

# PREFACE

**T**he National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) was established on February 14, 1986. It is an institution directly under the jurisdiction of the State Council, tasked with the administration of the National Natural Science Fund from the Central Government.

**S**ince its establishment, NSFC has comprehensively introduced and implemented a rigorous and objective merit-review system to fulfill its mission of supporting basic research, fostering talented researchers, developing international cooperation and promoting socioeconomic development.

**T**he administrative system has been well developed and improved for the decision-making of the funding policy, the implementation of funding programs and the supervision of funding operation. The management system of project implementation and a complete set of regulations have been formulated.

**T**he current funding system is focused on three categories of programs including research promotion, talent fostering and infrastructure construction for basic research.

## Principle

Rely on experts, promoting democracy, merit-based support, fair and reasonable.

## Mechanism

Scientific and democratic, fair competition, encourage innovation.

## System

Establish and improve decision-making, implementation, monitoring, consulting coordinated science fund management system

**A**long with the continuously increasing investment in basic research by the government, NSFC's annual budget has increased from 80 million RMB in 1986 to 17 billion RMB in 2012. At present, about 38,000 new awards to over 1500 host institutions are granted per year, and most of these awards go to individuals or groups of investigators. Others provide funding for instruments and facilities that allow scientists to work at the frontiers of knowledge.

**N**SFC encourages international cooperation and exchange in basic research. It has signed 70 Cooperative Agreements or MoUs with partners in 35 countries and regions.

**L**ooking ahead, NSFC will stress on the following aspects in its future development: innovative research, talents cultivation, international cooperation and management of excellence. NSFC is proud to be a key contributor to the progress and prosperity of the basic research of China, and meanwhile grow along with it.