



PART VII
International (Regional)
Cooperation and Exchange

NSFC

The open and cooperation strategy, put forward in NSFC's 12th Five-Year Plan, was effectively implemented in 2011, and achievements were made in expanding collaborative channels, deepening bilateral/multilateral relations, sorting the funding network, improving the funding system and promoting strategic collaboration. During the past year, 1169 international (regional) cooperation and exchange projects were supported by NSFC with a total funding of 478 million RMB, representing an increase of 50% compared with the amount in the previous year.

1. Deepen collaborative partnerships and push forward strategic collaboration

In 2011, NSFC organized 25 high-level visits, which further strengthened bi/multilateral cooperation, promoted substantial international (regional) cooperation, expanded the research areas and scales of the existing joint funding schemes, and gave impetus to the development of strategic cooperation.

During the past year, NSFC President Prof. Chen Yiyu, and Vice Presidents, Prof. Wang Jie, Prof. Shen Wenqing, Prof. Sun Jiaguang, Prof. Shen Yan and Prof. He Minghong successively led their delegations to pay visits to NSFC's partner organizations and relevant academic institutions in various countries in Asia, Europe, and America.

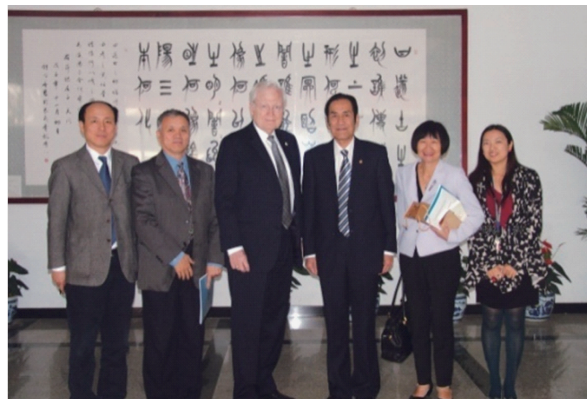


Vice President Shen Wenqing pays a visit to the US

The visit of Prof. Chen Yiyu to Council for Scientific Research, CSIC gave new momentum to NSFC's cooperation with Spain. The two sides reached consensus on signing a new MOU to guide future substantial cooperation. Prof. Wang Jie's visit to The International Institute of Applied System Analysis, IIASA further propelled the comprehensive bilateral collaboration. Prof.

Shen Wenqing's visit to the Department of Energy of USA accelerated the process to sign a bilateral collaborative agreement, and his attendance at the fifth meeting of ASIANHORCs deepened the understanding of science funding organizations in various Asian countries. Prof. Sun Jiaguang's visit to Israel Science Foundation further expanded the existing cooperation. Prof. He Minghong's visit to the US and Japan promoted cooperation between NSFC and its counterpart organizations in USA and Japan in the areas of information management and scientific integrity.

In recent years, senior officials from overseas science funding organizations or scientific institutions have paid frequent visits to NSFC. The purpose of their visits was not only to discuss bilateral cooperation, but also to exchange the understanding of scientific development and share policies and managerial experiences in science funding. During 2011, among the high-level visitors were the delegations led by the President of National Science Board (NSB) and two previous Presidents of National Science Foundation of the USA, President of the German Helmholtz Association, Director of International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Chief Executive of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Director of International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Chairman of Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), President of Academy of Finland, Chairman of Russian Foundation of Basic Research, which reflects the high value that the overseas funding organizations put on further improving and expanding collaboration with NSFC.

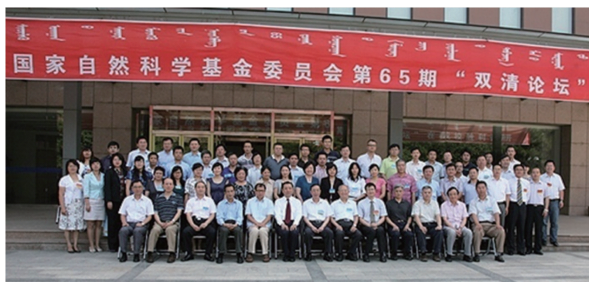


Prof. Chen Yiyu meets with Chairman of the National Science Board, USA

The high-level visits have deepened the cooperation between NSFC and its overseas counterparts, further pushed forward the strategic cooperation and laid a solid foundation for the comprehensive implementation of the open and cooperation strategy.

Based on the existing vigorous efforts to promote substantial cooperation and in coordination with the effective implementation of the open and cooperation strategy, the international (regional) cooperative network was thoroughly sorted out in 2011 so as to further improve bi/multilateral collaborative mechanism, standardize the network and the joint funding schemes, and ensure the realization of the goals set by the open and cooperation strategy

In 2011, the 65th NSFC Shuangqing Forum with the specific theme of Promoting Multilateral and South-South Cooperation was organized to explore the ways to carry out win-win multilateral and South-South cooperation based on the requirements of science development and the strategic demands of national development. The forum has provided a policy perspective for the implementation of the open and cooperation strategy.



The 65th Shuangqing Forum

2. Fulfill the annual funding plan and promote substantial international cooperation around the core tasks of NSFC

The funding system of NSFC international(regional) cooperation and exchange projects was further optimized. The increase of the budget for international (regional) cooperation was used to raise the funding intensity of joint research projects, making the percentage of this type of projects in the whole budget for international cooperation rise to 83%. Totally 92 major international(regional) joint research projects were funded in 2011 with a total investment of 255 million RMB, and 142 joint re-

search projects were funded by NSFC and its partner organizations with a total input of 140 billion RMB from NSFC.

Close cooperation was continued between NSFC and NSF in the US under the framework of China-US Scientific Cooperation Protocol in Basic Research, and a multi-level and comprehensive cooperative structure was formed, including joint activities at projects, policy and management level. New consensus was reached in 2011 between NSFC and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on tasks in the coming two years on the basis of the successful completion of the first round joint funding. This signifies that cooperation between NSFC and NIH has entered into a new stage. Substantial cooperation between NSFC and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) was further promoted. Both sides organized joint panel meetings for the China-Canada health program and senile dementia program. This marks the start of the second five-year plan of the health program, and joint funding program in senile dementia. After 6 years of operation, the management and funding of China-Japan cooperation program on environment and energy and China-Japan-South Korea Foresight Program have been constantly improved, and the trilateral cooperation has further grown and matured.

European Union is one of the priorities in NSFC's international cooperation. According to the administrative arrangement signed between NSFC and European Commission, both sides agreed on the specific working procedures to jointly fund substantial research projects and will launch the first joint call in 2012. This represents a major progress in NSFC's cooperation with European Union and establishes a sound platform for NSFC to carry out multilateral cooperation with various countries in Europe.

A multi-level and wide-ranging strategic collaborative partnership has taken shape between NSFC and German Science Foundation (DFG) which becomes a model of NSFC's collaboration with European science funding organizations. The Sino-German Joint Interdisciplinary Research Program (SG-JIRP) has become a major part of NSFC's cooperation with DFG, aiming to

provide a platform for long-term international-standard interdisciplinary cooperation between scientists of both countries, and enhance the training of young researchers. The first SG-JIRP project has completed and achieved significant results. The collaborative mechanism with the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) has gradually turned mature. Despite the negative impact of international financial crisis, NWO still sets up a special fund for the cooperation with NSFC in the next 3 years, which reflects the mutual trust and the importance it attaches to the cooperation with China. The joint funding pattern between NSFC and the Academy of Finland has become the good example for NSFC and its European counterparts to follow in conducting cooperation. The on-going China-Finland-Germany joint funding scheme has been a pioneering multilateral program in NSFC's cooperation with Europe.

In 2011, several joint research projects were supported by NSFC and 5 research institutes (centers) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMY), The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Bioversity International, and bilateral workshops were organized by NSFC and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)/the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) /the International Potato Center (CIP) to prepare the joint funding in 2012.

111 foreign young scholars were funded by the Research Fund for International Young Scientist (RFIYS) to carry out joint research in China, with a total investment of 21 million RMB from NSFC. Among them, 31 were granted with extended funding. The grantees come from 42 countries including US, Japan, UK, Australia, France, Germany, Canada, Tunisia, Denmark, Romania, South Korea, Singapore, India, Turkey, Belgium, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Netherlands, Portugal and Colombia, etc. Their research areas span across all the scientific departments in NSFC. A gathering of around 50 grantees and their host researchers in Beijing was organized at NSFC to facilitate the communications between foreign young scientists and the Chinese scientific community.



Gathering of grantees and their host researchers of RFIYS

3. Steady progress made in the Sino-German Center

As a key channel of NSFC's international cooperation, the Sino-German Center has further regulated its funding and internal operation in 2011. 97 proposals were received, of which 61 were approved, covering workshops, joint researches, short-term lectures etc. It is one of the key tasks of the Center to fund PhD students in universities and research institutes to attend the Nobel Laureate meeting in Lindau, Germany. In 2011, some PhD students were selected and sponsored to attend the meeting in the area of biology and economics.

4. New headway made for the cooperation with Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan

Progress was made in NSFC's cooperation with Taiwan in 2011. A joint fund was established by NSFC and Fujian Province to promote cross-straits cooperation and the preparation for the call for proposals has already been underway. Meanwhile the joint call for proposals was launched as planned for the 2012 cross-straits joint funding in tropical disease.

Steady progress was made within the scheme of NSFC-RGC (Research Grand Council) joint funding. The funding intensity was increased from 333 thousand RMB to 450 thousand per project from NSFC, which made it more attractive to scientists and effectively promoted the collaboration between scientists from the mainland and Hong Kong.

A sound relation was maintained between NSFC and Macao, and both sides continued to promote cooperation and exchange between scientists from the mainland and Macao.