

**PART VII**

**International (Regional) Cooperation  
and Exchange**

NSFC continued to further promote its international (regional) cooperation and exchange in 2009, and succeeded in perfecting the funding scheme, conducting strategic research in the development of international cooperation and exchange, expanding and extending bilateral and strategic cooperation with overseas funding organizations, as well as strengthening cooperation in substantial joint research. Altogether 1,013 international (regional) cooperation and exchange projects are supported with a total funding of 169 million yuan.

### **Actively carry out strategic study in the development of international cooperation and exchange**

In 2009, NSFC carried out strategic research on the development of international cooperation and exchange in order to formulate NSFC 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan. The research analyzed the characteristics of internationalization of scientific research, studied the features and trend of international cooperation in science, and investigated the international strategies of major science funding agencies in the world and the development thoughts for international cooperation in some relevant Chinese departments. The research also summed up the outcomes of international cooperation workshops and project result exchange colloquia, and the comments and suggestions of experts from various sectors, and summarized the experiences of international cooperation and the implementation of the strategic plan of international cooperation during the 11th Five-Year Plan period. Based on the above work and in combination with the analysis of the challenges confronted, basic thoughts and policy suggestions for the formulation of international cooperation development strategies were finally put forward centering on the core tasks of NSFC.



Prof. Chen Yiyu led a delegation to South Africa.

## Continuously consolidate and expand international cooperation and exchange network

To further stabilize and expand the international cooperation and exchange network, Prof. Chen Yiyu led a delegation to Africa and met with President of the National Research Foundation of South Africa in 2009. Both sides agreed to formally sign the bilateral agreement in 2010. The delegation also met with Chief Executive of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Director of the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), and reached consensus on future bilateral cooperation. The visit brought about new prospects for China-Africa cooperation in science. In 2009, Prof. Wang Jie attended the IIASA committee meeting and further promoted NSFC's cooperation with IIASA. Prof. Shen Wenqing led a delegation to Russian Foundation of Basic Research. Both sides exchanged ideas about new directions and effective ways for future bilateral cooperation and agreed to renew the existing MOU. Prof. Shen Yan led a delegation to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> China-South Korea joint committee meeting in basic science, during which the annual exchange program was discussed. Prof. Sun Jiaguang led a delegation to Australian Research Council (ARC) and Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) in New Zealand, and conducted in-depth discussion on strategic plan and performance evaluation of science funding



Prof. Shen Wenqing attended the 13<sup>th</sup> US-China joint commission meeting on science and technology and signed the Protocol on China-US Cooperation in Earthquake Sciences on behalf of NSFC.



Prof. Shen Wenqing presided over the lecture given by DFG Secretary General.

agencies. Prof. He Minghong led a delegation to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASIAHORCs meeting, which strengthened regional cooperation within Asian countries. Prof. Shen Wenqing led a delegation to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> US-China joint commission meeting in science and technology, during which he renewed the Protocol on China-US Cooperation in Earthquake Sciences, and exchanged ideas with the US National Science Foundation on future cooperation. During the past year, NSFC international cooperation and exchange was effective and active, which strengthened the high level dialogue between NSFC and overseas funding organizations and further promoted growth of bi/multi-lateral relations.

In 2009, NSFC received 136 delegations from overseas science funding organizations and scientific institutions. Key guests include Austrian Science and Research Minister, President of Canadian Health Research Institute, Director General of Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), Scientific Advisor to the State Council of Cuba, President of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), European Commission's Director General for Research and Technological Development, Director General of European Organization for Nuclear Research, Secretary General of DFG, President of International Center for Biological Diversity, etc. All the visits enhanced exchanges and reached consensus on active and rewarding bilateral cooperation.

## Gradually improve the funding system of international cooperation and exchange

The number of bi/multilateral joint research projects co-organized and co-supported by NSFC and overseas funding organizations, scientific institutions and international organizations steadily increased in 2009, which enhanced the strategic international cooperation of science funding. The organization and implementation mechanism for joint research projects among science funding agencies has gradually matured. A working mode has been formulated in the cooperation with European funding organizations which advocates both flexibility and principles. Cooperation with Japan has further improved the managerial mechanism. The A3 Program and NSFC's joint research program with JSPS have been perfected through renewed funding and joint evaluation of closed projects. Cooperation with the United States has grown matured and both sides have carried out ever provocative activities such as co-organizing and co-supporting bilateral academic workshops, and co-funding joint research projects. Cooperation with UK has made breakthroughs based on many years of efforts, with NSFC-EPSCRC joint research projects being supported.

In 2009, 65 major international (regional) cooperation projects were funded with a total investment of 7.835 million yuan. The evaluation for this program has been gradually improved, with evaluation procedures closely sticking to the rules and requirements stipulated by



Prof. Shen Yan attended the second China-Thailand Joint Workshop on Natural Products and Drug Discovery.



Prof. Shen Wenqing and Prof. Wang Jie attended the 12<sup>th</sup> joint committee meeting of the Sino-German Center.

NSFC regulations to ensure its fairness and objectiveness. The guide to programs in 2009 specifies the priority areas, which enables this program to play an effective guiding role for disciplinary development.

The Research Fund for International Young scientists was formally launched in 2009. The establishment of this fellowship, a strategy move towards the future, aims to attract excellent foreign young scientists to carry out basic research in mainland China, and build up bridges and ties for the younger generation in an ever open basic research environment. It is of special significance for the fostering of close potential partners who will carry out scientific cooperation with Chinese scientists in the future. It is also an important milestone for basic research funding scheme in China to reach the international arena. Along with the economic growth, funding for basic research has been continuously improved, and China has already possessed the capability to accept foreign experts to carry out long-term academic research in China. In 2009, 40 young scholars from the United States, UK, Germany, France, Japan, etc. were awarded this fellowship with a total funding of 7.4 million yuan. These young scholars work in the areas of mathematical and physical science, chemical science, life science, earth science, engineering and materials science, etc. They will carry out six-month or one-year research in 27 universities and 13 research institutes of Chinese Academy of Sciences.