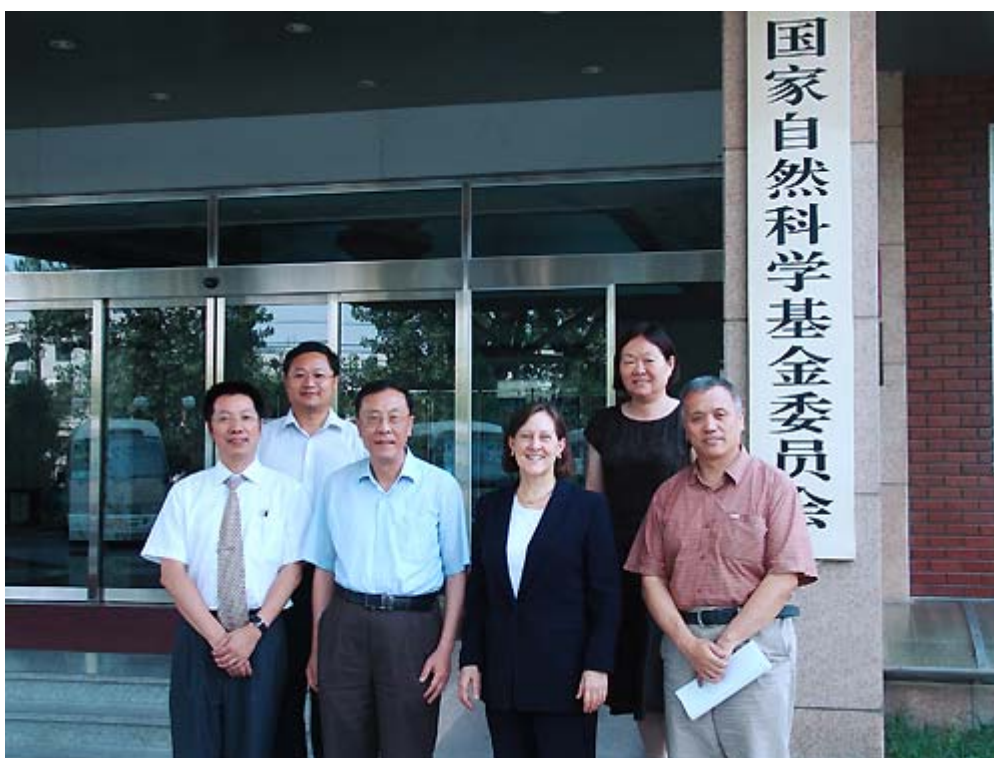


Vice President Shen Meets with CIP Guests



NSFC Vice President, Prof. Shen Wenqing met with a delegation led by Ms. Pamela K. Anderson, Director of the International Potato Center (CIP) on August 16, 2010. CIP is one of the 15 centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), currently has an office in Beijing and will establish an Asia-Pacific-region research center in the city.

Prof. Shen warmly welcomed Ms. Anderson and wished the two sides to further promote cooperation. Ms. Anderson expressed thanks to the host for the meeting and briefed on CIP and its development in China. Mr. Chang Qing, Deputy Director-general of the Bureau of International Cooperation briefed the guests on NSFC's funding status, in particular, on the status and mode of cooperation between NSFC and CGIAR's subordinate centers as well as the idea of a framework agreement to be signed recently between NSFC and CGIAR. Ms. Anderson expressed great interest and hoped to work with NSFC in related fields under the framework of the CGIAR.

Dr. Xie Kaiyun, Chief Representative of the CIP Office in China accompanied Ms. Anderson in the delegation.

Vice President Shen Visits Finland, the Netherlands and Germany



Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC (left) and DFG President Prof. Matthias Kleiner

From August 25 to September 4, 2010, Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC, visited Finland, the Netherlands and Germany at the invitation of the Academy of Finland (AF), the Netherlands Research Organization (NWO) and the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Prof. Shen and his delegation had working meetings respectively with AF President Prof. Markku Mattila, NWO Chairman Prof. Jos Engelen, DFG President Prof. Matthias Kleiner and Vice President Ferdi Schüth. During the meetings, Prof. Shen and his counterparts expressed their satisfaction with bilateral or multilateral collaboration since the establishment of the formal relationship, especially with the joint funding, in the last few years, for substantial research projects through the mechanism of joint call for proposals, international review or joint panel review and joint decision-making on the basis of mutual benefits. They also expressed wishes of strengthening staff exchanges between the funding organizations, jointly funding more workshops and substantial research projects. Furthermore, they discussed the scientific themes or fields for the cooperation in the coming years.

During their stay in Europe, Prof. Shen and his delegation also visited Aalto University (Finland), Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), National Institute for Nuclear and High Energy Physics (NIKHEF, the Netherlands), Institute for Atomic and Molecular Physics (AMOLF, the Netherlands) and University of Cologne (Germany).

NSFC-JST Workshop on Energy Saving Held in Beijing



Jointly organized by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), a workshop on “Energy Recycling Technology for Waste and Exhaust Heat” was held in Beijing on August 30—31.

NSFC Vice President He Minghong and JST Executive Director Akira Takamatsu were at the meeting and delivered opening remarks respectively. More than 20 scientists from China and Japan attended the meeting.

The workshop has 5 sessions as the following:

1. Stirling engine using waste heat;
2. Gas power generation using woody biomass fuel;
3. Cogeneration;
4. Hydrogen processing from waste;
5. Optimal engineering for energy supply.

Since 2004, NSFC and JST have successfully jointly organized 7 workshops, which have provided good opportunities for Chinese and Japanese scientists to meet and discuss their proposals of cooperation before the Call for Proposal. Up to now, totally 27 major joint research projects and 4 continuous projects have been selected for support by the two agencies.

Other attendees to the workshop include Director Yasuji Watanabe and Deputy Director Toshitaka Amano of JST Beijing Representative Office, Prof. Li Ming and Liu Tao from the Department of Engineering and Material Sciences, and Prof. Chang Qing and Zhang Yinglan from Bureau of International Cooperation of NSFC.

NSFC President Meets with Guests from K. T. Li Foundation



Prof. Chen Yiyu, president of NSFC, met with an eight-member delegation from K. T. Li Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in Taiwan led by Prof. Zhang Wenchang on September 9th, 2010. Both sides agreed to increase the funding for joint research projects in the coming years and discussed the defined academic areas for the funding increment and the pattern for practice. They also exchanged ideas about the schedule of the call for proposal in the field of photoelectric materials in the year of 2011.

Delegates include Prof. Jian Bowu, Prof. Hong Wenjun, Prof. Chen Zongquan and other guests. NSFC attendees are Prof. Meng Xianping, Director-General of the Bureau of Planning, Prof. Liang Wenping, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Chemical Sciences, Prof. Li Ming, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Engineering & Materials Sciences, Prof. Dong Erdan, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health Sciences, Prof. Chang Qing, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation, and Prof. Wang Yi, Deputy Director of Hong Kong, Macao & Taiwan Office.

Northeastern Asian Symposium on Network Held in Xi'an



From September 15th to 17th, 2010, “2010 Northeastern Asian Symposium on the Next Generation Network and Network Security” was held in Xi'an, jointly organized by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF). Prof. Chen Yiyu, President of NSFC, Prof. Motoyuki Ono, President of JSPS and Prof. Kyuhan Bae, Director General of NRF made remarks on behalf of their agencies in the opening of the Meeting.

Some 40 scientists from China, Japan and Korea exchanged views and discussed fully on “the Next Generation Network and Network Security”, laying a foundation for A3 Foresight Program collaboration in the same field. After the symposium, the three funding bodies will make a joint call for proposals for A3 Foresight Program in 2011.

The three coordinators are Prof. Wu Jianping from China's Tsinghua University, Prof. Murai Jun from Japan's Keio University and Prof. Kim Daeyoung from Korea's Chungnam University. The Symposium was hosted and organized by Tsinghua University and Xi'an Jiaotong University. Prof. Qin Yuwen, Executive Deputy Director General of the Department of Information Sciences, Prof. Chang Qing, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation and others attended the Symposium.

A3 Foresight Program is a trilateral collaborative and research program, co-sponsored by the three science funding agencies from China, Japan and Korea with a view to promote Asia as a research center. The Northeastern Asian Symposium series are important prophases of A3 Foresight Program. The symposiums are jointly organized by the three science funding agencies and held in each country alternatively. Scientists from the 3 countries fully exchange ideas and discuss on the field funded by A3 Foresight Program in preparation for collaborations by the 3 parties.

So far, China, Japan and Korea have jointly organized six Northeastern Asian Symposiums; Nanotechnology Symposium 2004 (in China), Biotechnology Symposium 2005 (in Korea), Climate Change Symposium 2006 (in Japan), Advanced Materials Symposium 2007 (in China), Cancer Epigenetic Symposium 2008 (in Korea) and Renewable Energy Symposium 2009 (in Japan).

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- Information Update •

Pilot Program of China-US Collaborative Research on Biomedical Research Announced

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will jointly support collaborative research on cancer, allergy, immunology and infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and its Co-morbidities in 2011. NSFC will award up to 300 000 RMB to each approved project and around 33 projects are estimated to be supported. NIH will award up to \$100 000 to each approved project. The due date for Chinese applicants is April 18, 2011.

* * * *

Program of China-US Collaborative Research in Advanced Sensors and Bio-inspired Technology (ASBIT) Announced

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) seek to enhance opportunities for collaborative activity between Chinese and US scientists and intend to jointly support transformative, cross-disciplinary, collaborative research on Advanced Sensors and Bio-Inspired Technologies (ASBIT). NSFC will award up to 1.2 Million RMB to each approved project. The due date for Chinese applicants is April 4, 2011.

The Eighth A-HORCs Meeting Held in Xi'an



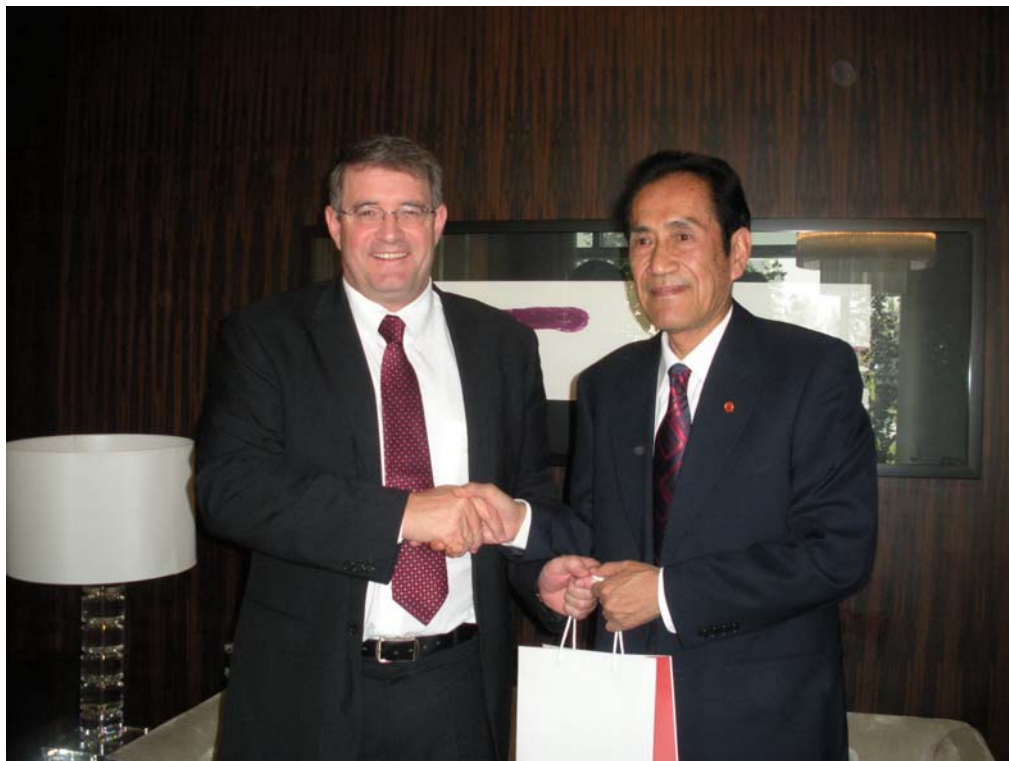
The Eighth Meeting of Heads of Research Councils in Asia (A-HORCs) was held in Xi'an on September 16th. Prof. Chen Yiyu, President of the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Prof. Motoyuki Ono, President of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Prof. Kyuhan Bae, Director General of the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) headed their delegations at the presence. As the host, Prof. Chen chaired the meeting.

The theme of the meeting is Science Planning. The three parties presented next 5-year perspectives of respective research councils and discussed on subjects such as funding plans and implementation of projects. They also discussed and reached consensus about the collaborative area of 2011 Northeastern Symposium and A3 Foresight Program of 2012 as well as the theme, time and place for the next A-HORCs.

Originally established jointly by NSFC, JSPS and KOSEF (Korea Science and Engineering Foundation, now named NRF), the A-HORCs meeting has become a regional meeting that takes place in China, Japan and Korea in turn once a year. The goal of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the leaders of the three research organizations to meet regularly and discuss on subjects of common interests with a view to strengthen high level exchanges and collaboration in the field of basic research.

To promote Asia as a research center with worldwide influence, culture prominent talents and solve science-related problems of regional importance, NSFC, JSPS and NRF jointly established A3 Foresight Program at the 2nd A-HORCs meeting, through which to provide fund for the three countries' scientists to do collaborative research work in selected areas. Since the implementation of A3 Foresight Program started in 2005, the three parties in succession have co-funded 10 projects in the field of nanotechnology, biotechnology, climate change, advanced materials, epigenetic, renewable energy and so on.

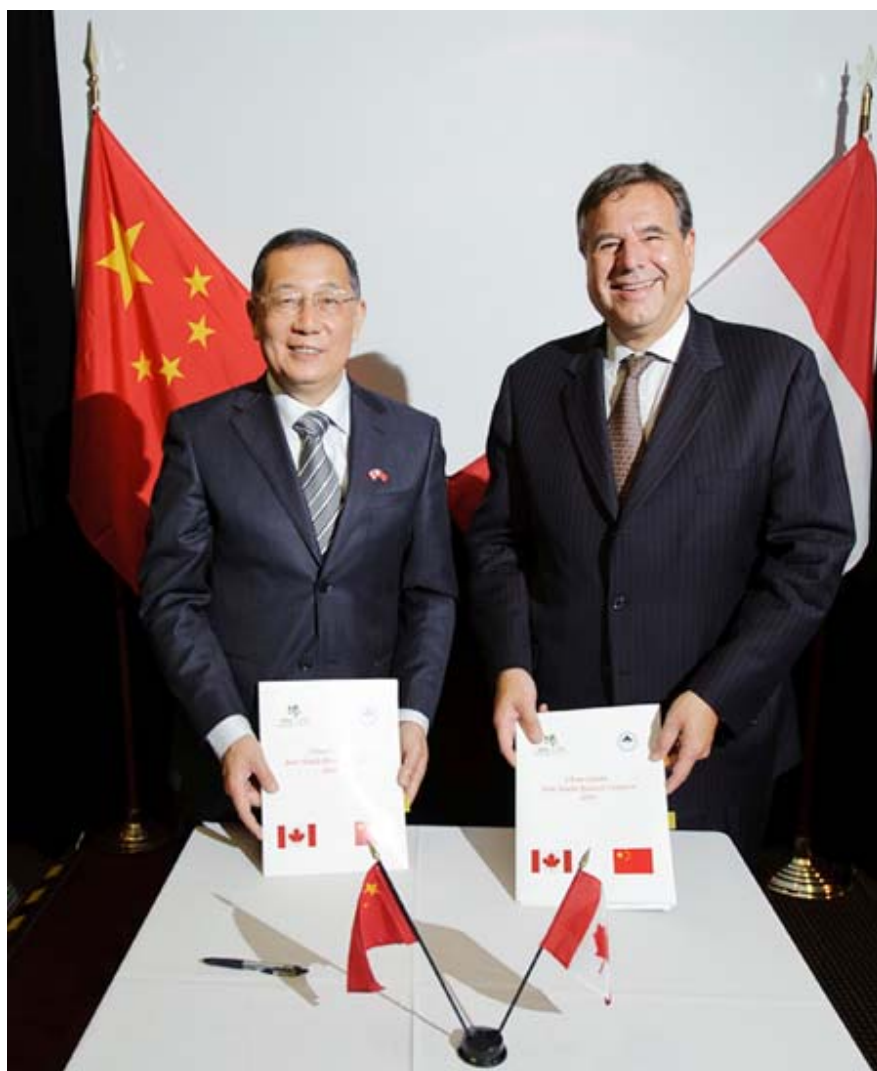
Prof. Chen Yiyu, NSFC President Meets with NRF President, South Africa



Prof. Chen Yiyu, President of NSFC met with and held a dinner for a delegation led by Dr. Albert van Jaasveld, President of National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) on September 30, 2010. It was a reciprocal visit at the invitation of President Chen Yiyu who visited South Africa in 2009. The major goal was to discuss on the text of the MOU and push ahead bilateral collaboration in a comprehensive way.

Vice President Shen Wenqing chaired the meeting with NRF and extended welcome to Dr. Albert van Jaasveld who expressed appreciation for the meetings and introduced about the development of NRF. Prof. Chang Qing, Deputy Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation and Dr. Dorsamy Gansen Pillay, Vice President of NRF briefed about the status of funding and international cooperation of each agency. The two sides reached consensus on the text of the MOU on the basis of amicable negotiation. Vice President Shen Wenqing and Dr. Albert van Jaasveld signed minutes of the meeting on behalf of respective agencies, which stated that the two sides would sign the MOU by mail by the end of November 2010 after internal approval procedure. Prof. Ji Peiwen, Prof. Chai Yucheng, Prof. Feng Feng and staff from Division of Asia and Africa were also present at the meeting.

NSFC-CIHR MoU Renewed in Ottawa



The Memorandum of Understanding between the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) on Scientific Cooperation was renewed in Ottawa on October 1, 2010. After delivering speeches respectively, NSFC Vice President Shen Yan and CIHR President Alain Beaudet signed the MoU on behalf of the two organizations. Both sides expressed appreciation of the achievements obtained during the past 5 years of bilateral cooperation and mutual commitment to strengthening the bilateral tie in basic medical research. Participants in the signing ceremony also included Drs. Dong Erdan and Yan Zhangcai from the Department of Health Sciences and Profs. Han Jianguo, Zou Liyao and Chen Huai from the Bureau of International Cooperation, NSFC.

According to the renewed MoU, NSFC and CIHR shall endeavor to broaden scientific areas for joint funding and enhance the funding level, with a view to promoting China-Canada collaboration in basic medical sciences and facilitating China's medical research and its international exchange and cooperation.

During their stay in Canada, the NSFC delegation led by Vice President Shen Yan also paid visits to the University of Ottawa and the National Research Council of Canada.

NSFC and NIH Signed Collaborative MoU in Biomedical Research



NSFC President Chen Yiyu met with Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Beijing on October 14, 2010 and signed a MoU of cooperation in medical research between the two agencies.

Prof. Chen welcomed Dr. Collins' visit to NSFC and pointed out that the recently increasing communication and exchanges between the two agencies have paved a solid foundation for substantial collaboration. Especially since the establishment of NSFC's Department of Health Sciences in 2009, a new platform for effective support to basic research in medical sciences is now in place. Prof. Chen further mentioned that to address diseases threatening the mankind, establishing partnership between the two agencies is an action that conforms to the trend of the times.

Dr. Collins thanked Prof. Chen for receiving the delegation and gave a brief on NIH's new development. He then expressed his hope to further push the substantial collaboration between researchers in medical sciences of the two countries, by taking the advantage of the NSFC-NIH MoU.

Prof. Chen and Dr. Collins accepted media interview after the signing ceremony. They both believed that with the change of our living environment and mode of production, diseases are severely threatening mankind's lives. To address this challenge, the importance and necessity of international cooperation should be fully recognized. China's medical research has gained immense progress in recent years and has passed its beginning stage and stepped into a fast-growing period. The exchanges and cooperation in health research between China and the U. S. is of great strategic significance in promoting governmental bilateral relations and international cooperation for global health research.

(Continued on Page 29)

10th Anniversary of the Sino-German Center Celebrated



Prof. Lu Yongxiang, Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress, gives remarks at the celebration.

Celebration for the tenth anniversary of the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion (the Sino-German Center) and “Strategic Workshop on Sino-German Cooperation” were jointly held by NSFC and DFG in Beijing on October 19, 2010. Prof. Lu Yongxiang, Vice-chairman of the National People’s Congress (NPC) Standing Committee and President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, NSFC President Chen Yiyu, DFG President Matthias Kleiner, German Ambassador Dr. Michael Schaefer and about 240 guests from Chinese and German scientific communities attended the celebration at the Sino-German Center. On the Strategic Workshop, which is one of the celebration activities, over 30 active participants of Sino-German scientific cooperation who had achieved great results reviewed the successful experience in the past decade and discussed the prospect for Sino-German cooperation in the next ten years. They also gave suggestions for Sino-German scientific cooperation in the next decade at strategic and policy level.

Sino-German Center is a funding organization jointly established by NSFC and DFG with the mission of promoting and facilitating cooperation and exchange between China and Germany in the field of basic research. On November 13, 1995, NSFC and DFG signed the preparatory agreement on the establishment of the Sino-German Center. Premiers of both countries attended the signing ceremony. The building of Sino-German Center was completed and officially put to use on October 19, 2000.



Prof. Chen Yiyu , President of NSFC , gives remarks at the celebration .



Prof. Matthias Kleiner , President of DFG , gives remarks at the celebration .



Celebration site

In the past ten years, NSFC and DFG allocated up to 300 million RMB to the Sino-German Center. Through various funding and activities, the Center pushed forward cooperation and exchange between Chinese and German scientists, especially young scientists. With funding from the Sino-German Center, 14 000 scientists in China and Germany carried out joint research and exchange programs and made remarkable achievements. The distinctive management, impartial review mechanism, and highly efficient operation of the Sino-German Center have been very popular among Chinese and German scientists. The Center has become a solid bridge for Sino-German science cooperation.

NSFC has been attaching great importance to international cooperation since its founding in 1986 and has established partnership with 71 foreign scientific funding organizations and international organizations. Over 30 000 joint research programs, workshops and personnel exchange programs have been supported with a total funding of 1.56 billion RMB, representing NSFC's contribution to China's international cooperation in science and technology.

With the vision and the needs for future development, NSFC has proposed a strategic policy of "emphasizing more on basic science, more on frontier research and more on talent training" in the future. NSFC will follow the development trend of basic research, push forward substantial international cooperation and exchange, improve the quality of strategic international cooperation, encourage more Chinese scientists to participate in international joint research and exchange, advance cooperation with foreign funding organizations, and strive to make bigger contribution to basic research, to the building of China into an innovative country and to the progress of science and technology.

International Symposium on Internet-based Science Grants Management System Held in NSFC



The International Symposium on Internet-based Science Grants Management System, jointly organized by the Information Center and the Bureau of International Cooperation of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), was held in NSFC during October 25—26, 2010.

NSFC Vice President He Minghong attended the opening ceremony and delivered a welcome speech to all the participants. Among the 60 participants in the symposium are Ms. Andrea Norris, Division Director of the U. S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Information & Resource Management, Dr. Gilbert Tordjman, Vice President of Le Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ), Dr. Mari Jibu, Chief of the Department of Databases for Information and Knowledge Infrastructure Innovation Headquarter, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and representatives from University Grants Committee of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Computer Network Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai Science and Technology Commission, Guangdong Provincial Science and Technology Information Center, Tsinghua University and Renmin University of China. During the presentation and discussion sessions, participants exchanged views and experiences regarding how to improve the construction of science grants management systems and enhance the efficiency of management. Dr. Gao Ruiping, Deputy Secretary General of NSFC and Director General of NSFC's General Office, also attended the symposium.

MOU between NSFC and UNEP signed in Beijing



The Memorandum of Understanding between NSFC (National Natural Science Foundation of China) and UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) was signed in Beijing Hotel on November 11, 2010. Prof. Chen Yiyu, President of NSFC and Mr. Achim Steiner, Deputy Secretary General of UN and Executive Director of UNEP affixed their signatures on the MOU on behalf of respective agencies.

Before the signature, Prof. Chen Yiyu met with Mr. Steiner and expressed thanks for his attendance on annual meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development. Prof. Chen briefed the foreign guests about the progress of NSFC and expressed that NSFC had all along attached importance to the research of environment issue and conducted all-around and effective funding in many fields. Mr. Steiner thanked Prof. Chen for attending the signing ceremony. The two sides all agreed that full preparations had been made since Prof. Chen led a delegation to visit UNEP headquarters in September, 2009 and as a result of the successful visit, the signing of the MOU was assured and natural. The two sides also hoped to develop cooperation and exchanges in the field of environment and made contribution to the collaboration between China and Africa by making the best use of the reached consensus.

UNEP participants include Zhang Shigang, coordinator of UNEP China Office, Wang Zhijia, Special Coordinator, Division of Regional Cooperation and Liu Jian, Director of International Ecosystem Management Partnership. NSFC attendees are Chai Yucheng, Executive Deputy Director-general, Department of Earth Science, Chang Qing, Executive Deputy Director-general of Bureau of International Cooperation, Yu Zhenliang, Department of Life Science and staff from Division of Asia and Africa.

Plenary Meeting of the International Committee for the Evaluation of NSFC's Funding and Management Performance Held in Beijing



The plenary meeting of the international committee for the evaluation of the funding and management performance of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) was held in Beijing during December 16th-20th, 2010. All the committee members were cordially received by Ms. Liu Yandong, State Councilor of the People's Republic of China. Ms. Liu Yandong emphasized that, stemming from the successful reform of China's S&T system, the National Natural Science Fund has played a significant and active role during the past 25 years' development. Ms. Liu Yandong encouraged all the evaluation experts to provide an objective analysis and instructive suggestions for the development of the National Natural Science Fund from historical, developmental and international perspectives. She also required that all concerned parties should assist the evaluation experts to achieve an objective judgment and assessment which, in turn, will shed light on the plans and strategies for the development of the National Natural Science Fund from an international point of view.

The international evaluation committee is comprised of 13 experienced scientists from both at home and abroad and is chaired by Prof. Richard Neil Zare of Stanford University, former Chairman of the U. S. National Science Board, member of the U. S. Academy of Sciences and Foreign Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Han Qide, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Chairman of China Association for Science and Technology and Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, together with Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, former president of DFG, former Secretary-General of the European Research Council and Secretary-General of the Human Frontier Science Program Organization, serve as Vice Chairmen of the international evaluation committee. Members of the international

evaluation committee also include famed physicist and educationist Akito Arima, former Scientific Counselor of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, Prof. Xu Zhihong, Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and former President of Peking University, etc.

As an independent assessment agency, the National Center for Science and Technology Evaluation (NCSTE) was jointly authorized by the Ministry of Finance and NSFC to organize and implement the international evaluation of NSFC's funding and management performance.

Focusing on 10 key topics, NCSTE was reportedly to have formed the preliminary report and the report on supporting evidence based on the comprehensive evidential data collected through documentary study, questionnaires, interviewing experts, case study etc. started from early 2010. As the subject of the performance evaluation, NSFC was ready to assist NCSTE by collecting historical materials and soliciting typical cases, which greatly facilitated the preparation of the preliminary report.

The international evaluation committee studied and thoroughly discussed the preliminary report prepared by NCSTE in 5 days. Based on the prepared materials, the international evaluation committee, by combination of the domestic investigation and international comparison, conducted a comprehensive evaluation of NSFC's funding and management performance during its development in the past 25 years from the international perspective. The international evaluation committee also discussed and reached agreement on the framework of final report on the international evaluation of NSFC's funding and management performance. Besides, the international evaluation committee formed plans for the next-phase evaluation work and the writing of the final evaluation report.