

Tourism and Global Change in Polar Regions

An International Conference

29 November – 1 December 2007
Oulu, Finland

First Announcement

Introduction

IGU Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change; Thule Institute; and University of Oulu, are pleased to host an international conference on *Tourism and Global Change in Polar Regions*. The conference will be held at the University of Oulu, Finland, in 29th November – 1st December 2007. The conference is part of the International Polar Year 2007–2008 activities.

The conference focuses on relatively little researched but increasingly recognised themes and issues of growing tourism activities and global change in Polar Regions. Nowadays processes related to global change have become a major topic in the discussions on tourism development and management, and their future in the Polar Regions. One of the key issues is related to tourism and global climate change, but global environmental change affects more widely to the basis of the tourism and other human system in Polar Regions and different set of changes are often deeply integrated to each other. In addition, tourism is also a major contributor to that change and responsible for changing landscapes, land-use patterns and life-styles and for emitting greenhouse gases through, for example, transportation and tourist activities. We are still badly informed of many aspects of how polar tourism operates and its interaction with polar environments, ecosystems and societies. However, tourism is also increasingly providing well-being and tools for regional development in the peripheral communities in the Polar Regions. Therefore the focus of the conference aims to include not only the ecological and physical but also global social, cultural, economic and political changes and their interrelationships with tourist activities and how the tourism industry is contributing to the global changes in the Polar Regions.

Major Conference Themes

The conference aims to discuss global environmental change and its impacts on tourism, and the role of tourism in global environmental change in the Polar contexts. Papers and presentations are invited in the following fields but not strictly limited to:

- Tourism and Global Change in Polar Regions, including
 - Tourism and Climate Change
 - Tourism and Socio-Cultural Change
 - Tourism and Political and Economic Change
- Tourism Patterns and Trends in Polar Regions and Environments, including
 - Nature-Based and Ecotourism
 - Cultural and Heritage Tourism

- New Tourism
- The Preferences and Behavioural Patterns of Tourists
- Tourism Impact Assessment in Polar Regions
- Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies of Tourism Industry
- Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies of Destination Communities
- Tourism Development and Impacts
- Tourism and Sustainable Development
- Tourism and natural and cultural resources in Polar Regions
- Tourism Policy, Innovation and Governance
- Polar Tourism and Ethics
- Future of Tourism in Polar Regions
- Tourism Research Methods and Needs in Polar Regions

Further information will be sent by the end December 2006.

Conference Organisers



UNIVERSITY of OULU
OULUN YLIOPISTO



<http://www.geog.nau.edu/igust/>

Regards

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