

## Evaluation System

In line with the evaluation principle of “relying on experts and democracy to select the best proposals for support in a fair way”, a rigorous evaluation system was established including two stages evaluation of communicative peer review and panel review.

The pool of peer reviewers of NSFC comprises 120,000 researchers selected from universities and research institutions all over the country. The review panels are consisted of scientists who are enthusiastic to the management of science funding and in particular recognized by the scientific community in terms of their intellectual and ethic merits. A tenure system is adopted for the panelist with a term of two years. Members in each panel are replaced roughly 50% in number when the panel term is due and each panelist is in service no more than two terms. A total of 14 terms of the review panels have been organized during the period of 1986~2012. The 14th term of review panels are constituted by 1693 panelists in 94 panels.

### Procedures of Proposal Submission, Acceptance, Evaluation, and Approval

1. Announcement of Guide to Program and Notice on Application
2. Proposal preparation by applicants
3. Submission of proposals to NSFC after checkup by registered institutions
4. Receiving of proposal
5. Preliminary examination by scientific departments
6. Announcement of preliminary examination results
7. Acceptance and disposal of appeals for proposals failed to pass the preliminary examination
8. Communicative peer review
9. Summary on the results from peer review and preparation of proposals to panel review
10. Panel review
11. Approval of proposals by NSFC council
12. Announcement of projects to be funded and rejected
13. Appeals by non-funded applicants for reexamination
14. Acceptance of appeals
15. Confirmation of the original decision or reexamination