



UNIVERSITY OF THE ARCTIC

## **Jan Henry Keskitalo named as UArctic's Vice-President Indigenous Affairs**

June 8, 2010 / FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan Henry Keskitalo was introduced as UArctic's first Vice President Indigenous Affairs during the recent Council of UArctic meeting in Yakutsk, Sakha Republic (Yakutia), Russia, on June 4. Keskitalo recently completed his second term on the University of the Arctic's Board of Governors, where he had served since 2002. With this appointment, he brings his considerable knowledge, experience, and contributions in the areas of indigenous education issues and traditional knowledge to continue to serve the goals of the University of the Arctic. Key tasks for this position are to strengthen the voice of indigenous peoples throughout UArctic, promote traditional knowledge within educational programs and research, and ensure that UArctic is responsive to the educational needs of the North's indigenous peoples. Jan Henry Keskitalo is uniquely suited to this important position.

Born and raised in the Sami village of Kautokeino/Guovdageaidnu, Mr. Keskitalo is a highly qualified indigenous academic who also possesses a broad range of international teaching and research experience in multiple cultural and linguistic settings. He is also a fluent speaker and writer of the Sami language. He has led and participated in political and planning bodies and contributed to strategic developments related to a broad range of educational issues.

Former rector of Sami University College in Kautokeino, Norway from 1989-1996, his extensive career in education and indigenous leadership includes serving as chair of the Sami Education Council, Norway, from 1987-1993, Chair of Board of The Resource Center for Indigenous Rights (GALDU) in Norway from 2002 to 2009, and since 2008 has been Executive Chair of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium.

*The University of the Arctic is a cooperative network of over 100 universities, colleges, and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Our members share resources, facilities, and expertise to build post-secondary education programs that are relevant and accessible to northern students. Our overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering northerners and northern communities through education and shared knowledge.*

*We promote education that is circumpolar, interdisciplinary, and diverse in nature, and draw on our combined strengths to address the unique challenges of the region. The University of the Arctic recognizes the integral role of indigenous peoples in northern education, and seeks to engage their perspectives in all of its activities.*



UArctic is endorsed by the  
International Polar Year (IPY)

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