



**A message  
from  
the President of Iceland  
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson**

Cooperation between China and Iceland has in recent years become broader, deeper and more extensive than ever before, and my State Visit is an indication of our firm intention to journey together in the decades to come.

In 2002 I welcomed President Jiang Zemin to Iceland on the first State Visit by a President of China to my country. President Hu Jintao's invitation to me now demonstrates the strength of our growing friendship and indicates clearly the positive spirit which will influence our cooperation in future.

In recent years Icelandic companies in many different fields have developed a global reach and become important players in both Nordic and European markets, in Russia and the United States and different parts of Asia.

They have utilized the experience gained in Iceland to become significant global players.

It is important to understand that these Icelandic companies can become important vehicles for Chinese commercial and business advance in the global market, and not just in Chinese-Icelandic trade.

The key potential of our cooperation lies in such globally relevant strategic Chinese-Icelandic partnerships, partnerships in which Icelandic companies, through their established positions in the European and American markets, could provide China with the benefit of growing trade with different parts of the world: with Britain and other countries in Europe, with the United States and Russia, and even with India and other countries in Asia.

It is in this spirit that we arrive in China on a visit which is of historic importance in the relations between our countries.

I encourage you all to make the most of this opportunity and promise you that in the months and years to come I will regularly follow the success of our joint Chinese-Icelandic efforts.