

Address by Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University of Iceland, at a lecture by Oskar T. Sigvaldson, “Climate Change: Transformation of Economic, Environmental and Energy Systems”.

Held in the Ceremonial Hall, Tuesday 2 October at 12 pm

Dr Oskar Sigvaldason, our speaker today, other distinguished guests.

I am delighted to welcome you all on behalf of the University of Iceland to this lecture by Oskar Sigvaldason, entitled “Climate Change: Transformation of Economic, Environmental and Energy Systems”.

This is clearly a hugely important topic of great concern to us all, since the challenge of reducing the impact of climate change and global warming is one of the most urgent problems currently facing humankind. And it is also clear that this is not a neatly contained issue that can be handled separately, but an absolutely enormous task demanding the transformation of all major systems within human society and indeed the reconsideration of all aspects of human life on this planet.

Dr Oskar Sigvaldason is one of Canada's foremost energy specialists and his research has focused on the links between energy, economics and environmental issues. For many years, he worked with the consulting engineers Acres International, serving as President and CEO for almost a decade. He has been involved in numerous energy projects around the world and has played a leading role in energy planning for various nation states. For example, he was a member of the World Energy Council's Studies Committee for many years and is also the long-standing Director of the Energy Council of Canada. He is currently working on developing methodologies for economic reform, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transforming energy systems, and

developing technological solutions with the aim of helping Canada to achieve Net-zero by the middle of this century.

Dear guests. As his name suggests, Dr Oskar Sigvaldason is of Icelandic descent, the son of Guðni and Aðalbjörg Sigvaldason, who farmed in the Arborg area in Manitoba, Canada. Ever since the founding of the University of Iceland in 1911, Canadians of Icelandic descent have demonstrated their invaluable support, including Oskar, who is one of the key benefactors of the University of Iceland's Stephan G. Stephansson Endowment Fund. It was established in 2017 and formally announced at the opening of the University of Iceland's Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding.

Dr. Oskar Sigvaldason, the floor is yours.

Thank you very much.