



The Telemark County Council international team focuses its activities for internationalization in the following areas: International project development with municipalities and other organizations in Telemark, business development with an international perspective, infrastructure – trends and participation in international projects, schools – participation in EU programs, participation in (international) arenas and the Telemark and Hubei province (China) friendship agreement.

Telemark County Council's strategies for international cooperation from 2008-2011 are located on our website www.telemark.no/international.

Municipal and Other Authorities Cooperation / International Project Development

Tfk's seminar series on internationalization:

"Innovation and new opportunities in an international perspective" Project development. Will your municipality/organization participate further? was held on April 23-24, 2009 at Morgedal Hotel in Kviteseid municipality with 80 participants.

The seminar was a cooperation between Telemark



Telemark County, Norway;
Pop. 167,000; Area: 15 315 km²;
18 municipalities.



Some seminar participants outside the Norsk Skieventyr Museum where they learned about the history of Telemark skiing which originated in Morgedal.

County Council, Norsk Skieventyr, Ski Telemark Foundation, West Telemark Business Development and Innovation Norway.

To download the program and presentations go to www.telemark.no/international (click on satsingsområder/kommunesamarbeid/seminarserie/Morgedal)

Tfk's next seminar on internationalization will be held on September 7th in connection with Hubei-Norway Week 2009. www.norway-hubei.net

Project Development

Telemark County Council has been working actively with Telemark municipalities to gain interest to participate in EU programs especially in the Interreg program. We have many international related projects which are under development in Telemark. To view an overview of these go to our website and click on the menu 'prosjektutvikling/prosjekter'.

***Telemark Waterways (Water related development projects): Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme STRATMOS project Visit to Telemark by STRATMOS project partners**



STRATMOS project European partners visit Telemark in May.



In May, it was Telemark County Council's turn to host the partner meeting for the STRATMOS project. County Politician Erling Dahl who is Head of the Committee for Infrastructure welcomed the European delegation to Telemark. The delegation experienced a full 3 day program in Telemark starting with partner presentations, project status and discussions. There were also study visits to Herøya Industrial Park and a boat trip in along the Porsgrunn waterway and Bamble archipelago.

Presentations and meeting minutes can be downloaded here: http://stratmos.com/stratmos/public/openIndex?ARTICLE_ID=125#forum
http://stratmos.com/stratmos/public/openIndex?ARTICLE_ID=125#files

Arkangelsk Maritime Partenariat



Arkangelsk Vice Governor of Economic Development and Financial Issues, Dmitry Pletnev (left), will host The Arkangelsk Maritime Partenariat in October. Right: Project Leader Helge Grobæk

Arkangelsk Maritime Partenariat has been approved by the Vice Governor Dmitry Pletnev at a meeting in the Arkangelsk County Administration Building. The meeting, which was initiated by the EU StratMos-project "Northern Maritime Corridor" (NMC), is supported by the Vice Governor who said that Arkhangelsk County Council will be pleased to host the Maritime Partenariat. The StratMos NMC-BASIS delegation was represented by Helge Grobæk - Maritime Forum Southeast of Norway, Thrond Kjellevold – Telemark County of Norway, Harald Sørensen – The Norwegian Barents Secretariat and Vladimir Kharlov – Russian NMC-coordinator. The group also had separate meetings with Arkangelsk County Transport Department and the two



The delegation on TransNaos "Belomorsk" in Krasnaya Kuznitsa area. From left: Deputy Director TransNao Yuri Ryabkov, Thrond Kjellevold, Helge Grobæk and Vladimir Kharlov.

shipping companies TransNao and Northern Shipping Company (NSC) which were very positive to this initiative. Arkangelsk Maritime Partenariat will take place on October 27-29. The main goal is to gather private companies from Russia and Northern European countries for B2B-meetings within the maritime industry and also focus on the region's strategic location for offshore oil and gas activities in the Barents Sea and further east.

EU funds to Kviteseid municipality

Telemark's Mayor Gunn Marit Helgesen had the honor of presenting Kviteseid's Mayor Torstein Tveito with a check for NOK 120 000 which was the final payment for participation in the Interreg IIIB North Sea Region programme Canal Link project. During a press conference on June 16th Kviteseid's Business Development Manager Anne Aasmundtveit said that "without participation in the Canal Link project we would not have had the opportunity to commence on such an ambitious project. The business community and municipality cooperated together and we learned how to create sub-projects and applications for regional funding." Kviteseid's activities in the project involved the development of their harbour area with a cost of 1.6 million NOK. www.canal-link.com



Telemark's Mayor Gunn Marit Helgesen congratulates Kviteseid's Mayor Torstein Tveito with successful participation in the Interreg IIIB Canal Link project.



Telemark delegation visits Bremerhaven, Germany to learn about their city and tourism development.

Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme Waterways for Growth project

In connection with the Interreg IVB North Sea Region programme project Waterways for Growth, a delegation of 14 persons from Telemark visited Bremerhaven, Germany on April 28-29, 2009. The delegation was made up of representatives from Telemark County Council, municipalities and private businesses.

Bremerhaven has built up an impressive array of tourist attractions during the previous years. A national maritime museum, a new modern hotel with large conference/event capacity, a newly renovated zoo with focus placed on its location by the sea, and finally an international tourist attraction 'Climate House', which opened in July 2009.

In addition, Bremerhaven's port harbour is also a popular tourist attraction. This port is one of the largest in Northern Europe for container handling. It is the largest German port with regards to the import and export of automobiles, as well as the largest cruise port in the country. Together with their own harbour bus, they add

50,000 to the number of visitors to Bremerhaven. Bremerhaven has a total of 1.5 million visitors per year.

After this visit, both Bremerhaven and Telemark expressed an interest to work more closely together.

Telemark is working to also link Haugesund to Bremerhaven because this west coast town in Norway also has a link to Bremerhaven through Ryan Air which has direct flights 2 times per week. Telemark via Sandefjord Torp Airport has 3 direct flights weekly to Bremerhaven.

Learn more about our cooperating partner Bremerhaven at www.bis-bremerhaven.de.

European Tourism cooperation between Telemark County Council and Haugaland Development

Telemark County Council had a preliminary meeting with Haugaland Development on May 12th in Stavanger to explore the opportunities for cooperation which the airline routes Europe – Haugesund and Europe – Torp can



From l. Thrond Kjellevoid & Mona Birgitte Rasmussen from Telemark County Council; Annette Sæther & K. Tormod Karlsen from Haugaland Development.

possibly provide. Ryan Air has 3 weekly departures between Bremerhaven and Sandefjord Torp Airports, and two weekly departures between Bremerhaven and Haugesund. These airline routes give a potential for all 3 regions which has not been fully utilized at this point. The highway E134 also links these two destinations in Norway.

The objective is by using elements in each region to

come up with a joint platform and a concurrent strategy which gives positive synergies in all three regions. This could be, for example through: the maritime sector with technology, sea and waterways, fish, culture – shanty, the size of the regions (Bremerhaven, Grenland and Haugalandet), the desire for an increase/development in the tourism industry and etc. It is a good starting point to use the Interreg IVB North Sea Region program Waterways for Growth project as a catalyst to stimulate the start of a potential long-term cooperation.

The representatives from both regions are positive towards the opportunities with which these airline routes can give and will investigate this further together through the Waterways for Growth project. Sandefjord Torp Airport – www.torp.no.

Interreg IVA Kattegat/Skagerrak programme Handling of CO² in the Kattegat/Skagerrak region project (CCS)

CCS is a project made up of Norwegian and Swedish universities/colleges, research and educational institutions and regions/county councils. The project shall uncover the basis for a joint infrastructure and solutions linked to the capture, transport and storage of CO² from large discharge points in the region. The project will also reveal the economic and technological conditions so that the industry can take advantage and use such infrastructure. Scandinavian experts in this field from discharge and capture to transport and storage are working together to find joint solutions and thereby give a significant reduction in CO² discharges to the region. Tel Tek from Telemark with Dag

Bjørnsen is the project manager. The project has a budget of EUR 1 299 117. The project period is 2.5 years. The project partners are Chalmers Technical College, Tel Tek, Telemark University College, University of Oslo, Innovation Norway, Vestfold County Council, Telemark County Council, University of Gothenburg, Vastra Gotaland region, Energy authorities. Link to Tel Tek at www.tel-tek.no.

Interreg IVA Kattegat/Skagerrak programme (IKON) Interregional Culture Discovery Network

IKON is a cooperation project made up of 47 partners from municipalities, county councils, regions, tourism organizations, museums, and universities in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The project has the objective to strengthen the tourist industry in the region, increase competence and break down barriers. This will occur through a focus on information strategies, innovation, mediation, joint activities/events and joint marketing. The activities in the project will also help to increase the total number of visitors to the various destinations by 350,000 per year, strengthen all-year round tourism and create knowledge based culture experiences. The project has a budget of EUR 8 156 625 and has a project period of 3 years. Kragerø municipality, Telemark museum and Telemark County Council are participating in this project from Telemark.

Pre-study projects in Telemark:

Tuddal – a centre in Europe

Project period 01/03/09-01/10/09

The objective with the pre-study is to investigate if it is possible to create a concrete cooperation with the Bremen region in Germany with regards to the initiatives taking place in the work in Tuddal with 'From rural area to country town', as well as to find possible stakeholders with resources and means who could be interested to participate in a further development of such a cooperation. This project is linked to the Interreg IVB Waterways for Growth project. The pre-study has two themes:

- To conclude who should be active partners in the continued work with 'Tuddal – a centre in Europe' and contribute with resources through internationalization and a potential cooperation with Bremen/Bremerhaven region.



- To identify international, regional and local objectives - Bremerhaven/Bremen – Tuddal/Telemark. To identify the scope and investigate actual initiatives within the suggested project activities mentioned in the project plan 'From rural area to country town'. This concerns both public and private initiatives. Link to Tuddal at www.tuddal turist.no.

Telemark Heritage - Incoming Tourists

Project period 01/05/09-01/11/09

The objective for the pre-project is:

- To participate at the Norsk Høstfest 2009 in Minot, North Dakota, USA which is North America's largest Scandinavian festival. This includes assisting at the Skien/Telemark stand at the exhibition area.
- Strengthen the letter of intent between Telemark Heritage, Telemark County Council and Telemark University College work towards Minot State University.
- Assist in strengthening the link between Norwegian national authorities, Norsk Høstfest, Minot State University, state authorities in North Dakota and Minnesota.
- Work towards a student exchange between Søve High School and an appropriate school in Minot, ND with contribution from the Rotary clubs in Minot and Ulefoss/Skien.
- Survey, investigate the interest and scope amongst municipalities and other stakeholders, as well as strengthen the work which has for many years been done by "Telemark Heritage" and Skien municipality.

Link to Telemark Heritage at

www.heritagetelemark.no/eng. – Link to Norsk Høstfest at www.hostfest.com.

Local Open Days 2009 Event – Klosterøya



Last year's local Open Days event at Klosterøya was a success! They have taken on the challenge once again this year and are planning a new local Open Days event at Klosterøya on October 20th.

This event will show how Open Innovation can be enabled and how regional clusters in different sectors can collaborate to enable increased regional attractiveness, entrepreneurship, transnational cooperation and development of new knowledge intensive sustainable industries.

The event will take place in inspiring surroundings on Klosterøya in the City of Skien, an island with fascinating heritage history, now in the process of being transformed from paper industry to a place for innovative knowledge industry, culture and recreation. In one of the former industrial buildings the evening seminars will give the participants an overview of what the different partners have to offer, and how they work both to attract and support entrepreneurs. The welcome speech will be held by Telemark's Mayor Gunn Marit Helgesen, President of the North Sea Commission and 1st Vice President of CPMR. The seminars include presentations from the Director of Klosterøya AS and the Mayor of Municipality of Skien. There will be one plenary session in the morning and up to five parallel sessions after lunch. IKT-Grenland will present the ongoing work on creating a network of Open innovation centres in the North Sea area and the work to enable international intercluster collaboration. Finally there will be an open session with debate, questions and conclusion, where a speaker from the Commission (DG INFISO) also will be invited. Jochem Schottler, Tourism Manager from Bremerhaven, Germany will inform about the successful tourism cluster development which has taken place there during the past 5 years.

This event is being arranged in cooperation between IKT-Grenland, Vekst i Grenland, Klosterøya AS, Made in Grenland, Municipality of Skien, Telemark County Council, Innovation Norway, Oslo Region European Office, Papirbredden Innovation, and Buskerud County Council.

More information: Made in Grenland –

www.madeingrenland.no

IKT Grenland – www.iktgrenland.no/

Open Days 2009 Brussels event –

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2009/index.cfm.

Link to Norway's local events: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2009/local.cfm

Funding from Telemark County Council to international projects/initiatives

NOK 15 000 to Skien High School for a visit to Skien/Norway from their friendship school in Rouen, France.

NOK 50 000 to IKT Grenland for the pre-study 'North Sea Connect – Pre-project Norway' and development of



an Interreg IVB North Sea Region Program application for the Activate project.

NOK 25 000 to Morgedal Development AS and Norwegian Ski Museum for participation at a large ski convention in Munich, Germany in connection with the pre-study project 'Morgedal – Telemark Skiing and an international network'.

NOK 25 000 to Der du Bor Grenland for the development of an application in the EU program 'Active Youth'.

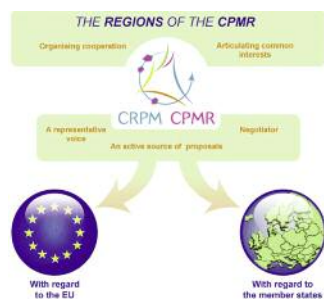
NOK 50 000 to Hjordal municipality for the pre-study project 'Tuddal – a centre in Europe'.

Arenas

Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) – www.crpm.org

1st Vice President of CPMR – Gunn Marit Helgesen (Mayor of Telemark County)

The CPMR includes 159 regions from 29 countries and has two central tasks. On the one hand the CPMR



supports its members to cooperate together and develop their projects among themselves. On the other hand CPMR is the representative for the participating regions on a political level.

“The CPMR lobbies national governments and European institutions to take aboard the positions adopted by it members.”

Assembly of European Regions (AER)

www.a-e-r.org

At a glance: The Assembly of European Regions is Europe’s biggest independent network for regions. It was established in 1985 and incorporates more than 270 regions from 33 countries, amongst others the regions Akershus, Oslo, Buskerud, Hedmark, Hordaland, Nordland, Oppland, Østfold, Telemark, Troms and Vestfold from Norway.

Divided in three committees – Committee 1 Economy and Regional development; Committee 2 Social Policy

and Public Health, Committee 3 Culture, Education and Youth – is the AER aimed at the following:

- “Promote the principle of subsidiarity and regional democracy;
- Increase the regions’ political influence within the European institutions;
- Support the regions in the process of European enlargement and globalisation;
- Facilitate interregional cooperation across wider Europe and beyond.” (www.aer.eu)

The new strategic plan for the years 2007-2012 was adopted by the General assembly in 2006/ Mallorca. Its main key priorities are:

- “Promoting the modernisation and internationalisation of Regional governance
- Promoting innovation, growth and employment in Europe’s regions.
- Addressing the challenges of demographic change, Health, Migration and Social Exclusion.
- Ensuring sustainable development and combating environmental degradation.
- Delivering democracy through diversity, and promoting the diversity of culture, media and education.
- Creating a secure environment for citizens” (www.aer.eu)

North Sea Commission (NSC) –

www.northsea.org

NSC President Gunn Marit Helgesen (Mayor of Telemark County)

NSC secretariat – Telemark County Council



The NSC was founded 20 years ago and comprises over 55 regions from 8 different North Sea states which share the aim to develop and improve the cooperation between the different North Sea regions. The NSC is divided into the NSC Secretariat and five thematic groups: 1. Culture & Tourism Group; 2. Innovation & Education Group; 3. Sustainable Development Group; 4. Marine Resources Group and 5. Transport Group. In charge of the secretariat is Telemark County Council.

“The North Sea Commission is one of seven Commissions under the umbrella of the conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions”



The 2009 North Sea Commission General Assembly in The Netherlands. From left: Cees Veerman, Former President of the Governmental Commission for Sustainable Coastal Development and Former Dutch Minister of Agriculture; Conservation and Fisheries, Joe Borg, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs; Gunn Marit Helgesen, President of the North Sea Commission are given thanks for their speeches by NSC Vice President Rinske Kruisinga of Provincie Nord Holland.

The 2009 North Sea Commission General Assembly/Interreg North Sea Region Programme Annual Conference was hosted by Provincie Noord-Holland, The Netherlands

There were approximately 350 participants who attended this joint event which had the topic of ‘Sustainable Innovation’ and focused on the social and environmental dimensions of innovation in the context of transnational cooperation and the European policy framework. The event was held at Egmond aan Zee/Haarlem in the Netherlands from June 24-26. The conference marks the main annual event of the North Sea Region Programme 2007-2013,

which aims to expand the scope of transnational cooperation and facilitate relevant and innovative projects for the North Sea Region. www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/events/show/&tid=44

The NSC General Assembly had some of the following results: Cllr. Rinske Kruisinga and Cllr. Sandy Cluness were re-elected as NSC Vice-Presidents for the period 2009-2011. New members of the Executive Committee were elected. A resolution on a Cod Recovery plan was adopted and has been sent to DG Mare. The NSC will start to prepare for a "North Sea Strategy" and seek cooperation with all relevant stakeholders of the North Sea Region. www.northsea.org



Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation (BSSSC) – www.bsssc.com



BSSSC maritime seminar participants held recently in Lübeck, Germany.

At the BSSSC board meeting in Hamburg on 3rd February 2009 the new action plan for the period 2009-2010 was adopted. It includes the following key priorities areas:

- Science and Education
“BSSSC regards education and science as key elements for the further development of the Baltic Sea Region. BSSSC will support all efforts to strengthen European research within the BSR by supporting border crossing cooperation in the field of science.”
- Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Strategy of the EU
“Continue to accompany the drafting and implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy actively and constructively. In particular, BSSSC will offer a forum for its member regions and other stakeholders involved to discuss content and implementation.”
- Maritime Policy
“BSSSC will continue its commitment for an ambitious implementation of the European Maritime Policy in the Baltic Sea Region and to develop the BSR into Europe’s maritime best practice region by 2015.”
- Climate Change and Sustainable Development
“BSSSC underlines the need to coordinate and co-operate on strategies to achieve at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.”
- Youth
“Being a cornerstone of future development in the Baltic Sea Region, youth policy is given high priority

by BSSSC. Youth exchange and youth initiatives are important factors for creating a common space of successful co-operation in the BSR. The main goals of the Working Group Youth (WGY) are: Solidarity and co-operation, democracy and participation, mobility and full growth of young persons.”

- Better use of EU Programmes for projects in the BSR
“BSSSC will develop strategies to influence the contents and goals of EU programmes and thereby support the interests of the Baltic sea Regions.”
- Public Health and Quality of Life
“BSSSC has become a partner in the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and social well-being, and intends to establish a Working Group on Public Health.”
- Co-operation with Russia
“BSSSC underlines that the potential of the Baltic Sea region can only be fully developed in co-operation with Russia, as Russia participates in the positive development of the Region.”
- Transport and Infrastructure
BSSSC continues to support the development of the project “TransBaltic-Towards an integrated transport system in the Baltic Sea Region” as a flagship-project in the framework of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy.”

For more detailed information please read the whole work plan: www.bsssc.com

Euromontana – www.euromontana.org

Euromontana is a European association for mountain areas. At the moment it is including regional and national mountain organisations, regional development agencies, local authorities, agriculture organisations, environmental agencies, forestry organisations and research institutes from 17 different countries.

“Euromontana’s mission is to promote living mountains, integrated and sustainable development and quality of life in mountain areas.” (www.euromontana.org)

To read Euromontana response to “the Green paper on territorial cohesion” from 26. February 2009, follow this link: <http://www.euromontana.org/#>

Norway Mountain Region Cooperation (NMRC) – www.fjellregionsamarbeidet.no

The Norwegian Mountain Region Cooperation carried out their annual conference with an advisory meeting at



Telemark representatives who attended the Norwegian Mountain Region Cooperation annual meeting.

Savalen in Nord-Østerdalen on June 3-5. With snow and cold temperatures, the participants realized that mountain region climates can be harsh even in the summer months! More info about the conference and the activities of this organization can be found at (in Norwegian only): http://fjellregionsamarbeidet.no/index.php/arbeidsomrader/enkeltsak/arskonferanse_og_radsmtte_i_snsikre_omgjevnaer/

The Norwegian Mountain Region Cooperation has a close relationship to the European organization – Euromontana which is planning an event called: «Europe's mountain bonus: how communities and land management provides positive externalities and the related policies and opportunities » More info at: http://www.euromontana.org/English/events/conference_Arantzazu_EN.htm

Oslo Region European Office (ORE) – www.osloregion.org

The Oslo Region European Office offers for its members interdisciplinary supporting in the European regional cooperation. In connection with the annual “Open days” in Brussels the ORE invites to a “Politikerkurs” the 05. October 2009. The course is appropriate for politicians from all the ORE members who want to learn more about the EU/EEA, structure, tasks and responsibilities and its relevance for the regional and local level.

Themes will be:

- EU institutions, structure, decision-making and distribution of power
- The EU's political agenda
- EEA Agreement opportunities, constraints, and bindings for Norwegian municipalities and counties



- EU-applications for Norwegian actors
- Regional cooperation in Europe

For further information see: www.opendays.europa.eu
and the homepage from ORE.

**Telemark and Hubei Province
Friendship Agreement
Norway-Hubei Week 2009 in
Telemark from September 7-10.**



Hubei and Telemark representatives meet in Telemark to discuss final preparations to Hubei-Norway Week 2009.

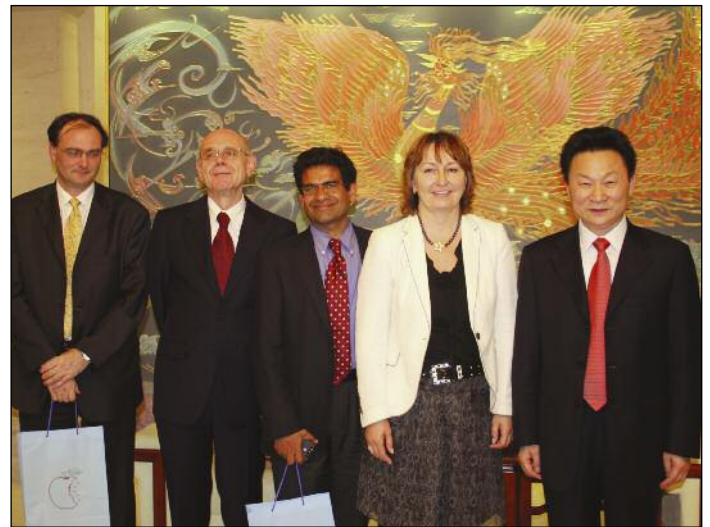
Just a few weeks now before the large Hubei-Norway Week 2009 event takes place in Telemark from Sept 7-10. Mr. Qian, Deputy Director of General office of Hubei Provincial Government together with Mr. Hou, Mr. Yang and Ms Lu, from Hubei came to make the last preparations for Hubei-Norway Week 2009 with Norwegian representatives, Let's Travel, Grenland Theater and Telemark Province. Hubei Province has decided to send 11 delegations to participate in Norway-Hubei Week 2009 which includes a delegation with 3 TV stations.

Hubei Province has sent out an invitation to all of their friendship regions in Europe; Horraine region and Aquitaine region from France, Gelderland Province from Holland, and the free state of Saxony from Germany as well as Dalarna Province from Sweden. All the friendship regions will attend a round table meeting on Sept. 7th.

Telemark Province is excited to host this important event. Remember to register your participation for Hubei-

Norway Week 2009 at www.norway-hubei.net. Everyone who is interested in building bridges between Europe and China are welcome to attend.

“Call for a Green China”, Wuhan 2009



Counsellor Gunn Marit Helgesen of Telemark Province, opened the Wuhan event in May ‘Call for a Green China’ on behalf of the Norwegian government.

Counsellor Gunn Marit Helgesen of Telemark Province, opened the Wuhan event in May ‘Call for a Green China’ on behalf of the Norwegian government. She emphasized that climate change is a global challenge on the agenda for scientists, NGOs and politicians at all levels. Research is the key to identify the best strategies to meet these challenges.

The multi-city event combined environmental awareness-raising with international dialogue on environmental planning and protection through cultural performance and conference activities held in succession in four cities across China. These cities were Shanghai, Nanjing, Wuhan, and Changsha, four major economic centers in East (Shanghai and Nanjing), Central (Wuhan), and South (Changsha) China. The four conferences and four performances will be hosted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People’s Republic of China and the World Bank, and sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Embassy to the People’s Republic of China. The conferences featured a mix of international, national, and provincial and municipal experts, as well as officials from related government departments.



Green Ibsen International Symposium Held in Wuhan, China

On May 19, Green Ibsen International Symposium was held in Hubei, China. Over 100 scholars from Norway, Korea and China gathered at Central China Normal University (CCNU), discussing the relationship between Henrik Ibsen's works and environment and interpreting his works in the perspective of eco-criticism.

Mr. Svein O. Sæther, the Ambassador to China, opened the symposium with remarks. He said Ibsen wrote *An Enemy of the People* in 1882 and it is a reminder that questions concerning the environment are something we have struggled with in many countries for a long time. In the opening ceremony, Ms. Gunn Marit Helgesen, the Counsellor of Telemark Province where Ibsen was born,

introduced Ibsen's works and explained why he has been rooted in Norwegians' minds. In the address to the participants, the Humanities School, CCNU, Prof. Hu Yamin said Ibsen not only belongs to Norway, but also to the world; not only to the nineteenth century, but also to the present and the future of mankind.

Education / Schools

International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) in Grenland from 2011

The Telemark politicians in the Committee for Education agreed that an International Baccalaureate Diploma should be a reality from the fall of 2011. This is an inter-



Telemark Province Counsellor Gunn Marit Helgesen (3rd from left) was a speaker at the Green Ibsen International Symposium in Wuhan, China.



TELEMARK
FYLKESKOMMUNE

Contact:
Telemark fylkeskommune's International Team,
Telemark County Council, Fylkeshuset, 3706 Skien, Norway.
Tel.: +47 35 58 42 00 – Fax: +47 35 52 99 55
www.telemark.no/international
Editor: Dawn Syvertsen, dawn.syvertsen@t-fk.no

nationally recognized education with high quality. The classes are taught in English and the courses are internationally focused. It is a 2 year program (equivalent to junior and senior high school years). This program coincides with Telemark County Council's international engagement and the county's plan of action for 2009. There are currently 20 high schools in Norway that offer this IB diploma. This will be a real added value to the high school selection here in Telemark especially considering that there are increasingly more residents with an international background who are settling here. Link to more information about a similar IB program at Kongsberg High School.

<http://www.kongsberg.vgs.no/modules/studietilbud.aspx?ObjectType=Article&ElementID=4454&Category.ID=3023>