



Snowchange Aotearoa December 3rd to 7th, 2008 Information Letter

May 27th 2008, Tero Mustonen, tero@snowchange.org

www.snowchange.org

Background

The non-profit Snowchange Cooperative based in Finland with associate and member communities and organisations across the Circumpolar North, has worked for 8 years to advance the participation and research with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of the North to find answers to the human induced climate and ecological changes in ways that honour their knowledges and traditions.

Snowchange process has contributed to several scientific documents, including Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, United Nations Environmental Programme, Convention on Biodiversity (especially Article 8j) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC, including its 4th Assessment through the ACIA process.

Over the 2000 – 2007 Snowchange has organised large international conferences devoted to the Indigenous peoples and climate change in Finland, Murmansk (European Russian Arctic), Neriungri and Iengra (Siberian Russia) and Anchorage, Alaska, USA. In 2008 several community representatives from the Arctic and northern communities will travel to Aotearoa to work with the Maori peoples who will host the Northern delegations.



Snowchange 2008

December 3rd to 7th 2008 several Indigenous and local delegations will travel to Mt. Taranaki Region in New Plymouth in Aotearoa / New Zealand.

In December 2008 in recognition of the International Polar Year 2007-2008 Snowchange works with the Maori peoples of Aotearoa to organize a four day event "Snowchange 2008" devoted to Indigenous and local peoples discussions around the crucial themes of climate and ecological changes from their own perspectives.

The *kaupapa* of Snowchange is to research the implications of change on indigenous knowledge – specifically, indigenous peoples in the Arctic Circle.

Te Hurihanga Haupapa Charitable Trust has been established to support the planning of this exciting *hui* which will include Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic Circle and other areas of the world with an interest and who are prepared to be responsible in proactive conservation pursuits in global change/snowchange.

Snowchange 2008 Objectives include, but are not limited to;

- 1. To host a gathering of indigenous leaders from every part of the world to seeking solutions for ecological and environmental catastrophe caused by global warming*
- 2. To mobilize the knowledge, skills and expertise of indigenous leaders from every part of the world towards finding practical, effective and long term solutions*
- 3. To promote the collaboration of indigenous leaders and general community leaders to raise social, educational, scientific and political consciousness*
- 4. A collaborative approach by indigenous leaders and general community leaders to develop and implement pro-active intervention & maintenance strategies that provide long term sustainability, health and wellbeing to the planet.*

Draft Programme of Snowchange 2008

Wednesday, 3 December 2008

4.30pm Powhiri at Owae Marae, Waitara
Dinner, Karakia & Whakawhanaunga

Thursday, 4 December 2008

8.00am Registrations
9.00am Karakia and Opening Address. A day of keynote presentations and plenary sessions
4.00pm Activity Workshops
5.00pm Summary & Close

Evening Dinner at Marae with Shared Concert

Friday, 5 December 2008

9.00am Karakia and Opening. A day of keynote presentations, workshops and plenary session.
4.00pm Activity Workshops
5.00pm Summary & Close

Evening Free/Rest night.

Saturday, 6 December 2008

9.00am Karakia and Opening. Two keynote presentations (Tero and Huirangi), facilitated discussions and delegation discussions preparing recommendations. Recommendations of hui presented.
5.00pm Summary & Close

Evening Conference Gala Dinner

Sunday, 7 December 2008

9.00am Karakia and Opening followed by Gifting Ceremony
9.45pm Field Trips

Guests departing later in the afternoon or the following day, or opportunity to join post-conference tours.

Snowchange Speakers and Delegations

Snowchange 2008 keynote speakers will be international leaders who will contribute their knowledge, skills and expertise in seeking practical and effective long term solutions for ecological and environmental catastrophe caused by global warming. While Snowchange Cooperative and the Maori organisers are actively working on the key note speakers, we expect them to include

Honorable Pauliina Feodoroff, President of Saami Council, Finland

Honorable Lieutenant-Governor, Grand Chief of the Sto:lo Nation Steven Point with his wife, Gwendolyn Point

Honorable President of the Insititute of the Indigenous Peoples of the North, Far East and Siberia of Russia (Russian Academy of Sciences) Professor Vasily Robbek (Even Nation)

Honorable Head of the Yukagir Elders Council (Siberia) Vyacheslav Shadrin

In addition to these powerful Indigenous leaders, we expect to have a large Indigenous delegation from the nomadic reindeer herders of Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, Russia (Siberia), Saami Indigenous peoples of Finland, traditional Finnish fishermen, several prominent Maori representatives as well as a large South Pacific Indigenous contingent.



Venues

The opening ceremony will be held at Owae Marae in Waitara, followed by dinner and introductions.

The business programme of the conference is planned to be held at the Quality Hotel Plymouth International.

One of the Social Functions will also be held at Owae Marae with a shared concert. The Conference Gala Dinner will be held at a function centre, but this is yet to be determined.

Accommodation

Snowchange participants that will travel from the Arctic circle will be hosted at Owae Marae for the duration of the conference with early morning cultural ceremonies being held for this group.

Block bookings will be made with various hotels and motels in New Plymouth and offered to delegates registering to attend.

All keynote speakers invited to speak will be accommodated at the Quality Hotel Plymouth International.

Finance

It is anticipated that the conference will attract 200-250 participants. We are anticipating 50 will travel from the Arctic Circle and these delegates will be fully hosted by Te Hurihanga Haupapa. The remaining 150-200 delegates will come from other international countries and from around Aotearoa. These delegates will be required to pay a registration fee and fund their own travel and accommodation.

A draft budget will be available for the conference in the coming weeks. Snowchange together with its partners is currently funding the event in the range of 150,000 USD.

Participating Organisations – May 2008

Te Hurihanga Haupapa, New Zealand
New Zealand Institute of Water and Atmosphere
Snowchange Cooperative, Finland
Village Association of Selkie, Finland
Saami Council, Finland
Northern Forum Academy, Russia

Other partners to be announced shortly

For More Information, Please Contact

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