

10.04.2018

Invitation to Special Lecture on "Siberian Landscape Tourism" by Dr. Pavel Barsukov, University of Novosibirsk, Russia

*Time: Thursday, April 12th, 2018, 18:30 s.t. (45min presentation, 15min discussion);
Registration from 18:15*

Place: TU Wien, LANDSCAPE Seminar Room, Erzherzog Johann Platz 1, 3rd floor

Siberia stretches southwards from the Arctic Ocean to the hills of north-central Kazakhstan and to the national borders of Mongolia and China. With an area of 13.1 km², Siberia accounts for 77% of Russia's land area, but it is home to just 40 million people—27% of the country's population. The population density is 3 persons per km², but there are vast unpopulated - mainly the northern arctic - areas and 12 major cities like Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk, Barnaul, Vladivostok, Irkutsk, Tyumen, Khabarovsk, Novokuznetsk Kemerovo and Tomsk each of them containing a population between half a million and two million inhabitants. These cities are also the centers to start touristic tours in the Siberian wilderness. Many smaller places can often only be reached during winter time, when rivers are frozen. Then they serve as temporary roads for lorries to supply remote locations with goods.

Siberia's wealth is based on natural resource exploitation. Tourism is only developed in particular locations - like the stops of the Siberian railroads - but becomes increasingly more important for indigenous people living from hunting, animal breeding, small scale agriculture and collecting forest products. Tourism creates small but significant markets. Less known is also the importance of tourism for (co-) financing research. After the collapse of the USSR in the 1990ies the universities did not get funding to undertake expeditions and a lot of long term ecological monitoring for example in earth sciences became impossible. Research leaders improvised programs with mixed tourism and research purpose, whereby tourism incomes financed the logistic costs of those expeditions. Tourists in turn could learn from the present specialists and in some cases became additionally ambassadors for a better protection of huge territories within Siberia.

Dr. Pavel Barsukov, teaches geography and soil science at the University of Novosibirsk. He started to organize to organize ecological tours a quarter of a century ago. Some of his expeditions were targeted to well educated tourists other were more related to study tours and co-operation with research institutes and other universities. Thereby he worked together with several European and Asian universities. Dr. Barsukov will separate his presentation into two parts: i) a general information including the organization of Siberian landscape tourism or Russian Arctic tourism and ii) the introduction to particular places and highlights from his previously organized expeditions.

With kind regards,

