

## Prof. Sun Jianguang Headed a NSFC Science Policy Delegation to the UK and Italy



*From June 22 to July 1, 2005., Prof. Sun Jianguang paid a visit to UK and Italy*

A NSFC delegation on science policy headed by Prof. Sun Jianguang, Vice President of NSFC, paid a visit to the UK and Italy from June 22 to July 1, 2005. The delegation conducted wide discussions with relevant science funding organizations and research institutes on formulation of science policy and strategic planning, models, administration and inspection of basic research funding, etc.

The delegation visited the Royal Society, the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Biotech and Biological Science Research Council (BBSRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), the Office of Science and Technology (OST), the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), the University of Edinburgh, the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, the Italian National Research Council (CNR), Milan Technical University, as well as two science policy research institutes, PREST and Institute of S & T Policy Research, University of Sussex.

The delegation learned, through the visit, that the UK mainly adopts the Responsive mode and Direct mode to support basic research, which respectively fund free applications from scientists and applications under the direction of national goals. In recent years, the British government has been trying to balance these two modes and advocate further collaboration between government, academic community and industry. Italy has launched a large-scale reform in CNR and tried to promote cooperation between universities and industries and upgrade the national competitiveness. The EU science policy has been increasingly influential in Europe. The visits and discussions further enhanced collaboration between NSFC and corresponding S & T institutions, deepened our knowledge on the S & T administration system and science policy in the UK and Italy, all of which are beneficial to the formulation of the NSFC 11th Five-Year Plan and science policy research.

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