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16 July, 2013

With this letter, we would like to inform you of the establishment of the Arctic Circle, a new open assembly designed to facilitate broad international dialogue and foster greater cooperation on Arctic issues. This platform was formally announced at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on Monday, April 15, 2013, and is intended to support, complement and extend the reach of the work of the Arctic Council.

Details on the announcement, including articles, commentary, links to broadcast and radio interviews and information on the program may be found on the Arctic Circle website (ArcticCircle.org).

The inaugural Arctic Circle will be held in Reykjavík, Iceland, October 12–14, 2013, at the new Harpa Reykjavík Concert Hall and Conference Centre and will assemble annually in mid-October in countries around the Arctic.

We take this opportunity to invite you to make use of the Arctic Circle, attend its assembly and participate in sessions and discussions to present your views, findings and projects. This invitation is also extended through you to your colleagues and those you think are interested in Arctic issues.

Participants in the Arctic Circle will include a range of Arctic and global decision-makers from all sectors, including political and business leaders, indigenous representatives, nongovernmental and environmental representatives, policy and thought leaders, scientists, activists and media.

This annual assembly, organized as a nonprofit, is a new mechanism for existing institutions, organizations, forums, think tanks, corporations and public associations such as the Arctic Council to reach a global audience of those interested in Arctic affairs in an efficient way.

The Arctic Circle aims to increase participation in Arctic dialogue and strengthen the international focus on the future of the Arctic by creating opportunities open to everyone to attend different meetings, conduct their own networking and engage in informal discussions.

Within the Arctic Circle, organizations will be able to decide their own agendas and convene their own meetings, thus maintaining full institutional independence, identity and decision-making abilities.

The Arctic Circle will organize sessions on a variety of issues, such as:

- Sea ice melt and extreme weather
- Security in the Arctic
- Fisheries and ecosystem management
- Shipping and transportation infrastructure
- Arctic resources
- Arctic tourism
- The prospects and risks of oil and gas drilling
- Clean energy achievements and sustainable development
- Business cooperation in the Arctic
- The role and rights of indigenous peoples
- Polar law: treaties and agreements
- The role of Asian and European countries in the Arctic
- Greenland in the new Arctic
- The science of ice: global research cooperation
- The ice-dependent world: the Arctic and the Himalayas



The program will be designed in collaboration with partnering organizations. The Arctic Circle will facilitate working meetings across issues and organizations and provide a forum for discussions hosted by different international and Arctic institutions. Following the meeting, participating organizations will be invited to a brainstorming session to contribute ideas for the 2014 Arctic Circle assembly.

With this letter, we are honored to invite you to engage with the Arctic Circle and participate in its assembly. We welcome a discussion on how the Arctic Circle can complement and support the important work of the Arctic Council and other organizations and institutions working on Arctic issues.

You are invited to contact us or the Icelandic secretariat at ArcticCircle@ClimateResearchFund.org to present your ideas and proposals as well as register to participate. We also encourage you to visit our website at ArcticCircle.org for further information.

Sincerely,

Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson
President of Iceland
P: + 354 540 4400
E: president@president.is

Kuupik Kleist
Member of Parliament, Premier of Greenland (2009–2013)
P: + 299 547 858
E: KUKL@nanoq.gl

Alice Rogoff
Founder, Alaska Dispatch and the Arctic Imperative Summit
P: + 202 247 6867
E: Alice@ArcticCircle.org