

I applied with my master thesis at NTNU “Study of mercury, sulfur and natural organic matter in Arctic soil.” for the Miljøringen studentship in 2014. Thanks to the studentship I was able to participate at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant. The conference took place on Jeju Island (South Korea) from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June this year.

In my master project I analyze the mercury content of soils sampled on Spitsbergen and the possible relation with further soil parameters such as sulfur and natural organic matter content. This thesis is part of a bigger project to gain more information on the biogeochemical cycling of mercury in the Arctic.

The conference started with a social welcoming to meet participants from all over the world. In the following five days oral presentations, poster and plenary sessions were held around mercury. The topics that were presented and discussed were, amongst others, quality assurance in measurements, biogeochemical cycling, technical advances, human exposure and risk assessment, waste management, toxicology and modeling. The participation in the conference gave me the possibility to extent my knowledge on mercury as a global pollutant and on the scientific status in mercury research.

The oral presentations on the subtopic Mercury in Polar Regions and Mercury in Terrestrial Ecosystem were of great interest for my own research focus. The presentation of the poster “Study and baseline mapping of mercury and natural organic matter in soil and riverwater in Ny-Ålesund”, which was made in cooperation with my supervisor Øyvind Mikkelsen, showed previous results in this project. During the poster presentation I was able to talk with many researches who were interested in my project. We discussed important parameter, outlined possible results and further, I got new ideas on how to proceed my work. As I am just about to become a researcher, my attending at this conference allowed me to take part in scientific presentations and discussions. The knowledge I gained contributes to my ongoing analyzing processes with the soil samples and to my data handling.

I gratefully thank Miljøringen for their support!



Me in the hall at the ICC Jeju (left), in front of my poster during the poster session (right).