

Mr. Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson, Mayor of Akureyri

Shanghai, 25th of March 2017

Dear Mr. Eiríkur Björn Björgvinsson,

We cordially invite you and your assistant Mrs. Katrín Björg Ríkarðsdóttir to the *2017 China-Nordic Arctic Research Center (CNARC) Roundtable: Arctic Shipping and Port Cities* where we will explore opportunities for implementation on Arctic Shipping cooperation between Asian and Arctic partners.

The *2017 CNARC Roundtable* will take place on May 24-26 2017 in Dalian, China, in conjunction with the 5th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium "*Towards the Future: Trans-regional Cooperation in the Arctic Development and Protection*", bringing together relevant stakeholders from China and the Nordic Countries, as well as other Arctic and Asian stakeholders.

Confirmed Chinese participants at the *2017 CNARC Roundtable: Arctic Shipping and Port Cities* include China COSCO Shipping, Dalian Port, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and State Oceanic Administration. Dalian Maritime University and the Polar Research Institute of China jointly convene the *2017 CNARC Roundtable*. Nordic participants include H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland (1996-2016) and Chair of the Arctic Circle, and Mr. Felix H. Tschudi, Chairman of the Board of Tschudi Shipping Company and the Centre for High North Logistics, who will co-moderate roundtable discussions on *Arctic Shipping and Port Cities* cooperation.

We would highly value your participation at the event and cordially invite you to provide comments during the roundtable discussions on Akureyri's vision towards implementation and stewardship for Arctic shipping cooperation with Asian partners, as an important Atlantic Arctic Port City and Iceland's Capital of the North. The *2017 CNARC Roundtable* will seek to address some of the key questions regarding cargo generation and infrastructure development for Arctic Shipping and Port cooperation.

Tentative questions are listed in appendix (page 3), but the organizers will seek your feedback on the most relevant issues to improve these key questions beforehand.

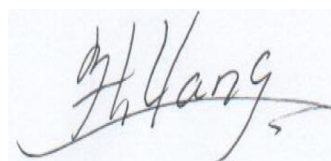
Additional to the *CNARC Roundtable 2017* Plenary on the 26th of May from 14:00-17:30, the invited Roundtable participants agenda includes a welcoming reception in the evening on the 24th of May, plenary session at the 5th CNARC symposium in the morning on the 25th of May, as well as B2B meetings, an excursion to the Port of Dalian and relevant events in the host city on the 25-26th of May. The *CNARC Roundtable code* will apply Chatham House Rules to the Roundtable plenary.

The China-Nordic Arctic Research Center (CNARC) was established in the year 2013 in Shanghai. CNARC is a network of 13 Member Institutes, six Chinese and seven Nordic, which all have the capacities to influence and coordinate Arctic research. CNARC's purpose is to provide a platform to increase awareness, understanding and knowledge of the Arctic and its global impact, as well as to promote cooperation for the sustainable development of the Nordic Arctic and a coherent development of China in a global context. Further information on the agenda and registration will follow soon. Please **RSVP** as soon as possible, and **not later than 11th of April 2017**.

It is understood that the travel expenses will be borne by participants themselves, while the registration fee will be waived for both you and your assistant.

We very much look forward to your participation in this important event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Yang', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Yang Huigen

Chair of CNARC Roundtable 2017
Director General of the Polar
Research Institute of China (PRIC)
Director of CNARC
Expedition Leader of CHINARE 5

Please **RSVP** at your earliest convenience, and **not later than 11th of April 2017**, to Mr. Egill Thor Nielsson, Executive Secretary, China-Nordic Arctic Research Center (CNARC): egillnielsson@pric.org.cn / tel. +86 130 6278 4476 (PRC) / +354 868 2031 (ICE) and Mr. Tian Wenjia, Secretary for International Cooperation, Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC): tianwenjia@pric.org.cn / tel. +86 137 9523 1049. You are also welcome to contact them for further information at any time.

APPENDIX

CNARC 2017 Roundtable Draft agenda, 24th to 26th May 2017(short version)

24th of May

18:30 – 20:00 Welcome reception

25rd of May

8:30-12:00 Attendance of the 5th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium Plenary session, speakers include high-level officials and scientists from China and the Nordic countries

12:00-13:00 Lunch with symposium participants

13:00-18:00 Visits to relevant authorities, companies and institutes

19:00-21:00 Formal Dinner with symposium participants

26th of May

8:00-13:00 Visits to Dalian Port and DMU training vessel

11:00-12:00 Lunch on-board DMU training vessel

14:00 – 17:30 Plenary - CNARC Roundtable 2017 Theme: “Arctic Shipping and Port Cities”

Invited presentations/comments and moderated discussions

Tentative key questions (to be revised in accordance to feedback from participants):

Q1: What have been the most important developments for Arctic Shipping in the past five years and what challenges are yet to be overcome?

Q2: What are the main drivers, and challenges, for economically feasible Northeast Passage liner to be established, in terms of cargo and cost structure?

Q3: What are the most important priorities in terms of Arctic infrastructure build-up and the development of Arctic Port cities in order to access the global supply chain?

Q4: What are the main challenges and opportunities for Arctic Shipping, and related infrastructure build-up, in terms of regulatory, environmental and social impact?

Q5: Are there opportunities to collectively strengthen the market position of Arctic shipping, e.g. by pooling resources and jointly generating cargo, with a joint feasibility study between Arctic and Asian stakeholders?

Q6: What would be the most important aspects of such a feasibility study undertaking from your perspective and how could it be implemented successfully?

19:00-21:00 Dinner