1. What are the session key findings? What are the new Lesson(s) learned / Scientific progress (since AR5 release, if relevant)?

In the session the adaptation was discussed from the perspective of people living in the Arctic and particularly indigenous people living in the Arctic. Secondly the session discussed about the economy and how the melt of Greenlandic ice sheet would effect to global economies, for the latter there is a new model that has been used and will be updated in the near future.

What clearly came out in Arctic peoples adaptation to climate change was that they are not thinking or afraid of climate change as such and depending on the region one lives, the climate change can be seen as a benefit (easier for reindeer to dig up for lichens for example) or a challenge (coastal erosion in Northern Canada is one concrete example of a challenge). What should also be remembered is that Arctic is a diverse place, there is not one Arctic but many Arctics, as someone has said before. In Fennoskandia and Russia at the moment the biggest challenge is the land use pressures; mining, wind power, oil and gas exploitation and related infrastructure and so on, which reindeer herders and Sámi face, not the climate change. In longer run, the climate change will of course influence but until now indigenous people have adapted to climate change.

On the other hand, in North America at least, the national legislation for example in hunting, can prevent people to adapt –as an example climate change has changed the migration routes and timing and species of the birds and animals and thus changed the hunting season and manners, however the regional legislation is not responding to that and thus preventing people to adapt to the change. How to get public administrations and policy makers to understand local people? Capacity building would be a solution to this -we need to train the young people in Arctic and not send them to southern colleges and universities where they don’t come back, but educate the young in the Arctic and decide to stay in the Arctic. Teach them to speak to scientist and industry and work with them and also bring industries and people together and have a two-way dialogue understanding each others. And secondly the scientist should be put together with the economists to see the bigger picture of the climate change. It is important to understand that adaptation takes place only on the local level!
2. What are the major knowledge Gaps and Research Needs identified in the session?

When asked about the knowledge gaps or research needs, the keynote speaker Anders Oskal stated clearly that it is the investment in the youth in the Arctic that is needed, capacity building in local level and work in the local level, to the support that and invest on that.

3. Did the session discuss/identify promising approaches in the fields of Adaptation and Mitigation, or both?

See the previous points – adaptation can only happen at the local level as the climate change is a local issue. It is not the same all over the Arctic, people are different and face already lot of other challenges in their lives. In order to help people to adapt to climate change, government structures/policy making has to adapt as well!

4. Are there take-home messages from the session?

(When relevant, please specify targeted group of stakeholders. For example, policy-makers / COP21 negotiators, practitioners (experts, etc.), NGOs, private sector, citizens, media, etc.)

We need active local societies, we need active youth, it is not enough to send youth to universities if they don’t come back to Arctic! It is all about the capacity building and giving Arctic people tools to speak and understand the scientists and industry and to work together with them.

There is a lot of local knowledge that should be shared and used for adaptation strategies, but why that is not used?

5. Are there Important Quotes from the session?

Anders Oskal, Director, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Kautokeino, Norway:
“We have to use the best available knowledge, put together the scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge, only that way we can come up to five – not four, we need five to come up with solution.

A quote by Anders quoting Sami elder “if climate change comes from the nature then I am not worried but if it comes from the humans that pollute the nature, then I worry”.

6. Please include any other remark that you might have.