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December 29, 2017

Dr. Huigen Yang
Director General, Polar Research Institute of China
Pudong, Shanghai

Dear Dr. Yang:

Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON) is a joint initiative of the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), established following the 2011 Arctic Council (AC) Nuuk Declaration. SAON's vision is a connected, collaborative, and comprehensive, long-term, pan-Arctic observing system that serves societal needs. SAON facilitates, coordinates, and advocates for international Arctic observations and mobilizes the support needed to sustain them.

Until recently, Norway has supported a SAON secretariat, including a full-time Executive Secretary and funds to support SAON activities. However, this generous support is going to be reduced before the end of 2017.

Recognized by the White House Arctic Science Ministerial's Joint Statement of Ministers for the "critical role" it plays in "the shared development of a science-driven, integrated Arctic-observing system", SAON needs funding support to work to achieve its mission and vision, through the central work of its secretariat, its core activities, and key projects. SAON is in the process of finalizing a strategic framework which defines its priorities and goals for the coming years.

As SAON and PRIC share common goals related to understanding Arctic Climate Dynamics and Environmental Protection and Sustainability and we would like you to consider if there could be ways in which China may be able to help (financially, materially, or through partnership) SAON achieve its vision for the Arctic. We would welcome a call to discuss such a possibility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Porsteinn Gunnarsson
SAON Chair

Larry Hinzman
SAON Vice-Chair

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