

**In Alaska: Wednesday, January 18, 2023
and Thursday, January 19, 2023**

**In Japan: Thursday, January 19, 2023
and Friday, January 20, 2023**

Online Arctic Symposium:

Current status and prospects of Japan-U.S. cooperation in the Arctic

Presentation topics included:

- Dinosaur Research Activities
- Research and Development Activities in Environmental and Fisheries Science
- Eco-friendly Prudent Economic Developments
- Vital Local Community Activities



**Hosted by the
Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage**

For more information, please visit: https://www.anchorage.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html

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Lecturer: Dr. Go Iwahana, Research Assistant Professor, International Arctic Research Center (IARC), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

Presentation title: "Changes in Permafrost and Ice Cellar Practices of the North"

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(De-Carbonization cooperation between Japan and Alaska)

Lecturer: Mr. Yasushi Fukuizumi, Executive Officer & Senior Executive Fellow, Vice President, Energy Systems, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.

Presentation title: "Energy Transition as Business"

Lecturer: Ms. Haley Paine, Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil & Gas

Presentation title: "Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage: A New Frontier for Alaska"

(Qilak LNG and Alaska LNG projects)

Lecturer: Hon. Mead Treadwell, Chairman & CEO, Qilak LNG

Presentation title: "De-carbonization Applications in Alaska and Japan with Qilak LNG and other Alaska LNG projects"

(Northern Pacific Airways' direct flights between Alaska and Japan)

Lecturer: Representative Zack Fields, Alaska State Legislature

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Presentation title: "Perspectives from Alaska: Building on the Legacy of the Late US Senator Daniel K. Inouye"

Video Message and Commentary on Ainu Cultural Tradition Activities by Chitose AINU Association

Mr. Yoshio Nakamura, Chairman, Chitose AINU Association

Mr. Naohiko Nakahara, Member, Chitose AINU Cultural Preservation Society

Ms. Rei Tsugamine, Director, Chitose AINU Cultural Preservation Society

Question-and-answer session

Closing Remarks

Masaru Aniya, Head of Office, Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

On January 18 and 19, the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage held an “Online Arctic Symposium: Current Status and Prospects of Japan-US Cooperation in the Arctic.” At the symposium, various celebrities, mainly Japanese and Alaskan scholars, scientists, government officials, and businesspeople related to the Arctic acted as moderators and speakers. Presentations and question-and-answer sessions were held under such agendas as (1) “Dinosaur research activities,” (2) “Research and Development Activities in Environmental & Fisheries Science,” (3) “Eco-friendly Prudent Economic Development Activities,” and (4) “Vital Local Community Activities.”

A total of 79 people (43 on the first day, 36 on the second day) attended the symposium.

Greetings from the Guests: Mr. Keizo Takewaka, Ambassador of Japan for International Economic Affairs and Arctic Affairs



Keizo Takewaka, Ambassador of Japan for International Economic Affairs and Arctic Affairs, speaks at the Online Arctic Symposium.

Mr. Keizo Takewaka, Ambassador of Japan for International Economic Affairs and Arctic Affairs, made the following opening remarks.

Japan’s Arctic Policy is composed of three pillars: (i) research and development, (ii) international cooperation, and (iii) sustainable use. This year, along with the revision of the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy, the Arctic Policy will be updated.

One of the significant elements of Japan’s cooperation in the Arctic is an Arctic research vessel with icebreaking capacity, and its construction began last year and the research vessel will serve as an “international platform” for joint research, data sharing, and monitoring collaboration. It will be operated by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).

In terms of US-Japan cooperation in the Arctic, the International Arctic Research Center (IARC) was established in 1999 at the University of Alaska Fairbank. The IARC has achieved remarkable results from its first Director, Dr. Akasofu, to its current Director, Dr. Hajo Eicken.

In 2019, an Athabaskan Youth Group visited Japan and interacted with the Ainu people. Last October, the Chitose Ainu Association group visited Alaska, attended the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, and deepened exchanges.

The 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial co-hosted by Japan and Iceland in 2021 followed the Arctic Science Ministerial initiated by the US in 2016.

I highly appreciate the United States’ announcement of a new Arctic strategy last October.



Keizo Takewaka, Ambassador of Japan for International Economic Affairs and Arctic Affairs, speaks about Japan's construction of an Arctic research vessel with ice breaking capacities, pictured is the model of the vessel.

Greetings from the Host: Mr. Masaru Aniya, Head of Office, Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage



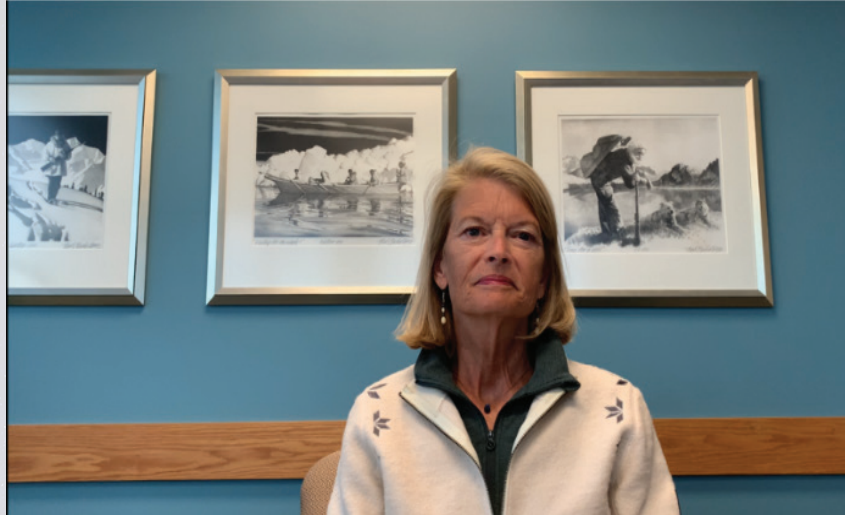
Masaru Aniya, Head Consul of the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage, makes his opening remarks at the Online Arctic Symposium.

Mr. Aniya, Head of the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage, made the following remarks.

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the world has plunged into turmoil and countries are facing complex balance building, but Japan-US relations remain unwaveringly good. In the 77 years since the end of World War II, Japan-U.S. cooperative relations have deepened into friendly ties.

The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake caused a series of fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, and nuclear power plant accidents, prompting the US government to launch "Operation Tomodachi." Many Japanese people were impressed by the sight of American soldiers silently carrying out search and rescue operations, and transporting relief supplies such as food and water in the news programs every day.

Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski (Video)



Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator for Alaska, speaks at the Online Arctic Symposium (pre-recorded video).

The following video message was delivered by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski.

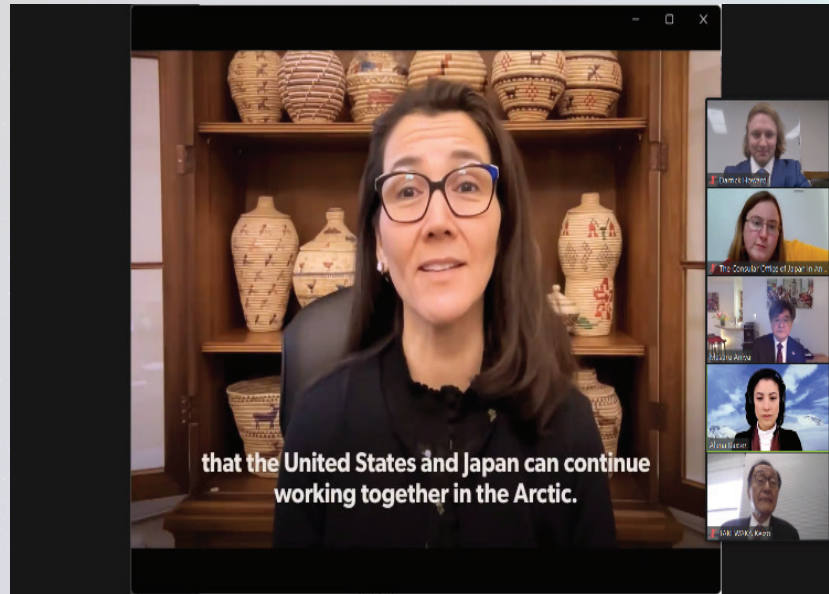
I appreciate Japan's enthusiastic activities in the Arctic. The symposium was held as Japan-U.S. relations are strengthening day by day. U.S.-Japan trade relations continue to be good, especially in areas such as fishery products, timber, and metals. I commend Prime Minister Kishida's announcement of the National Security Strategy, which addresses sea routes and maritime security in an era of climate change. I am also satisfied with the energy cooperation, military satellites, and military personnel cooperation between Japan and the United States.

The US and Japan are building a close relationship as Arctic allies. We look forward to strengthening cooperation between Japan and the United States in addressing climate change, geothermal energy, carbon dioxide capture and storage, hydrogen energy, and mineral extraction. I appreciate the joint patrols of illegal fishing and drug trafficking by the Coast Guards of both countries.

Economic and environmental and security cooperation between the US and Japan in the Arctic is currently a top priority.

Best wishes for the success of this symposium.

Alaska Representative Mary Peltola (Video)



Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative for Alaska, speaks at the Online Arctic Symposium (pre-recorded video).

The following video message was delivered by U.S. Representative Mary Peltola.

The Arctic issue is often presented as a global issue, but climate change and declining sea ice are pressing issues for many Alaskan constituents. Climate change will have pervasive and lasting impacts on people's lifestyles. Sea ice and the Arctic strengthen Alaska's strategic importance and role.

The US needs to build icebreakers, communications and port infrastructure, and strong communities. In the United States, there is a saying, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." Dealing with the Arctic problem requires global cooperation. It is with hope that new ways of US-Japan cooperation in the Arctic will be explored.

Sessions

Science and Technology: Research/Exploration Activities

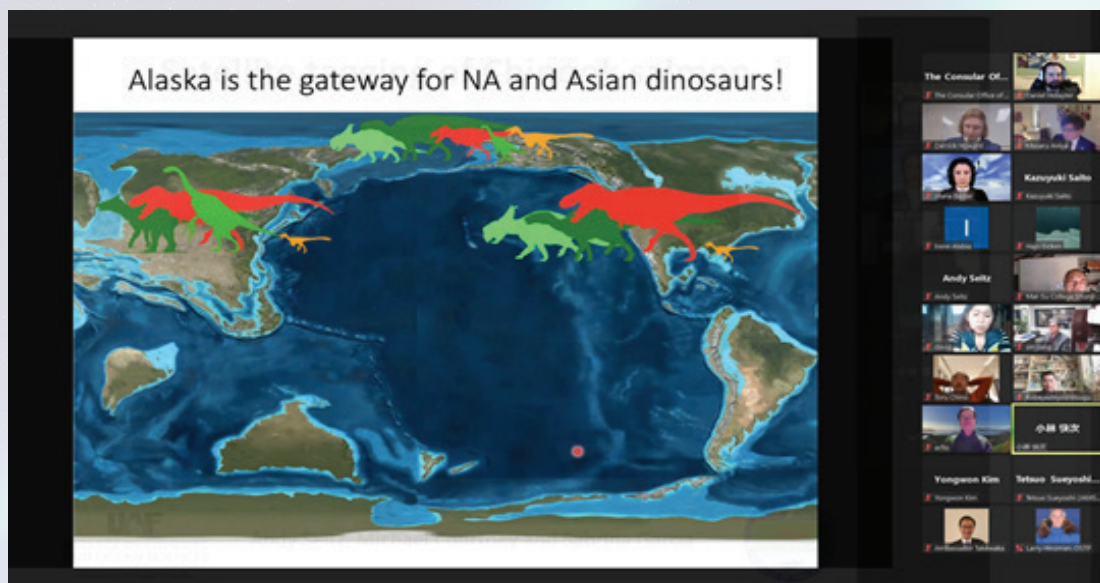
Dinosaur Research Activities

Moderator and Presenter: Dr. Anthony Fiorillo, Executive Director, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science

Presentation by Dr. Yoshitsugu Kobayashi, Professor, Hokkaido University

“The study of how dinosaurs show how Japan and Alaska are connected in geologic time”

While dinosaurs are found throughout Alaska, Denali National Park has the strongest evidence of Japan and Alaska have a shared paleontological and geological history. Specifically, some of the footprints in Denali can be attributed to dinosaurs found in Japan and much of eastern Asia. This ongoing work provides growing evidence that Alaska was the gateway connecting Asia and North America for 10s of millions of years.



From Dr. Fiorillo and Dr. Kobayashi's presentation, showing the map of how Alaska is the gateway for North American and Asian dinosaurs.

Research and Development Activities in Environmental and Fisheries Science

Moderated by Dr. Hajo Eicken, Director, International Arctic Research Center, Professor of Geophysics, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Presentation by Dr. Andrew Seitz, Chair, Department of Fisheries, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

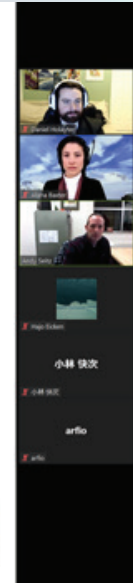
“Satellite tagging of Chinook salmon”

In “Satellite Tagging of Chinook Salmon,” it was presented that research has recently shown many changes in fish reproductive traits and population dynamics. To investigate one life stage of Chinook salmon, behavioral and environmental data were collected by attaching pop-up satellite archival tags (PSATS) to Chinook salmon during 2013 through 2022. As a result, 183 tags were attached to Chinook salmon in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. The salmon weighed between 10 and 45 pounds. A total of 9,000 days of data was collected, and the longest swimming distance for a Chinook salmon was 3,000 km.

Satellite tagging of Chinook salmon



Andy Seitz, Michael Courtney and Sabrina Garcia



From Dr. Andrew Seitz presentation, two men hold a tagged chinook salmon.

Presentation by Dr. Irene D. Alabia, Postdoctoral Researcher, Arctic Research Center, Hokkaido University,

“Marine biodiversity distribution in a rapidly changing Arctic”

In “Marine Biodiversity Distribution in a Rapidly Changing Arctic,” it was presented that rapid and significant climate change in the Arctic is underway, particularly seen from warming trends and dramatic reduction in sea ice. A general increase in Arctic marine biodiversity over the past two decades was observed, specifically in the Beaufort and Davis-Baffin areas. A decline in biodiversity was observed in some areas (e.g., Hudson Complex and Arctic Basin) due to the loss of sea ice habitats.

Presentation by Dr. Kazuyuki Saito, Senior Researcher, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)

“Food Life History Project in Alaska, Siberia, and Japan: Types, History and Current Issues of Underground Cold Storages”

In “Food Life History Project in Alaska, Siberia, and Japan: Types, History and Current Issues,” it was presented that cold storage for foods using the natural cold environment has been carried out in the United States, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, and other countries. However, it has become difficult to continue this tradition due to global environmental change.

Ice cellars and cache in Mongolia

- Built after 1960s, urban (12), NM (12).
- Meat storage with 30 -2000t capacity.
- T: -4°C and -10°C , RH: 90-98%.

A photograph of the interior of an ice cellar, showing a large, dark, and cold space with ice walls.

A photograph of the exterior of an ice cache, showing a wooden structure with a blue door.

A photograph of a man standing in an ice cellar, wearing a dark jacket and a cap.

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A photograph of a man standing in an ice cellar, wearing a dark jacket and a cap.

Ice cache in Northern Mongolia, still in use. Family-possession.

A photograph of a man standing in an ice cellar, wearing a dark jacket and a cap.

A screenshot of a video conference interface. It shows a grid of participant windows. At the top, there are three windows showing participants. Below them, there are several smaller windows, some of which are labeled with names like "Andy Seitz", "Michael Courtney", and "Sabrina Garcia". There are also some windows with Japanese text, such as "小林 俊次" and "arlio".

From Dr. Kazuyuki Saito’s presentation, pictures of an ice cellar and cache in Mongolia.

Presentation by Dr. Go Iwahana, Research Assistant Professor, International Arctic Research Center (IARC), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

“Changes in Permafrost and Ice Cellar Practices of the North”

In “Changes in Permafrost and Ice Cellar Practices of the North,” it was presented that Yakutsk (Russia) experienced massive flooding of underground ice cellars. The first such incident in 20 years, and there is now a deterioration of ice cellar conditions globally. Ice cellars in Alaska, where conditions continue to deteriorate, were beginning to melt due to warming of the permafrost.

Eco-friendly and Prudent Economic Development Activities

Moderator and Presenter, the Honorable Mead Treadwell, Chairman & CEO, Qilak LNG

Presentation by Mr. Greg Wolf, Executive Director, World Trade Center Anchorage

“Alaska-Japan Ties: Partnership for Prosperity”

In “Alaska-Japan Ties: Partnership for Prosperity,” it was presented that Japan is one of Alaska’s most trusted trading partners, and that Japan was the largest investor in Alaskan seafood.

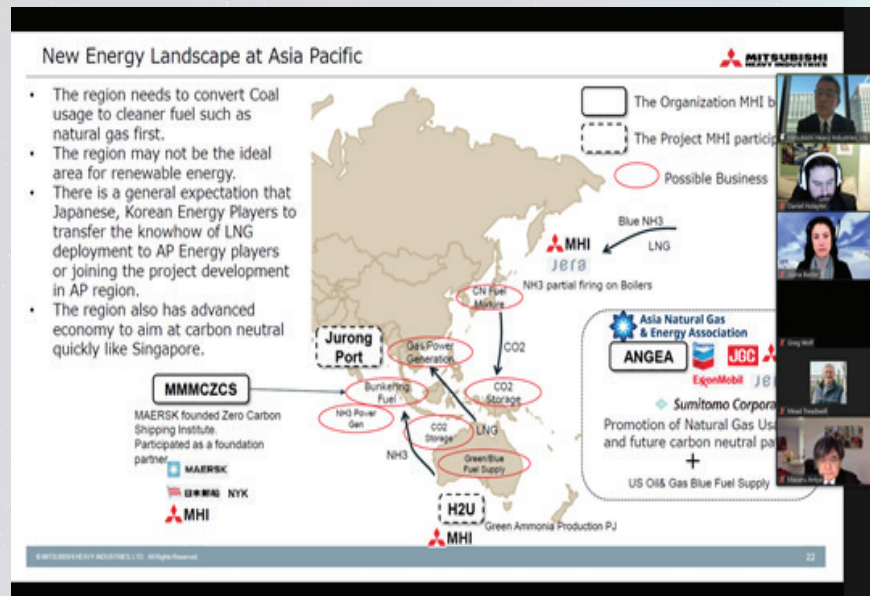
Presentation by Mr. Yasushi Fukuizumi, Executive Officer & Senior Executive Fellow, Vice President, Energy Systems, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.

“Energy Transition as Business”

In “Energy Transition as Business,” it was presented that for some companies that use hydrocarbons as an energy source, it was needed to find ways to recycle CO₂, and some targets are set towards that end. It is impossible for a single company to achieve the energy transition business, and collaboration between companies is important, that in the Asian region, where the development of renewable energy is not suitable, the supply of clean energy such as LNG is required. In addition, there are expectations for Japan’s assistance for de-carbonization of the Pacific region, for the construction of an LNG supply network by South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan for the de-carbonization of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as for the connection with US LNG supply sources including Alaska.



Mr. Yasushi Fukuizumi speaks at the Online Arctic Symposium.

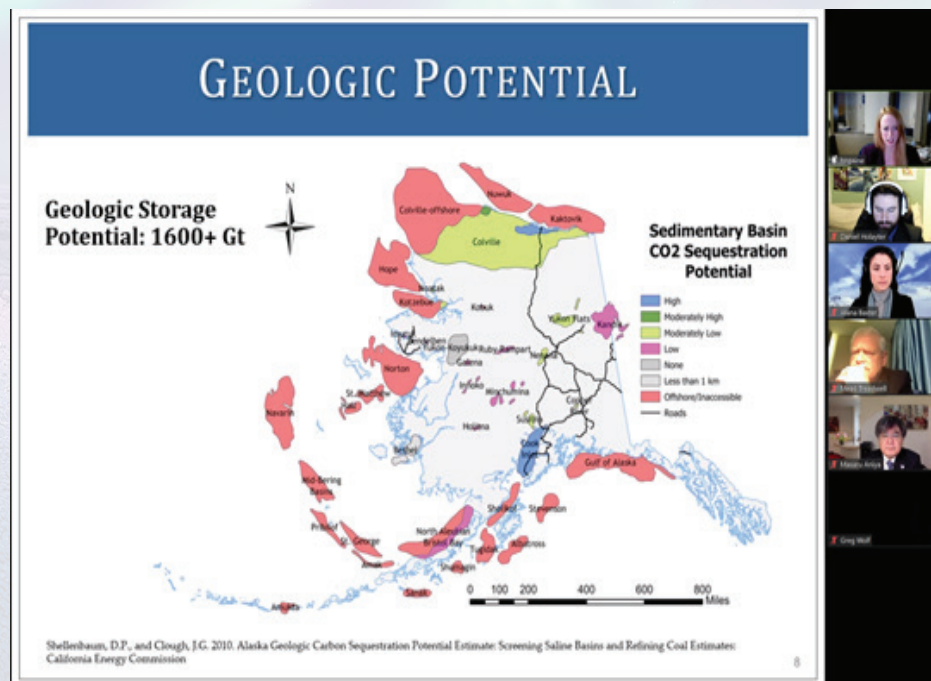


From Mr. Yasushi Fukuizumi's presentation, the development of a new energy landscape in the Asia-Pacific region.

Presentation by Ms. Haley Paine, Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil & Gas

“Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage: A New Frontier for Alaska”

In "Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage: A New Frontier for Alaska," it was presented that currently 30 CCUS (Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage) facilities were in operation and would require approximately 2,500 facilities in the future. With the number increasing over time, storage in Alaska is geologically possible, and the concrete plans for making Alaska a hub are taking shape.



From Haley Paine's presentation, showing Alaska's geologic potential.

Presentation by the Honorable Mead Treadwell, Chairman & CEO, Qilak LNG

“De-carbonization Applications in Alaska and Japan with Qilak LNG and Other Alaska LNG Projects”

In “De-carbonization Applications in Alaska and Japan with Qilak LNG and Other Alaska LNG Projects,” it was presented that the Arctic North American reserves were closer to Asian end markets compared to the Gulf of Mexico (via Panama), and Northern Russian coast (Alaska is 2,000 miles closer than Yamal). Qilak LNG would require 3-5 vessels depending on the destination. The situation of the LNG world market has changed fundamentally in the last 12 months. The demand for natural gas in European and Asian countries is increasing and the (Qilak proposed) LNG project could help meet these needs.



The Honorable Mead Treadwell speaks at the Online Arctic Symposium.

Qilak LNG 1: Project Overview

Arctic LNG is a proven concept

- Proven gas reserves of 32+ TCF across gas fields in the Alaskan North Slope with probable gas reserves of 100+ TCF
- Yamal LNG in Russia has proven the economic viability of Arctic LNG using icebreaking LNG carriers to export LNG throughout the year
- Arctic North American reserves closer to Asian end markets compared to Gulf of Mexico (via Panama) and Northern Russian coast (2,000 miles shorter distance than Yamal)
- NSLNG concept provides a number of advantages:
 - Uses incremental liquefaction plants built in a shipyard and floated into place
 - Minimal infrastructure required and standardized equipment
 - Scalability
 - 4 to 6 MTPA units
 - Design one, build many

Stranded gas reserves

Shorter distance to Asian markets

From the Honorable Mead Treadwell’s presentation, which outlines the proven feasibility and accessibility of the Qilak LNG project for Asian end markets.

Presentation by Representative Zack Fields, Alaska State Legislature

“Economic and Cultural Benefits of Direct Flights to Japan”

In “Economic and Cultural Benefits of Direct Flights to Japan,” it was presented that we could expect to have direct flights between Alaska and Japan by this summer. The White House would have to work through the FAA to see if NPA (North Pacific Airways) have the planes to go across the ocean, and that the number of Japanese tourists to Anchorage would increase rapidly, if direct flights were to be realized.



Representative Zack Fields of the Alaska Legislature is shown before he speaks at the Online Arctic Symposium.

Vital Local Community Activities

Moderator and Presenter Ms. Julie Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives

Presentation by Mr. Ben Mallott, Vice President, Alaska Federation of Natives

“Perspectives from Alaska: Building on the Legacy of the Late US Senator Daniel K. Inouye”

In “Perspectives from Alaska: Building on the Legacy of the Late US Senator Daniel K. Inouye,” Ms. Julie Kitka, AFN president, mentioned that the late Senator Inouye was the greatest supporter of Alaska Natives, acting with deep respect for both Japan and the United States. He supported technical amendments to the legal system to help settle land claims by Indigenous peoples, and provided significant support to Alaska by establishing funds for the construction of modern hospitals and rural clinics. AFN would embrace memories of his favors forever.



From Julie Kitka and Ben Mallott’s presentation, which shows both the late Senators Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Ted Stevens of Alaska.

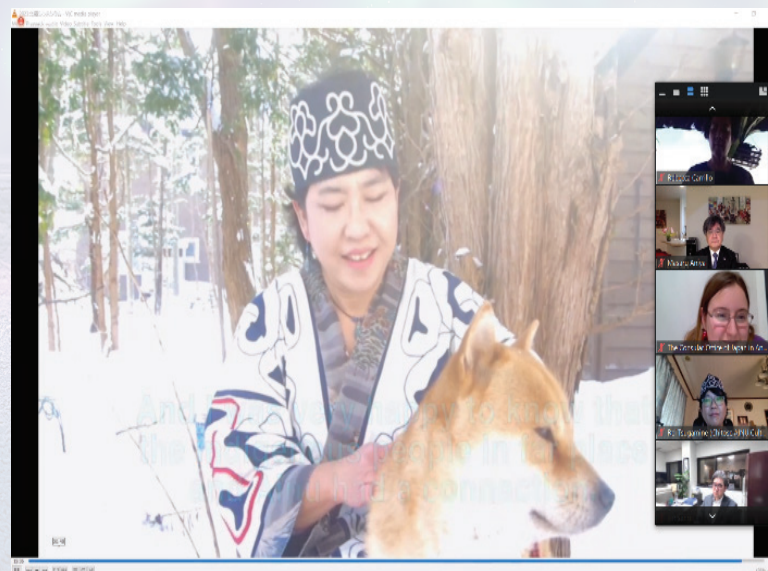
Presentation by Chitose Ainu Association

“Video Message and Commentary on Ainu Cultural Tradition Activities by the Chitose Ainu Association”

In the “Video Message and Commentary on Ainu Cultural Tradition Activities by the Chitose Ainu Association,” after stating that the Chitose Ainu Association was very appreciative for the people-to-people relationship with AFN, traditional fishing (in particular, spearfishing was explained in detail) and ancient dance training were explained and demonstrated. Ms. Rei Tsugamine mentioned that, in the old days, some people ridiculed the name “Ainu” in relation to similar pronunciation for dogs in Japanese. Many Ainu people were touched when an audience member mentioned that “Inu” means “people” in his native language, and “Ainu” and “Inuit” share the same etymology. She thanked the Consular Office and Ms. Julie Kitka for their support when the delegation from Chitose visited Alaska last October. Lastly, she mentioned that she looked forward to visiting Alaska again.



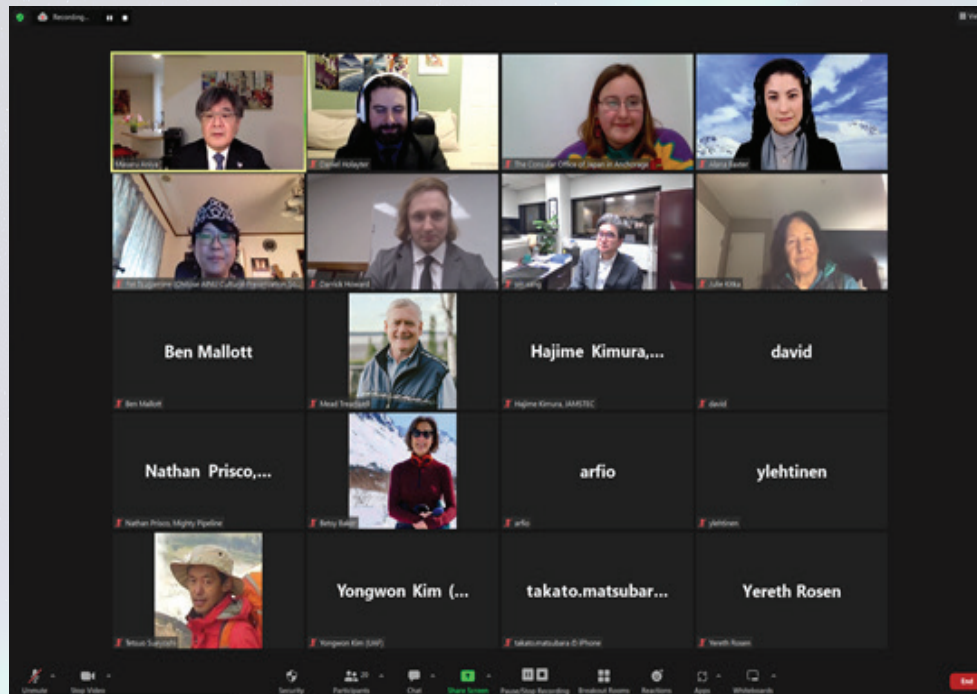
Yoshio Nakamura, Chairman of the Chitose Ainu Association, speaks at the Online Arctic Symposium (pre-recorded video).



Rei Tsugamine of the Chitose Ainu Association pets her dog (pre-recorded video).

Head Consul Aniya's Closing Remarks

As an attraction at this symposium, a beautiful a cappella performance of the nostalgic song “Let’s turn up and walk” was performed by “Pipeline Vocal Project.” Finally, Mr. Aniya closed the event with a word of gratitude to the people who extended cooperation. During the two-day event, there was a lively discussion on the promotion of cooperation between Japan and Alaska surrounding the Arctic Circle, including a friendly exchange of opinions via zoom chat, etc.



Masaru Aniya, Head Consul of the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage, gives his final speech to close out the Online Arctic Symposium.

Acknowledgments

Head Consul Masaru Aniya

Arctic Symposium Host and Head of Office, Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

Ms. Alana Baxter

Master of Ceremonies

Ms. Meghan Duryea

Zoom Technician

Ms. Lisa Hawkins, Ms. Molly Dieni, and Ms. Adriana Latonio

Pipeline Vocal Project

Musical Attraction

Mr. Darrick Howard

Mr. Daniel Holayter

Mr. Kenichi Nishizawa

Ms. Junko Suzuki-Hovey

Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage