

PART I

Major Events at NSFC in 2009

January

January 5 The Professional Ethics and Behavior Norms of NSFC Staff was promulgated upon the approval by the NSFC Executive Council Meeting.

January 7 President Chen Yiyu, Vice Presidents Shen Wenqing, Sun Jiaguang, Yao Jiannian and He Minghong met with CAE (Chinese Academy of Engineering) leaders, exchanging views on the joint research on the medium- and long-term development strategy for China's Engineering Science and Technology. Participants in the meeting also include chiefs from NSFC General Office, Bureau of Planning, Bureau of Policy, Bureau of International Cooperation and Bureau of Personnel.

January 7 Vice President Sun Jiaguang met with the delegation led by Xu Maobo, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology of Shandong Province. During the meeting, views were exchanged on further cooperation. Chiefs from the Department of Engineering and Materials Sciences also attended the meeting.

January 8 President Chen Yiyu attended the inter-agency consultation meeting between scientific departments under the State Council.

January 9 President Chen Yiyu attended the 2008 Annual Award Conference for the National S&T Awards.

January 10 President Chen Yiyu attended the opening ceremony of the 2008 Annual Joint Academic Conference of CNC-WCRP, CNC-IGBP, CNC-IHDP and CNC-DIVERSITAS.

January 15 Vice President He Minghong chaired the Workshop on

External Publicity and Expert Consultation.

January 15-18 Vice President Shen Wenqing attended the Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting held by the RIKEN Nishina Center for Accelerator-Based Science.

February

February 9 President Chen Yiyu attended the opening ceremony of 2009 National Conference on S&T Work.

February 10 The Regulations on the Management of General Program of NSFC was approved by the NSFC Executive Council Meeting.

February 11 The Intermediate Inspection and Communication Meeting was held in Guangzhou for key projects financed by the NSFC-Guangdong Joint Fund.

February 13 Vice President Wang Jie attended the Opinion-Solicitation Meeting chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao for the report of the government work to be submitted to the 2nd Session of the 11th National People's Congress for consideration and review.

February 17 President Chen Yiyu attended the signing ceremony of the NSFC-CAS Joint Fund for Research Based on Large-Scale Scientific Facilities held in Beijing and delivered a speech. On behalf of NSFC and CAS respectively, NSFC Vice President Shen Wenqing and CAS Vice President Zhan Wenlong signed the Agreement on the NSFC-CAS Joint Fund.

February 17 President Chen Yiyu met with the delegation led by Hao Yuan, Vice Governor of Gansu Province and introduced the status quo of the National Natural Science Fund, with special emphasis on the significance and functions for extending more provinces and regions under the National Natural Science Fund for Less Developed Regions.

February 23-25 Vice President Sun Jiaguang attended the launching ceremony for extending Gansu Province under the Fund for Less Developed Regions of NSFC held in Lanzhou.

February 24 Vice President He Minghong attended the working meeting chaired by State Councilor Liu Yandong. During the meeting, members of the Committee of Education, Science, Culture, Health and Sports under the CPPCC National Committee exchanged their views and advices on the formulation of Mid- and Long-Term Plan for the National Education Development and Reform.

February 26 Vice President Sun Jiaguang attended the plenary meeting of the State Committee for the Mitigation of Natural Disasters chaired by Hui Liangyu, Vice-Premier of the State Council and Director General of the State Committee for the Mitigation of Natural Disasters.

February 27 Vice President Sun Jiaguang attended the working meeting chaired by State Councilor Liu Yandong, with a view to hearing members of the Committee of Education, Science, Culture, Health and Sports under the National People's Congress for their views and advices on the formulation of Mid- and Long-Term Plan for National Education Development and Reform.

March

March 10 & 17 Vice President Sun Jiaguang chaired the Working Meeting on NSFC Information System Construction, soliciting opinions and suggestions from both NSFC staff and experts outside NSFC on the development of NSFC information system.

March 18-19 President Chen Yiyu, Vice Presidents Wang Jie, Shen Wenqing, Sun Jiaguang and He Minghong met with NSFC staff and applicants at the venue for the reception of 2009 research applications.

March 23 President Chen Yiyu presided over the signing ceremony of the NSFC-CAE (Chinese Academy of Engineering) Joint Fund for Research on the Long-Term Development Strategy for China's Engineering Science and Technology in Beijing, with the attendance of Prof. Xu Kuangdi, President of CAE who delivered a speech. NSFC Vice President Sun Jiaguang and CAE Vice President Pan Yunhe signed the agreement of the joint fund on behalf of NSFC and CAE, respectively. Representatives from relevant departments of NSFC and CAE attended the signing ceremony.



Signing ceremony of the NSFC-CAE Joint Fund for Research on the Long-Term Development Strategy for China's Engineering Science and Technology.

March 24 The 2nd Plenary Session of the 6th NSFC General Assembly was held in Beijing. President Chen Yiyu delivered his working report titled "Strive to Create a New Prospect for the Scientific Development of the National Science Fund", The working report presented by Prof. Zhu Daoben, Chairman of NSFC Supervision Committee, was reviewed during the meeting. Besides, the meeting provided the 2008 NSFC Working Report on the Planning and Finance and 2009 Budget and Funding Plan for the representatives to deliberate.

March 24-25 The 2nd Plenary Session of the 3rd NSFC Supervision Committee was held in Beijing which was chaired by Prof. Zhu Daoben. Vice President He Minghong attended the meeting.



The 2nd Plenary Session of the 6th NSFC General Assembly.

April

April 8 President Chen Yiyu was interviewed by CCTV with respect to the application for the National Natural Science Fund in 2009.

April 15 Vice President Sun Jiaguang met with the NSF delegation led by Dr. Edward Seidel, Director of the NSF Office of Cyberinfrastructure. Views were exchanged during the meeting on enhancing US-China bilateral cooperation in the area of information sciences.

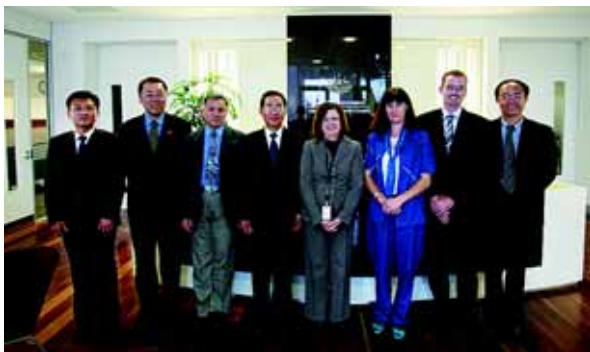
April 16 Vice President Shen Wenqing presided over the signing ceremony for NSFC/CAS Agreement on the Strategic Research of Disciplinary Development in China (2011-2020) in Beijing. Prof. Lu Yongxiang, CAS President and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and Prof. Chen Yiyu, NSFC President, attended the ceremony and delivered speeches. Vice President Sun Jiaguang and CAS Vice President Li Jinghai signed the agreement on behalf of NSFC and CAS, respectively.



Signing ceremony for NSFC/CAS Agreement on the Strategic Research of Disciplinary Development in China.

May

May 10-20 The NSFC delegation led by Vice President Sun Jianguang paid a visit to Australian Research Council (ARC) and New Zealand Foundation for Research Science and Technology.



Sun Jianguang visited ARC in Australia.

May 20-23 Vice President Shen Yan attended the 13th Meeting of the China-Korea Joint Committee for Basic Scientific Research held in Seorak, Korea.

June

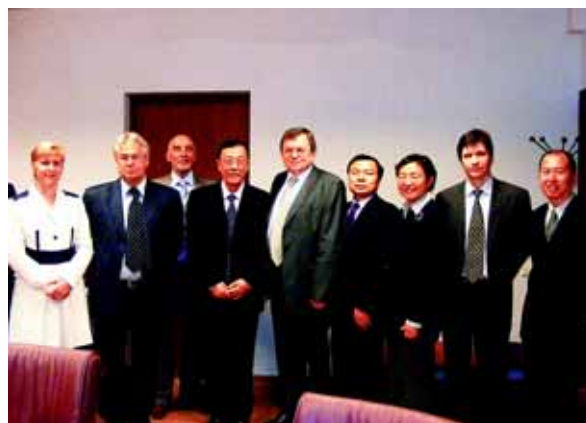
June 8-10 Vice President Wang Jie attended the Council Meeting of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).



Wang Jie met with Chinese researchers working at IIASA.

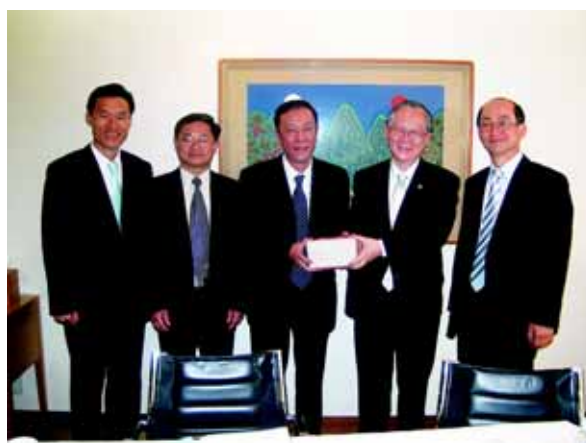
June 8-13 The NSFC delegation led by Vice President Shen Wenqing paid a visit to the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) at the invitation by Academician Vladislav Ya. Panchenko, President of RFBR. During the stay in Russia, the delegation also

visited research institutions such as the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research and Ioffe Physical Technical Institute.



Shen Wenqing visited RFBR.

June 24-27 Vice President Shen Wenqing attended the International Symposium on the Promotion of Basic Research organized by the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) in Seoul, Korea, and delivered a speech on the role of the National Natural Science Fund for enhancing basic research and fostering young talents in China. During the symposium, Vice President Shen met with Korean Minister for Education, Science and Technology and Dr. Chan-Mo Park, Chairman of the Korea Research Foundation (NRF).



Shen Wenqing attended the KOSEF International Symposium.

June 29-July 3 President Chen Yiyu attended the 2009 Panel Review Meeting for the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars and National Science Fund for Creative Research Groups held by the Department of Earth Sciences, NSFC in Lanzhou. During his stay in Lanzhou, President Chen Yiyu visited relevant research institutions and universities such as the Research Institute of Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Gansu Fisheries Science Institute, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou Jiaotong University, Gansu Agricultural University, etc.

July

July 6 Vice President Sun Jiaguang presided over the Joint Working Meeting on NSFC-Yunnan Joint Fund and Joint Working Meeting on NSFC-Guangdong Joint Fund, respectively. President Chen Yiyu attended the Joint Working Meeting on NSFC-Guangdong Joint Fund.

July 12-13 Vice President Yao Jiannian attended the 1st Anniversary Meeting held by Jilin University in Changchun with memory of the late Academician Tang Aoqing, and participated in the establishment ceremony of Tang Aoqing Education Fund.

July 13 President Chen Yiyu escorted State Councilor Liu Yandong to pay an inspection visit to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

July 13 President Chen Yiyu met with Wu Heng, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of People's Congress of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and his delegation.

July 16 Vice President Shen Wenqing met with Ms. Jacqueline Lecourtier, Director of the French National Research Agency.



Shen Wenqing met with Ms. Jacqueline Lecourtier.

August

August 5-8 President Chen Yiyu, Vice Presidents Sun Jiaguang and He Minghong attended the Panel Review Meeting and Management Committee Meeting for 2009 NSFC-Guangdong Joint Fund and NSFC-Yunnan Joint Fund in Guangzhou. During the stay in Guangzhou, President Chen Yiyu paid a visit to the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Sun Yat-Sen University. Vice President Sun Jiaguang visited the Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Shenzhen Huawei Technology Co. Ltd.

August 13 Vice President Sun Jiaguang met with Ms. Patricia Tsuchitani, Senior Advisor for Performance Assessment, NSF Office of Budget, Finance, and Award Management.

August 21 President Chen Yiyu, Vice Presidents Sun Jiaguang and He Minghong led an NSFC delegation to visit the Computer Network Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and held discussions on the construction and application of NSFC information system.

August 31 President Chen Yiyu, Vice Presidents Wang Jie and Shen Wenqing attended the 2nd session of the Council Meeting of *Science in China* and *Chinese Sci-*

ence *Bulletin* and the press conference on the merger of the two journals.

September

September 1 President Chen Yiyu chaired the 9th NSFC Executive Council Meeting in 2009, which approved 10,061 projects for General Program with a total budget of 3,305.16 million yuan, 6,079 projects for Young Scientists Fund with a total budget of 1,203.04 million yuan, and 922 projects for the Fund for Less Developed Regions with a total budget of 221.8 million yuan. The meeting also approved 391 projects for Key Program with a total grant of 724.08 million yuan, and 11 Major Program projects with a total grant of 110 million yuan, 28 projects for the Fund for Creative Research Group with a total funding of 137 million yuan, 77 projects under the Joint Research Fund for Overseas Chinese Scholars and Scholars in Hong Kong and Macao with a total funding of 15.4 million yuan, 35 projects under the Special Fund for Basic Research on Scientific Instruments with a total funding of 50 million yuan, 10 projects under the Special Fund for the Popularization of Science with a total funding of 2 million yuan, as well as 47 projects for Major International Joint Research Program with a total funding of 50.5 million yuan.

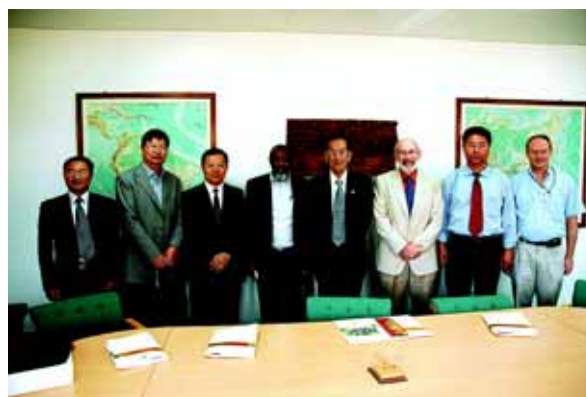
September 1 The establishment of the Department of Health Sciences of NSFC was announced.

September 4-7 President Chen Yiyu and his delegation visited the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya at the invitation of Dr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UNEP and Dr. Dennis P. Garrity, Director of the ICRAF. The delegation was cordially received by Dr. Achim Steiner and talks were held between the delegation and UNEP Chief Scientist Prof. Joe Alcamo and officials from the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, and Division of Regional Coop-

eration Africa. During the visit to ICRAF, President Chen Yiyu met with Dr. Dennis P. Garrity, ICRAF Director and Dr. Tony Simons, ICRAF Deputy Director, as well as 6 other scientists, and visited relevant research laboratories.



Chen Yiyu met with Dr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director.



NSFC delegation at ICRAF.

September 8-12 President Chen Yiyu and his delegation paid a visit to South Africa at the invitation of Dr. Albert S. van Jaarsveld, President and CEO of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. The delegation was cordially received by Dr. Jaarsveld. Talks were held between the NSFC delegation and NRF and other science departments in South Africa, and both sides decided to establish formal bilateral cooperative relationship soon to jointly support the cooperation between scientists of the two countries in mutually inter-

ested strategic and priority areas. During the stay in South Africa, the NSFC delegation also paid visits to the University of Pretoria and University of Cape Town, with a view to learning about the status quo of scientific research and laboratory facilities in South Africa.



Chen Yiyu visited South Africa.

September 9 Vice President Shen Wenqing met with Prof. Jos Engelen, Chairman of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, and Prof. Robbert Dijkgraaf, President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Shen Wenqing met with Prof. Jos Engelen and Prof. Robbert Dijkgraaf.

September 19 President Chen Yiyu escorted Liu Yandong, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and State Councilor, to pay a working visit to Lanzhou.

September 19 Vice Presidents Sun Jiaguang and He Minghong accompanied leaders from the CPC Central Committee and the State Council to attend the Glorious

Six-Decade Achievements Exhibition Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China.

September 23 President Chen Yiyu was interviewed jointly by journalists of the People's Daily, CCTV, *Guangming Daily*, *Science and Technology Daily*, *Science Times*, etc. with regard to the establishment of Research Fellowship for International Young Scientists and the establishment of the Department of Health Sciences of NSFC.

September 24 President Chen Yiyu met with the visiting delegation led by Dr. Johannes Hahn, Austrian Federal Minister for Science and Research, and Dr. Christoph Kratky, President of Austrian Science Fund, and exchanged views with the delegation on bilateral cooperation. Chiefs from the Bureau of Planning, Bureau of International Cooperation, and Department of Life Sciences of NSFC participated in the meeting.



Chen Yiyu met with the visiting delegation led by Dr. Johannes Hahn.

September 27 The NSFC regulations on the Management of General Program, Key Program, Fund for Young Scientists, Fund for Less Developed Regions, Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, and International (Regional) Joint Research Program were approved by the NSFC Executive Council Meeting.

September 28 President Chen Yiyu met with the visiting delegation led by Dr. Alain Beaudet, President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and both sides exchanged views on the cooperative achieve-

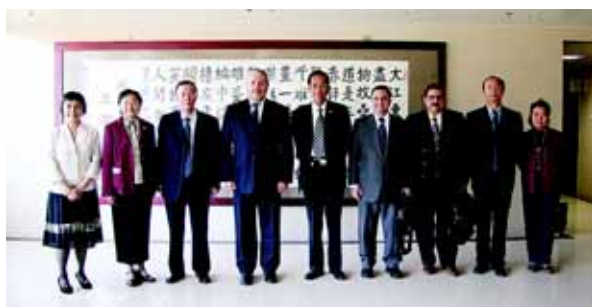
ments already obtained and further expansion of research fields and enhancement of the future bilateral operation.



Chen Yiyu met with CIHR President Dr. Alain Beaudet.

October

October 13 President Chen Yiyu and Vice President Shen Wenqing met with the Cuban delegation led by Dr. Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, Scientific Advisor to the State Council of Cuba.



Chen Yiyu met with the Cuban delegation.

October 20-23 Vice President He Minghong attended the 3rd meeting of the Asian Heads of Research Councils in Seoul, Korea at the invitation of the National Research Foundation of Korea and delivered a speech entitled “Strategies for human resources development and the fostering of research talents in China”.



He Minghong made his speech at the ASIAHORCs Meeting.

October 24-November 3 The NSFC delegation led by Vice President Sun Jianguang paid a visit to Cuban and Canadian science departments and research institutions.

October 30 President Chen Yiyu and Vice President Shen Yan attended the Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese Academy of Sciences held in Beijing.

November

November 9-13 President Chen Yiyu chaired the NSFC CPC meeting in Beijing, and Vice Presidents Wang Jie, Shen Wenqing, Sun Jianguang, Shen Yan, Yao Jiannian and He Minghong, as well as chiefs from NSFC Departments and Bureaus attended the meeting.



Opening Ceremony of the NSFC CPC meeting.

November 18 President Chen Yiyu and Vice Presidents Wang Jie, Sun Jianguang, Shen Yan, Yao Jiannian and He Minghong attended the forum held in honor of Academician Shi Changxu for his contribution to the development of the National Natural Science Fund. The forum was chaired by Vice President Wang Jie and participants in the forum include Academician Shi Changxu and his wife, former NSFC Presidents Zhang Cunhao, Chen Jia'er, chiefs from NSFC Scientific Departments and Bureaus, and other retired NSFC staff.

November 19-20 The evaluation panel of projects funded by the Fund for Creative Research Group was held. After 2 days of presentations and discussion, 7 ongoing projects were recommended for further financial support.

November 23 Vice Presidents Sun Jianguang met with the visiting delegation led by Jia Hongxing, Director General of the Office of Science and Technology, Hebei Province, and Director of the Natural Science Foundation of Hebei Province.

December

December 3-4 Vice Presidents Wang Jie and Sun Jianguang attended the 2009 Working Meeting on the Management of NSFC Projects held in Hangzhou. During the meeting, 6 amended regulations on the management of NSFC programs were introduced to more than 260 participants from research institutions, provincial science and technology offices and local science foundations, in the hope of collecting ideas and suggestions on further standardizing the management of NSFC programs.

December 8 NSFC fulfilled the registration of 248 new research institutions, with the total NSFC registered research institutions reaching 2,257.

December 16 The training program was launched for about 2,000 NSFC project managers from NSFC registered research institutions in 9 provinces (cities or regions).

December 23 Vice President He Minghong, met with the visiting delegation led by Dr. Kun-Mo Choi, Inspector General of the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF), and introduced the status quo of NSFC and its practices in inspection and supervision. Dr. Kun-Mo Choi also presented the general information of NRF and the main responsibilities of the Inspector General Office. Views on the improvement of inspection and supervision were exchanged during the meeting.



He Minghong met with the NRF delegation.