



Invitation to the Opening of Indigenous Peoples' International Polar Year (IP-IPY) – Polar Year 2007-2008, 14-16 February 2007 in Kautokeino, Norway

On behalf of the Organization Committee, we have the great pleasure in inviting you to the Opening of the Indigenous Peoples International Polar Year. This opening will be held 14-16 February 2007 in Kautokeino/ Guovdageaidnu, Norway, in the heart of Sámi land.

The Norwegian Minister of Labour and Social Inclusion Bjarne Håkon Hanssen, the Minister of Education Mrs. Gabysheva of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia, the President of Association of World Reindeer Herders Dmitry Khorolia, Yamal, Russia, the President of the Sami Parliament in Norway Aili Keskitalo, the International Polar Year IPO Director David Carlson, and the Director General of Norwegian Research Council Arvid Hallén are all confirmed speakers. In attendance will be representatives from Indigenous Peoples from around the Arctic.

With a full program of Sámi cultural events, in a traditional Sámi setting situated in the largest reindeer herding region of Scandinavia, we are excited to be able to host such a prestigious event here in Kautokeino/ Guovdageaidnu. The event holds a special significance as the town was host to a research station during the first International Polar Year in 1882-1883.

A full program is available at our new website www.ip-ipy.org. This website also contains additional information about the event and research projects that are associated with Indigenous Peoples and the current International Polar Year. Please visit the Registration page and inform us if you intend to come to the Opening. *All registrations must be done through www.ip-ipy.org/registration.* (Those of you who wish to participate for more than just the first day, please also note the specific conditions in Kautokeino/ Guovdageaidnu in terms of accommodation.)

We look forward to welcoming you here in Kautokeino/ Guovdageaidnu!

Best regards

Kautokeino, 25 January 2007

Klemet Erland Hætta
Mayor
Kautokeino Municipality

Anders JH Eira
Director
Sámi University College/
Nordic Sámi Institute

Anders Oskal
Director
International Centre for
Reindeer Husbandry



Sámi allaskuvla
Samisk høgskole
Sami University College



Sámi Instituhtta
Nordisk Samisk Institutt
Nordic Sami Institute



International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
Международный Центр Оленеводства
Riikkaidgaskaš Boazodoalloguovddáš



Ассоциация «Оленеводы Мира»
Association of World Reindeer Herders



GÁLDU



University of the Arctic



Saami Council