

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 1532 Booth Number: 14

Climate Change Education Is Best Hope for Siberian Grassroots Communities

COUNTRY: Russian Federation

ORGANIZATION: Centre for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North (CSIPN)

FUNDING REQUEST: \$199,590

OBJECTIVE: To gather, systematize, and analyze the facts of climate change; to combine the materials with traditional knowledge; and to take steps toward developing adaptation plans to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on traditional living. The project will cover Siberian indigenous areas; indigenous representatives will attend educational seminars and learn practical skills of participation in the "climate process." They will also subsequently become members of an indigenous monitoring network, urging authorities and big business to make practical adaptation measures. A corresponding educational manual will be published and a website will be launched.

RATIONALE: Russian northern indigenous peoples (IP) have no rights to the territory, and they cannot plan development in their territories independently. In order to participate in making a practical "climate strategy," IPs need awareness, education, and understanding of the dynamics of socioeconomic processes. They also should be engaged in constant dialogue and partnership with authorities, scientists, and big business. The project is concerned with practical development of a process to achieve this.

INNOVATION: The project aims to develop an integrated approach to addressing climate problems, involving stimulation, organization, and unification of isolated indigenous groups with academia, the government and industry. The goal is to develop a set of adaptation measures to be treated as part of a legal framework. Project achievements would contribute to international efforts to address climate-change impact and help to promote Russia as a country concerned with climate-change problems within indigenous societies. In addition, the project would integrate indigenous organizations participation into leading social groups dealing with climate change issues.

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