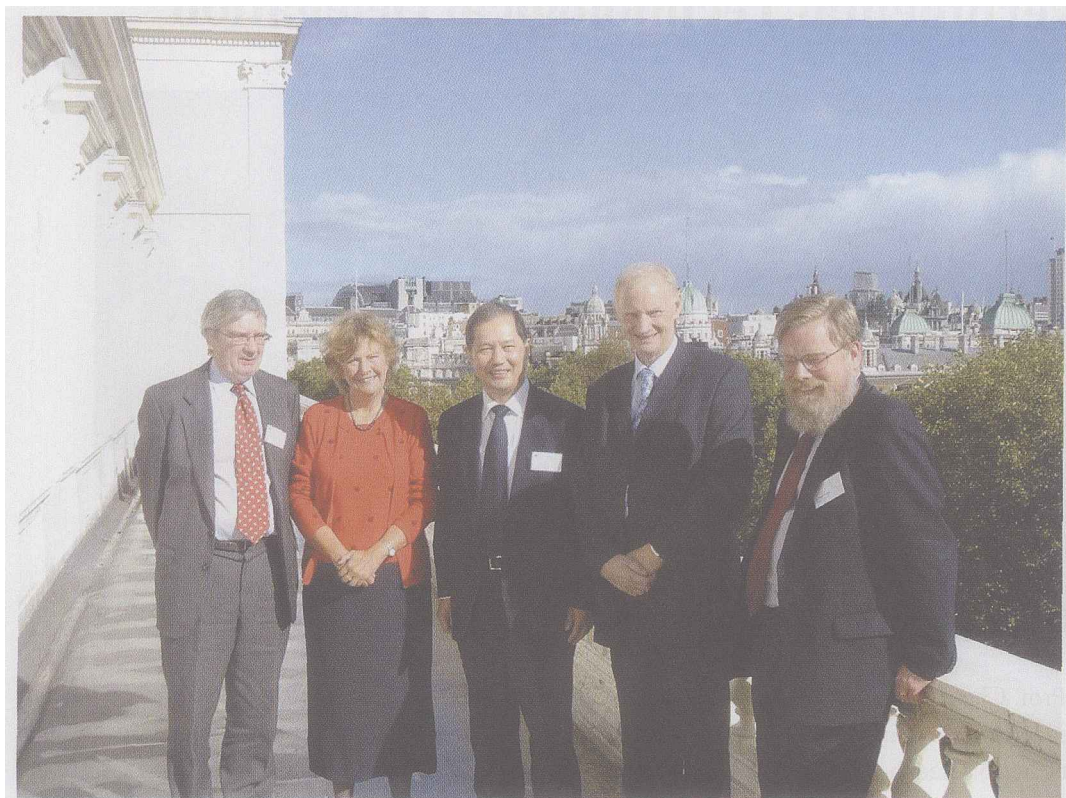


A successful visit to the United Kingdom



At the invitation of the Royal Society, the NSFC life science delegation headed by Prof. Zhu Zuoyan, Vice President of NSFC, paid a successful visit to the United Kingdom from Sept. 28 to Oct. 8, 2004.

The delegation visited some funding organizations including the Royal Society, the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Wellcome

Trust, as well as some universities and research institutes such as University of Edinburgh, University of Aberdeen, University of Sheffield, University College London, the Cancer Research Institute and the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh. They also met with the officials in charge of International Affairs in the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).

In the Royal Society, Prof. Zhu held a meeting with its Vice President and Foreign Secretary, Prof. Higgins, DBE FRS FEng, and lunched with its Vice President, Prof. Read and Chief Executive, Prof. Cox. They exchanged the latest developments in bilateral cooperation and views for future cooperation. A consensus was reached to further strengthen the collaboration under the framework of joint projects and the Network Program between British and Chinese young scientists.

In MRC, during Prof. Zhu's meeting with Prof. Blackmore, Chief Executive of MRC and Prof. Cleaver, President of MRC, both sides agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and co-sponsor one or two Sino-UK bilateral workshop next year.

In the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Prof. Zhu reached an agreement with its Chief Executive about signing of the bilateral agreement for further cooperation.

The delegation also conducted in-depth study and investigation about the strategy, funding priority, scheme and policy in the area of life sciences in the U.K. as well as the research in cancer, developmental biology and relevant disciplines in the UK universities and research institutes, tapping the possibilities for bilateral cooperation and exchange.

Other members of the delegation include: Prof. Dong Erdan and Dr. Gu Ruisheng from the Dept. of Life Sciences, Mr. Lu Rongkai from the Bureau of International Cooperation and Prof. Meng Anming from Tsinghua University.

(Fan Yingjie, Lu Rongkai)