



The Finnish Chairmanship of the Arctic Council is approaching its finale: The Ministerial meeting will be held in 7th May in Rovaniemi, where minister-level representatives from the 8 Arctic States will review and approve work completed under the two-year term.

The Arctic States will be joined by delegations from the Council's indigenous Permanent Participant organizations and observers. At the conclusion of the meeting, Finland will transfer the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council to Iceland. The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues.

The Lapland Host Committee and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland have developed an additional program for journalists before the Arctic Council Ministerial, starting 5th May.

During this press tour, journalists will get a chance to have an insight into Finland's, especially Lapland's, expertise in sustainable energy solutions and Arctic know-how in everyday life.

Finland is a forerunner of the current and emerging markets of Arctic technology, based on first-hand knowledge of the arctic circumstances in the region, the expertise in technology, and one of the most interesting startup ecosystems in the world.

Local costs, such as transportation and meals mentioned in this program, are covered by the host organizations. Travel and hotel costs are to be covered by the participants themselves.

Media programme 5th–6th May 2019, Rovaniemi, Finland

Sunday 5th May

17:50 **Bus departure from the airport to Arctic Forest Spa Metsäkyly**
17:30 **Bus departures from Hotel Pohjanhovi**
18:00 **Bus arrival to Arctic Forest spa**
21:30 **Bus departures from Arctic Forest Spa**
22:00 **Bus arrival to Hotel Pohjanhovi**
Bus host: tbc
18–22 A warm welcome to Rovaniemi!

Welcome Dinner hosted by Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland at the Arctic Forest Spa Metsäkyly

Opportunity to experience the Finnish Sauna and swimming in a lake.

Meeting with a very special person in the Santa Claus secret forest.

Inspired by our beautiful arctic nature and local traditions, Arctic Forest Sauna & Spa – Metsäkyly is a haven dedicated to relaxation and the life-enhancing warmth of the extraordinary Finnish sauna in beautiful forest surroundings by a peaceful lake.

In case you want to go to sauna and/or swimming remember to take your swimsuit with you.

<https://santaparkarcticworld.com/arctic-forest-spa>

Monday 6th May

8:50 **Minibus departures from Hotel Pohjanhovi**
9:00 **Arrival to Sami language nest**
9:00–09:50 **Visit to the Northern Saami language nest**
(max 10 persons)

A language nest is a day care group for children under school age who belong to a linguistic minority or indigenous population. Children there are spoken to only in the language nest language, which in Rovaniemi is Northern Saami. At the language nest, children learn the language in natural everyday situations. In practice, language nest activities are a means to ensure the Saami people's constitutional right to their own language and culture.

We will have an opportunity to see the language nest in action. Please note that special attention must be taken when photographing the children; they must not be identifiable in the photos.

Bus host: tbc
Interpreter: Maija Myllylä

9:50 **Departure from language nest**
10:00 **Arrival to Hotel Pohjanhovi**
OR
9:00–10:00 **Black Carbon -info at Hotel Santa Claus**

Black carbon is a major contributor to climate change in the Arctic as well as an air pollutant with serious effects on human health. There will be a possibility to interview experts on climate and health effects of black carbon, to ask about the Arctic Council work on black carbon, to hear about different international initiatives to reduce the emissions as well and to meet with providers of emission reduction technologies.

Meet:

Mr Mikael Hildén, Prof. at the Finnish Environment Institute
Mr Kaarle Kupiainen Senior Specialist, Ph.D. Ministry of the Environment

Mr Ulrik Westman, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Chair, Arctic Contaminants Action Programme (ACAP)

Track 1: Sustainable solutions in the Arctic

10:20 Bus departures from Hotel Pohjanhovi
Bus host: tbc
10:30–11:30 Roadscanners
Theme: Resource Efficiency

Leading global traffic infrastructure asset management provider, Roadscanners has recently received the International Road Federation top award for developing a proactive maintenance model that will lead to significant drop of road maintenance costs and materials.

Roadscanners is based in Rovaniemi and has clients on all continents.

Description of visit: Testing the top technology vehicle Road Doctor Survey Van.

Read More: <https://www.lapland.fi/solution/new-road-railway-maintenance-innovations/>

Contact person: Virpi Halttu, customer operations manager, virpi.halttu@roadscanners.com, 050 353 4268

Host: Timo Saarenketo, Roadscanners

11:45–12:45 Neve, Napapiirin Energia ja Vesi (Arctic Circle's Energy & Water)
Theme: Circular Economy

Keeping Lapland clean and preserving Arctic nature is important to Napapiirin Energia ja Vesi (NEVE). The intelligent services of NEVE allow them to provide continuous power, heating and fresh drinking water supply while lowering environmental impact.

Description of visit: Visiting Suosiola power plant. The plant provides energy for district heat and water treatment plant, and the end product can be utilized as forest fertilizer.

Read more: <https://www.lapland.fi/solution/green-district-heating-lapland/>

Contact person: Petteri Nissinen, communications planner, petteri.nissinen@neve.fi, 040 168 1475

Host: Jukka Paartonen, Neve (tbc)

13:00 Lunch, Hostel Café Koti

Briefing and a tour around the Ministerial Meeting premises and visit to the New Wood Exhibition followed by a welcome drink

14:15 Bus departure from Hotel Pohjanhovi
14:30 Arrival at Lappi Arena

- Tour around the premises, media lounge- Briefing/Interviews

Meet:

Mr Kalle Kankaanpää, Director, Unit for Northern Europe, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

- New Wood Exhibition

16:15 Bus departure from Lappi Arena
16:30 Bus arrival at Hotel Pohjanhovi

Track 2: Urban tour

Walking tour in Urban and Arctic Rovaniemi (max. 20 people)

10:45 Start of the guided walk at Hotel Pohjanhovi
11:00–11:15 Guided walk
11:15–11:45 Alvar Aalto (City Hall, City Library, Lappia Hall)
11:45–12:00 Guided walk to Korundi
12:00–12:45 Korundi
12:45–13:00 Guided walk
13:00–14:00 Lunch, Hostel Café Koti
14:15 Bus departure to Lappi Arena

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Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



HOUSE OF LAPLAND