



**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development



## Invitation to

# The First International Conference on Urbanisation in the Arctic Nuuk, Greenland, 28-30 August 2012

**Nordregio, the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, in cooperation with Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland, hereby invites researchers, planners and decision-makers, who are directly involved in the administration or development of Arctic societies, to attend the First International Conference on Urbanisation in the Arctic.**

*“Urbanisation is a global trend which will significantly contribute to the shaping of human life in the future. The Arctic region is no exception ... Since the 1960’s, most of the population growth in the Arctic has occurred in urban centres tied to industrial activities, social services and public administration.” (Rasmus Ole Rasmussen, Megatrends, 2011, pp 22).*

The First International Conference on Urbanisation in the Arctic will provide an opportunity to discuss the immediate past, the present situation, and the prospects for the near future of urbanisation in the Arctic. The conference will explore different aspects of urbanisation like:

- **The overarching frame work of the urbanisation process**, such as national and regional policies and Arctic geopolitics.
- **The specific drivers and enablers of the urbanisation process**, such as demography (for instance change in sex ration, fertility, and migration), megaprojects, industrialisation, change of occupation, and the role of education and innovation.
- **The social, cultural and economic implications of the urbanisation process**, such as differentiated processes of urbanisation, centres versus minor settlements, economic dependence versus independence and company towns versus integration of new activities.

The themes of the conference are very much inspired by other recent changes in the Arctic economies which include a shift away from dispersed traditional land and sea-based activities, to more spatially concentrated industrial developments and a shift to mineral and petroleum resource exploration and development. Therefore a fundamental question for the conference to address will be: *What are the consequences of the urbanisation process that Arctic societies are experiencing in parallel with other ongoing economic and social changes, and how best might they be addressed?*

It is the objectives of the conference to facilitate a research based discussion about the practical challenges which planners and decision-makers are experiencing in the daily work and to provide the opportunity for comparing issues and responses among Arctic societies.

**Website with more information**

<http://www.nordregio.se/urbanisation2012>

**Time and place**

The three-day conference will take place 28-30 August 2012 at Ilimmarfik, Ilisimatusarfik, University of Greenland, Nuuk, Greenland. Due to limited flight connection, expect 27 August to be latest day for arrival in order to be in time for the opening of the conference.

**Registration**

Registration for the conference must be made by emailing Klaus Georg Hansen at [kgh@nordregio.se](mailto:kgh@nordregio.se) at latest by 30 June 2012.

*Registration information should include:*

Name, title, affiliation, postal address, email, telephone, any special food preferences.

*For those planning to present a paper at the conference, please include:*

Title, author(s), 300 word abstract, and confirmation that the paper has not previously been published.

All registrants will be contacted during the first week of July 2012.

**Paper**

All proposed papers will be evaluated and priority will be given to papers discussing the themes of the conference. The number of presentations that can be accommodated at the conference is limited. Each presenter will be allocated 30 minutes in total for the presentation and questions.

**Conference fee**

A conference fee of 1,000 DKK / 200 USD / 150 EUR must be paid at latest by 30 July 2012. The conference fee covers conference registration, lunches, coffee breaks and a reception. Payment instructions will be given in the confirmation email.

**Transport and accommodation**

All attendees are responsible for their own transport and accommodation.

*Travelling* to and from Greenland will be by air through Copenhagen (Air Greenland), Iceland (air Iceland or Air Greenland) or Iqaluit (Air Greenland). The flight connections are limited.

*Accommodations* in Nuuk are available at the Hotel Hans Egede, Sømandshjemmet among other locations. A number of rooms will be held for the Conference participants until 15 July. More information and booking instructions will be provided on the website.

**Organising committee**

Read more information about the organising committee on the website.

**For more information and assistance contact**

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