

**6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MOOSE SYMPOSIUM**  
**Yakutsk, Russia**  
**13 - 21 AUGUST 2008**

**Moose in Virgin and  
Anthropogenic Altered Landscapes**

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Moose Symposium was held in eastern Siberia, Russia in the Sakha Republic (Yakutia) on 13-21 August 2008, marking the first Moose Symposium held in modern Russia. The theme and location of the Symposium were especially significant because this region of Russia is undergoing dynamic development, yet still holds much virgin forest, and moose evolved and subsequently spread from this region to North America via the Bering Land Bridge.

The Symposium was hosted by the Sakha Republic Government, the Institute of Biological Problems of the Cryolithozone, the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and the Severtsev Institute of Problems in Ecology and Evolution. The organizing committee was headed by A. I. Stepanov, Deputy Head of the Sakha Republic, and included V. A. Grigoriev, Minister for Nature Protection of the Sakha Republic, A. A. Pakhomov, Minister of Science and Professional Education of the Sakha Republic, Professor N. G. Solomonov, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Professor L. M. Baskin of the Severtsev Institute.

More than 90 participants, over half from North America and Europe, joined in Yakutia to discuss and learn about global moose research and management. A. I. Stepanov, Chair of the Organising Committee, opened the VI International Moose Symposium at the Convention Hall of the Sakha Academy of Sciences by reading the welcoming speech of V. A. Shtyrov, President of the Sakha Republic who stressed that "The Sakha Republic makes great efforts in preserving, rehabilitation, and ra-

tional management of biological resources since they represent the national wealth and wellbeing of the present and future generations." The Chair also welcomed delegations from previous host countries including Dr. Vince Crichton of Canada and the only participant of all six International Symposiums, Professor Kjell Danell, Member of the Swedish Royal Academy, Professor Leonid Baskin of Russia, Dr. Kris Hundertmark of the USA, and a large group of Norwegian moose biologists.

The Symposium continued 15-21 August at The Sosnovy Bor Sanatorium, MIA in the Khangalassky region. Participants stayed in cabins on the banks of the great Lena River. There were 54 presentations by Russian, Polish, Norwegian, Estonian, Finnish, and American researchers covering a diversity of moose-related topics including morphology, genetics, ecology, and management; forage, habitat, and range; diseases and biotechnology; and social, legal, economic, and ethical issues.

At the final plenary session 3 key points were raised:

- 1) In the 21<sup>st</sup> century effective moose management programs will be critical to preserve the history, ethnic identity, and spiritual and material values of moose important to peoples in regions under increasing industrial development.
- 2) International cooperation in moose research and management is essential to develop the most effective moose management systems globally. Establishment of an inter-regional coordinating centre would best achieve this goal.
- 3) Sound population monitoring that promotes effective scientific and economic moose management strategies is necessary to ensure that moose provide widespread and

continuous benefit to society.

The plenary session ended with participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Moose Symposium expressing their gratitude to many agencies of the Sakha Republic including the **Government, Ministry for Nature Protection, Department of Biological Resources, Department of Hunting Management, Ministry of Science and Professional Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs**, and staff of The Sosnovy Bor Sanatorium. Appreciation was also extended to the staff at Lena Pillars Nature Park, local authorities and citizens of the Khangalassky region, the Hunters and Fishermen Association of Khangalassky region, Yakut State Agricultural Academy, Yakutsk Agricultural Research Institute, the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and many others. The Symposium concluded on 21 August after which a number of participants partook in multi-day field trips.

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