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First, let me thank you for your attendance at the Arctic Circle Assemblies over the past years, as well as for our constructive meetings. Greenlandic involvement in the Arctic Circle is of great importance to dialogue on the future of the Arctic, and it is therefore now my great honour to invite you to attend the Arctic Circle Forum "China and the Arctic" to be held in Shanghai, May 10-11, 2019, at Shanghai Science and Technology Museum.

Hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China, the Forum is organized in cooperation with the Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC), the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) and Shanghai Science and Technology Museum.

The Forum would provide you with an opportunity to address future international engagement in Arctic cooperation, as well as to engage with Chinese and other Asian leaders in attendance. The Forum will bring together political leaders and high-level policy makers, business executives, experts, researchers and other stakeholders from across the North, China and other Asian countries, as well as the wider international community. Dialogue at the Forum will focus on topics such as Arctic transport and energy, oceans, international Arctic science cooperation and regional governance, especially where Chinese involvement in the aforementioned areas is concerned, including through the Belt and Road initiative.

Over the last few years, Arctic Circle Assemblies and the Forums have created the largest international network on the Arctic. The Forum in China follows previous Forums in Korea and Singapore with a focus on Asian involvement in Arctic affairs. Other Forums have been held in Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Alaska, Washington, Québec and Scotland. The Arctic Circle Assemblies held each October in Iceland are attended by over 2,000 participants from 60 countries.

The Arctic Circle Secretariat, Secretariat@ArcticCircle.org, will be happy to provide your office with any further information. I hope to see you in May.

Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson
Chairman Arctic Circle