At the invitation of NSFC, the DFG delegation, led by its President Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, paid a visit to China from Apr. 9 to 19, 2005. Members of the delegation include Prof. Frank Steglich, Vice President of DFG and Dr. Axel-Hubertus Zienicke, the Deputy Secretary General, etc.

Prof. Chen Yiyu, President, Prof. Zhu Zuoyan, Vice President, and Prof. Wang Jie, Vice President of NSFC met with the delegation on April 11. Prof. Chen first briefed the delegation about the latest development in NSFC, including the strategic position of NSFC in the national innovative system, the 24-character principle for NSFC's work in the new period, the 11th Five-Year Plan, the science inspection, the new NSFC constitution, as well as the 2005 proposal acceptance and budget increase in NSFC. On his side, Prof. Winnacker introduced the development in basic research in Germany as well as Europe, such as the European Research Council to be established, the funding of the DFG Collaborative Research Center Programs, etc. Afterwards both parties reviewed, discussed and expressed their satisfaction on the existing collaboration and the willingness to reinforce it. Finally, Prof. Chen Yiyu and Prof. Winnacker signed the "Agreement between NSFC and DFG on support of Sino-German joint interdisciplinary research programs (SG-JIRP)" on behalf of NSFC and DFG.

During their stay in Beijing, Prof. Lu Yongxiang, President of CAS, and Prof. Wu Qidi, Vice Minister of Ministry of Education, met with, and hosted dinner in honor of, the delegation. In addition, the delegation also paid visits to the China Agricultural University, Zhejiang University, Fudan University, and Lanzhou University, where talks with senior university officials and researchers were held to enhance China-Germany collaboration.

(Fan Yingjie, Lu Rongkai)