

## 3rd Island Dynamics Conference

7–12 May 2013, Mariehamn, Åland, Finland

### **Åland: The idyllic hub of the Baltic.**

Åland is a land of contrasts: At once an idyllic rural archipelago in which nature dictates the rhythms of life and a vibrant centre of shipping and international commerce. Historically part of Sweden, the islands were caught up in the wars of the last centuries, passing to Russia and eventually becoming an autonomous region of Finland. Still largely Swedish-speaking, Åland's culture mirrors its political identity: The islands are governed by their own parliament and are a demilitarised zone with special European Union status.

The Russian-built capital, Mariehamn (population 11,000), is a European city in miniature, combining sophisticated cafe culture, tree-lined streets, and salty maritime quarters. Outside Mariehamn, Medieval churches, a 14th-Century castle, and a 19th-Century fortress attest to Åland's rich history. In the wider archipelago (consisting of over 6000 islands), land dapples the sea, and farmhouses and boathouses exist in sublime unity with the gentle landscape.

### **A meeting place for civilizations.**

At the 3rd Island Dynamics Conference, representatives from academia, government, business, and the third sector will explore islands and maritime issues worldwide. The conference theme is interdisciplinary island studies: A special track of presentations will be dedicated to combining the methodologies and topics of different disciplines.

Owe Ronström and Lee Haring are keynote speakers. The conference is a collaboration of the Åland International Institute of Comparative Island Studies, the Centre for Maritime and Regional Studies (University of Southern Denmark), and the Centre for Nordic Studies (UHI Millennium Institute).

### **How to participate.**

Anyone interested in island communities may attend. To learn more and find out how to propose a presentation, visit the website below or e-mail the convenor Adam Grydehøj at [agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org](mailto:agrydehoj@islanddynamics.org). Abstracts are due **1 September 2012**.

**To learn more, please visit:**

**[www.islanddynamics.org/3idc.html](http://www.islanddynamics.org/3idc.html)**

