

ANU Indigenous Dialogue

The Saami

Mr Pekka Aikio

President, Saami Parliament, Finland

Mr Jan Henry Keskitalo

Director, Saami Special Education Support, Norway



Master of Ceremonies, Professor Ian Chubb AO, Vice-Chancellor, ANU

Chaired by Professor Mick Dodson AM, National Centre for Indigenous Studies, ANU

Wednesday, 4 May 2005, 5.00–7.00pm (followed by refreshments)

National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge Street (bldg 67C), The Australian National University

This lecture is free and open to the public. Enquiries: (02) 6125 6708 or 6125 2906

Please RSVP: rsvpsaami@law.anu.edu.au

The ANU hosts a continuing dialogue amongst Indigenous people throughout the world so that they can share understandings of common problems and engage with the broader community. This is the third event in the dialogue series and will focus on the Saami people and issues of key importance to them, including landrights, self-determination, education and governance.

The Saami people live in four countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. They number around one hundred thousand, with ten different languages. The Saami traditionally have lived in what is now called a 'sustainable' way. There is a growing interest in, and respect for, Indigenous and traditional knowledge and especially the Saami's sustainable relationship with nature. Governments are now realising the importance of supporting Saami to maintain traditional ways of life, including traditional reindeer-herding and fishing practices.

THE SPEAKERS

Mr Pekka Aikio has been President of the Saami Parliament in Finland since 1996, and a Member of the Saami Parliament since 1976. Mr Aikio comes from a family of traditional Saami reindeer herders. Since obtaining a degree in Zoology, Mr Aikio has continued to work and write extensively on reindeer herding and Saami culture, and has held a number of posts in these fields, including: Director, Nordic Saami Institute, Kautokeino, Norway; Head, Division for the study of Northern Cultures, Research Institute of Northern Finland, Lapland Unit in Rovaniemi, University of Oulu; Member, The Board of the Arctic Centre, University of Lapland; and Chairman of the international Scientific Advisory Board for the Institute of the Environmental and Minority Law, the University of Lapland, Rovaniemi.

Mr Jan Henry Keskitalo is Director of Saami Special Education Support, a nationwide service organised as a department at Saami University College, Norway. He holds the position as Chair of the Board of the Resource Centre for Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was founded by the Norwegian Government as a professionally independent institution, and funded by two Ministries; the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Keskitalo is also a governor of the University of the Arctic, a network of 72 Circumpolar (North) Universities and University Colleges.