



**Ávarp  
forseta Íslands  
Ólafs Ragnars Grímssonar  
á fjöllumdæmisþingi Lionshreyfingarinnar  
28. apríl 2001**

Distinguished guests

May I also here today welcome distinguished representatives of the Lions movement who have come to Iceland to participate in the deliberations and the discussions of the Icelandic clubs. It is of great importance for our small country to enjoy goodwill and respect in the international community and the Lions movement has provided us with opportunities to demonstrate both the unique attributes of the Icelanders and also our solidarity to the worthy goals which bind us together.

The Lions Clubs have earned special respect and gratitude from the Icelandic nation for their contributions to welfare and wellbeing, their help to the sick, the old and the misfortunate, for their dedication and endurance. In towns and villages all over the country we can see the results produced by the Lions movement and year after year the nation shows its great appreciation by supporting special projects which the Lions movement has initiated.

The most recent example is the outstanding Nordic co-operation in order to establish funds to finance medical and social advances which benefit the old. The support which the Nordic heads of state gave to this endeavour shows the respect which the Lions movement enjoys but it is also worth noting that such a co-operation by heads of state is on a global scale completely unique and thus shows the special place which the Lions movement enjoys in the Nordic countries.

Your presence here today is indeed very welcome and we hope that your stay in Iceland will provide you with many new insights and experiences.