

Forestry Program

11 November 2010

To Whom It May Concern:


Letter of Interest with respect to THAW: *"Trends and Hazards in Arctic Warming: Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions from Arctic permafrost regions"*

I am writing to state my strong support for the proposed THAW project to be submitted under the EU 7 Framework Programme. The goal of the proposal is to improve the understanding of the vulnerability of Arctic permafrost to climate change, and estimate the implications of this on the global greenhouse gas concentrations and the future climate. We consider the proposed project as very important for our integrated studying of the terrestrial ecosystems full greenhouse gas budget of polar and boreal domains.

For many years, the Forestry Program of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) has been providing integrated assessments of the state, vitality and functioning of terrestrial ecosystems of high latitudes (particularly for the Northern Eurasian continent) and their interconnection with global biogeochemical cycles. We well recognize the limitations and uncertainty of knowledge of this unique domain of the Earth, as well as dramatic problems which climatic change will likely bring to these territories. Thus, we believe that the multidisciplinary and integrated character of the project will substantially contribute to the current understanding of this unique part of the planet and its impacts on the Earth System as a whole, and will present important guiding information for implementation of the paradigm of sustainable development there. The project has substantial potential to improve collaboration between scientists of different Earth science disciplines.

I firmly believe that that the project highlights problems that are extremely important for current global change science. The quality of the consortium is very high, and the proposed approaches and tools are sufficient to achieve outstanding results. The project has every reason to be selected for implementation.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Anatoly Shvidenko

Acting Leader, Forestry Program, IIASA