



Office of the President of Iceland  
Press Release – Official Translation

## **CHINA'S PREMIER, WEN JIABAO**

### **VISIT TO ICELAND – CO-OPERATION IN SEVERAL AREAS**

#### **MEETING AT THE WORLD FUTURE ENERGY SUMMIT**

Today, Monday 16 January 2012, H.E. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland, met with H.E. Wen Jiabao, Premier of China. Both are participating in the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi. The President brought a greeting from Prime Minister Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir and reiterated the previously made invitation to the Premier to pay a visit to Iceland. Premier Wen thanked for the kind greetings and the invitation, adding that he would do his best to undertake a visit to Iceland during this year.

President Grímsson welcomed this declaration and said such a visit would create opportunities to further strengthen co-operation between the two countries in many areas.

Icelandic knowledge and technology in the utilisation of geothermal energy has already provided good results in distant heating projects in the Shaanxi province in China, and there is a strong will to support the cooperation between Orka Energy and Sinopec, one of China's largest energy companies, as was expressed at the meeting. This co-operation aims at building geothermal heating utilities in additional cities and provinces in China, thus reducing the use of coals for house heating.

The President of Iceland also mentioned the use of geothermal heat for drying of food, just like producers in Iceland have used this resource

for drying cod heads and other fish products. This method, which enhances the utilisation and storage of food, could become an important contribution to increasing the food security of China and other countries.

In the meeting there was also a discussion of strengthening the cooperation in the field of science and technology. The President took as an example software produced by Marorka [an Icelandic company], which is already in use in sea vessels in several countries where it saves up to 10% of the energy required. China is quickly becoming a world leader in ship construction and this technology could decrease the ecological footprint of these new ships considerably.

Another example, mentioned by the President, was the eco-friendly concrete which Professor Ólafur H. Wallevik, Innovation Centre Iceland, and foreign partners have developed, adding that approximately half of the world's concrete is now produced in China.

Finally, there was a discussion about research of the glaciers in the Himalayan region and the impact of accelerated melting of ice in the Arctic, and of how research results and co-operation forms used in the Arctic region could be useful for states, large and small, which are facing a growing threat from the retreating glaciers in Asia.

*Photographs from the meeting of the President of Iceland and China's Premier can be found on the web site of the Office of the President of Iceland, [www.forseti.is](http://www.forseti.is).*

*16 January 2012*

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