

From Pomor Trade to Arctic Security.

The conference which took place at June 17-18 at the Norwegian Aviation Museum started the four days' celebration of the 200 years anniversary of Nyholmen Redoubt, hosted by Bodø Municipality, the Norwegian Aviation Museum, Bodø University College, the High North Centre and University of the Arctic's Nordic-Barents Regional Office of Undergraduate Studies. Odd Tore Fygle, the Mayor of Bodø Municipality and Igor Bulay, the Consul General of the Russian Federation, opened the conference which was attended by about 60-70 people.



The first day of the conference was focusing on the development of the Norwegian-Barents cooperation since historic time till the end of the Cold War. Both the Pomor trade, later economic relations, Norwegian settlements at Kola, the cold war and the role of Bodø during this period were lectured on, opening up for questions and discussions. The speakers, professor Alf Ragnar Nilsen, Ruslan Peresadilo, Andrey Repnevsky, Mikhail Suprun, all professors at Pomor State University, and Commodore Jacob Boerresen did all make this session a most exciting one, ending with a dinner and entertainment by local artists, the blues singer Peter Glanfield with his cold war blues, the soprano Elisabeth Misvaer and the accordion player Andrey Stepanov, performing with songs ranging from Sami joik to Russian folk songs.

The following day was devoted to lectures on topics covering the diversity of present cooperation with Russia in the Barents region, with an opening speech by Morten Jentoft, the Norwegian Broadcasting's correspondent to Russia. Both the cooperation on marine resources and surveillance in the Barents Sea, marine search and rescue cooperation, military

cooperation, Barents economic cooperation and how the Barents cooperation started, were topics focused at by excellent speakers as the former Nordland County Mayor Sigbjørn Eriksen, Harald Sørensen from the Barents Secretariat, Commodor Arild-Inge Skram, Deputy Director Anne B. Holm, Major General Finn Kristian Hannestad and professor Mikhail Suprun.



The last section of topics was devoted to educational cooperation in the Barents region presented by Director Marina Kalinina, the Norwegian-Pomor University Centre, Dmytro Yakovenko from the High North Centre at Bodø University College. Bjørn K. Sagdahl, the leader of Uarctic Nordic-Barents Regional Office of Undergraduate Studies was closing the conference, a most successful and interesting one for those who were able to take part.

