

**Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
EPPR Progress Report to the SAO meeting in Tromsø, Norway
April 12 – 13, 2007**

The last EPPR meeting was held in Tornio, Finland 5 – 6 of April 2006. The report from this meeting was presented to the the SAO meeting in Syktivkar, Russia 26 -27 April 2006 and subsequently reported to the Ministerial meeting at Salekhard, Russia in October 2006.

Following the 2006 meeting Mr. Tor Christian Sletner from Norway was elected Chair and Mr. Igor Veselov was elected Vice-Chair for the period 2007 and 2008. Norway will provide the secretariat for the same period. This was duly endorsed by the SAO.

The EPPR work plan for 2006- 2008 was presented and endorsed at the SAO meeting in April 2006 and reported to the Ministerial meeting in Salekhard in October 2006.

This work plan will be followed by the new Chair. The status of the projects listed in the work plan will however not be clear before after the next EPPR meeting at Svalbard 24 -26 April 2007. The status will then be explained in the next EPPR report to the SAO meeting in the fall of 2007.

The new EPPR Chair and secretariat attended a Working Group Chair meeting in Tromsø 23-24 January 2007. This meeting was very useful for the new Chair and the secretariat. On 6 – 7th of March the EPPR secretariat attended a PAME meeting in Copenhagen. There are some EPPR activities that are connected to the PAME work as well as the work of the other AC working groups. One issue that PAME is working with is the AMSA(Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment). The EPPR involvement in this project has been discussed for some time but with little results. In order to solve this, the Chair of the AMSA project will send a letter to EPPR stating exactly what is expected from EPPR. Then the issue will be discussed during the Svalbard meeting and a decision will be made. The cooperation between the AC working groups is important and is highlighted in the Salekhard Declaration.

One important activity for EPPR is the digitalization and improvement of the “Circumpolar map of natural resources at risk from oil spill”. This project was lead by Norway and finalized some 2 years ago. In co-operation with AMAP, there have been launched an idea to digitize all data collected by project work in all working groups. This data will then be available for all working groups and it will be possible to make all maps created by AC working groups interactive

The priority programme for the EPPR working group will be tied closely to the Salekhard Declaration and should focus on a set of problems regarding oil spill and pollution in the Arctic region and initiate common projects, working groups and seminars to share knowledge and experience. This means:

- Weathering studies of various crude oils during arctic conditions
- Collection of oil in ice infested waters
- Oil spill equipment for icy conditions

- Waste management
- Continue and/or fulfil ongoing projects

The preparation for the EPPR meeting at Svalbard on April 24 – 26 is well underway. Invitations have been sent out, likewise the call for papers and reports from project leaders. Sweden is still managing the EPPR website and some improvements have been done assisted by Canada and Norway. There are still some changes to be done, and this will be discussed at the Svalbard meeting.