

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets with Ecuadorian Guests



On July 27, 2012, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) Vice President, Professor Shen Wenqing met with Mr. Rene Ramirez, the National Secretary of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Ecuador.

Prof. Shen extended his welcome to Mr. Ramirez for his visit to NSFC. He said that with the increase of governmental investment in basic research, NSFC's budget had been growing steadily in recent years, along which came its continuous development of collaboration with the major science powers, the neighboring countries and other developing countries. He pointed out that, up to now, NSFC had little substantial collaboration with countries in South America and Mr. Ramirez's visit was a good start in enhancing mutual understanding and future collaboration.

Mr. Ramirez made a presentation on Ecuador's general profile of science and technology, the strength of Ecuador's research in bio-diversity, and the newly launched initiative of "Yachay"-City of Knowledge. Mr. Ramirez suggested the two sides start collaboration in the areas of mutual interest, such as life science and biodiversity. Prof. Shen agreed that biodiversity could be the starting point for future collaboration.

Prof. Zou Liyao, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation made a brief introduction of NSFC's funding portfolio and the recent development of international collaboration.

Mr. Leonardo Arizaga, Ambassador of Ecuador and Mr. Patricio Palacios, Science Councilor of Ecuador joined the visit.

For the First Time a Chinese Researcher Gives the Plenary Lecture at the International Symposium on Combustion



Mr. Qi Fei, a professor from the University of Science and Technology of China, delivered a one-hour plenary lecture at the 34th International Symposium on Combustion held from July 29 to August 3, 2012 in Warsaw, Poland. The lecture was highly appraised and had drawn wide attention in global combustion research community. It was the first time that a Chinese expert gave a plenary lecture at this serial symposium since 1928 when it was first held. Since it comes to the 21st century, papers with first authors from China published at the symposium have been growing. At the last two symposia, China ranked the third in total number of papers among all the countries, only after the USA and Japan, the two strong countries in combustion research. It indicates that China has made great progress in both reputation and influence in basic research on combustion.

Since he came back to China in 2003, Professor Qi Fei has been dedicated to the development and application of tunable synchrotron VUV photoionization mass spectrometry in combustion studies including pyrolysis, oxidation, premixed/non-premixed flame and biomass processes. He has made many systematic and innovative achievements in new combustion diagnosis methods and the kinetic modeling of combustion, and published over 150 articles in world-renowned journals like *Science*, *Combustion and Flame*, and *Proceedings of the Combustion Institute*.

Professor Qi Fei was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Combustion Institute at the symposium and would take part in the management of the Combustion Institute in the future. He also served as the co-Chair of the session of “soot, pah and other large molecules”, responsible for the selection of oral presentations and the evaluation of best papers in the session.

Besides the plenary lecture, 7 papers from Professor Qi Fei’s research group were accepted as the oral presentations, which made it the most productive research group at the symposium. Their work was highly appreciated by famous scholars of the international research circle in combustion. The achievements

should be attributed to their persistence in innovation of experimental methods and enthusiastic pursuit of research equipment with independent intellectual property. Their work received continuous support from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In 2006, Professor Qi Fei was granted by the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars.

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets with NSERC Executive Vice-President



NSFC Vice President, Prof. Shen Wenqing met with Ms. Margaret McCuaig-Johnston, Executive Vice-President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) on August 9, 2012.

Prof. Shen extended his welcome to Ms. Margaret McCuaig-Johnston for her visit to NSFC and then gave a brief introduction on NSFC. Speaking of the tie between NSFC and NSERC, Prof. Shen said that the MoU between the two organizations was signed in as early as 1987, with intention to promote exchange activities between the two countries. He hoped the two organizations to further strengthen the communication and coordination in order to promote the substantial bilateral collaboration.

Ms. Margaret McCuaig-Johnston said her 8 visits to China during the past decades had seen China's fast development of science and technology, which was very impressive. The fast increasing joint publication of academic papers between Canadian and Chinese scientists had laid a solid foundation for future collaboration. She said NSERC differs to NSFC in that it does not allocate separate fund for international cooperation, instead, its research fund has a component of international collaboration.

Prof. Shen said that the collaboration between Canada and China took a great percentage in NSFC awarded Major International Joint Research Program. He suggested that, workshops be jointly organized in the future to further strengthen the communication and coordination between the two organizations so as to overcome the differences in funding schemes and develop a better platform of collaboration for the scientists of the two countries. His proposal got a positive response from NSERC guests.

Prof. Zou Liyao, Deputy Director-General of the Bureau of International Cooperation made a presentation on NSFC's recent development and its international cooperation.

Ms. Ren Jing from the Canadian Embassy in Beijing joined the visit. NSFC participants to the meeting also included Ms. Liu Xiuping and Mr. Wei Qin from the Bureau of International Cooperation.

Vice President Sun Jianguang Meets with CONICYT President



NSFC Vice President, Professor Sun Jianguang met with Dr. Jose Miguel Aguilera, President of CONICYT on August 24, 2012. The two sides exchanged information on their respective organizational profiles and views of how to promote bilateral collaboration on science and technology. Dr. Aguilera expressed his interest in establishing collaboration on talents exchange with NSFC. Ms. Maria Teresa Ramirez, Director General of International Cooperation, CONICYT and Mr. Eduardo Silva, Second Secretary of the Chile Embassy in China accompanied the visit. Professor Zou Liyao, Deputy Director-General, Bureau of International Cooperation and Professor Dong Guoxuan, Deputy Director-General, Department of Mathematical and Physical Sciences attended the meeting.

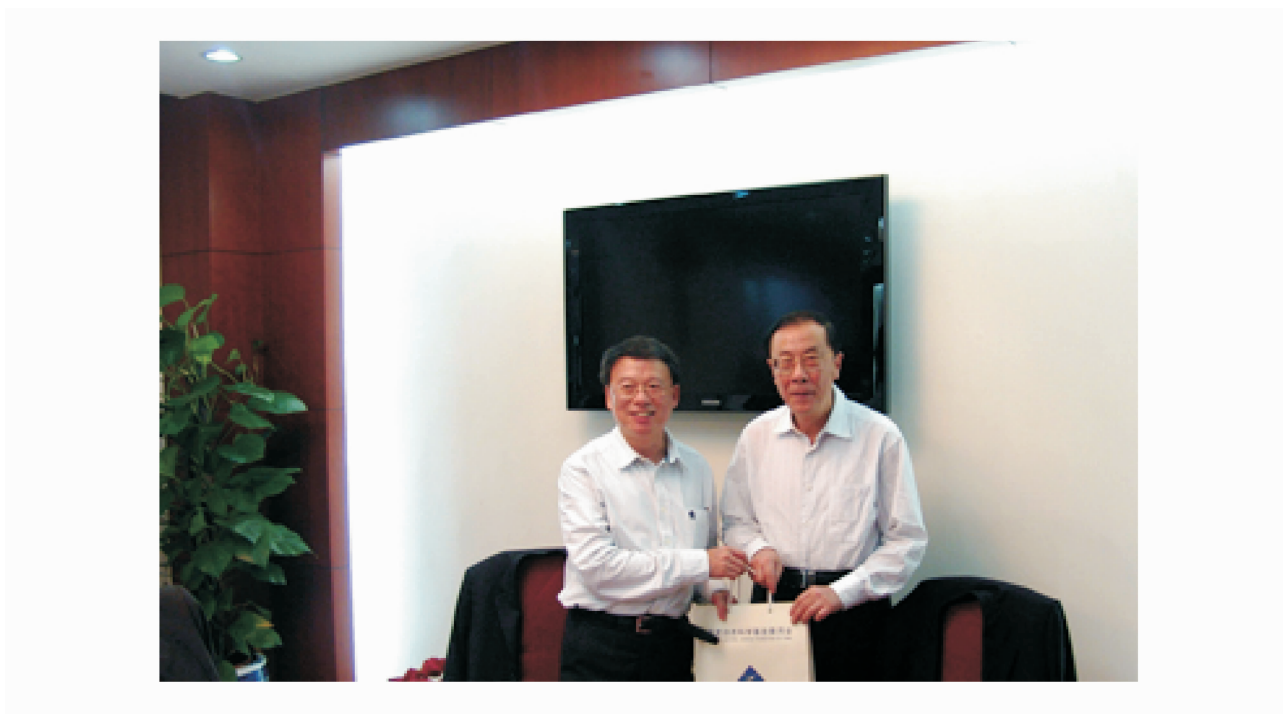
Ten-Year Anniversary Workshop of NSFC-IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program Held in Beijing

On September 12th, 2012, Ten-Year Anniversary Workshop of NSFC-IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP) was held in NSFC. On behalf of the NSFC, Vice President, Prof. Wang Jie delivered a speech at the opening ceremony. 50 or so participants including 4 scholars from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), researchers from relevant Chinese universities and institutions, representatives of the Bureau of International Cooperation and Department of Management Sciences of NSFC, attended the workshop.

NSFC has always attached great importance to the cultivating and fostering young talents and has joined the IIASA for ten years. During the first year when NSFC joined the IIASA, 2 young scholars were supported by NSFC to attend YSSP, a yearly IIASA sponsored 3-month research activity taken place in Austria in summer. In the past decade NSFC supported 51 young researchers to participate in the YSSP.

During the Workshop with the major topic as Platform for Young Scientists, IIASA and home supervisors, YSSP young scientists made presentations and discussions based on their own experiences and perspectives. The workshop was a great success.

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets Guest from K. T. Li Foundation



On September 21st, 2012, Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), met the delegation led by Prof. Sun Yihan from K. T. Li Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology.

Prof. Shen expressed his appreciations to K. T. Li Foundation for its effort in promoting scientific exchange and cooperation between the two sides of the strait. With the hope for furthering the cooperation, he indicated that the two sides will be of much help in making the collaboration more effective and successful based on the responsibility on science communities for the social and economic prosperity. In the meeting the two sides introduced general situation of each foundation, project types and joint funding performance, exchanged ideas about future cooperation.

NSFC attendees were Prof. Lu Rongkai, Director of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office, Prof. Wang Qidong, Director of Division of Interdisciplinary program of Bureau of Planning, Prof. Wang Yi, Deputy Director of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office, Prof. Rong Peijing, Program Officer and Dr. Luo Guang, Miss. Li Yan, Program Officer of Division of Hongkong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs of the Ministry of Science and Technology of P. R. China, also attended the meeting.

The 6th ASIAHORCs General Meeting in Beijing



The 6th Asia Heads of Research Councils (ASIAHORCs) General Meeting was held at National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) on Oct. 10, 2012. The opening ceremony was chaired by Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC. With sincere congratulations to the meeting, NSFC President Prof. Chen Yiyu delivered a speech at the opening ceremony on behalf of the organizer, extended warm welcome to all guests to ASIAHORCs General Meeting in China. Representatives of science funding agencies from eight Asian countries attended the meeting including China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philipine and Thailand.

Prof. Chen Hesheng, academician of CAS delivered a keynote speech on “Particle Physics Research in China” at the meeting. All representatives made their presentations, exchanged views on the theme “The Evaluation of Science Funding System and Quality of Science” and discussed a number of topics such as the theme for next ASIAHORCs at the meeting.

Five years has passed since the inception of the first ASIAHORCs Meeting in 2007, whose purpose is to set up and strengthen exchanges between Asian scientific funding agencies and promote regional scientific cooperation in Asia. ASIAHORCs have launched serious discussions and exchanges on topics of common interest, such as “Science and Technology Policies”, “Human Resources Development”, “International Research Collaboration” and “Nurturing Centers of Excellence”. All agencies benefitted a lot from ASIAHORCs activities. Asia is the fastest growing areas in science and technology. Indicators such as investment in science and technology, human resources and scientific output reveal that Asian region plays an increasingly important role in science advancement worldwide. ASIAHORCs mechanism has been playing an active role for Asian countries in sharing policies of developing science and funding basic research, promoting regional scientific cooperation, pushing ahead the harmonious and sustainable development of science and society and has become an important part of the global scientific innovation system.

During the stay in China, the representatives also visited the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion at NSFC and the Chinese Academy of Agriculture Science including its National Crop Gene Bank, National Key Facility for Crop Gene Resources and Genetic Improvement, and National Agricultural Science & Technology Demonstration Park.

President Chen Yiyu Meets with DFG Delegation



Prof. Chen Yiyu, NSFC President met with Prof. Matthias Kleiner, DFG President and DFG delegation on Oct. 31.

In a cozy and friendly atmosphere, both sides briefed each other about the latest development in NSFC and DFG, and exchanged views on the Excellent Initiative Program of DFG, the preparatory work of the Global Research Council, as well as the NSFC-DFG joint research projects approved in 2012. Both sides expressed satisfaction about the development of bilateral relations and confidence in future cooperation.

Prof. Dong Erdan, Executive Deputy Director General of the Department of Health Sciences, Prof. Chang Qing, Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation (BIC) and Prof. Lu Rongkai, Deputy Director General of BIC attended the meeting.

Vice President Shen Yan Visited International Organizations in Italy and France



A 4-member delegation, led by Prof. Shen Yan visited Italy and France from November 28th to December 7th, 2012. The delegation visited Bioversity International Headquarters, Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO), University La Sapienza, CGIAR Consortium Headquarters and Bioversity's Banana Programme. Prof. Shen and other members met respectively with Dr. Stephan Weise, Deputy Director General of Bioversity, Dr. Linda Collette, Secretary of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Dr. Frank Rijsberman, CEO of CGIAR Consortium. The delegation held formal discussions with CGIAR Consortium on officially signing a cooperative agreement during the meeting and both sides agreed to sign it as early as possible. The delegates also include Prof. Changqing, Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation, Prof. Zhang Yinglan and Prof. Hu Jingjie.

Vice President Wang Jie Meets with CEO of Academy of Malaysia



Prof. Wang Jie, Vice President of NSFC met with Prof. Ahmad Ibrahim, CEO of Academy of Malaysia (ASM) on December 5th, 2012. Prof. Wang extended his welcome to the guest, reviewed the exchanges and communications during the IIASA Council Meeting and introduced about China's S&T system. Prof. Zou Liyao, Deputy Director General of Bureau of International Cooperation gave a briefing on NSFC and its international cooperation. Prof. Ahmad showed great interest in that and indicated Malaysia is also considering setting up its own science foundation. Apart from that, the two sides held discussions on the channel for Chinese and Malaysian scientists to cooperate and other S&T issues of common concern.