



Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The People's Republic of China values Forum's communication with observers on Arctic issues. We believe that this Forum will be successful in solution of the questions which are national in nature.

China is a near Arctic state. The natural changes and economic development in the Arctic have significant impact on China's climate, ecological environment, and agricultural production as well as social and economic development. Most Arctic-related activities of China are scientific researches. China has made some progress in its studies on high-altitude physics, climate change, ecology and ocean in the Arctic. We are ready to conduct cooperation on scientific research with other states. China has always attached great importance to communication and dialogue with Arctic states on Arctic issues to enhance mutual understanding and trust.

We agree that some of Arctic issues are regional that need to be addressed by Arctic states themselves in a coordinated manner, such as those relating to environmental protection, indigenous people and other social issues. On the other hand other issues are trans-regional, such as climate change and international shipping, which involve the interests of non-Arctic states. We understand that observers have limited rights, but anyhow, we would like to participate in the discussion in such issues. Arctic states and non-Arctic states share common interests in addressing trans-regional issues and should further their communication and cooperation.

Last meeting was very constructive. Relevant parties expressed their desires to participate in the work of the Forum of 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and exchanged views and suggestions in a frank and sincere manner, with a view to promoting mutual understanding and trust between Arctic states and non-Arctic states. We hope that Forum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century will continue to serve as a platform for cooperation between Arctic states and non-Arctic states for sound interaction and concerted efforts to address trans-regional issues together.