

# Polar Readings 2018

## “Practices and Equipment in Arctic Exploration”

### St. Petersburg, Russia – April 27–28, 2018

### Resolutions

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The sixth annual international scientific conference “Polar Readings 2018: Practices and Equipment in Arctic Exploration” was organised by the Museum and Exhibition Centre for Technical and Technological Development of the Arctic (Arctic Museum and Exhibition Centre) and Branch of the World Ocean Museum in St. Petersburg - “Icebreaker *Krassin*”. Partners of “Polar Readings 2018” were PAO Sovcomflot, ZAO SMM, the State Museum for the Arctic and Antarctic, the Arctic Academy of Sciences, and the Association “Maritime Heritage”.

50 speakers and more than 100 participants attended this year’s conference!

“Polar Readings 2018” focused on the different practices and equipment used throughout the history of Arctic exploration. The conference participants considered the historical experience of human adaptation, economic and research activities in the Far North. Several topics were discussed such as technologies used during primary Arctic exploration, technical features of planning Arctic research expeditions and exploration in the 19th – early 20th centuries, environmental management practices and life conditions of indigenous peoples of the North. Many presentations focused on technologies and various types of equipment (icebreakers, research vessels, polar aircraft, ATVs, submarines) in the history of the integrated development of the Soviet Arctic.

The conference participants developed and discussed recommendations and appeals to authorities, research organizations and other interested parties:

1. To recommend to the Government of St. Petersburg to create a structure of the Committee of Saint-Petersburg working on Arctic affairs (either a subcommittee or a committee) for the coordination and implementation of different areas such as historical and cultural heritage of the Arctic and tourism development, development of polar tourism, university programs and needs of potential employers and to promote scientific knowledge and attract talented young people to work on the implementation of priority projects in the Arctic.
2. To ask the Committee of St. Petersburg for Arctic Affairs to support the project of creating a modern Arctic Museum and Exhibition Centre in the city.
3. To draw the attention of specialists working in the field of historical and cultural heritage to the ongoing work of the Technical Committee on Standardization 187 (TK 187) that aims at "conducting research in the polar regions" of the Federal Agency for Technical Regulation and Metrology working on the development of "GOST R conducting research in the polar regions.

Recommendations on the organization of the preservation of cultural heritage in the polar regions" and to recommend specialists to join and give their recommendations in the framework of the working group TK187.

4. About the extremely important task of developing a promising concept for the conservation and development of historical and cultural complex of the former Soviet polar station Tikhaya Bay, and to restore the station (Hooker Island, Franz-Josef Land) - Asking the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Ministry of Culture, Arkhangelsk Local Government, and Rosgidromet to support the restoration and museumification of the former seaplane hangar on Tikhaya Bay, as well as developing the concept for conservation and development of the historical and cultural complex of the Tikhaya Bay polar station; these projects are a priority in terms of preserving historical and cultural heritage in the Arctic.
5. To consider of extreme importance for the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the Arctic (joint project between the Arctic Museum and Exhibition centre and the Russkaya Artika National Park) the restoration and museumification of the former seaplane hangar on Tikhaya Bay (Franz-Josef Land). This project is the first Russian project with the aim of High-Arctic building restoration and this will lead to the creation of the northernmost museum in the world.
6. To draw the attention of organizations and agencies working on cleaning up the Arctic to the need to preserve rare samples of equipment. The Museum and Exhibition Centre for Technical and Technological Development of the Arctic (Arctic Museum and Exhibition Centre) is ready to accept these samples for restoration and to include them in its exhibition.
7. To consider the "Open Ocean" project of the Association "Maritime Heritage" to use small sailing-motor expedition vessels as an important and relevant initiative for the study and conservation of marine natural and cultural heritage in the coastal zone of remote areas, effectively using modern climatic conditions and implementing advanced environmental principles.
8. To recommend to the institute of archaeology of the Russian Academy of Sciences and to the Ministry of Culture to develop and approve a methodological framework for conducting archaeological work on the Arctic permafrost.
9. To draw the attention of the Ministry of Culture to the ongoing large-scale work on the extraction of mammoth bones and illegal archaeological excavations in the Arctic, which leads to the destruction of unique archaeological items of the Palaeolithic era.
10. To draw the attention of the Ministry of Culture to the need of financing restoration works of the ship museums which are under authority of the Ministry with the Icebreaker *Krassin* being first on the list of all object of cultural heritage of federal value.
11. The conference participants consider necessary to publish the presentations and material of the "Polar Reading 2018".

These resolutions were adopted by the conference participants on April 28, 2018.