

Arctic Council Secretariat

13 December 2013

Concerning: Presentation of the Ice Circle to the Arctic Council

The Ice Circle is a global collaborative platform encouraging and supporting a multidisciplinary response to the state and impact of rapidly changing snow and ice regimes. As necessary, it will leverage focus and funding on issues relating to ice and snow with a view to generating global awareness, profiling research outcomes and supporting local action that could reduce vulnerability to disasters, mitigate forces causing ice melt, and help peoples and communities to adapt. See enclosed concept paper.

A range of public sector parties including the World Bank, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the United Nations University on Water Environment and Health (UNU-IWEH) have supported the development of the Ice Circle Initiative concept. The objective is to launch the Ice Circle in 2014.

In this letter, the parties behind the Ice Circle concept are requesting to provide a presentation to Senior Arctic Officials (SAO) during their meeting in Yellowknife in March 2014. The presentation will introduce the Ice Circle, and explore the possible support and endorsement of the Ice Circle by the Arctic Council. We would also like to discuss the Ice Circle initiative with the Sustainable Development Working Group and other relevant working groups and programmes both prior to and in conjunction with the SAO meeting. Furthermore, we will be inviting representatives of the Arctic Council to a NSF funded workshop scheduled to be held in Washington in late April. The aims of the workshop are to establish trans-disciplinary ice-snow-water nexus communication community, and methodologies to communicate science for policy and outreach purposes. It will thus explore practical tools and establish networks which the proposed Ice Circle can build upon.

Being the only global initiative focusing on ice and snow and water, the Ice Circle offers stakeholders in the Arctic valuable opportunities for collaboration. Through it, Arctic Council working groups and programs will have a platform to collaborate with initiatives and interests outside of the Arctic. The Ice Circle can work to communicate about Arctic efforts internationally and contribute to inform governments and the public of the implications of changes in the Arctic for cities, economies, ecosystems and resources elsewhere. Importantly, the Ice Circle will enable sharing of knowledge and best practices on how to respond to the challenge between and within Arctic and non-Arctic communities.

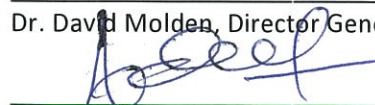
We look forward to engaging with the Arctic Council and its working groups on this important issue. On behalf of the parties supporting the Ice Circle concept.



Dr. Charles Vörösmarty, Member of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, Professor and Distinguished Scientist at City University of New York



Dr. David Molden, Director General of ICIMOD



Dr. Zafar Adeel, Director, United Nations University of Water, Environment and Health

CC:

Mr. Pall A. Davidsson, Director, Vox Naturae

Mr Saurabh Dani, Senior Disaster Management Specialist, the World Bank

Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Director, the Global Water Partnership

Mr Robert Standford, Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of the UN "Water for Life"
Decade

Dr. Magdalena Muir, Advisory Board Member, Climate, Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC)

Enclosed: the Ice Circle concept paper