

The Greenlandic Ice Sheet – a symbol of a global climate threat

The greatest threats to mankind sometimes make their way to the headline of the news service. One example is the new studies and scientific reports on the human impact on the climate of the Earth. Even small changes in climate will have major implications for the future of the opportunities of humanity on the Earth.

Climate change is a natural phenomenon that mankind never will get complete control of. Right now we are focused on how climate change in the near future will affect our everyday lives. Researchers are now able to with reasonable certainty to conclude that climate change will remove the livelihood of humans in many regions around the globe.

The main symbol of this threat to human survival on our planet is the Greenlandic Ice Sheet. Many international forums debating the effects of climate change and what we can do about these nature phenomena are now being held in Greenland. Many leaders have first-hand in Greenland with their own eyes watched how changes already are visible on the Greenlandic Ice

Sheet.

Humanity has previously experienced dramatic disasters in the form of climate changes. And these changes have also caused major consequences for the people on the edge of the Greenlandic Ice Sheet. A fairly warm period until the early 1300s had made the Norse to settle in Greenland.

The climate was mild, waters rich in fish and the soil fertile. 3-5,000 northerners came to settle along the west coast of Greenland. But, research indicates that drastic climate changes were the reason why the Norse again disappeared at the start of the 1400s.

The climate changes then was not man-made, but scientists believe that it was changes in the cosmic radiation, which created what we now call the Little Ice Age.

This day in December 2013 I travelled by a Dash-8 aeroplane from Narsarsuaq to Kangerlussuaq. From my seat, I feel that the Greenland ice sheet seems as eternal and endless as always.



The Greenlandic Ice Sheet, The Westcoast of Greenland, December 2013