



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL (AEC)
AND
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC (UArctic)

PREAMBLE

The Arctic Council facilitated the creation of the two independent organizations: Arctic Economic Council (Arctic Council Iqaluit Declaration 2015) and the University of the Arctic (Arctic Council Iqaluit Declaration 1998). This can be seen as a recognition of the importance of the business community and the academic community for the sustainable development of the Arctic region.

This Memorandum of Understanding recognizes that the creation of both the AEC and UArctic was facilitated by the Arctic Council; that we represent essential sectors for the future of the Arctic; further, it recognizes the mutual benefit the collaboration between these organizations can provide in serving their members and implementing their missions. As such, this Memorandum of Understanding sets the foundation for potential collaboration.

AEC

The Arctic Economic Council (AEC) is an independent organization that facilitates Arctic business-to-business activities and responsible economic development through the sharing of best practices, technological solutions, standards, and other information. AEC works to facilitate responsible business and economic development of the Arctic and its communities. The goal is to share and advocate for best practices, technological solutions, and standards. AEC supports market accessibility and provides advice and a business perspective to the work of the Arctic Council. AEC's goal is to facilitate responsible business and economic development of the Arctic and the wider circumpolar and non-Arctic business communities.

During Canada's Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (2013-15), the Arctic Council facilitated the creation of the Arctic Economic Council as a circumpolar business forum ([Iqaluit Ministerial Declaration 2015](#)).

UARCTIC

The University of the Arctic (UArctic) is a cooperative network of universities, colleges and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. UArctic's overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and indigenous peoples through education, training and shared knowledge. UArctic education is circumpolar, holistic and diverse in nature and draws on the combined strength of its members to address the unique challenges of the region.

The University of the Arctic was initiated by the Arctic Council in its [Iqaluit Ministerial Declaration](#) in 1998 and was officially launched in 2001.

MUTUAL INTERESTS AND ACTIONS

AEC and UArctic are both network organizations created to strengthen and support circumpolar collaboration in the respective areas of responsibility for the purpose of a strong and resilient North.

AEC and UArctic recognize the strong linkages between the Business and the Research and Higher Education sector of the Arctic Region in particular when it comes to building knowledge and competence that can drive and support economic development and business opportunities in the Arctic for the future. Facilitating knowledge and data exchange between industry and academia is one of the overarching themes in the work of both AEC and UArctic.

With this Memorandum of Understanding the AEC and UArctic agree to establish regular contact for the purpose of developing joint actions whenever relevant. These joint actions can benefit both organizations' members and the organizations as such.

Joint actions may include, but are not limited to;

- Sharing experiences, information and best practices.
- Promoting the Arctic and the knowledge of the Arctic as well as both organizations' members through for example shared events, reports, and collaboration in preparing strategy documents.
- Highlighting the two organizations as key actors for the development of the Arctic regionally and globally.
- Seek ways to build internships and training programmes that support the development of our organizations and support the work of our members.
- Identifying research and development needs for the benefit of business and economic development in and about the North and finding ways to engage our members in solving these.

Joint actions require separate agreements in each case. These separate agreements regulate, among others, the resources, purpose, intended outcome and governance of each action.

A list of specific collaborative efforts will be maintained by the focal points. Both organizations will report as appropriate within their own structures.

Focal points

The Parties shall hold regular bilateral meetings on matters of common interest for the purpose of implementing and monitoring collaborative activities. Such meetings will take place time-to-time as desired to discuss technical and operational issues related to advancing the objectives of this MOU.

Each Party shall designate a focal point of contact for taking measures to assist in the further development of the cooperative activities. The focal points are:

Name: UArctic International Secretariat
Outi Snellman
Address: Yliopistonkatu 8, 96300
Rovaniemi, Finland
Telephone: +358405010209
Email : Secretariat@uarctic.org

Name: The Arctic Economic Council
Secretariat
Bianca Maria Johansen
Address: c/o NHO Arktis, Pb 448
Sentrum, 9255 Tromsø, Norway
Telephone: +47 958 65 979
Email: info@arcticeconomiccouncil.com

In addition, each concrete action will normally have its own focal point defined in the separate agreement.

Duration of the agreement

This MoU will be effective upon the last date of signature and remain in force for an initial period of 5 (five) years and will be automatically renewed if review of the Agreement in the 5th year of function concludes positive.

This MoU may at any time be amended, in writing and signed by both the Parties and specifically stating the same to be an amendment of the MoU. The modifications shall become part of the MoU from the date on which the amendments were made, unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

Either of the parties may terminate this MoU by giving six months' prior written notice to the other party. Termination will not affect any Supplemental Agreement that may still be in effect at that time between the Parties.

Special Provisions

This MoU is a non-binding statement of the Parties' mutual understanding of their proposed collaboration framework. This MoU is not intended to create any legally enforceable rights or obligations in respect of either Party, including any obligation on their part to enter into any Supplemental Agreement.

Public statements and publications by either Party regarding activities undertaken jointly under this MoU shall expressly acknowledge this collaboration.

Neither Party will make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other without the other's specific written consent. This includes acting or making legally binding declarations on behalf of the other Party. Nothing in this MoU shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

Neither Party shall use the name, logo/emblem or trademarks of the other Party without the prior expressly written approval of the other Party in each case.

In the event of dispute, the Parties will work together to seek resolution in a friendly and equitable manner. Should this not lead to satisfactory resolution, and as a last resort, this Agreement can be dissolved by either Party.

Signatures

April 9, 2018

Date

Jess Namutte

AEC

Date

Lars Kullerud

Lars Kullerud
UArctic President

ANNEX 1: List of collaborative efforts

AEC and UArctic agree to the following, in as much as the individual actions are compatible with the mission of the institutions. This list will be updated by the contact points and serve as an overview of ongoing and completed collaborative efforts:

1. Invite each other to meetings, e.g. Annual Meeting, Council of UArctic, Thematic Networks, AEC workshops and UArctic Congress and Top of the World Arctic Broadband Summit

Both organizations agree to invite each other in their yearly meeting of members, if the meeting is thematically relevant to the other organization or the other organization has relevant expertise.

2. The AEC hosts a staff member from UArctic in work placement in 2018, see the staff training agreement (ANNEX 2).
3. Collaboration in the making of a study regarding obstacles to free trade in the Arctic and a pan-Arctic business inventory.

UArctic finds suitable research group and a host among its networks who will further examine legal and commercial aspect of free trade in the Arctic (ANNEX 3).