

China and Germany Join Forces Over SARS



State Councilor Chen Zhili met the deputies of the Sino-German Workshop on SARS Research in Beijing on June 5.

Well-known Chinese and German scientists assembled in Beijing to participate in the Sino-German Workshop on SARS Research on June 3rd and 4th. The Workshop was jointly proposed by NSFC and DFG and competently organized by the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion. 39 scientists attended, 14 from Germany and 25 (including 7 Academicians) from China. 15 lectures and 9 short presentations were given in the fields of viral molecular biology, etiology, pathogenesis and paths of infection, immune mechanism, vaccine research and the prevention, diagnosis and therapy of SARS.

The exchange of results and in-depth discussions resulted in the planning of some 12 research collaborations - a successful outcome for the efforts of the two research foundations to bring together top-level researchers from China and Germany.



State Councilor Chen Zhili met with Prof. Hans-Dieter Klenk, Leader of the German delegation.



Prof. Chen Zhu, Vice President of CAS gives a speech.



German scientist Prof. Rolf Hilgenfeld gives a speech.



Chinese and German scientists in a discussion during the Sino-German Workshop on SARS Research.

The German delegation included eminent virologists and immunologists such as Hans-Dieter Klenk, leader of the delegation and an internationally renowned for his work on the Marburg Virus, or Rolf Hilgenfeld (University of Lübeck) and John Ziebuhr (University of Würzburg), who have been studying corona viruses for several years and authored the first paper on the SARS virus in *SCIENCE*, detailing the crystal structure of a key SARS virus protein.

Well-known Chinese scientists working in the front line of the battle against SARS had joined the Chinese delegation, such as academician Wen Yumei and Professor Yang Huanming. The German delegation was very impressed by their achievements and praised the high standards of research.

State Councilor Chen Zhili met the scientists at Zhong Nan Hai in Beijing. On behalf of the Chinese Government she congratulated them on the success of the workshop and thanked them for their efforts. Prof. Klenk expressed his admiration of the successful measures taken by the Chinese Government to contain the epidemic.

The Workshop will contribute substantially to the development of Sino-German cooperation in the medical sciences. Both countries will strengthen their cooperation and exchange, contributing to the final success in the battle against SARS.

(Li You)