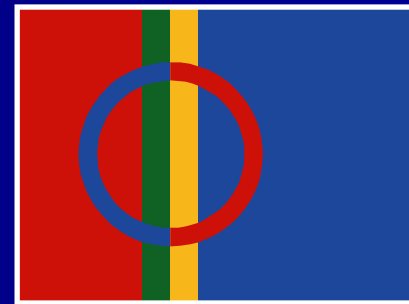


# **“Reindeer husbandry as cultural mainstay”**

Inger Marit Eira-Åhrén

# Sami people

- Arctic indigenous people
- Live in Norway, Sweden, Finland and Kola Peninsula (Russia).
- Traditional language: sami



# Reindeer herding:

- Semi-nomadic reindeer herding
- 10% of the Sami are connected and 2,800 actively involved on a full-time basis in Norway (Reindeer resource accounting 2009-2010)
- For traditional, environmental, cultural and political reasons, reindeer herding is legally reserved only for Sami people in certain regions of the Nordic countries.

# Reindeer husbandry as industry..

- Year-round pasture out in the wild - more exposed for environmental disasters
- Meat production is the main income source.
- The only industry that is defined as Sami (Norway and Sweden).



# “Reindeer husbandry as a cultural mainstay...”

## Definition of culture:

The sum of attitudes, customs, and beliefs that distinguishes one group of people from another.



# “A reindeer herder”

- A way of living
- Involves the whole family.
- Traditional-based learning “Learning through participation and own experiences”..



# “ Being affected by a disaster...”

- Lack of control over the situation.
- Confidence that the information you receive is correct.
- New solutions enforced, that is not based on traditional knowlegde and past experience.



# " A new day..."

- Slaughter must be scheduled by the level of Bq. in reindeer.
- Tripe and other bi products of reindeer fed with industry produced animal feed, is useless.
- The food that is located out in the wild is no longer "available".
- Basic foods must be purchased from the store..





# Every environmental disaster is a threat

- The knowledge that we don't have control over nature, is how we have survived up in the arctic.
- We face a potential threat of disaster every time a nuclear power plant fails.
- The lack of control is a mental burden.

# 26 years after Chernobyl...

The cost of such a disaster has economic and human aspects as in the current situation is carried by the reindeer herders and their families...



# Some examples...

- Change of diet.
- Additional work in the form of feeding with industry produced animal food.
- Purchase of reindeer to household food from less contaminated areas.
- The fear of repercussions for future generations.
- The loss of traditional knowledge.

**“ This is our land, our  
life..”**



# “Reindeer husbandry as cultural mainstay in southern Sapmi; also in the future?”

