

## Chief Executive of NERC Visited NSFC



*Picture taken during the conference, third from right: Prof. Li Zhuqi, Vice President of NSFC.*

A rewarding meeting was held between Prof. Li Zhuqi, Vice President of NSFC, and Prof. John Lawton, chief executive of the Natural Environment Research Council, on August 28, 2002. Both sides briefed each other on their work and explored the possibilities for further cooperation.

Prof. Lawton's visit was to promote bilateral cooperation through information exchange among senior officials. The discussion centered on issues such as the possibility of signing bilateral agreement, cooperation under the framework of NERC priority areas and NSFC Major and Key Programs and the encouragement of Chinese and UK scientists' participation in the EU 6th Framework Program. Prof. Han Jianguo, Director-General of the International Cooperation Bureau and Prof.

Lu Zewei, Director General of the Earth Sciences Department also attended the meeting.

NERC is an independent executive Non-Departmental Public Body established by Royal Charter in 1965. It is funded through the Office of Science and Technology. With the lead UK responsibility for developing, funding and delivering environmental sciences, NERC is unique in being able to support research training and environment observations across all components of the Earth system. With an annual budget of over 2 billion pounds, NERC devotes its funding almost equally between UK universities and its own research centers.

(Fan Yingjie, Lu Rongkai)