

## Press Release 26 November 2015

**Chief Vyacheslav Shadrin** of Russia is one

of the six laureates of the 2015 Paul Karl Feyerabend Award. In a small ceremony at the UNESCO premises on November 27, in Paris, Chief Shadrin will receive the Award from the hands of **Pernilla Malmer** of Sweden, one



of the Nominators of the

PKF Foundation. The P.K. Feyerabend Award—“*A World of Solidarity is Possible*” is offered to mark exceptionally successful work favouring solidarity within or between communities. The prize, which comprises a plaque and a financial sum, acknowledges and encourages remarkable accomplishments that represent true sources of inspiration. The Paul Karl Feyerabend Foundation is based in Switzerland and has supported 40 community solidarity initiatives and offered the Award 21 times since 2006. Chief Shadrin is offered one of the 2015 PKF Awards ex-aequo with Tapio Kalli of Finland.

Chief Shadrin is Chairperson of the Yukaghir Council of Elders of the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia, in Siberia, Russia. As leader of his own Yukaghir indigenous people and Vice President of the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East for Yakutia he has systematically advanced the culture of the indigenous peoples and communities of the Far East of Russia since the last days of the Soviet Union.

Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Chief Shadrin has been instrumental in supporting Yukaghir’s traditional culture and language issues and, since the new millennium, has been constantly on the move to promote the larger movement of indigenous peoples, including Even, Evenk, Chukchi, Dolgan and Yukaghir peoples across the region in Yakutia, Chukotka, Magadan and Khabarovsk. Tirelessly travelling every week to distant indigenous communities in the tundra and taiga regions, Chief Shadrin learns about the problems of such communities and takes their issues forwards to the authorities and responsible bodies. He has provided leadership to international projects that dealt with issues as diverse as conservation of biodiversity, traditional knowledge, adaptation to climate change, solar energy and reindeer herding. This included the UNEP-GEF ECORA project in Lower Kolyma. Currently, he coordinates regional work with the Snowchange Cooperative, with whom he is engaged in numerous initiatives dealing with the preservation of indigenous culture, language and traditional knowledge.

Chief Shadrin, who has published in international journals on the questions of traditional knowledge, is an accomplished historian and researcher with the Institute of Humanities of the Russian Academy of Sciences. **Terence Hay-Edie** of Switzerland, the other Nominator of the Paul Karl Feyerabend Foundation who will introduce the work of the Foundation at the ceremony, has praised Chief Shadrin for his long-term commitment to maintaining alive communities through language and traditional knowledge. “It is this kind of patient and courageous work”—he said— “that bonds

communities together, makes life worth living and links peoples to their environment in positive and constructive ways.”

For more information:

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The ceremony will take place at UNESCO, Friday 27 November, 6 pm.