

## NSFC Life Science Delegation Visits France Successfully



At the invitation of INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) and CNRS (Le Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), the NSFC life science delegation headed by Prof. Zhu Zuoyan, Vice President of NSFC, paid a visit to France from Nov. 18 to 29, 2003.

The aim of the delegation is to learn about the priority areas in life sciences in France, its national strategy and experience in the free application, to summarize the Sino-French cooperation and exchange in life sciences, especially in the areas of fish biology and aquaculture, and to talk about future cooperation. Meanwhile, both sides also aim to explore the collaborative areas of common concern and the possibility of co-funding some bilateral workshops in the areas of marine biology and developmental biology in 2004.

Headed by Prof. Zhu Zuoyan, the delegation consist of Prof. Lin Haoran, member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering from Zhongshang University, two grantees of the National Distinguished Young Scholars Fund, Dr. Nie Pin from Institute of Hydrobiology, CAS, Prof. Meng Anming from Tsinghua University, Prof. Lü Beilei and Prof. Chen Yue from NSFC.

During its stay in France, the delegation was warm-

ly received by scientists and officials in INRA, CNRS, IFREMER (Institut Français de la Recherche Pour l'Exploitation de la Mer), INSERM (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale), Institut Pasteur and its related centers etc.

The delegation showed strong interest in the research on biotechnology, bio-resources and environmental science in France. Scientists from both sides also brought up proactive and feasible recommendations and reached preliminary consensus.

In addition, initiated by IFREMER and on behalf of the NSFC, Prof. Zhu signed the MOU between NSFC and IFREMER about the bilateral workshop in Marine Biology to be held in China next year and some exchange projects.

The visit has turned out to be a very successful one. As the first important meeting between leading researchers in life sciences of China and France after the signing of the NSFC-INRA, NSFC-CNRS and NSFC-IFREMER agreements, this visit will further promote the cooperation and exchange between scientists in life sciences, especially in the area of fish biology and developmental biology.

(Lü Beilei, from BIC-NSFC,2003-12)