



The Arctic Circle is an independent nonprofit organization founded by President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson of Iceland, former Greenland Prime Minister Kuupik Kleist, Alaska Dispatch and Arctic Imperative Summit founder Alice Rogoff and other prominent leaders on Arctic issues. The organization's mission is to facilitate dialogue and build relationships to responsibly address rapid changes in the Arctic.

Given the complexity of the issues involving the region and their global impact, the Arctic Circle provides a nonpartisan platform to convene a broad group of stakeholders for knowledge-sharing and cooperation.

With sea ice levels at their lowest point in recorded history, the world's G-20 political leaders, investors, business executives and the media are now recognizing the importance of the region and the challenges and opportunities this presents for all nations, for people around the world.

## ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

In the fall of 2013, the Arctic Circle established itself as the preeminent international gathering of its kind. Held in Reykjavík, Iceland, at the Harpa Reykjavík Concert Hall and Conference Centre, the Arctic Circle Assembly brought together more than 1,200 international decision-makers from more than 40 nations, including Russia, the United States and other Arctic nations as well as Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

The event allowed existing institutions to reach a diverse global audience in a new and efficient way. Topics of focus included the latest scientific data on climate change and strategies to mitigate its effects, the prospects and challenges of Arctic energy development, how the Northern Sea Route will change global shipping, investment opportunities in the Arctic, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Arctic Circle distinguished itself by engaging the diverse Arctic community and a wide variety of global institutions and industry influencers. **Speakers** included:

- Prince Albert II of Monaco
- Nils Andersen, Group Chief Executive Officer, A.P. Moller-Maersk
- James Balog, Photographer, National Geographic
- Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations
- Mark Begich, U.S. Senator
- Tønnes Berthelsen, Deputy Manager, KNAPK (Association of Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland)
- Robert J. Blaauw, Senior Advisor, Global Arctic Theme, Shell International Exploration and Production B.V.
- Patrick Borbey, Chair, Senior Arctic Officials, Arctic Council
- Scott Borgerson, Chief Executive Officer, CargoMetrics Inc.
- Alexander Borodin, MHC (Services) Ltd.
- Larry Brilliant, President, Skoll Global Threats Fund
- Artur Chilingarov, Explorer and Special Envoy of President Vladimir Putin to the Arctic
- Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former Secretary of State, United States
- Charles K. Ebinger, Director, Energy Security Initiative, Brookings Institution
- Jenifer Austin Foulkes, Manager, Ocean Program, Google
- Jie Gao, General Manager, CTS Shanghai Private Overseas Affairs Co. Ltd.
- Al Gore, Former Vice President, United States
- Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President, Iceland
- Heiðar Már Guðjónsson, Chairman of the Board, Eykon Energy



- Arjun Gupta, Founder and Managing Partner, TeleSoft Partners
- Mark Halle, Vice President, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- Aleqa Hammond, Premier, Greenland
- Rúni M. Hansen, Vice President, Arctic Unit, Statoil
- Tom Harkin, U.S. Senator
- Bosse Hedberg, Ambassador of Sweden to Iceland
- Lassi Heininen, Professor, University of Lapland
- Anthony Hodge, President, International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)
- Robert Howe, Managing Director, Bremenports
- Edward Itta, Commissioner, U.S. Arctic Research Commission
- T. Jasudasan, Ambassador of Singapore to Iceland
- Kaj Leo Holm Johannesen, Prime Minister, Faroe Islands
- Kuupik Kleist, Member, Parliament of Greenland
- Timo Koivurova, Research Professor and Director, Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
- Yuansheng Li, Deputy Director, Polar Research Institute of China (PRIC)
- Yunpeng Li, President, China Ocean Shipping (Group) Co. (COSCO Group)
- Sven-Olof Lindblad, President and Founder, Lindblad Expeditions
- Karin Lochte, Chair, Alfred Wegener Institute
- Aqqaluk Lynge, Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Ghislaine Maxwell, Founder, The TerraMar Project
- Scott Miner, Global Chief Investment Officer, Guggenheim Partners
- David James Molden, Director General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator
- Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Frederik Paulsen, Founder, Paulsen Editions
- Dmitry Pourim, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Sovfracht
- Jörg Ranau, Deputy Director-General for Economic Affairs, Federal Foreign Office, Germany
- Michel Rocard, Former Prime Minister, France; Ambassador on Arctic Affairs
- Alice Rogoff, Publisher, Alaska Dispatch
- Minik Rosing, Professor, University of Copenhagen
- Enric Sala, Explorer-in-Residence, National Geographic Society
- Eric Schmidt, Executive Chairman, Google
- Mikhail Slipenchuk, Deputy, State Duma, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
- Mark L. Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Vitus Energy
- Sam Tan Chin Siong, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
- Mead Treadwell, Lieutenant Governor, State of Alaska
- Felix H. Tschudi, Chairman and Owner, Tschudi Group
- Fran Ulmer, Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission
- Johan van de Gronden, Chief Executive Officer, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Netherlands
- Anton Vasiliev, Ambassador at Large, Arctic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia
- Tandong Yao, Director, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences

More than 50 companies and organizations participated in the inaugural Arctic Circle, including Google, National Geographic, the Brookings Institution, Foreign Affairs, COSCO Group, the Russian Geographical Society, Bremenports,



the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, the Polar Research Institute of China, the Skoll Global Threats Fund, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Alfred Wegener Institute and Guggenheim Partners.

Eric Schmidt, the executive chairman of Google, spoke about how technology can be used to help meet environmental challenges, better understand the oceans, connect Arctic communities and preserve indigenous languages.

Artur Chilingarov, polar explorer and special envoy of President Vladimir Putin to the Arctic, described Russia's perspective on the region and addressed the "Arctic 30" controversy in response to a question by Kumi Naidoo, executive director of Greenpeace International.

"When I visited the Arctic four years ago, I was moved by its majesty, but I was also worried about its fragility," said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in a video address. "We must reconcile short-term interests with our long-term goal of sustainable development. New sea routes should mean constructive cooperation among states. Indigenous people, women, youth and future generations have a high stake in the area's natural resources. We must use them sustainably."

The 2013 Arctic Circle Assembly included a country profile of Greenland, during which Naja Carina Steenholdt, a student at the University of Greenland, offered her view as an Arctic resident: "It is becoming more evident that the political agenda is to gain independence financed by the export of our natural resources. However, we must be careful not to see independence as the grand solution for the Greenlandic people. The underground of Greenland will fail to make the country economically self-sufficient if not aided by sensible and informed decisions."

New Arctic Council observers, such as the Republic of Korea and Singapore, also presented their Arctic interests. "The Arctic is an increasingly important region, not just for the Arctic states, but also for the rest of the world," said Sam Tan Chin Siong, the senior parliamentary secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "In the face of a changing environment, we know that sustainable development in the Arctic is of utmost importance. Singapore, being a very small, low-lying island state that is relying on seaborne trade, can be greatly influenced and impacted by what happens in the Arctic region."

In addition, more than 30 independent breakout sessions during the course of the event were hosted by groups such as the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, the Arctic Forum Foundation, the British Antarctic Survey, the Centre for Arctic Policy Studies (CAPS), Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), Maritime State University Named After Admiral G.I. Nevelskoi, the Northern Research Forum, the Symposium on Polar Law, the University of Saskatchewan and the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

More information on the 2013 Assembly, including the **program agenda**, **speaker biographies**, **photographs**, **archived videos** of the presentations, **supporters** and **press** may be found at the website **ArcticCircle.org**.









## FUTURE MEETINGS

The Arctic Circle will hold its next Assembly September 5–7, 2014, once again at the Harpa Conference Centre in Reykjavík. Issues to be discussed include extreme weather, security, fishing, tourism, shipping and infrastructure, oil and gas exploration, polar law, ocean resources, indigenous rights, ports and harbors.

Numerous organizations, institutions, companies and nongovernmental organizations will also host special breakout sessions on these and other issues, organized under their own name and according to their independent decision-making authority.

Following the successful practice of the 2013 Assembly, in which the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Alaska and Greenland presented their country-based views of the Arctic, four other countries will be invited to do the same at the 2014 Assembly.

Future Arctic Circle events will be held in different Arctic locations—including Anchorage, Alaska, and Nuuk, Greenland—so that participants can become familiar with the challenges, needs and opportunities presented by these unique environments. The organization will also help bring the global Arctic community together by facilitating smaller meetings in markets with a growing interest in the region, such as Singapore.



## STRUCTURE OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

The Arctic Circle serves as an open venue for institutions, organizations, forums, think tanks, corporations and public associations to hold their meetings or events without surrendering their independence or decision-making abilities. The purpose is to assist and further such meetings by maximizing attendance and strengthening the opportunities open to everyone to attend different meetings and conduct their own networking events. The unique arts and cultural attributes of the Arctic are also presented through a variety of performances, exhibitions and programs.



The Arctic Circle will continue to facilitate smaller working meetings across issues and organizations, as well as discussions hosted by different international and Arctic institutions. Future programs will be designed in collaboration with partnering organizations.

## BOARD

The Arctic Circle's honorary board is chaired by President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson of Iceland. Other honorary board members include Prince Albert II of Monaco, Russian polar explorer Artur Chilingarov, former Greenland Prime Minister Kuupik Kleist, Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber from the United Arab Emirates and U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. The organization's advisory board is led by Alice Rogoff, founder of the Alaska Dispatch and the Arctic Imperative Summit, and is comprised of business leaders, scientists and policymakers.

The organization is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and is supported by private donations. Various opportunities for participation are available, including serving on our advisory board, becoming a supporter, funding scholarships for indigenous groups or organizing independent meetings. For more information, please contact us by email at **[Info@ArcticCircle.org](mailto:Info@ArcticCircle.org)**.