

February 26, 2024

Dear Ms. Outi Snellman,

On behalf of Xiamen University (XMU), I would like to express my strong support for our application for the membership of University of the Arctic (UArctic).

In January 2018, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China issued a white paper titled "China's Arctic Policy", calling for continuously deepening exploration and understanding of the Arctic, protecting the Arctic ecosystem and responding to climate change, rationally utilizing the Arctic resources in accordance with the law, actively participating in Arctic governance and international cooperation, and promoting peace and stability in the Arctic. The white paper emphasized the basic principles of "respect, cooperation, win-win situation and sustainability", capturing the opportunity of Arctic development and contributing to the peace, stability and sustainable development of the Arctic.

As the first university in China to establish a Department of Oceanography, XMU has obvious advantages in marine sciences. XMU has continuously increased its investment in marine scientific research, built modern scientific research platforms, which strongly supports marine scientific research activities. Indeed, XMU is one of the first universities in China to participate in Arctic research expedition, and has continuously participated in Chinese National Arctic Research Expedition (CHINARE) in the past, conducted research related to the marine chemistry, marine biology, and physical oceanography in the Arctic regions, and accumulated an abundant Arctic database, making positive contributions to the sustainable development of the Arctic. However, the exploration and awareness of the Arctic is far more than that, and XMU expects to have more chances to participate in Arctic-related research work. The UArctic is a network of universities, colleges, research institutes and other organizations dedicated to education and research in the Arctic. This will be a great opportunity for XMU to expand Arctic research, if XMU can join the UArctic.

We are looking forward to becoming a member of the UArctic and making further contributions to the sustainable development of the Arctic region.

Sincerely,


ZHANG, Zongyi

President
Xiamen University



2024 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT - PROFILE

Applicant: Xiamen University

Country: China

Membership Category: Non-Arctic

Membership Type: HEI

Profile Description:

Xiamen University (XMU) is located in Xiamen, Fujian Province, established in 1921. XMU is a comprehensive research-oriented national key university directly under the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, and has long been listed among China's leading universities on the national "Project 211", "Project 985" and "Double First-class" initiative.

XMU has a graduate school, 6 academic divisions consisting of 34 schools and colleges, and 17 research institutes, among which 18 disciplines are the top 1% of ESI in the world, and there are 5 first-level national key disciplines.

XMU currently has a faculty of over 3000 full-time teachers and researchers, of whom 35 are the members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences or of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (including 18 who are employed simultaneously by other institutions).

The Marine disciplines in XMU enjoy a long and profound history. Concerning papers were published in the world's top scientific journals "Science" back to the early of 1920s. In 1946, the first Department of Oceanography was founded in XMU. Meanwhile, XMU is one of the earliest universities in China to participate in Arctic scientific research. Since 1999, XMU has conducted a series of Arctic research, including isotope marine chemistry, marine environmental pollution, marine biogeochemical cycles, marine bioecology, and physical oceanography, and has accumulated abundant Arctic databases, laying the foundation for future expansion of Arctic research.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

- (1) Environmental fate of marine pollutants in the Arctic.
- (2) Tracing oceanic processes in the Arctic.
- (3) Marine bioecology in the Arctic.
- (4) Biodiversity on microbial eukaryotes in diverse Arctic environments.
- (5) Physical oceanography processes in the Arctic.

- (6) Climate system interaction and climate change in Arctic.
- (7) Arctic climate change and mid-latitude extreme weather event.
- (8) Integrated assessment of the Arctic governance system under climate change.