

# Further Implement the Scientific Outlook for Development and Open up a New Prospect for Science Funding



The first plenary session of the Sixth NSFC General Assembly was held in Beijing on May 27, 2008. State Councilor Liu Yandong attended the meeting, gave her greetings and paid tribute to those scientists and technologists who contributed to the quake-relief endeavor. She emphasized that NSFC should, guided by the scientific outlook for development, precisely grasp its strategic position in the national innovation system, consistently develop and improve the science funding system and strive to open up a new prospect for science funding.

She said that NSFC has earnestly carried out the principles and policies of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, kept improving the funding structure, continuously supported innovative research and strived to cultivate innovative thinking and culture, all of which have played an important role in promoting basic research and upgrading the overall capability of science and technology in China.

She stressed that NSFC should enhance science funding in an all-around way under the guidance of the scientific outlook for development. First, it should summarize experiences to promote the continuous development of science funding with Chinese characteristics. Secondly, it should strengthen strategic research and make forward planning in view of scientific frontiers and national needs. Thirdly, it should improve the mechanism and strive to create an environment conducive to indigenous innovation. Fourthly, it should improve the funding structure and vigorously foster innovative talents. Fifth, it should build up a systematic platform, create a cultural environment and perfect the supporting system to concretely improve its service to scientists. Sixth, it should improve the function of NSFC General Assembly and give full play to the collective wisdom of scientists.

In addition, Liu particularly pointed out that the current situation facing earthquake-relief efforts is still rigorous, which makes the task arduous. Scientists and researchers shall make use of their unique strength of science and technology to contribute positively to the control of infectious diseases, the treatment and cure of the wounded, the self-rescue of production and the elimination of danger of secondary hazards, as well as the rebuilding of homes. Further efforts shall be made in the earthquake monitoring and forecasting, the economic layout and urban and township planning in earthquake-frequent areas, as well as research in aseismic structures and function of municipal construction and major infrastructures, so as to increase the quality of scientific forecasting and keep the loss incurred by earthquake to the minimum degree. Meanwhile, research in combating various disasters, especially their formation and precaution countermeasures, shall be strengthened to consistently improve the capability of scientific policy-making in disaster relief efforts.

Prof. Lu Yongxiang, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Xu Kuangdi, President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, attended the meeting.