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New Progress in International S&T Cooperation

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Cooperation between China and other developing countries

Minister Wan Gang Meets with Advisor to Ethiopian Prime Minister Kassu Ashame

On January 26, 2015, Dr. Wan Gang, Minister of Science and Technology met with visiting Dr. Kassu Ashame, advisor to Ethiopian Prime Minister and chief with a ministerial position in Policy and Research Institute. Both exchanged views on promoting biotech cooperation.

Minister Wan expressed welcome to Minister Ashame and his delegation. He said China and Ethiopia enjoy profound traditional friendship and the two countries have fruitful collaboration in the field of science and technology in recent years. For instance, China-Ethiopia

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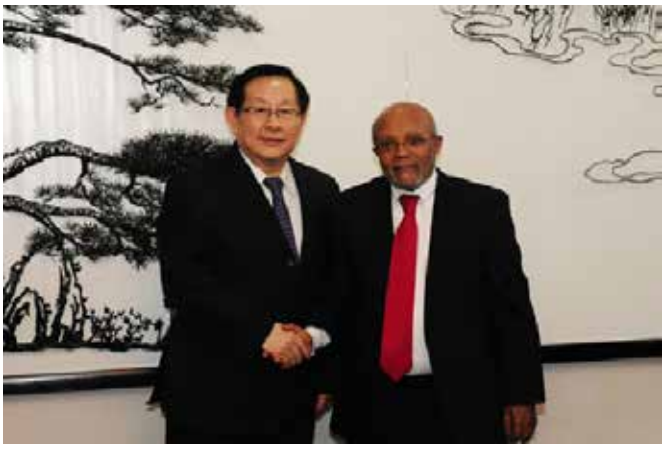
Industrial Laboratory and the spread of Technical Task Force (TTF) mechanism are particularly noteworthy. Wan made a presentation on the development of science and technology and the progress on the reform of scientific and technological system in China, and proposed various ways, such as policy consulting, joint research and technology demonstration, joint labs, and Talented Young Scientist Visiting Program, to boost interactions and collaboration in biotech field under China-Africa Science and Technology Partnership Program.

Minister Ashame expressed thanks to Minister Wan. He noted that biotech would be essential to economic restructuring and development. Ethiopia hoped to learn from China in the development of biotech plans, conducting basic and applied research, setting up bio-tech institutions, and research training, and explore the possibilities for future collaboration. He also welcomed Minister Wan's proposals for biotech cooperation between the two sides.

Other officials including Mr. Huang Jing, Director General of China National Center for Biotechnology Development, MOST, and Mr. Chen Linhao, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, MOST attended the meeting.



(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, February 15, 2015)

China and Ecuador Sign S&T Cooperation Agreement

On January 7, 2015, witnessed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Ecuadorian President Correa, Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang and Ecuador's National Secretary of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Ramirez signed *the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of the Republic of Ecuador.*

On the basis of equality and mutual benefit, the agreement aims to boost China-Ecuador scientific and technological relations by encouraging interactions between sci-tech authorities and research institutes in science policy, science and technology management, personnel training and technology transfer, etc.

Mr. Ramirez said Ecuador, which holds the 2015 rotating presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), wishes to work together with China in pushing forward collaboration on science, technology and innovation between China and CELAC. Minister Wan appreciated the idea. Both also exchanged views on other topics of common interest, such as co-hosting China-Latin America Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation.

China Attends 8th ASEAN COST Plus Three Meeting

On January 27, 2015, the 8th ASEAN COST Plus Three Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan. It had a total of more than 30 participants, including representatives from ASEAN countries, China, Japan, ROK and ASEAN Secretariat. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sadayuki Tsuchiya, Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, and Dr. Teguh Rhardjo, chairman of ASEAN COST and senior advisor of the Ministry of Research and Technology of Indonesia. Ms. Wang Yan, Deputy Director General of China Science and Technology Exchange Center led a delegation to the meeting.

The Chinese delegation proposed to bolster exchanges between young scientists, and collaboration on technology transfer and innovation between enterprises, as part of the efforts to put into practice the initiatives on scientific and technological cooperation proposed by President Xi Jinping during his visit to Indonesia last October and by Premier Li Keqiang at the China-ASEAN Summit last year. The delegation briefed on Talented Young Scientist Visiting Program for Asian and African countries, introducing ASEAN Plus Three Young Scientist Exchange Events, which will be held in Beijing this October, and describing science, technology and innovation policies and trends in China. The participants discussed the ways of collaboration in relevant fields.

The other parties welcomed the proposals of the Chinese delegation, and expressed the willingness to cement science, technology and innovation cooperation under ASEAN Plus Three framework, in a bid to boost capacity building in this regard.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, February 15, 2015)

DragonStarPlus and Horizon 2020 Info Day Successfully Kicked off in Shenzhen

Hosted by China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC), the kick-off meeting of DragonStarPlus and the Horizon 2020 Info Day convened in Shenzhen on February 2 and 3, 2015. Representatives from 14 DragonStarPlus partners respectively from China, Greece, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Portugal, France, some EU officials including Mr. Laurent Bochereau, S&T councilor of EU delegation to China and Mr. Diego Sammaritano, EU project officer for the S&T cooperation with China and Dr. XING Jijun, DDG of CSTEC, MOST joined the event.

DragonStarPlus is a new project under Horizon 2020 jointly undertaken by CSTEC and other 13 partners. The project is dedicated to establishing a platform that serves the China-EU S&T exchange and cooperation. It aims to increase both the Chinese and European participation in each other's S&T programs with a focus on the quality and quantity of the Chinese participation in Horizon 2020. The project will also follow up and analyze the evolution of S&T policies of both sides so as to support the bilateral S&T policy making for mutual benefits.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, February 16, 2015)

Vice Minister Cao leads a delegation to Extraordinary Meeting of ITER Council

On March 5, 2015, A special meeting of ITER Council was convened in Paris. Council members and government officials from seven member entities and senior IO staff attended the Meeting. Vice Minister of Science and Technology Cao Jianlin, Chinese HoD, led the delegation to Paris.

This Meeting officially appointed Dr. Bernard Bigot as the DG for the next five years after Professor Motojima, and it conferred upon the latter honorary DG. Dr. Bigot used to serve as the Chairman of CEA.

This Meeting discussed and modified the draft work plan submitted by Dr. Bigot. This work plan mainly dealt with the new ITER management structure, integrated management mechanism of seven DAs and IO, management of reserve fund and updates of its use, as well as enforcement measures in transition period. This Meeting urged Dr. Bigot to map out the new baseline, especially the progress baseline, for the deliberation of the ITER Council in November 2015.

Before the Meeting, Vice Minister Cao met with US delegation and EU delegation respectively, exchanging views on the draft work plan. VM Cao also exchanged views frankly with Dr. Bigot on the appointment of senior IO staff from China.

This successful meeting ushered in a new chapter of IO management. All sides believed that the implementation would be efficient and cooperation will be close.

Other officials from China were Mr. Ma Yanhe, DG of the Department of Basic Research, Mr. Chen Linhao, DDG of the Department of International Cooperation and Mr. Luo Delong, DDG of Chinese DA.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, March 19, 2015)

2015 GIF Seminar held in Shanghai

On March 10, 2015, the annual GIF Seminar was held in Shanghai. Over 40 representatives attended the Seminar. They came from several government departments including MOST, China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA), National Nuclear safety Administration, relevant scientific research institutions, universities, industrial groups and organizations. The Seminar was jointly organized by China Nuclear Energy Association (CNEA) and Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics, CAS (SINAP CAS).

The Seminar reviewed the work progress in 2014, and discussed relevant issues of policy team, expert team and industrial consulting committee. Relevant research institutes made their reports on the R&D activities and work progress of VHTR, SFR, SCWR, MSR and LFR. As for the work in 2015, the Seminar decided to launch targeted R&D activities concerning types of reactors and consider whether to participate in sustainable development or economic methodology teams.

Attendees also paid site visits to MSR experimental facility of SINAP CAS and Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility.

Background:

It is MOST and CAEA that have taken the lead to join the international mega-science research program of GIF, which comprises Canada, China, France, Japan, ROK, South Africa, Switzerland, US, Russia and EURATOM. GIF is featured by sustainable use, economy, safety and reliability as well as anti-proliferation and physical protection. The feature of safety, which means minimizing the possibility of reactor core damage and eliminating requirements for emergency response, is an important advantage of GIF. GIF is mainly dedicated to joint research in 6 types of Generation Ⅳ nuclear reactors with the greatest potential – SFR, LFR, GFR, SCWR, VHTR and MSR.

With the approval of the State Council, former Minister of Science and Technology Xu Guanhua signed the GIF Charter on behalf of the Chinese government in November 2006, and the then Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi signed the Framework Agreement for International Collaboration on Research and Development of Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems in November 2007. China joined the VHTR and SFR systems respectively in October 2008 and March 2009. With the permission of the State Council, Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang signed to agree on the infinite extension of GIF Charter. In August 2011, MOST and CAEA entrusted China Nuclear Energy Association with the running of GIF liaison office which is responsible for daily communications at home and abroad as well as information collection and publication.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, March 20, 2015)

Workshop on China-IEA S&T Cooperation held in Beijing

On January 20, 2015, the Workshop on China-IEA S&T Cooperation was held in Beijing.

In recent years, China has seen tangible progress in its S&T cooperation with IEA. At present, China has become a regular observer of CERT under IEA, and will strengthen energy technology cooperation with IEA. Total 22 Chinese research institutes have joined 19 IAs on energy technology cooperation, which covered fossil fuel, renewable energy, terminal energy use and fusion energy. Therefore, an international cooperation platform with comprehensive and abundant energy S&T resources have been established. Through international activities, project cooperation and international seminars held in China, a great number of domestic research institutes and industry partners were mobilized to share international resources and cultivate national strengths in energy S&T, thus elevating China's international status in energy S&T.

DDG Chen Linhao stressed that our S&T cooperation with IEA served as an excellent channel to fully utilize IEA resources and promote China's energy technology, standards and policies in the world. He hoped that in the coming year more channels, support and guidance will be given to domestic research institutes, universities and enterprises. According to him, domestic research activities will be coordinated, international resources will be shared, and meetings concerning IAs will be well organized in China, with a view to expanding the impact of IEA in energy technology areas. The Liaison office will continue to offer services to Chinese agencies.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, February 2, 2015)

China Becomes Regular Observer of IEA FPCC

On December 15, 2014, IEA FPCC sent a letter to MOST, formally inviting China to join FPCC as a Regular Observer that will be involved in all levels of international meetings and matters concerning international R&D plans. On December 29, DDG Chen Linhao accepted the invitation on behalf of the government of China. This marked that China has become regular observer of FPCC.

In recent years, China has joined four of the nine IAs under FPCC, which represents a remarkable progress in energy technology cooperation between China and IEA. Becoming a regular observer of FPCC, it will not only enable China to participate in IEA fusion cooperation at a higher level, but also expand access for Chinese professionals in fusion field to cooperate with IEA. As a new force in IEA, China will contribute to international energy R&D and the fight against energy crisis. Entrusted by the Department of International Cooperation of MOST, China International Nuclear Fusion Energy Program Executive Center will be coordinating domestic agencies (magnetic confinement fusion research institutes, universities and enterprises) in the participation of activities of FPCC and those under IAs.

IEA is a self-governing body under the framework of OECD. To deal with energy crisis, IEA set up CERT. As one of the four working agencies under CERT, FPCC was established in 1975, with a mission to facilitate international cooperation through coordinating fusion research, technology and policy of member and partner countries.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, January 16, 2015)