



Forum for 21st Century

The People's Republic of China appreciates the initiating of conference on the development in the Arctic area. We consider the topic of the discussions as a very important and therefore we emphasize our full support towards finding possible solution to challenges standing in front of us. We believe this occasion will offer a great opportunity for direct and in-depth exchanges on Arctic issues, and help enhance universal trust and understanding.

The People's Republic of China is very proud of having the opportunity to become the permanent observer in the Arctic Council. Expressing our high interest in the past, we have signed a number of trade agreements (the cooperation between Arion Bank and China Development Bank). We have become one of the mining investors in Greenland and concluded a free trade agreement with Iceland.

We would like to invite Canada and Iceland to further collaboration in the Arctic research and implementation of the memoranda on the scientific studies. We would like to remind we welcome the cooperation with other countries as well.

Since 1999, we have made five arctic expeditions and we reaffirm our support to further development and research in the Arctic area. We would like to suggest building the Arctic Research Centre. Its system would collect data on temperature, salt content in the water and the speed of currents at various depths, where ocean currents connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. This would allow monitoring changes in the sea, but also the impact of global warming on polar region.

Renewing our appeal, we would like to mobilize our financial resources and become the partner in the energy field in order to get the know-how and experience of mining unconventional energy resources.

Further, The People's Republic of China recommends discussing the issue of the northern shipping routes with belief of its growing economic importance. We highly

encourage reconsidering the navigation shortcut through the Arctic Ocean to the United States and Europe. Concerning the shipbuilding industry, we declare our interest to use this route in conviction of doing significant time and money savings (distance from Shanghai to Hamburg via the Arctic Ocean is about 5185 miles shorter than via the Suez Canal).

To sum up, concerning all the issues of the Arctic area, we express the respect to the values, interests, culture and tradition of the Arctic aborigines and other inhabitants in the region. The People's Republic of China appeals all the participating countries to do so.

The Arctic Council is the most important regional inter-governmental forum to address issues of environmental protection and sustainable development in the Arctic. The council's decision will enhance the communication and cooperation between The People's Republic of China and relevant parties on Arctic affairs, and it will allow us to make contributions to the council's work and promote peace, stability and sustainable development in the Arctic region.