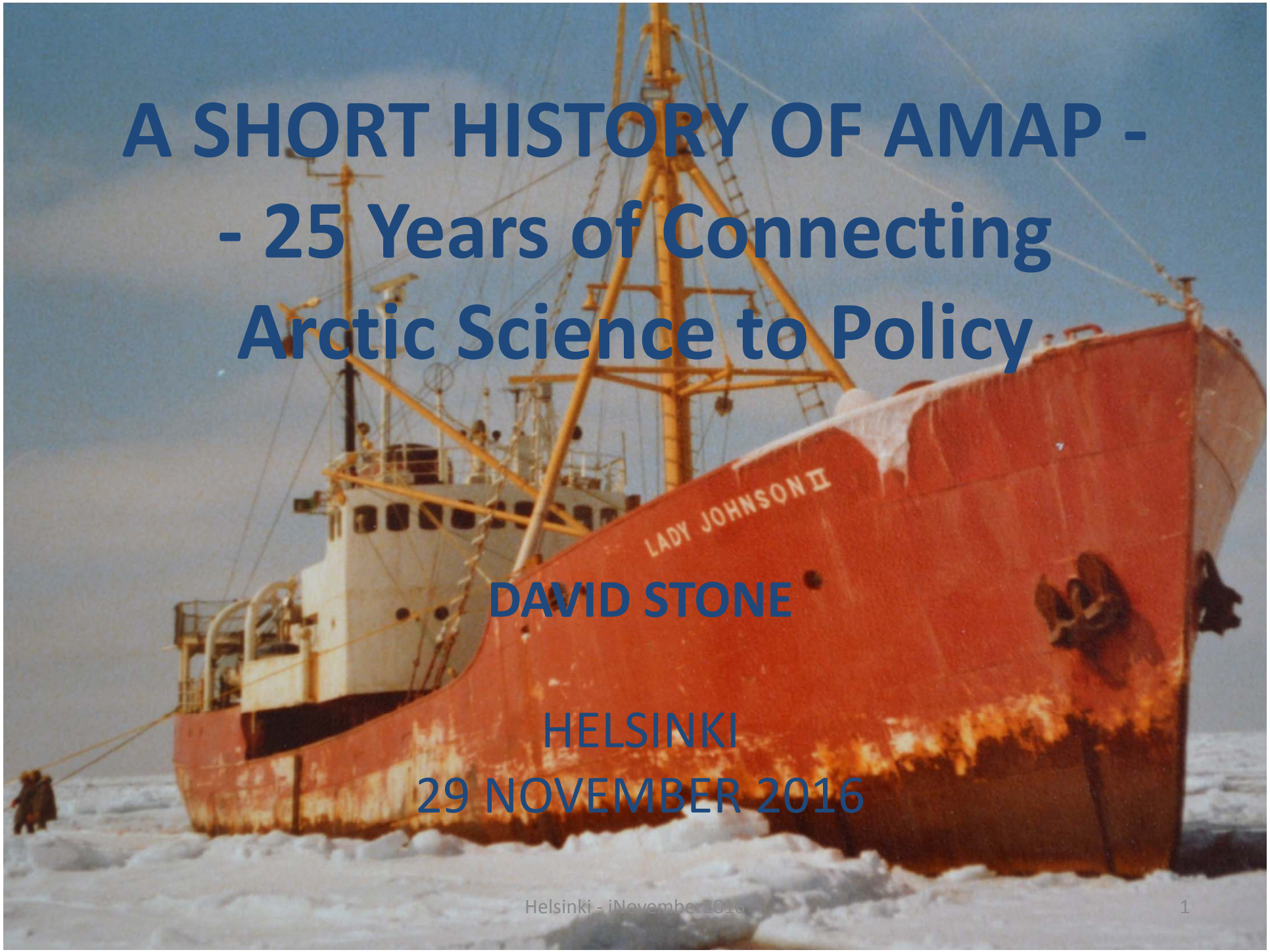
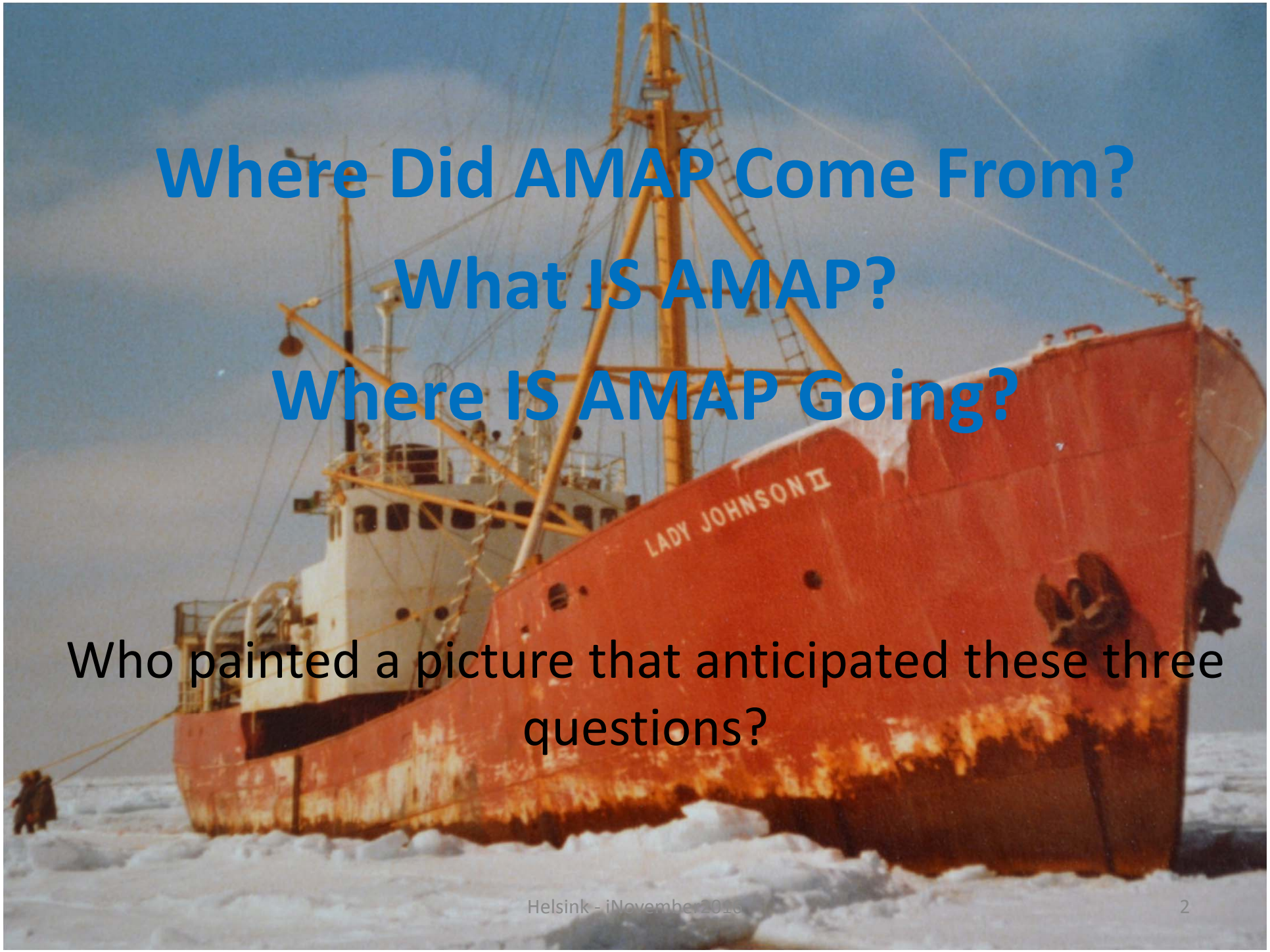


A SHORT HISTORY OF AMAP - - 25 Years of Connecting Arctic Science to Policy

DAVID STONE

HELSINKI
29 NOVEMBER 2016

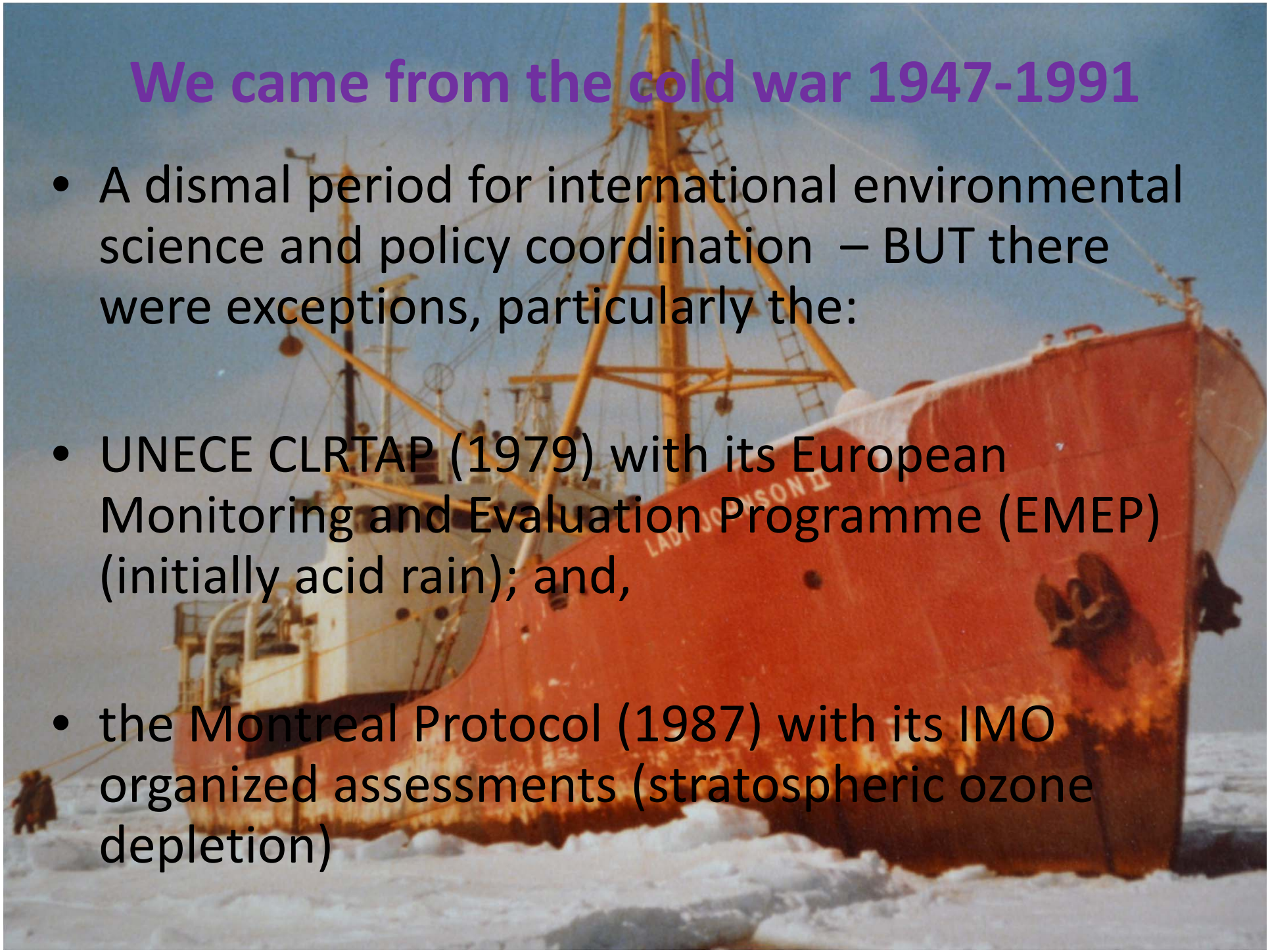


Where Did AMAP Come From?

What IS AMAP?

Where IS AMAP Going?

Who painted a picture that anticipated these three questions?



We came from the cold war 1947-1991

- A dismal period for international environmental science and policy coordination – BUT there were exceptions, particularly the:

- UNECE CLRTAP (1979) with its European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) (initially acid rain); and,

- the Montreal Protocol (1987) with its IMO organized assessments (stratospheric ozone depletion)

AND - We came from a speech delivered in Murmansk (1987)

Mikhail Gorbachev outlined proposals for a joint Pan - Arctic circumpolar plan to protect the Arctic environment, supported by a circumpolar environmental monitoring programme.

And - we came from Finnish Initiative (Rovaniemi Process)

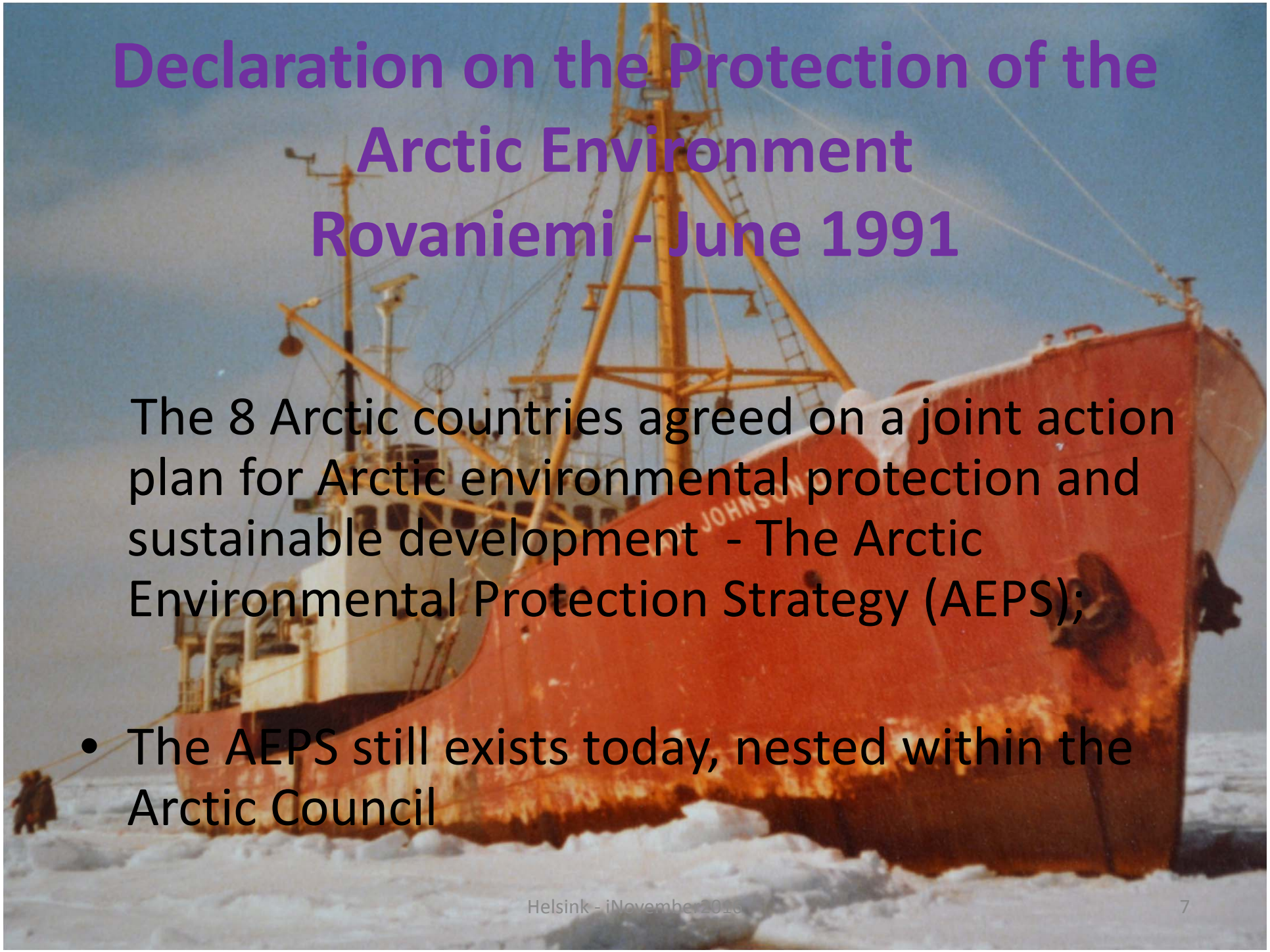
- January 1989 - Finland (Kalevi Sorsa and Kaj Barlund) noted that the 8 Arctic Countries share responsibility for the Arctic environment.

  They proposed;
- Joint action to protect the Arctic. Actions to be implemented by an international agreement or strategy;
- Invited Arctic Environmental Ministers for consultations in Finland to explore possibilities.

Rovaniemi Process (2)

- As part of the process, Norway hosted consultations 1989-91 to frame possible content and structure of an Arctic monitoring programme;
- State of Environment Reports prepared on Acidification, Heavy Metals, Underwater Noise, Oil, Organochlorines, and radioactivity to help set priorities;
- November 1990. Lars-Otto Reiersen chaired the crucial meeting at the Hotel Bristol (Oslo). The output detirmined the mandate of the future monitoring programme.

Declaration on the Protection of the Arctic Environment Rovaniemi - June 1991



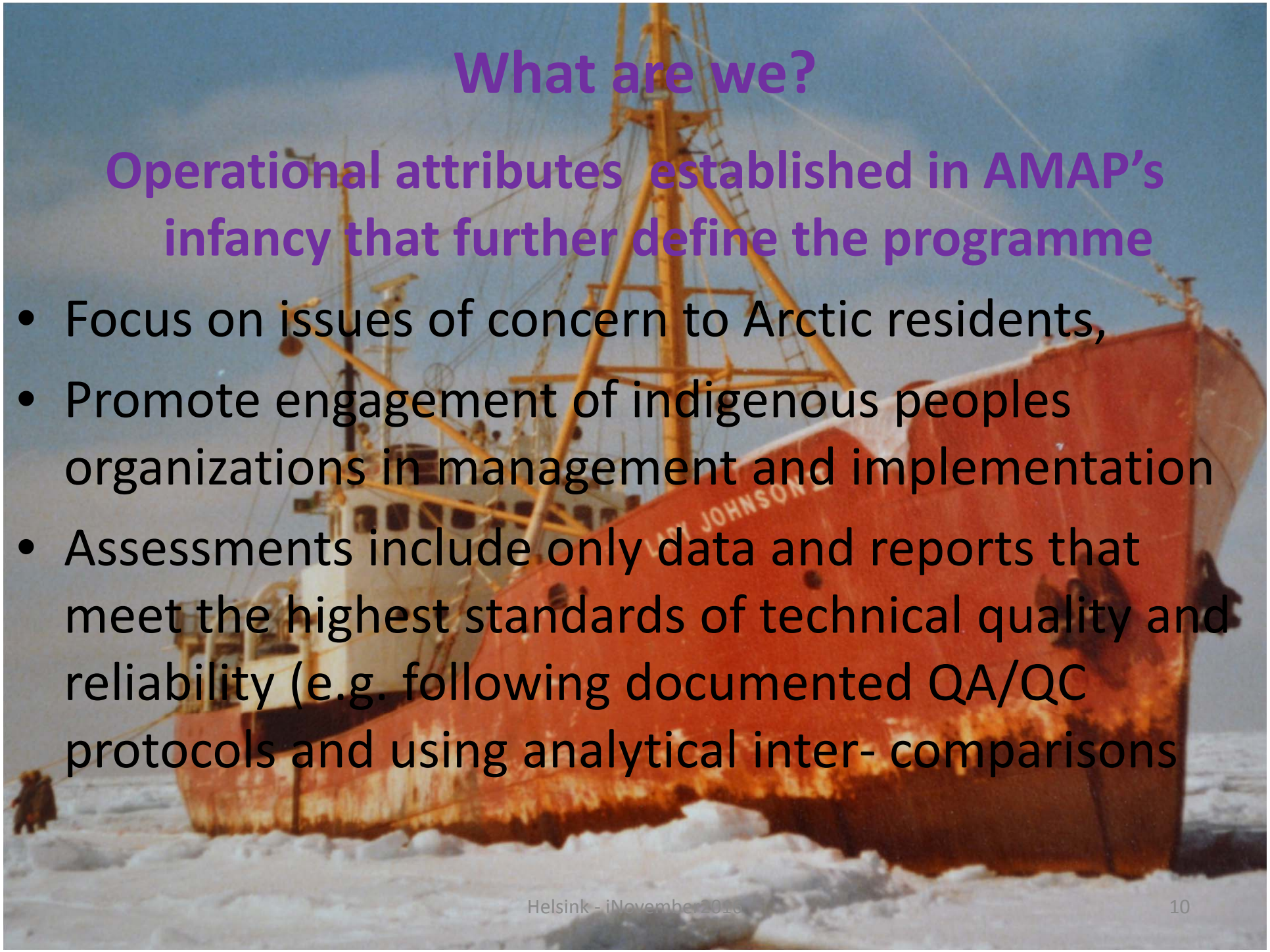
The 8 Arctic countries agreed on a joint action plan for Arctic environmental protection and sustainable development - The Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS);

- The AEPS still exists today, nested within the Arctic Council

Rovaniemi Declaration 1991 –Primary attributes of AMAP

- AEPS Actions included setting up AMAP to understand and document Arctic environmental **change** in order that: ***monitoring results*** *may be used to* ***anticipate*** *adverse biological, chemical, and physical* ***changes to the ecosystem*** *and to* ***prevent, minimize and mitigate adverse effects;***
- To regularly provide Ministers with trusted assessments and recommendations;
- **AMAP – the Arctic Messenger - had been born, providing an instrument specifically designed to inform circumpolar environmental policy**

Quiz: It was Paul Gauguin giving his record of the first meeting of the AMAP Working Group



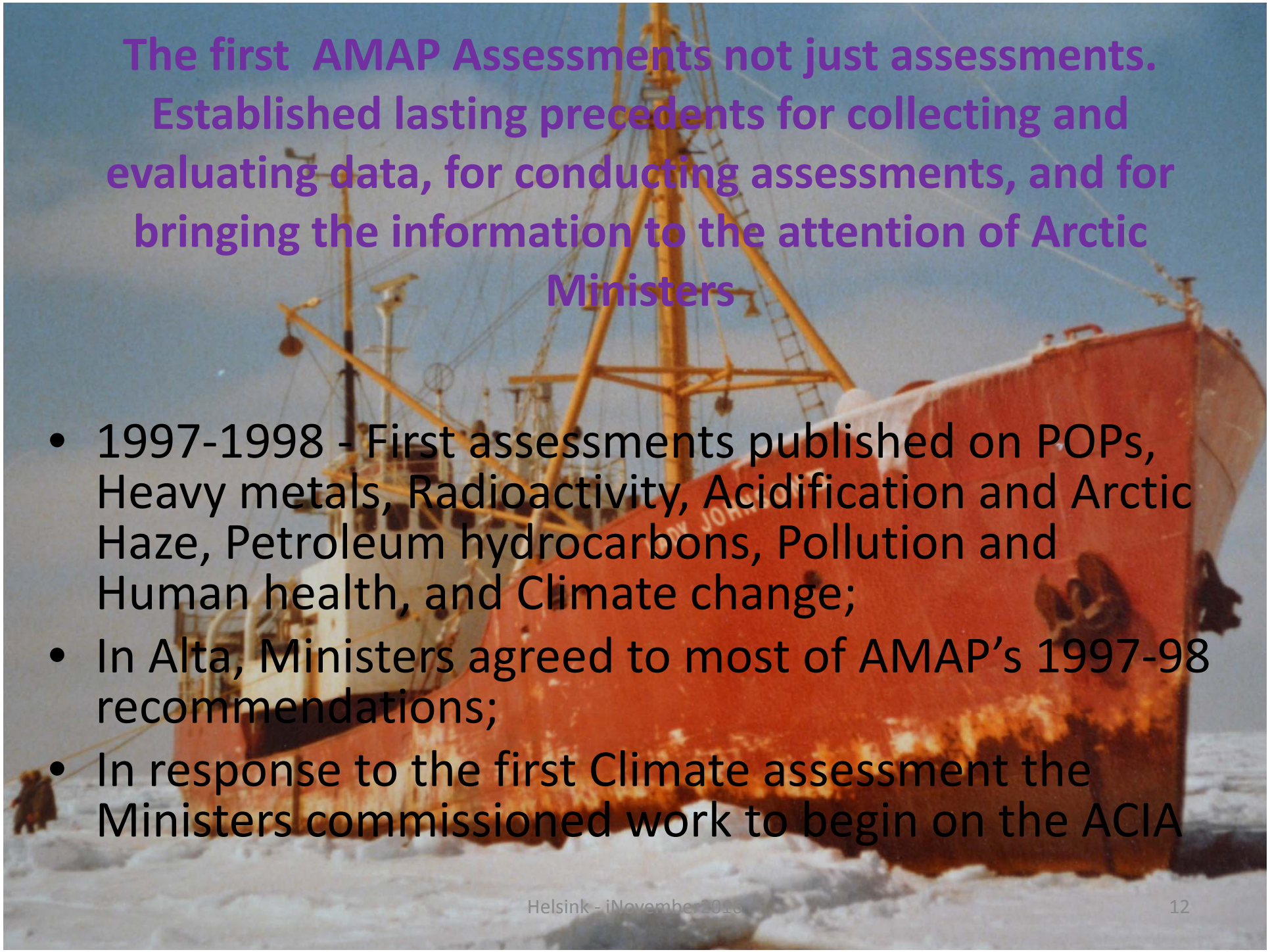
What are we?

Operational attributes established in AMAP's infancy that further define the programme

- Focus on issues of concern to Arctic residents,
- Promote engagement of indigenous peoples organizations in management and implementation
- Assessments include only data and reports that meet the highest standards of technical quality and reliability (e.g. following documented QA/QC protocols and using analytical inter- comparisons

Basic attributes (2)

- Peer review of all assessments;
- Achieve a balance between new blood and continuity in forming international assessment teams;
- Promote operational flexibility in selecting and operating projects with multiple stakeholders within the Arctic Council and internationally (e.g. LRTAP Convention, UNEP, Nordic and Barents Councils, and the IPCC)



The first AMAP Assessments not just assessments. Established lasting precedents for collecting and evaluating data, for conducting assessments, and for bringing the information to the attention of Arctic Ministers

- 1997-1998 - First assessments published on POPs, Heavy metals, Radioactivity, Acidification and Arctic Haze, Petroleum hydrocarbons, Pollution and Human health, and Climate change;
- In Alta, Ministers agreed to most of AMAP's 1997-98 recommendations;
- In response to the first Climate assessment the Ministers commissioned work to begin on the ACIA

Examples of AMAP's role in bringing science to policy action

- Negotiation of the LRTAP Protocols on POPs and Heavy Metals, the Stockholm Convention on POPs, and the Minamata Convention on Mercury fueled by AMAP assessments;
- Provides much of the information used for the effectiveness evaluation of the POPs agreements and for their procedures to add substances;
- International cooperation to remove or diminish risks of radioactive discharge into Arctic Ocean;
- Link to creation of the University of the Arctic.

Science to policy action (2)

- Contribution of ACIA and SWIPA becomes very significant in IPCC AR 4 and 5
- Growing concern for Arctic in Washington DC (e.g. 2013 National Strategy for the Arctic Region, the September 28 2016 Arctic Science Ministerial), and;
- In Brussels (e.g. EU-DG Research Horizon 2020)

WHAT ARE WE? – Did we get it right?

Quote from the late Terry Fenge:

"……AMAP is hugely successful. …….. those assessments are of world class quality. Now why is that possible? It's possible in part because the government of Norway has bank rolled AMAP since its beginning. There is massive continuity there. There is continuity of personnel,……..It is AMAP that effectively has provided the information on the database for UNEP in 2002 to pass a resolution effectively characterizing the Arctic as the world's climate change barometer".

Regional Governments in International Affairs Lessons from the Arctic. Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto September 2015

Where are we going?
Personal thoughts on the future

- Climate change to dominate the agenda;
- Huge demand for refining knowledge of (inter alia): mechanisms of Arctic climate change; the state of change and trends; implications for the Arctic; building Arctic community resilience and adaptation; and on studying how teleconnections are leading or may lead to effects and impacts at lower latitudes;
- Would AMAP consider assessing the Arctic implications of one or more RCPs? It could be a critical contribution for adaptation strategies;

Where are we going? More thoughts (2)

- Appetite for trusted assessments will amplify need for more and more quality assured and geographically diverse interdisciplinary data;
- Assessment data should continue to include traditional knowledge, and draw on physical, biological, health, social, economic, and civil engineering sciences;
- AMAP to remain at the heart of implementation of SAON, the nascent "Agreement on Enhancing Arctic Scientific Cooperation" and the biennial AOS

Where are we going? (3)

- All Arctic environmental data to be available to open access and for use by AMAP.
- AMAP retains a unique "*science to policy*" mandate in the Arctic . This status could be enhanced if these words appeared as a logo in AMAP publications and in the titles of AMAP conferences. The upcoming International Conference on Arctic Science: Bringing Knowledge to Action 24-27 April 2017 (Reston, USA) may be a model.

Where are we going? Final thoughts

- AMAP to be free to enter into joint partnerships with observer states and organizations that possess Arctic expertise, infrastructure and data;
- Terry Fenge reminded us that much of the success of AMAP can be attributed to a stable and enlightened Secretariat. However the increasing complexity and volume of the Arctic Climate agenda will provide great stress on the Secretariat's human resources;

AND

- **Never forget those 25 year old AMAP attributes**!

Thank you Finland, for starting it all with the AEPS

Thank you Norway, for giving us the "autonomous" AMAP Secretariat

Thank you all for listening today

Congratulations AMAP at 25 years.
Time for the working group to celebrate!