis will make general shift for the more state-owned Arctic globally possible.

# Arctic creativity index

- Arctic Social Indicators (ASI) project: there is a need for measures of human development that are better suited to the Arctic where subsistence hunting and gathering remain important.
- But let us go beyond human development to creativity.
- If we compare Arctic countries with non-arctic countries and regions we can reveal Arctic success in the **general index of creativity**.
- We can postulate the existence of the Arctic (zone) model of creativity based on the internal unique characteristics of the Arctic communities like sharing food, cooperative behavior, etc.
- One of the reason is that in the Arctic territories there are no brakes for innovations from the public institutions.
- It is important to look for Arctic specific indicators of creativity.

# General creativity index for the Russian regions

Сводный индекс креативности российских регионов, 2006



# Can climate change make Arctic more attractive for talents?

- The goal to fight more energetically to attract talents is a must for every Arctic region. Arctic labor contracts should be adjusted to better correspond to the needs and values of the talents from outside.
- It is critical to strengthen view of Arctic as a land of discovery, venture territory, magnet for researchers. Cities of the Arctic can be concentrations of talents throughout the world.

## **Balance of push and pull factors is negative for talents now.**

- Key barriers for flight of talents to the Arctic are:
- general decrease in the population in the Arctic in the last decade of the 20 century; only Canada, Alaska, Greenland, and Iceland were still growing.
- female flight. Marriage to outsiders men who moved North, at least temporarily, for jobs in construction, resource and service-sector field plays a significant and understudied role in northern out-migration. women from the Arctic leave their birthplace more often than men for educational purposes. Education tends to prepare them for more urban types of jobs, increasing both the attraction of cities, and the likelihood that an individual can successfully adapt to life there. Hub towns and cities also have relatively diverse secondary and tertiary economies.

# Community level

- Greater community involvement means creative answer to the challenges of the climate change.
- The key features of the Arctic communities are **tolerance, open** character. These are essential strengths for the knowledge economy.
- Policentric world for the Arctic means that we should be ready for very pluralistic, multi-ethnic Arctic communities including actors from the BRIC countries.
- Polarized situation: For many small communities across the Arctic, populations have declined because of a lack of job opportunities. There are also examples of communities, however, where a combination of local entrepreneurship, engaged political leaders, and government initiatives have created more hopeful situations, where thriving businesses as well as cultural revival give people a meaningful way of life and thus community viability.



# From local to global Arctic identity

- The increase in Arctic NGOs (International Arctic Social Sciences Association, the University of the Arctic, the Northern Research Forum, Pan-Arctic science community, etc.) can be a good indicator of development of new Arctic identity, complex identity combining traditional and modern elements.
- Increased cooperation across the Arctic may foster the emergence of a feeling of community throughout the region.
- Arctic identity is very specific as it has network character. It is dispersed throughout the Arctic.
- Renewal and in some cases reinforcement of ethnic identities stronger in the Arctic than in poorer regions of the world because of the generally high incomes and good communications networks.
- In some cases, indigenous peoples may downplay their local identity and emphasize a common indigenous background. In some regions, indigenous and non-indigenous identities are converging. We should think how to construct and strengthen global Arctic identity.

# Not agglomeration, but network effect in the dispersed Arctic

- The strength of the network economic effects is one of the useful examples of the Arctic for the rest world.
- Success is often built on a combination of business, public, organizational, and personal networks.
- Open learning networks - the University of the Arctic and the Northern Research Forum.
- SAON – Sustainable Arctic Observing Network collective effort of 350 researchers.
- Contemporary social networks also include connections between recent Arctic emigrants to more southerly cities and the Arctic communities they came from, as well as between southern immigrants to the Arctic and their social milieu of origin.
- Climate change will influence network-building in the Arctic and we should use new possibilities to enrich and enlarge contemporary Arctic networks.

# Recommendations

- The best way to fight colonialism in the Arctic is to elaborate its own standards and institutions in the various branches of the economy, environment, NMR transportation, education, finance, e-commerce, insurance, trade and tourism, labor market. Standards in higher and primary education for the Arctic. Standardized format for Arctic data. Standards of traditional environmental knowledge.
- These standards should be internationally recognized. They will simplify economic, social, cultural cooperation between Arctic regions and countries.
- Debates about Arctic climate change will almost certainly focus on whether current institutions are sufficiently flexible, resilient, and robust. The most appropriate institutions appear to be those that are flexible, responsive to change, and scaled appropriately to maximize effectiveness and legitimacy.
- Under the pressure of climate changes Arctic territories should elaborate internationally recognized new institutions (norms, rules of behavior) for the economic agents in the Arctic, for Arctic communities.
- It is important to compare and contrast the results of institutional innovations introduced in different parts of the Arctic.