

The 2nd Meeting of the Heads of Research Councils of Asia Countries Held in Shanghai



The presidents from NSFC, JSPS and KOSEF met in China .

On December 2 to 4, 2004, the Second Meeting of the Heads of Research Councils of Asian Countries (A-HORCs) was successfully held in Shanghai. Prof. Motoyuki Ono, President of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), Prof. Oh Kab Kwon, Chairman and CEO of Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF), and Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC (on behalf of NSFC President Chen Yiyu) headed their respective delegations to attend the meeting. Prof. Chen Yiyu paid a special visit to Shanghai to host the welcome dinner on December 2, 2004. This is the first time for NSFC to host such meeting in China, and also the first time for the presidents from NSFC, JSPS and KOSEF to meet in China.

This series meeting, initiated by NSFC and JSPS, is aimed at providing opportunities for the leaders of the three funding agencies to discuss important funding issues and to develop personal relationships in order to strengthen future cooperation among the three countries. The meeting will be held annually in three countries alternately. JSPS hosted the first meeting in Japan in 2003 on the topic of the policies of science and technology.

The topic of this second meeting was Policy for S&T Human Resource Development. Three parties shared their experiences and concerns, and learned from each other. Through discussion, three parties agreed to make two concrete steps to enhance trilateral scientific cooperation. The first one is to hold trilateral "Northeastern Asian Symposium" on annually selected topic. The Northeastern Asian Symposium was initiated as a series of bilateral meetings organized and sponsored by NSFC and KOSEF in 1998. Six such meetings were launched before. The second one is to establish a trilateral research program entitled "A3 Foresight Program".

The atmosphere of the meeting was pleasant. Three parties happily shook hands to say goodbye and look forward to seeing each other again next year in Korea.

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