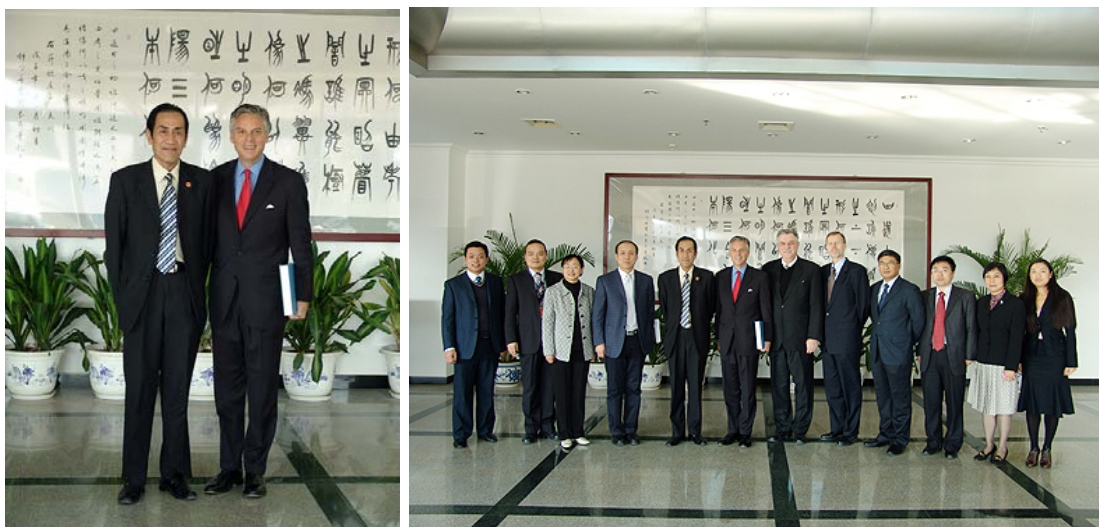

President Chen Meets with US Ambassador



(left) President Chen Yiyu met with Mr. Jon M. Huntsman, the new US Ambassador to China. (right) A group photo of Ambassador Huntsman, NSFC staff and US visitors

NSFC President Chen Yiyu met with Mr. Jon M. Huntsman, the new US Ambassador to China, on January 26, 2010. During the meeting, President Chen briefed the collaboration between NSF and NSFC and emphasized that the Sino-US science and technology collaboration is an important component of the bilateral relations and has been playing a key role in promoting the bilateral diplomatic relations. President Chen expressed his hope for a further improved China-US S&T relationship in Mr. Huntsman's tenure. Mr. Huntsman said that science and technology could solve a wide range of problems from human diseases to global change, and S&T collaboration between the two countries had made great contributions to the bilateral relations. He expressed his wish to attach more significance to science and technology, especially the cooperation between NSF and NSFC. President Chen and Mr. Huntsman also exchanged views on issues of clean energy development, energy utilization and transportation and public health.

Mr. Brent Christensen, US Science and Technology Counselor, Mr. Alexander P. DeAngelis, Director of NSF Beijing Office, Mr. Sun Bo, Senior Science and Technology Specialist of NSF Beijing Office, Prof. Han Yu, Director-General of the Policy Bureau, Dr. Chen Yongjun, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Chemical Sciences, Prof. Zheng Yonghe, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of Planning, Ms. Bai Ge, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation and Ms. Chen Huai, Division Director of the Bureau of International Cooperation, attended the meeting.

NSFC President Awarded WWF Conservation Medal



Prof. Chen Yiyu, President of NSFC, accepted the 2009 WWF (World Wildlife Fund) Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal at the Buckingham Palace in London, UK, on Feb. 18, 2010. Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip awarded the certificate and gold medal to Prof. Chen, and WWF International President Ms. Yolanda Kakabadse attended the ceremony.

Prof. Chen has dedicated himself to research and application in sustainable water resource and watershed management and made outstanding achievements. His endeavor in environmental conservation has been recognized by both domestic and overseas scientific communities as well as international organizations such as WWF. Mr. James Leape, WWF International Director-General said, “It is our great pleasure to award this medal to Prof. Chen, which fully recognizes his long-term commitment to environmental conservation and recent contributions to research and practical work in the areas of integrated watershed management and ecosystem management”.

In his responsive presentation during the awarding ceremony, Prof. Chen said, “This is not only an honor to myself but also a recognition of all those who have dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and natural resources in China. As a scientist, I always consider it my lofty responsibility to conserve wildlife and nature. 40 years have passed and I will continue to devote myself to this great endeavor for the rest of my life.”

WWF is a world-renowned independent non-governmental organization dedicated to environment conservation. The WWF Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal is the most prestigious WWF award, which is only granted once a year to the most versed person in the world who has made highly meritorious contributions to the conservation of wildlife and natural resources. Prof. Chen is the second Chinese scientist bestowed this honor.

NSFC General Assembly Stresses Its Role in Innovation

The 3rd Plenary Session of the 6th National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) General Assembly was held in Beijing on March 23, 2010, with the participation of members of NSFC General Assembly, members of NSFC Supervision Committee and NSFC staff. During the opening ceremony, NSFC President Chen Yiyu delivered a working report under the title of “Striving for Substantial Contribution to China’s Sustainable Development by Adhering to Strategic Guidance and Encouraging Indigenous Innovation”. Prof. Zhu Daoben, Chairman of NSFC Supervision Committee presented the working report on behalf of NSFC Supervision Committee. Mr. Xu Qin, Director-General of the Department of High-Tech Industry of the National Development and Reform Commission, and Dr. Song Qiuling, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Education, Science and Culture of the Ministry of Finance attended the meeting and delivered speeches. Participants in the meeting also included representatives from the General Office of the State Council, State Commission Office for Public Sector Reform, Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, Research Office of the State Council, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Association for Science and Technology, etc. The opening ceremony was presided over by NSFC Vice President Wang Jie.

The keynote of the meeting is to summarize the work done in 2009 against the requirements of government work report, analyze the trend of development for the National Natural Science Fund, and develop the working plan for the future.

President Chen pointed out in his report that NSFC accepted 102,000 research proposals in total from 1,674 research institutions across China in 2009, an increase of 18,000 proposals in comparison with that of the previous year (or an increase by 21.6%). Facing the dramatic increase in proposals received, NSFC, on the basis of analysis of the practical situation, succeeded in scheduling a reasonable and feasible timeline for fulfilling the funding plan. 20,343 projects proposed by 1,056 research institutions all over China were approved for funding under NSFC’s three program pillars of Research Program, Talent Training Program and Research Facilities & Environment Construction Program respectively, with a total budget of 7.054 billion yuan.

As introduced by President Chen, outstanding achievements and talents in basic research cropped up continuously under the long-term support by the National Natural Science Fund and other National Science and Technology Programs. Significant progresses have been achieved in 2009 by Chinese scientists on such research frontiers as superconducting-based highly charged ion sources, solar magnetic field, stem cell, protein structure, North China craton destruction, etc. Momentous contribution has been done to China’s socioeconomic development by various research achievements obtained in the research on nano and high polymer materials, ultra precision machining of complex curve parts, development of new drugs for diabetes, clean use of coal, digital home, terrestrial carbon sink, disaster prevention and mitigation, financial crisis

response and so on. 27 of the 28 scientists who were granted the National Natural Science Award have been supported by the National Natural Science Fund to various extent. Besides, all first prize winners of the State Technological Invention Award and most first prize winners of the National Science and Technology Progress Award have been long financed by the National Natural Science Fund.

In 2009, NSFC attached greater importance to strategic research, through which plans for science and technology development were further defined. The funding plan for the fiscal year 2009 has been consummately fulfilled with an emphasis on indigenous innovation. The macro strategic guiding role of NSFC has been further enhanced owing to the creative funding mechanism.

President Chen pointed out that the 12th Five-Year Plan Period and an even longer period of time to come in future will be a critical phase for the construction of China into an innovation-oriented nation and a comprehensive and comparatively well-off society. Based on the accurate judgment of the real situation, timely seizure of the opportunities for development, comprehensive consideration of the diverse funding pattern for basic research, strategic planning and working policies, scientific and democratic decision-making mechanism, law-based management and the establishment of favorable environment for creative research, it is a strategic orientation for NSFC to better its service for the nation's innovative capability by attaching more emphasis to basic, frontier research and talent training.

Under the great support by the Ministry of Finance, the state budget for NSFC in the fiscal year 2010 will exceed 8.3 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase by 30%. It is our bound duty to grasp in-depth understanding of the strategic plan by the central government and enhance our sense of responsibility and mission for the promotion of indigenous innovation. The year 2010 will witness not only the fulfillment of the programmatic goals of the 11th Five-Year Plan, but also the beginning of all planned endeavors of the 12th Five-Year Plan. Apart from the daily work, NSFC should pay due attention to the following:

- 1) Further promotion of the stable development of basic research on the basis of coordinated funding planning. In line with the reform of the state budget system and the needs of basic research, NSFC plans to arrange a total funding of around 9.5 billion yuan for the year 2010. 114,955 research proposals from 1,837 research institutions were received during the concentrated window for application in 2010, an increase by 17.5% in comparison with that in the previous year. More oriented and flexible use of the increased funding budget should be considered according to the new trends and needs of the development of basic research in China, featuring more emphasis on basic research, frontier research and talent training;
- 2) Formulation of the 12th Five-Year Plan on the sound basis of strategic research in accord with the strategic plan by the central government;
- 3) Standardization of academic review management to further enhance the accountability of the National Natural Science Fund system;

4) Introduction of international performance evaluation with a view to improving the management of the National Natural Science Fund; and

5) Promotion of science spirit in furtherance of research integrity.

NSFC Planning and Financial Working Report 2009 was presented in paper and the 3 reports were delivered and approved by vote during the meeting. NSFC President Chen, Vice Presidents Wang Jie, Shen Wenqing, Sun Jiaguang, Shen Yan, Yao Jiannian and He Minghong attended the meeting and subsequent group discussions. President Chen delivered a concluding speech during the summary session chaired by Vice President Wang Jie.

The meeting concluded successfully by calling for all NSFC staff to fulfill the goals set for 2010 and the 11th Five-Year Plan, formulate the 12th Five-Year Plan, create a favorable environment for innovation, promote indigenous innovation, and contribute more to China's S&T-led sustainable development.

NSFC Vice President Visits France



A NSFC delegation led by Vice President, Prof. Shen Wenqing paid a visit to France from March 28 to 31, 2010 at the invitation of Prof. Adel El-Beitagy, Chairman of Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

The delegation attended the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD2010) held at Montpellier, with attendees of more than 600 representatives from CGIAR and relevant agencies around the world, and made contacts with relevant Centers of CGIAR and explored opportunities for cooperation. The delegation paid a visit on March 29th to the Center of Particle Physics of Marseille (CPPM). Dr. Etienne Auge, Deputy Director of the National Institute of Nuclear Physics and Particle Physics (IN2P3), Dr. Eric Kajfasz, Director of CPPM, and Dr. Emmanuel Monnier, ATLAS Calorimetry Team Leader, met with the delegation. Both sides exchanged information of research progress on physics, especially through the international cooperation projects. CPPM has set up a very good and long term cooperative relationship with Chinese ATLAS cluster.

Delegates included Chang Qing, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation, Zhang Yinglan, Director of Division of the Bureau of International Cooperation, and Luo Jing, Director of Division of the Department of Life Sciences.

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets with JST Guests



NSFC Vice President, Prof. Shen Wenqing met with a delegation led by Mr. Akira Takamatsu, Executive Director of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) on April 6, 2010. The delegation also includes Ms. Mutsuko Yasuda, Chief of the Department of International Affairs, Mr. Yasuji Watanabe, Director of Beijing Representative Office, Mr. Toshitaka Amano, Deputy Director of Beijing Representative Office.

During the meeting, Prof. Shen briefed the collaboration between NSFC and JST since 2002 and expressed the wish to extend the cooperation to broader areas in the near future. Mr. Takamatsu expressed his sincere thanks to Prof. Shen for receiving the delegation and mentioned that JST would like to explore more opportunities in cooperation with NSFC while China is in the rapid development in recent years.

The delegation also visited the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion, Prof Chen Lesheng, Deputy Director of the Center met with the delegation and briefed the 10-year history of the Center. Both sides had an active discussion on mutually interested topics..

Prof Chang Qing, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation (BIC), Dr. Zhang Yinglan and Dr. Zhang Yongtao, division director and deputy division director of BIC, attended the meeting.

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets with NRF Guests



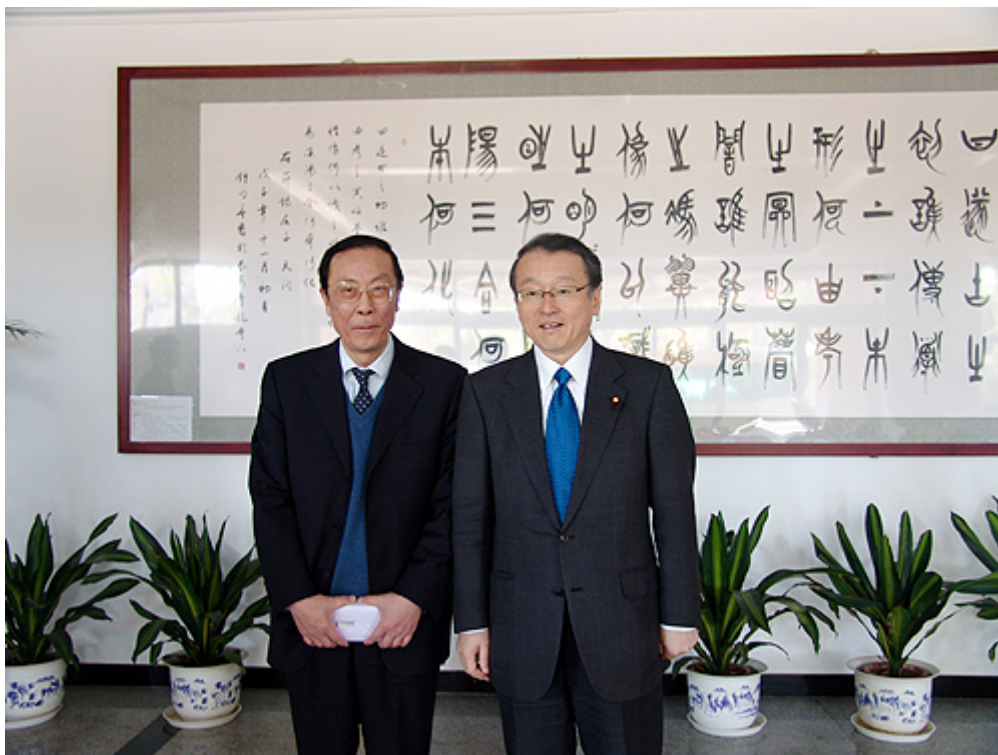
NSFC Vice President, Prof. Shen Wenqing met with a Korean delegation led by Mr. Gyu-han Bae, Director General of the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) on April 16, 2010.

Prof. Shen warmly welcomed the delegation and briefed the collaboration between NSFC and NRF. He also expressed the wish to strengthen the joint funding for research programs in order to broaden and deepen the bilateral substantial cooperation in the coming years. Mr. Gyu-han Bae fully agreed with Prof. Shen's opinion and mentioned that NRF would like to further promote the bilateral cooperation with NSFC.

The delegates includes Dr. Doo-young Park, Head of the International Cooperation Planning Team, Center for International Affairs, NRF, Mr. Jun Ho Shin, Science Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. Jun Koo Lee, Representative of NRF Beijing Liaison Office.

Prof. Chang Qing, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of NSFC attended the meeting.

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets with Senior Vice Minister of MEXT



On April 29, 2010, NSFC Vice President Prof. Shen Wenqing met with a delegation led by Mr. Masaharu NAKAGAWA, Senior Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan.

Prof. Shen warmly welcomed the delegation and briefed NSFC cooperation with Japan, especially the Asia 3 Foresight Program jointly conducted by NSFC of China, JSPS of Japan and NRF of Korea. Mr. NAKAGAWA expressed his appreciation to Prof. Shen for receiving the delegation and the wish of Japanese new government to strengthen S&T cooperation with Asian countries which is also the purpose of this visit to China. Both sides exchanged ideas on promoting cooperation and showed willingness to make joint efforts to extend the cooperation further.

The MEXT delegation includes Mr. Isao KISO, Director General for International Affairs, Mr. Itaru WATANABE, Senior Deputy Director General for Science and Technology Bureau, Mr. Hideto Matsumoto, Secretary to Minister, and so on. Prof Chang Qing, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation (BIC), Dr. Zhang Yinglan and Dr. Zhang Yongtao, division director and deputy division director of BIC, attended the meeting.

International Evaluation on Funding and Management Performance Started

The Kick-off Meeting for the International Evaluation of NSFC's Funding and Management Performance was jointly held by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Ministry of Finance, P. R. China in Beijing on May 18th, 2010. Prof. Chen Yiyu, NSFC President and Head of the Steering Committee for the International Evaluation of NSFC Funding and Management Performance, delivered a speech under the title of "Expedite the Sound and Fast Development of the National Natural Science Fund through Scientific Performance Evaluation and Optimized Management". Prof. Han Qide, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, President of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and Vice Chairman of the Experts Committee for International Evaluation of NSFC Funding and Management Performance, and Mr. Hu Jinglin, Assistant to the Minister of the Ministry of Finance, attended the meeting and delivered speeches, respectively. Apart from NSFC staff, participants in the meeting also include representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering, CAST, some research institutions and universities, and other organizations of the science community. The meeting was chaired by NSFC Vice President Sun Jianguang.

As the third-party assessment agency, the National Center for Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE) will undertake the organization and implementation of the International Evaluation which is planned to get into full swing after the kick-off meeting and to be completed in 2011. This is the first time for China to carry out international evaluation on a science funding agency's performance. As the one to be evaluated, NSFC is quite willing to take the opportunity to look back at its trace in funding and management, so as to define better its strategic role and realize the vision for delivering better service to science community not only nationwide but worldwide as well.

Professor Winnacker Received the 2009 International Science and Technology Cooperation Award of the People's Republic of China

The awarding ceremony for the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award of the People's Republic of China was held by the Chinese government on January 11, 2010, in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, handed over the 2009 Award to Professor Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker in recognition of his big achievements for the collaboration and exchange between Germany and China.

Professor Winnacker is a highly respected and well-known German biochemist and science manager as well as a good friend of the Chinese scientific community. For more than 28 years, he has gained recognition in science and politics, on the national and international level, and he can look back on a long-lasting successful and trusty relationship with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and many other Chinese science institutions.

Professor Winnacker significantly advanced the scientific cooperation between both countries and produced a number of innovative ideas for the bilateral collaboration. He also personally contributed to the success of the Sino German Center for Research Promotion, a funding organization for the bilateral science cooperation jointly financed by the DFG (German Research Foundation) and the NSFC, so that to date several cooperation groups, research projects, symposia, scientific field trips etc. could have been supported. Furthermore, he trained many outstanding young scientists from Germany and China, and always encouraged them to get involved in international science cooperation and act as an intermediary between both countries. China and Germany have had very successful cooperation over the past years; this is also surely due to Professor Winnacker's enduring efforts.

The International Science and Technology Cooperation Award of the People's Republic of China was established by the Chinese State Council in 1995. Every year up to 10 foreign individual persons or organizations, which made great contributions to the scientific and technological cooperation with China, are awarded. To date all together 61 foreigners received the Award, including 9 Germans.



On July 19, 2004. Prof. Chen Yiyu signed the agreement on cooperation between NSFC and DFG with Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, Former President of DFG.