

Dear Readers,

The first EURAXESS Links China Share Event of 2013 was held on April 18 at the French embassy in Beijing. Around 100 researchers from all fields and research administrators discussed the various forms of researchers' mobility and their impact on the EU-China scientific and overall relations. The first feedbacks we received seem to indicate that the exchange of views and experiences, as well as the networking opportunities offered by this afternoon workshop and evening reception, were very much appreciated by the participants. A report of the workshop's main conclusions will be prepared and put online. We will learn from this first experience to improve further our future events and hope to see you there again or for the first time.

In this edition of the **EURAXESS Links China Newsletter** we also announce the next event in the organisation of which EURAXESS Links China is involved, the EU-China Joint Workshop on Urban Innovation "Towards Innovative Joint Solutions for Common Urbanisation Challenges". The objectives of this workshop are in line with those of the 'EURAXESS Connect' events, i.e. bringing together European and Chinese experts of one particular research field in order to identify topics of common interest and explore collaboration possibilities. The main organizers of this workshop to be held on 30-31 May 2013 in Foshan are the European Commission and the China Center for Urban Development. Though this is a closed event, experts interested to attend this event might still contact us at china@euraxess.net. You will find details about this important workshop under the **Events** section.

This month's **EU Insight** article reports on the continuous efforts made by the EU to tear down its unnecessary walls and obstacles and to open itself more, in this case to non-European talents. As you will read, this is a long-term commitment in which self-questioning and walking the talk are key factors of progress.

We hope that you will find useful information under the **News & Developments** and the **Grants & Fellowships** sections and that some of the conferences and seminars listed under **Events** will catch your interest. As for this month's **Press Review**, one of its distinctive features is obviously the succession of articles and high level officials' and entrepreneurs' declarations stressing the crucial importance of innovation and of companies' innovative capacity to ensure the sustainability of China's growth. The message has been sent clearly and, here again, the key will be to walk the talk.

We wish you a pleasant read.

With best regards,

Jacques de Soyres

[EURAXESS Links China](#) Country Representative

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Removing obstacles for long-term stays in the EU: How to make the EU more open to talents

On 25 March 2013, the European Commission presented its [proposal for a single new directive](#) which aims at making it easier and more attractive for non-EU students, researchers and other groups to enter and stay in the EU for periods exceeding three months. In combining and improving the current two directives the Commission sets out to remove obstacles facing third-country nationals when planning a long-term stay in the EU – an important step to establish Europe as a world centre for excellence and attract bright minds from outside the EU.

Background and shortcomings

Currently, two directives regulate the migration flows of students and researchers from third-countries: [Directive 2005/71/EC](#) (12 Oct. 2005) and [Directive 2004/114/EC](#) (13 Dec. 2004). The first one covers the “procedure for admitting third-country nationals for the purposes of scientific research”, while the 2004 directive lays down “the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service”.

But in 2011, the implementation reports² for these two directives revealed profound weaknesses: These shortcomings concern key issues such as admission procedures including visas, rights (including mobility aspects) and procedural safeguards. The current rules are insufficiently clear or binding, not always fully coherent with (and supportive of) existing EU funding programmes (e.g. mobility measures such as [Marie Curie](#) or [Erasmus Mundus](#)), and sometimes fail to address the practical difficulties that applicants face.

¹ Article provided by EURAXESS Links coordinating agency: the German Aerospace Centre - Project Management (PT-DLR)

² [Executive summary of the impact assessment for the Directive 2005/71/EC](#) and [Report on the application of Directive 2004/114/EC](#).

Furthermore, the personal scope of the current framework is limited. Therefore, the reports came to the conclusion that amendments and improvements are necessary.

This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that the policy context of today is very different to that in which the Directives were adopted. Human capital is one of Europe's key assets in the context of the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#) and the need to ensure smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Immigration from outside the EU is one source of highly skilled people, and third-country national students and researchers in particular are groups which are increasingly sought after.

The new proposal – Objectives and Amendments

The new proposal does not only address the shortcomings identified in the implementation reports but also the task of the European Union to “develop a common immigration policy aimed at ensuring, at all stages, the efficient management of migration flows, fair treatment of third-country nationals residing legally in Member States, and the prevention of, and enhanced measures to combat, illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings”, as stated in Article 79 (1) of the ‘Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union’.

Specific objectives were identified in light of the problems outlined above:

- to improve the conditions of admission by better linking obtaining the relevant authorisations and improving decision-making processes for these authorisations;
- making provisions clearer and binding for the other groups they apply to;
- to strengthen the link between provisions on Union programmes including mobility measures such as Erasmus Mundus and Marie Curie Fellowships;
- to improve procedural guarantees, such as time limits for decisions on applications (60-day time limit for Member States authorities);
- to improve access to seek employment and the labour market, both for students during their studies as well as to give researchers and students the possibility to remain on the territory under certain conditions after finishing their studies or research to identify job opportunities (although this will not amount to an automatic right to work, as granting a work permit remains a national responsibility);
- to facilitate intra-EU mobility (through simpler and more flexible rules);
- to set out coherent provisions ensuring the protection of au pairs and remunerated trainees (who are not yet covered by the existing EU legislation).

What next?

The proposed Directive which is presented in the form of a recast now needs to be discussed and agreed upon by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. The Commission hopes for the new rules to take effect as of 2016.

Sources:

- (1) [“Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, pupil exchange, remunerated and unremunerated training, voluntary service and au pairing” \(2013/0081 \(COD\)\).](#)
- (2) [“Commission Staff Working Document: Executive Summary of the Impact Assessment Accompanying the document Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, pupil exchange, remunerated and unremunerated training, voluntary service and au pairing; Recasting and amending Directives 2004/114/EC and 2005/71/EC” \(COM\(2013\) 151 final; SWD\(2013\) 77 final\).](#)
- (3) [“Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Article 79 \(1\)”.](#)
- (4) European Commission: [Press Release “Making the EU more attractive for foreign students and researchers”](#), 25 March 2013.

News & Developments

EURAXESS

EURAXESS Share Event held on 18 April in Beijing

The first EURAXESS Share Event organised by EURAXESS Links China this year brought together over 100 international researchers at the French embassy in Beijing for an afternoon of lively exchanges and discussions about the experience of working as a researcher in a foreign country, i.e. in China for Europeans and in Europe for Chinese, the challenges and rewards that come with it, and the impact such international mobility has on the development of the Sino-European relationship.



The workshop was followed by a convivial reception for all participants in the presence of French ambassador Mrs. Sylvie Bermann and deputy head of the European Union Delegation to China Mrs. Carmen Cano.

The report of this event will soon be published on the [EURAXESS Links China website](#).

EU & Multilateral Cooperation

Results of the coordinated research EU-China call on biomaterials for health

Four proposals have been positively evaluated by the European and Chinese experts, resulting from the first coordinated call for research proposals in “Biomaterials: Imaging and rapid precise prototyping technology for custom made scaffolds”, launched by the European Commission and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) to accelerate

scientific progress in this important field as well as to foster greater cooperation between China and the EU.

Due to the announced budget availability, negotiations could be initiated only for three of the four proposals, which will cover the development and tissue prototyping of bioscaffolds for bone regeneration, nervous system and urethra reconstruction and the deployment of natural inorganic polymers and smart functionalised micro-units into such bioactive scaffolds.

The objective of the call was to integrate medical imaging, e.g. computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and rapid micro/nano prototyping in order to create customised scaffolds using novel biomaterials for tissue regeneration or repair. An added feature of this coordinated call and giving it its name, was to foster a balanced cooperation from European and Chinese researchers in each project, in the form of integrated and coordinated research activities with approximately equal research effort on both sides, along with an intensive exchange and training of researchers as part of a successful proposal. A total number of 28 proposals was received by the EU services and were evaluated by a panel of experts drawn from the relevant scientific fields both from China and the EU.

The experts felt that the experience was a positive one and worth repeating, perhaps on a grander scale in the future, and recommended the European Commission and NSFC to act in this sense.

Further details in source: [European Commission Research & Innovation Materials Blog](#)

European Commission Directorate General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD) Meeting with China Ministry of Science and Technology Delegation

A delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) led by Mr Chen Linhao, Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Department of the ministry, met on 13 March with Laurent Bochereau, Acting Director, International Cooperation Directorate, DG RTD. The meeting, and a lunch hosted by Deputy Director General Rudolf Strohmeier, took place in a constructive atmosphere. This visit followed just four months after the Joint Steering Committee meeting held last November in Beijing. Its prime objective was to prepare the first EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue scheduled to take place at the time of the next Summit in Beijing (expected in October).

Both sides expressed their commitments to ensure maximum benefit and visibility from the First Innovation Cooperation Dialogue meeting. MoST representatives agreed to an RTD proposal to bring together two expert groups, to work together to prepare the first high-level meeting of the dialogue.

In addition, participants agreed to identify a limited number of priority sectors of common interest; to launch jointly funded innovation-driven projects; and to define areas where both sides agree to upgrade framework conditions so as to facilitate cooperation in the field of innovation.

MoST representatives also agreed to consider the workshop on urbanisation jointly organised by the Commission and the China Centre for Urban Development, which will feed into the first meeting of the Innovation Cooperation Dialogue.

Source: [European Commission's monthly "International Research Update" April 2013](#)

China, EU hold dialogue on higher education: 1st Meeting of the HEPCE on the "Quality of Student Mobility"

Dozens of university presidents from China and Europe were brought together on Thursday 25 April to share their success stories and concerns in establishing cooperation projects, so as to provide policy suggestions and enhance compatibility between the two's higher education systems.

"China's higher education aims at achieving better quality, better structure, deeper reform and more fairness, and the European Union (EU) is successful in transforming its diversity into vitality and impetus for development," China's Vice Education Minister Du Yubo said in the opening speech.

The event was the first meeting of the EU-China higher education platform for cooperation and exchanges (HEPCE), a flagship event in the framework of the High-level People-to-People Dialogue (HPPD) established last year as a third pillar in the EU-China relations complementing the strategic dialogue and the economic and trade dialogue.

"As an innovative project for the China-EU partnership, the people-to-people dialogue is both realistically and strategically important for consolidating public support," he added.

There are more than 35,000 students from EU member states studying in China. According to Du, the Chinese government is scheduled to offer 30,000 scholarships for European students and researchers in the next five years.

"We welcome new scholarship schemes from China, and the EU is ready to offer grants," said Jan Truszczyński, directorate-general for education and culture in the European Commission, adding that a EU-China language project was to be launched in June.

Presidents and representatives of Chinese and European universities had extensive exchanges over models for EU-China joint higher education institutions, joint degree programs and cooperation in the fields of European studies and Chinese studies.

Further details in sources: [China Daily](#); [EU-China Policy Dialogues Support Facility](#)

For information regarding the European Commission's international research cooperation activities worldwide, read the [European Commission's monthly "International Research Update"](#).

EU Member States* and Bilateral Cooperation

Denmark – Denmark takes actions to strengthen its exports to China in green building

April saw several actions taken in Denmark and in China to raise awareness about the opportunities existing for Danish companies in the Chinese green building market.

Firstly, the 1st of April the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing opened a pavilion at the 9th International Conference on Green and Energy-Efficient Building and New Technologies and Products Expo, which took place in Beijing International Convention Center (BICC). The Danish Pavilion covered an area of 180 square meters, hosting seven Danish companies that hold solid competences in sustainable urban and building design, and was established in order to promote Danish competences in the building sector in the Chinese market.

One day later, in Denmark, the Trade Council in China, The Danish Association of Architectural Firms (Danske Ark) and the Danish Association of Consulting Engineers (FRI) hosted a seminar on April the 2nd in Eigtved Pakhus that focused on sustainable construction in China.

The Danish Minister for Trade and Investment, Ms. Pia Olsen Dyhr, took part in the seminar and gave a speech on why Denmark needs to export engineering and architect solutions to China.

Finally, on Tuesday the 16th of April the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing participated in a seminar and network meeting about sustainable urbanisation and the green building sector in China. The event was organised by Center for Ny Industrialisering (CNI) and took place in the China House which is built of 40 foot containers.

FISH CHINA and the Royal Danish Embassy are planning an export promotion in these sectors in the beginning of October 2013.

Further details in source: [Denmark in China](#)

Denmark – Danish Embassy participated in water seminar

On Thursday the 18th of April the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing participated in a water seminar in Odense, which focused on Danish export of water solutions to China.

There have already been made good political agreements between Denmark and China, and at the moment Danish water solutions are being promoted in China, where Danish companies – according to an examination by the Trade Council on the Royal Danish

* Including countries associated with the 7th Framework Programme.

Embassy in Beijing – have strong competitive advantages in the area of industrial water, ground water and urban water.

Susanne Nors, commercial counsellor at the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing, was one of the key speakers at the seminar, which was organised by China Europe Water Platform.

Further details in source: [Denmark in China](#).

Denmark – Fudan University and Copenhagen University Establish New Research Centre in Denmark

The 10th of April, Fudan University signed an agreement with the University of Copenhagen to open “Fudan-European Centre for China Studies”. Ambassador Friis Arne Petersen and Consul General Karsten Ankjær Jensen attended the signature ceremony in Shanghai.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, the Fudan-European Centre kicked off with a conference on China’s current political and economic challenges held on April 15th 2013, and with the opening of the centre on April 16th 2013. A Chinese delegation led by the Vice President of Fudan University travelled to Denmark, and the Ambassador of China in Denmark, the Danish Minister for Science, Innovation and Higher Education and representatives from the University of Copenhagen participated in the opening.

With Fudan-European Centre for China Studies at the University of Copenhagen, Danish and European researchers will get a new platform to develop a greater understanding of Chinese culture. Chinese researchers and students will get a new window to learn more about European culture and the interaction between the two parts of the world.

Further details in source: [Denmark in China](#).

France – COOPOL Innovation programme: Selected projects in 2013

The French Embassy S&T service has selected four new projects in the framework of the 2013 COOPOL Innovation programme. This programme is for French competitiveness and technology clusters in partnership with their academic partners to lead them on a one week fact- and partner-finding mission in China and to cofund joint projects between the French participants and the Chinese partners identified during the one week mission.

The call for this 2013 COOPOL Innovation edition opened on 15 October 2012 and closed on 15 January 2013. Twelve applications were submitted. The four winners are projects submitted by innovative SMEs and their academic partners from the following competitiveness clusters: Lyonbiopôle, PEIFL, Images & Réseaux et NSL.

Further details in source: [La France en Chine](#)

France – 4th edition of the ‘Mérieux Chinese Research Network Meeting’ held in Wuhan

This 4th edition of “Merieux Chinese Research Network Meeting” brought around fifty participants from China and France together at the Virology Institute in Wuhan on 17-18 April.

This was the first time that this meeting took place in Wuhan after the three first editions taking place in Beijing. The participants were professors and researchers in life science from hospitals, universities and CAS institutes with the majority of them being past or current laureates of ‘Mérieux grants’ and ‘Mérieux fellowships’ and some of them potential candidates for future editions of these awards. Participants could present and exchange about their ongoing research work.

Further details in source: [La France en Chine](#)

Germany – New Sino-German cooperation program on Lithium-ion Battery Separator

The Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology (QIBEBT) and LANXESS Deutschland GmbH launched a cooperation program “New Polymer Fiber-based Membranes for Lithium-ion Batteries” on April 15, 2013.

The program aims at developing new polymer fiber-based membranes with high thermal stability, high electrochemical stability window and high ionic conductivity etc. The conventional polyolefin-based separators suffer from poor thermal shrinkage at relatively high temperature above 90c. This has raised serious concern over their ability to prevent internal electrical short circuit at high temperature conditions. The superior electrochemical performance of new polymer fiber-based membranes at high temperature could make these nonwovens an alternative to polyolefin-based separators for high power or high temperature application.

The objective of this project combines QIBEBT’s expertise in high performance separators for the next generation lithium-ion battery and LANXESS products on high performance polymer.

Further details in source: [CAS](#)

Germany – Two Sino-German Joint Research Projects Approved by the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion

Two joint research projects between Qingdao Institute of Bioenergy and Bioprocess Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (QIBEBT) and German universities were approved by the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion (SGC) on March 25, 2013.

The project “Hydrocarbon production in genetically engineered cyanobacteria” was co-conducted by Prof. LU Xuefeng from QIBEBT and Prof. Wolfgang Hess from Albert-Ludwigs-University, German.

The other project “Development of a novel single-cell omics platform for the investigation of microbial population heterogeneity during stress adaptation” was led by Prof. NING Kang from QIBEBT and Dr. Ansgar Potsch from Plant Biochemistry at Ruhr University, Bochum.

SGC was jointly established by National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany in 2000. NSFC and DFG invest 10 million yuan each annually to the Center to sponsor the cooperation and exchanges between scientists from the two countries.

Further details in source: [CAS](#)

Germany – 13. Sino-German Rule of Law Seminar held

The 13. Sino-German Rule of Law Seminar took place on 8 and 9 April 2013 in Hangzhou. German and Chinese government representatives and experts discussed the topic of ‘Administrative Dispute Avoidance and Resolution’. The seminar was opened by German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger and Chinese director of the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council Song DaHan.

Germany and China launched their Rule of Law dialog 13 years ago. The goal of this annual meeting is to improve the mutual understanding of both sides’ tradition and culture as well as the implementation of rule of law thoughts and practices, including human rights.

Further details in source: [Deutsche Botschaft](#)

Norway – BISU-students visit Norwegian Embassy

The Norwegian embassy hosted a gathering with students from Beijing International Studies University on 17 April 2013.

Around 30 students attended the event, where the embassy briefed about Norway and Norwegian foreign policy. Four selected embassy staff introduced their field which covered science/education, politics, development and press/ culture. After the introduction the students and embassy staff could exchange experience at the ambassador’s residence where it was arranged a reception.

This student gathering is a great opportunity for the younger Chinese generation to learn more about Norway and diplomatic missions work. It’s further a good way to improve cultural exchange between the two countries and raise interest for work in department of foreign affairs.

Further details in source: [Norway in China](#)

UK – A seminar focusing on the UK and China’s joined up approach in sustainable urban development was held on 2 April 2013



UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) and the China Britain Business Council (CBBC) hosted a seminar titled ‘The UK and China Working Together in Delivering Sustainable Cities’ in the Beijing International Convention Centre. The seminar was held in parallel with the 9th International Conference on Green and Energy-efficient Building and New Technologies and Products Expo (IGEBC) which takes place from 1 to

3 April.

The seminar focused on the UK and China’s joined up approach in sustainable urban development. UKTI, British Embassy Beijing, UK-China Eco-Cities and Green Building Working Group and a number of UK and Chinese companies attended.

At the seminar, UK companies including engineering consultancies, master planners, architects and designers talked about their experiences of working together with Chinese counterparts and their achievements developing and promoting eco-cities and green building concept in China.

Further details in source: [GOV.UK](#)

UK – Joint projects between Chinese and Scottish institutions selected by NSFC and RSE

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) – National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) Joint Project scheme is designed to facilitate international collaboration between researchers based in Scotland and China. The Joint Project grant provides a maximum of £6,000 per year. The Joint Project scheme runs for two years with projects in the fields of energy technology and energy management expected to commence in 2013. The funding may be seen as seed money to enable further collaboration and funding in the future.

NSFC and RSE received 11 proposals and selected six out of them for joint funding from 1 May 2013 until 30 April 2015. The list of selected projects can be seen on the [NSFC website](#).

UK – Sino-British projects on ‘Smart Grids and the Integration of Electric Vehicles’ selected by NSFC and EPSRC for joint funding

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Councils (EPSRC) UK Energy Programme wishes to develop collaborative projects between the UK and China in partnership with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) in the field of ‘Smart Grids and the Integration of Electric Vehicles’. To this aim EPSRC and NSFC jointly selected four Sino-British 3-years’ projects which will start on 1st of July 2013 and end on 30 June 2016. The list of selected projects is available on the [NSFC website](#).

Grants & Fellowships

Life Sciences & Medicine

Biology - Genetics - Medicine

Sweden – Carl Wilhelm Scheele visiting professorship

The purpose of this grant is to strengthen Swedish research in pharmaceutical sciences, and to promote increased internationalization by inviting prominent foreign researchers as visiting professors.

The Carl Wilhelm Scheele visiting professorship was established in honour of Carl Wilhelm Scheele (1742–1786), who was a pharmacist and one of the most eminent chemists of 18th century Europe.

The professorship should be awarded to a prominent foreign researcher in pharmaceutical sciences. The holder of the professorship should be a well-established researcher with an international reputation in her/his scientific field.

The stay in Sweden should be one year, or at the least 10 months. The Swedish Research Council may allow an extension of up to one year, upon application for this.

Swedish universities and Higher education institutes (HEI) are welcome to nominate candidates for the visiting professorship until **6 May, 2013**.

Further details available on the [Swedish Research Council website](#).

Switzerland/EU – PLANT FELLOWS

PLANT FELLOWS is a international post doc fellowship programme in plant sciences co-funded by the Marie Curie Action COFUND and centrally managed at the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center, a competence center of three Swiss universities: University of Zurich, University of Basel and ETH Zurich.

This post doc fellowship programme is open to applicants from any nationality and all research fields in plant sciences are eligible. 23 international universities, research institutions and industry partners have been predefined as host organisations.

It is offering more than 60 new post-doc positions with a duration between 12 and 24 months, spread between three different mobility schemes (incoming, outgoing, reintegration).

Additionally, PLANT FELLOWS offers a structured training programme (workshops, dedicated training in complementary skills, industrial placements).

The third call will be open from February 1st 2013 until **24 June, 2013**. See details at <http://www.plantfellows.ch>.

Physical Sciences & Engineering

Physics - Chemistry - Materials - Earth science - Engineering

Calls announced in [previous editions of the newsletter](#):

Sweden – International Cooperation with Actors in China for Eco-Innovations 2013

Deadline for submitting proposals is on **2 May 2013**.

Further details are available on the [Vinnova website](#). Chinese potential applicants might visit the [MoST website](#).

Social Sciences and the Humanities

EU – European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication Fellowship

The European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations & Communication is a well-established training structure of 17 universities in Europe (Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, U.K.), institutionally linked to 7 Universities in Canada, USA, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and China, to IFSTTAR and the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in France, and to 3 SMEs in Sweden, Ireland and Italy specialised in the field of communication, new media and distant interactive training via web. It is a progressive educational curriculum for training early stage researchers through research in a cross-disciplinary paradigmatic field inspired by the Social Representations Theory & Communication studies. Although having a special focus on Social Psychology and media studies, it draws in a wide scientific community across continents and many disciplines dealing with social sciences and new transdisciplinary thematic fields of studies focussed on social issues.

The European/International Joint PhD in Social Representations and Communication is open to applicants from both EU and non-EU countries, without limitation in terms of age and nationality. Applicants may also belong to Universities who are not part of the European/International Joint PhD network. Applicants for the European/International Joint

PhD must satisfy the entrance requirements for admission to the doctoral programme, considered the 3rd cycle within the European Higher Education and Research Area. Applicants need to have a solid background in Social Sciences (especially in Social Psychology with interests in Communication Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, History etc.) and have demonstrable advanced knowledge of at least two European languages, including English.

This fellowship's amount is around 16 000 Euros per year and the maximum duration is 36 months.

The deadline for application is **31 July, 2013**. Read the full announcement on the [EURAXESS Jobs \(and fellowships\) portal](#).

Germany – German Chancellor Fellowships for Prospective Leaders

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation offers prospective leaders from Brazil, China, India, Russia and the USA the opportunity to conduct a project as guests of the partner of their choice in Germany.

With the support of their hosts the fellows can spend a year concentrating on a project they have chosen themselves and give their career a boost. German Chancellor Fellowships are open to an array of sectors such as politics, economics, the media, administration and culture.

During a three-week preparatory phase in Bonn and Berlin, the fellows will be able to network among each other. They will be invited to attend a reception at the German Chancellery, travel around Germany and visit important public institutions and companies. An intensive German course will help smooth their path into everyday life in Germany.

The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany is the patron of this fellowship programme.

Application can be submitted until **15 September 2103**. The fellowship begins on 1 October of the following year.

More details available on the [Alexander von Humboldt Foundation website](#).

Sweden – Kerstin Hesselgren Chair & Olof Palme Chair

The purpose of these visiting professorships is to enrich and develop the work of Swedish University departments in a manner that benefits the department's own activities, and can lead to continued international cooperation.

Kerstin Hesselgren Chair is to enable outstanding women scholars from abroad to take up a visiting professorship at a Swedish university in the faculties of humanities, social sciences, law and theology. It should be awarded to a foreign prominent internationally-recognized female researcher in the social sciences or humanities.

The Olof Palme Chair is for an outstanding scholar from abroad to take up a visiting professorship at a Swedish university. It should be awarded to an internationally prominent researcher focused on topics important to the pursuit of peace in a broad context.

Stays will last 6 up to 12 months.

Swedish universities and Higher education institutes (HEI) are welcome to nominate willing candidates for the visiting professorship until **6 May, 2013**.

Further details available on the [Swedish Research Council website](#).

Calls announced in [previous editions of the newsletter](#):

France – CEFC short-term mobility grant for doctoral research on contemporary China

Complete applications must be submitted in a single PDF file (max: 10 pages, 1.5 line spacing), addressed to the Director of the CEFC, by email to Alfred Aroquiame (aaroquiame@cefc.com.hk) with the subject line "Fieldwork Grant 2013" on or before **10 May 2013**.

Contact information for further details about this call and application procedure: Tel. (852) 2876 6914 or 6910 - email aaroquiame@cefc.com.hk

France – FP7 Marie-Curie IOF Call: Research Mobility based in the CEFC

Interested researchers are invited to submit a CV and a 1 or 2-page outline of their research project, which specifies a working title and the "return host organization" (this is the organization which will ultimately submit the application), **no later than 15 May 2013**, by email only to: aaroquiame@cefc.com.hk.

France – EFEO Field Scholarships

The next application deadline in 2013 is **30 September 2013**, for scholarships tenable between 1 July and 31 December 2014.

Further details can be found on the [EFEO website](#).

Italy – International Doctoral Program in Economics at Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies, 2013/14

Online application closes on **7 May 2013**. Further details about this programme can be found online on [Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies' website](#).

Multi- & Trans-Disciplinary Calls

Austria – Hertha Firnberg and Elise Richter Programmes

The FWF is offering extremely well qualified female scientists who are working towards a career in universities the chance of a two-stage funding for a total of six years. The career development programme for female scientists is divided into the [Hertha Firnberg Programme for post-docs](#), which aims to support women at the start of their scientific careers, and the [Elise Richter Programme for senior post-docs](#), which aims at providing scientists with the necessary qualifications to apply for professorial positions within Austria or abroad.

The Hertha Firnberg programme provides 60 610 Euros personnel costs per year plus 12 000 Euros p.a. for material, travel, assistance etc., for 36 months (up to 12 months therefrom can be spent at research facilities abroad).

The Elise Richter programme provides 66 680 Euros personnel costs (Senior Postdoc) plus project specific costs up to 15 000 Euros per year as outlined in the proposal (2 000 Euros per year can be used for coaching purposes).

Applicants to both programmes must either have had their main residence in Austria for at least three of the past ten years at the time the application is submitted, or must have been working continuously as a researcher in Austria for at least the two consecutive years preceding the submission of the application.

Current call opened on 8 April and will close on **29 May 2013**.

Further details available on the [FWF website](#).

China – National Natural Science Foundation International Young Scientists Fellowship

This NSFC Fellowship scheme was launched in 2009 to encourage excellent international young researchers to work for six or twelve months in a Chinese university or research institute. Eligibility is limited to universities or institutes in China affiliated to the Ministry of Education (MoE) or Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The Fellowship offers research funding support of RMB 100,000 for visits of six months, or RMB 200,000 for 12 months. This funding is for research expenses only. The host organisation is responsible for covering living costs, insurance, research facilities etc.

All candidates are recommended by the Chinese host organisation. They must have obtained a PhD, have more than three years of basic research or post-doctoral experience, and must be aged under 35 as at 1 January of the year of application.

Two calls are issued every year. The deadlines for the 2nd call in 2013 are as follow:

Deadline for host institution recommendation: **30 June, 2013**

Deadline for the recommended researchers to submit their application form: 19 July 2013.

Under this call, 6 months funding will be provided for visits from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014 – 12 months funding will be provided for visits from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014.

Details available in source: [NSFC](#)

Denmark/EU – MOBILEX Mobility Grants

The aim of MOBILEX - Mobility Programme for Experienced Researchers is to enhance experienced researcher mobility by establishing a new instrument for research mobility in the Danish Council for Independent Research. Under the programme, a total of 78 mobility grants will be awarded to experienced researchers, 45 for outgoing mobility and 33 for incoming mobility projects. A MOBILEX research grant has a duration of 24 months. Grants will be awarded in open, international competition on the basis of free, interest-driven and bottom-up project proposals from all scientific fields covered by the Danish Council for Independent Research. Almost all countries are eligible as destination or origine countries.

To be eligible candidates must have obtained their PhD by the deadline of application and have research experience. They must not have stayed for more than a total of 12 months in the country of the proposed host institution within the last three years before the application deadline.

Deadline for application is **6 May, 2013**. Read the full announcement on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#).

International – UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Awards for Women in Life Sciences 2014

The L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science partnership was created to recognize and promote women in science. Its programs reward established women scientists whose outstanding achievements have contributed to the advancement of scientific knowledge and of its benefits to society and provide support to promising young women scientists with worthy viable projects. Five 100 000 US\$ prizes will be awarded in Paris in March 2014, to five women scientists, one per world region.

The deadline for submission is **17 May 2013**. Further details available on the [UNESCO website](#).

Ireland – SFI Industry Fellowships Programme 2013

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) is pleased to launch the Industry Fellowship programme 2013 to both develop and support academic partnerships with industry.

The Industry Fellowships programme will facilitate exchanges between academia and industry to stimulate excellence through knowledge transfer and training. The fellowships will enable access for researchers to new technology pathways and standards and will facilitate training in the use of specialist research infrastructure.

Fellowships can be awarded to academic researchers wishing to spend time in industry worldwide and to individuals from industry anywhere in the world wishing to spend time in an eligible Irish Research Body, and can be either full time or part time Fellowships.

Fellowships can be between 3 and 12 months if full time, or between 6 and 24 months if part time and applications may be submitted for an Industry Fellowship award up to a maximum of €120,000 direct costs.

Deadline for proposal submission is **21st June, 2013**. Pre-approval may be required to apply to the programme, please see the Programme Call Document on the [SFI website](#) for full details on eligibility and application procedure.

Luxembourg – INTER Mobility Programme

The aim of the INTER Mobility Programme is to promote the scientific exchange between research groups of the Luxembourg public research institutions and research groups abroad in order to foster innovative, internationally competitive research and support the exchange of key knowledge and technological know-how. The INTER Mobility Programme allows for research stays in both directions (researchers working in Luxembourg to go abroad or for researchers from elsewhere to come to Luxembourg).

More specifically, the programme intends to support:

- Post-Docs and senior researchers working in Luxembourg to visit the leading research institutions in the field
- The visit of established senior researchers in Luxembourg public research institutions.

Within the INTER Mobility Scheme, the FNR does not intend to support research stays of early stage researchers (e.g. PhD candidates). The minimal duration of an FNR-funded research stay is 6 weeks and the total cumulated duration of the research stay is limited to 1 year.

The second and last deadline for application in 2013 is **1st of July**. Further information about this scheme can be found on the [FNR website](#).

Netherlands – MoST-NWO Programme of Innovation Cooperation

The 'He' (合) Programme of Innovation Cooperation aims at realizing Sino-Dutch research projects, where academic and industrial researchers in both countries collaborate. Within the Netherlands, the research themes to be addressed have to fit the ICT Roadmap of the Top sector High Tech Systems and Materials (HTSM) or the Chemistry Innovation Contract of the Top sector Chemistry.

For China the priorities are: **LED, semiconductors, sustainable new materials, quality of health care, production and safety of food**. Sino-Dutch teams can apply for a project with a duration of 2 to 3 years (Chinese side) or maximum 4 years (Dutch side), carried out in the form of science-industry cooperation. Pre-proposals application deadline in the Netherlands is **2 May, 2013**.

Further details on the [NWO website](#).

Application deadline for the Chinese participants was 30 April. More details available on the [MoST website](#).

Norway – NORKLIMA Personal Overseas Research Grants, Personal Visiting Researcher Grants and Support for Events

The NORKLIMA programme is announcing funding for research stays abroad, visiting researcher stays in Norway and events that promote the scientific and strategic objectives of the programme. A total of up to NOK 1.5 million is available for all three types of support.

The objective of the Personal Overseas Research Grant and Personal Visiting Researcher Grants is to boost international cooperation within the framework of the NORKLIMA programme plan, and to further strengthen the internationalisation of climate researcher further. When applying for these grants, funding may only be sought for travel expenses and accommodation at fixed rates.

The main focus of NORKLIMA is on the **climate system; climate trends in the past, present and future; direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the natural environment and society**.

Deadline for application is **29 May, 2013**. Further details can be found on the [Research Council of Norway](#) website.

Portugal – 2013 China-Portugal Joint Advanced-Material Innovation Centre Programme

Portugal, China Ministry of Science and Technology and Portugal Ministry of Education and Science jointly launched the call for 2013 China-Portugal Joint Advanced-Material Innovation Centre Programme. The priority areas are biomedical materials, nanotechnology and nanomaterials, sustainable materials and materials for energy. At most three projects will be supported. Application deadline is **3 May** in China.

Contact person on the Portuguese side is:

Ms. Dra. Olga Dias , Project Manager,

Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Ministry of Education, Science and Technology,

Av. D. Carlos I, 126-7 , 1249-074 Lisboa, Portugal;

Email: fctdri@gmail.com;

Tel: 00 351 213911544

Further details on the [MoST website](#).

Sweden – Framework grants for research cooperation with China

The aim of the grant is to support research of a high international quality that is carried out in a long-term and extensive cooperation between researchers in Sweden and China. The cooperation must include at least one Swedish partner (one or more research groups, a research centre, or the like) and at least one Chinese equivalent. An application may also be strengthened by the inclusion of other Swedish higher education institutions or research practitioners, in order to achieve the highest possible scientific quality and the greatest possible continuity.

The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS), the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) and the Swedish Research Council will together announce framework grants of 2.5 – 5 million SEK per year for a five-year period. The grants will be paid from January 2014.

Applications for grants can be made in **all academic disciplines**. Around 5 million SEK per year will be given to research in the area of responsibility of FAS, and an equal amount to research in the area of responsibility of Formas. At least one grant will be approved in the area of life science.

Deadline for application is **28 May, 2013**. More details on the [Swedish Research Council website](#).

Sweden – STINT Initiation Grants

Initiation grants are given for the implementation of short-term projects targeting the building of new and strategically interesting international relationships.

The programme is open for applications within all scientific areas. Candidates shall be active at a university or college in Sweden and have defended their doctorates and the principal collaborating party shall be outside the EU/EEA area.

Next applications' assessment round starts on **11 June**. Two more will take place in 2013 starting respectively on September 10 and November 26.

Read more about this programme on the [Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education \(STINT\) website](#).

Sweden – Tage Erlander visiting professorship

The purpose of this professorship is to give an internationally recognized foreign researcher the opportunity to spend one year at a university or higher education institution (HEI) or research institute in Sweden.

The holder of the visiting professorship should be a researcher of great international prominence. The research areas in which researchers can be nominated alternate according to a schedule. The researchers that can be nominated for the guest professorship for 2014 should work in the area of **medical technology, mathematical sciences, computer science, signals and systems**.

Swedish universities and Higher education institutes (HEI) are welcome to nominate candidates for the visiting professorship until **6 May, 2013**.

Further details available on the [Swedish Research Council website](#).

Calls announced in [previous editions of the newsletter](#):

Switzerland – SNSF Professorships 2013

Deadline for application is **2 May 2013**. More details on the [SNSF website](#).

UK – Leverhulme Trust Fellowships Visiting Professorships

Next deadline to submit applications is **9 May 2013**.

Further details can be found on the [Leverhulme Trust website](#).

Belgium – Odysseus Programme

Application deadline is **1 June 2013**.

More details available on the [FWO website](#).

France – Sino-French Foundation for Science and its Applications Post-Doctoral Fellowships 2013

The deadline to submit application is **1 June 2013**.

Find out all details about this call, the eligible topics and the application process, on the [French embassy website](#).

Switzerland – SNSF International Exploratory Workshops

Although the call for this funding instrument is always open, there are three cut-off dates per year when the evaluation process begins. The next cut-off date is **5 June 2013**.

More details available on the [SNSF website](#).

UK – Royal Society International Exchanges Scheme

The closing date of the current round of application (R2/2013) is **26 June 2013**.

Find out more about this scheme and the current call on the [Royal Society website](#).

Italy – 2013 PhD Scholarships for International Students at Institutions Markets Technologies Institute

Deadline for application is **17 July 2013**. Further details can be found on the [IMT website](#).

Open calls under FP7 and Euratom

The following call for proposals is currently open under the [People](#) programme

Call for proposals	Launched	Deadline
Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship for Career Development (IEF)	14 March 2013	14 August 2013
Marie-Curie International Incoming Fellowship (IIF)	14 March 2013	14 August 2013
Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship for Career Development (IOF)	14 March 2013	14 August 2013
Marie Curie Career Integration Grants (CIG)	18 October 2012	18 September 2013

The following calls for proposals are currently open under the [Ideas](#) programme (managed by the ERC)

Call	Launched	Deadline
Calls for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept Grant	10 January, 2013	3 October, 2013

The following calls are open under the [Cooperation](#) programme

- [Transport \(including Aeronautics\)](#) / 1 open call
- [Joint Technology Initiatives \(Annex IV-SP1\)](#) / 4 open calls

The following calls are open under the [Capacities](#) programme

- [Support for the coherent development of research policies](#) / 1 open call
- [Research Potential](#) / 1 open call

Jobs

Hong Kong - Editor in Chief job at the French Center for Contemporary Chinese Studies (Cefc)

The French Center for Contemporary Chinese Studies (Centre d'études français sur la Chine contemporaine –CEFC), located in Hong Kong, is looking for a researcher-chief editor of its publication 'Perspectives Chinoises' and its English edition 'China Perspectives'. The job will be carried out based on an expatriate employment contract for two years and renewable.

Experienced or teaching Researchers from France and other countries of the European Union are particularly encouraged to apply.

The selected candidate is expected to start working on 1st of September, 2013.

More details about this position and the desired profile can be seen [here](#).

Details about the application requirements are available [here](#).

Application is to be done online on the [French Foreign and European Affairs Ministry](#).
Deadline to submit application is **7 June, 2013**.

EU – Postdoctoral and senior researchers positions at the Joint Research Centre

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is currently advertising the following vacancies:

- 2 doctoral position (deadlines: 12 and 26 May respectively)
- 32 postdoctoral positions (various deadlines from 2 to 26 May)
- 5 senior researcher positions (various deadlines from 13 May to 18 June)

Further information on the [JRC website](#).

Events

EURAXESS Links China Events

EURAXESS Links China joins organisation committee of EU-China Joint Workshop on Urban Innovation “Towards Innovative Joint Solutions for Common Urbanisation Challenges” – 30-31 May 2013, Foshan, China

The EU-China Joint Workshop on Urban Innovation is co-organised by the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and the China Centre for Urban Development (CCUD) of the National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC), in collaboration with the relevant Directorates-Generals of the European Commission, EURAXESS Links China (through its ‘EURAXESS Connect’ events series) and the Chinese government.

It will take place in Foshan, Guangdong on 30-31 May 2013 and will bring together Chinese and European stakeholders from policy, research, and industry backgrounds working on urbanisation and innovation issues. EURAXESS Links China, in line with its mission to valorize the expertise of China-based European researchers to foster European research internationalization, will fund the participation to the workshop of up to five China-based European experts.

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Identify potential research themes and flagship projects for future joint research on sustainable and innovative urbanisation
- Identify obstacles in relation to the Framework Conditions relevant to Research & Innovation and initiate a dialogue on how to overcome them
- Exchange of information and best practices in on-going joint activities with China (EU, Member States & Associated Countries) in the field of R&I on urbanisation

The output of the workshop will contribute to both the Research and Innovation Pillar of the EU-China Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership, as well as to the First EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue to take place later this year.

The workshop will include field visits in Foshan on the 29th, on the 30th and 31st plenary sessions featuring high-level speakers, and panel sessions on the following three topics:

- Sustainable planning
- Green urban mobility
- Sustainable energy solutions for cities

Please see the [draft agenda](#) which will be updated on a regular basis on the [EURAXESS Links China website](#). For further details and information on this event, please contact china@euraxess.net.

EU-China Events

1st OpenChina-ICT Workshop, 31 May, Guangzhou

Only few weeks left to register (free of charge) to the 1st OpenChina-ICT Thematic Workshop on Smart and Sustainable Cities organized on May 31, 2013 in Guangzhou, P.R. China by the OpenChina-ICT project, under the aegis of the European Commission with the support of MOST and MIIT.

The workshop will bring together high-level speakers from Europe and China, including representatives from the European Commission DG CONNECT, government officials, key research experts and researchers specialized on the ICT aspects of Smart and Sustainable Cities and will offer you the opportunity to network, learn and share information on EU-China ICT research cooperation.

Thematic sessions will focus on selected sub-themes (see below) to identify possible short-term cooperation projects:

Group #1 – Smart Grids and Clean Energy

Group #2 – Intelligent Transportation and Mobility

Group #3 – Smart Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Full details on the workshop agenda and venue are available [here](#).

See the [OpenChina ICT project website](#) for more details and to register.

Upcoming scientific events in China

Find out about major events in Europe on the [European Commission's 'Conferences & Events' website](#).

Field	Date	Location	Title <i>(click for more details)</i>
Neuroscience	6-10 May, 2013	Suzhou	Francis Crick Symposium on Neuroscience
Medicine	10-11 May, 2013	Beijing	2nd Asian Conference on Hepatitis and HIV
Engineering	13-16 May, 2013	Shanghai	27th CIMAC Congress on Combustion Engine Technology
Genetics	13-17 May, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Membrane Protein Structure and Function
Molecular Biology	16-19 May, 2013	Xian	EMBO Workshop: 'Membrane Shaping and Remodelling by Proteins'
Space	20-23 May, 2013	Shanghai	The 5th CSA-IAA Conference on Advanced Space Technology
Biotechnology	20-23 May, 2013	Shanghai	8th International China Pharmaceutical R&D Summit
Biotechnology	20-23 May, 2013	Shanghai	Biosimilars Asia 2013
Metabolism	20-24 May, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Metabolism, Obesity and Obesity-Associated Diseases
Education	21-22 May, 2013	Beijing	2nd International Conference and Exhibition on Occupational Health & Safety
Law, IPR, Pharmacology	21-23 May, 2013	Shanghai	2nd Pharma Legal Affairs Asia 2013
Nephrology	31 May-June 4, 2013	Hong Kong	ISN World Congress of Nephrology
Medicine	3-7 June, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Vaccine Design
Environment	4-7 June, 2013	Dalian	2013 Int'l Symposium on Environmental Science and Technology
Software Engineering	14-16 June, 2013	Beijing	International Symposium on Computer Science and Electrical Engineering
Mechanics	16-21 June, 2013	Beijing	13th Int'l Conference on Fracture - ICF-13
Bioinformatics	17-20 June, 2013	Shenzhen	BGI Bioinformatics Workshop

Plant Biology	17-21 June, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Plant Cell and Developmental Biology
Genetics	24-28 June, 2013	Suzhou	Yersinia 11 - the 11th international symposium on Yersinia
Education	6-7 July, 2013	Hong Kong	2013 2nd International Conference on Knowledge and Education Technology - ICKET 2013
ICT	6-7 July, 2013	Hong Kong	2013 4th International Conference on Signal and Information Processing (ICSIP 2013)
Applied science, Engineering	12-14 July, 2013	Shanghai	Shanghai International Conference on Applied Science and Engineering
Nuclear engineering	29 July-2 August, 2013	Chengdu	The 21st Int'l Conference on Nuclear Engineering
Modernization science	8-10 August, 2013	Beijing	1st int'l modernization forum
Astronomy	16-18 August, 2013	Lijiang	Collaboration Meeting on Antarctic Survey Telescopes
Health	19-24 August, 2013	Beijing	Asian Mycological Congresses 2013
Biotechnology	20-21 August, 2013	Shanghai	5th Annual BioProcess International™ China
Atomic and Molecular Physics	20-23 August, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on New Advances in Optical Imaging of Live Cells and Organisms
ICT	20-23 August, 2013	Beijing	2013 IEEE International Conference on iThings/CPSCoM/GreenCom (2013 World Cybermatics Congress)
ICT	20-23 August, 2013	Beijing	2nd International Workshop on energy and Wireless Sensors (e-WiSe)
Biology, Food safety	25-30 August, 2013	Beijing	10th Int'l Congress on Plant Pathology - ICPP
Engineering	28-31 August, 2013	Macau	International Congress on Engineering and Information (ICEAI 2013)
Engineering	29-31 August, 2013	Macau	2013 International Symposium on Engineering and Natural Sciences
Management & Economics	29-31 August, 2013	Macau	Annual Symposium on Management, Operation Research and Economics
Innovation	1-2 September, 2013	Beijing	2013 4th International Conference on Innovation, Management and Service- ICIMS 2013
Management	1-2 September, 2013	Beijing	2013 2nd International Conference on Management

			Technology and Science-ICMTS2013
Construction & Project Management	1-2 September, 2013	Beijing	2013 4th International Conference on Construction and Project Management - ICCPM 2013
Cancer Research	2-6 September, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Cell Signaling in Metabolism, Inflammation and Cancer
Pharmacology	4-6 September, 2013	Shanghai	World Biopharma Week China Focus 2013
<i>EU-China cooperation</i> Medicine	6-7 September, 2013	Shanghai	1st Euro-Asian Experts Conference on Immune Biomarkers for Personalized Medicine in Oncology
Chemistry	8-13 September, 2013	Shanghai	The 24th International Society of Heterocyclic Chemistry Congress
Infectious Diseases	9-13 September, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Molecular Basis of Aging and Disease
Pharmacology	20-22 September, 2013	Suzhou	2013 Chinese Congress and Exposition on Gerontology and Health Industry
Bioinformatics	20-22 September, 2013	Taicang	InCoB2013 - 12th International Conference on Bioinformatics
Chemistry	22-25 September, 2013	Dalian	2nd International Congress on Catalysis for Biorefineries (CatBior 2013)
Space	23-27 September, 2013	Beijing	64th International Astronautical Congress
Biotechnology	23-27 September, 2013	Beijing	The 13th International Conference on Culture Collections - ICC-13
Computational Biology	23-27 September, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Frontiers in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
Chemistry	24-27 September, 2013	Chengdu	2013 Int'l Autumn Seminar on Propellants ·Explosives and Pyrotechnics
Energy	25-28 September, 2013	Shanghai	5th World Hydrogen Technologies Convention · WHTC2013
Genetics	7-11 October, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Genetic, Genomic, and Translational Studies of Human Leukemia
Neuroscience	10-15 October, 2013	Shenyang	3rd International Neural Regeneration Symposium (INRS2013), in conjunction with the 5th International Spinal Cord Injury Treatments and Trials Symposium
Biology	14-18 October, 2013	Suzhou	CSHA / ISSCR Joint Meeting on Stem Cells in Science and Medicine

Biology	15-20 October, 2013	Beijing	The 11th World Conference on Animal Production , WCAP2013
Neuroscience	21-25 October, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Development, Function and Disease of Neural Circuits
Immunology	28 October-1 November, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Tumor Immunology and Immunotherapy
Metabolism	4-8 November, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Nuclear Receptors and Diseases
Microbiology	18-22 November, 2013	Suzhou	CSH Asia 2013 Conference on Bacterial Infection and Host Defense

Policy & Papers

Lawsuits involving overseas parties surge in Shanghai

The number of intellectual property rights lawsuits that involve an overseas party saw a major spike in Shanghai last year amid an even higher increase in the overall number of IPR-related cases. Shanghai courts handled 240 civil lawsuits involving a party not on the mainland in 2012, a 23.7 percent year-on-year increase, according to an IPR white paper released by Shanghai High People's Court on Thursday. During the same period, Shanghai courts received 4,575 IPR-related lawsuits, a jump of 44.8 percent. More than 80 percent of the claims by the overseas parties in cases they were involved got support from judicial departments, the white paper said. Yet lawsuits related to an overseas party are always initiated by large foreign companies, which have sophisticated methods in IPR management, application and protection and are fully prepared for the lawsuits they launch in China, he said. The rise of these lawsuits also shows that some Chinese companies did not show sufficient respect to others' intellectual property rights, and in some cases they intentionally infringed on others' rights, he added. Many of these cases are related to disputes on a patent that contains advanced technology or related to a well-known brand, Zhu said. (source: [China Daily](#))

440 bln credit line for building smart cities: ministry

Banks and investors promised a hefty credit line of at least 440 billion yuan (70.3 billion U.S. dollars) for China's "smart city" projects, according to the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD). After the China Development Bank announced in January that it would offer at least 80 billion yuan in credit for building smart cities over the next three years, two other commercial banks promised at least the same amount of credit for such projects, according to information released at a MOHURD seminar held on Wednesday. (source: [People Daily](#))

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Voices and opinions

National Natural Science Foundation Still Sees Potential Expansion--Interview with the NSFC President Yang Wei

Prof. Yang Wei, delegate to the National People's Congress and the new President of National Natural Science Foundation of China, recently received an interview with Science Times. Prof. Yang Wei commented that the National Natural Science Fund has growth potential in terms of the total amount of funding resources. He pointed out that according to the statistic of NSFC in comparison with its U.S. counterparts, the funding budget of NSFC was only \$2.8 billion, accounting for about 40% of the \$7 billion budget of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2012. And NSFC's Department of Health Sciences, though taking up one-third of NSFC's total budget, has to shoulder similar responsibility to the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) whose annual budget is about \$20 billion. "With China's GDP exceeding half of the U.S.'s and the expenditure on R&D also getting close to half of the U.S.'s, we need to explore how to boost China's basic science with stronger financial support. We need to convince the central government with our high-quality work that it should provide more funding to NSFC—at a rate higher than both the GDP growth rate and the growth rate of expenditure on R&D—to facilitate the fast development of China's basic science", Yang Wei said. (source: [NSFC](#))

Senior tech official stresses importance of innovation for growth

China must take the initiative on innovation rather than just relying on its late-development advantage, a top technology official said on 18 April. "Innovation-driven growth will be the only model for China's development," said Zhang Laiwu, vice-minister of science and technology, at the third Annual Meeting of China's Independent Innovation in Beijing. "Nowadays, no matter how much you invest, there will not be too much growth generated," added Zhang. He also attributed the global economic turmoil in recent years to an over-expansion of the financial sector, and a lack of momentum in technological innovation. Zhang said that many of the economic bottlenecks now being faced by China - such as in land and labor supply - can be resolved only through innovation, not only in technology, but also with the "introduction of new products, exploration of new markets, or acquisitions of new materials sources". Zhang's comments were echoed by Hou Yunchun, the former deputy director of the Development Research Center of the State Council, who was also addressing Thursday's meeting. (source: [China Daily](#))

Innovation is key to sustainable business and country's economy

Chinese entrepreneurs have named innovation as the new driver for both their enterprises and the Chinese economy, while acknowledging that challenges exist when introducing new operation models and technologies. A survey among Chinese entrepreneurs released on 13 April shows that 91.8 percent of respondents believe innovation in entrepreneurship and technologies will be the key to supporting healthy and sustainable business development and the nation's transition from a fast-growing one to an economy focusing on both quality and quantity. The survey was conducted by the China Entrepreneurs Survey System, a research body under the Development Research Center of the State Council. It interviewed 4,015 corporate leaders, who run State-owned enterprises and China branches of multinational companies, between August and October in 2012. To innovate and have sustainable growth, the entrepreneurs surveyed listed five key attributes: team leading, global

thinking and strategic vision, ability of spiritual inspiration, creative management, and resources integration capability. (source: [China Daily](#))

Investing in innovation

China should divert foreign capital to core technologies and manufacturing activities with high added value. Globalization has made it impossible for any individual country to produce completely independent innovations or dominate innovations by monopolizing all resources and technologies for such activities. Therefore, China should try to take advantage of the dividends brought about by globalization to facilitate its struggling transformation into an innovation-driven economy. The ever-rising prices of China's factors of production in recent years, its tightened land supply and looming labor shortages, together with the weakened cost advantages enjoyed by traditional production activities, have put ever-growing pressure on China-based foreign-funded enterprises, especially export-oriented and labor-intensive ones. However, this has not crippled China's general advantages in attracting overseas capital. The country's comparatively steady economic development, a series of policies it has adopted to spur domestic demand, as well as a steady increase in the quality of its labor and a relatively complete industrial auxiliary infrastructure, are sharpening China's edge in absorbing high-quality foreign investment. The adoption of an innovation-driven development strategy and measures aimed at encouraging the development of new industries of strategic significance have also offered policy props for China to improve the quality of inward foreign capital. At the same time, different economic development stages among its regions and a multi-layer labor force supply model have made China attractive to different types of foreign investment. Its ever-improving investment environment, increased investment convenience, as well as a sound legal system and strengthened efforts for intellectual property rights protection also make China a tempting long-term investment destination for foreign investors. (source: [China Daily](#))

Innovation crucial for China

Great emphasis has recently been placed on the need for innovation in China. At the annual session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, President Xi Jinping emphasized the importance of innovation-driven development for accelerating the transformation of China's economic growth pattern and solving deep-rooted problems. But how can innovation be cultivated? How can individual and collective minds be freed of the stale hallways of repetitive habit? And how can it be ensured that creative ideas are heard and heeded in public decision-making processes? From my experience in other countries, each piloting its own way forward, I have observed that innovation springs from many sources. It stems from a well-rounded education system, which combines knowledge acquisition with problem solving skills. It emerges from the socio-cultural and political space for individuals and groups to express their views and ideas openly. This includes space within hierarchical and bureaucratic relationships - where one's contribution is valued as much, if not more, than one's rank and status, and it includes social space in the sense that the society values innovation. (source: [China Daily](#))

Innovation key to Chinese enterprises abroad

Chinese enterprises need to become more innovative to secure their competitive edge in the global market, entrepreneurs and economists attending the 2013 Boao Forum for Asia have argued. Speaking at a sub-forum ahead of the BFA, Edmund Phelps, a Nobel Prize-winning American economist and professor with Columbia University, acknowledged China's increased innovation in

recent years, but insisted the government and enterprises need to further encourage innovative minds. "Chinese enterprises have grown from followers to become leaders. Only through self-upgrading and good corporate culture can long-term sound development be ensured," added Chen Feng, president of Hainan Airlines, China's fourth-largest airline. Entrepreneurs and economists attending the sub-forum agreed that China is spending more and more on scientific research, but they were concerned money has not been used in the most effective ways. "A considerable amount goes on meals or similar expenditure," they noted. (source: [China Daily](#))

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Thematic activities

Health

Researchers Find An Active Ingredient from *Gossypium herbaceum* to Treat Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common form of dementia, arising as a result of malfunctions of different biochemical pathways. There are many multiple pathogenic factors such as aggregated amyloid- β -peptide (A β) and tau protein, excessive transition metals, oxidative stress and reduced acetylcholine level implicated in AD pathology. *Gossypium herbaceum* extracts (GHE), an active ingredient from *Gossypium herbaceum*, is a complex mixture mainly containing flavonols, such as quercetin, isoquercitrin and quercimeritrin. Each constituent of GHE has been identified, and their metabolites have been profiled. Researchers from Xinjiang Technical Institute of Physics & Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences (XTIPC), found an active ingredient from *Gossypium herbaceum* for AD treatment. (source: [CAS](#))

Optical Tweezers Clear Blocked Blood Vessels

Optical tweezers use a laser to grab tiny objects, holding them with weak forces arising from their interaction with the light. Yin-Mei Li and her team at the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) in Hefei moved blood cells around inside a capillary in the ear of a mouse with the tweezers, unpicking a blockage cell by cell. They also used the tweezers to immobilise a red blood cell, mimicking the effect of an obstruction such as a clot. Since light must pass through living tissue, which scatters and absorbs it, the tweezers can only work up to a depth of 40 micrometres at the moment. But the team believes that the depth will increase with more powerful lasers and advances in optics. Kishan Dholakia at the University of St Andrews, UK, thinks the technique could also keep cells in place under a microscope, making it easier to study some diseases. (source: [CAS](#))

Cancer cells could be weighed in future

Chinese scientists have come up with a new method of weighing microscopic particles such as single atoms or protons, as well as cancer DNA, which could lead to early diagnoses of the disease. A research team led by Zhu Kadi, a professor with the Shanghai Jiaotong University, proposed the optical mass sensing technique to measure the masses of tiny objects, a method which could be

several times more sensitive than previous techniques. An article about the research was published earlier this month in *Physics Reports*, an authoritative international journal. "The technique is still theoretical. We are looking for partners to carry out experiments," said Zhu. (source: [China Daily](#))

Smoking, air pollution major health threats in China

Chinese and international medical experts have warned that second-hand smoke and air pollution are among the major health threats in China. The scientists listed unhealthy diet, uncontrolled high blood pressure, environmental tobacco smoke and outdoor and indoor air pollution as the five leading health risks facing the Chinese population, according to a statement issued at the opening ceremony of the Evidence-Based Policy Dialogue: China and the Global Burden of Diseases symposium on 15 April. Their comments were based on the new findings of a collaborative study conducted by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), Peking Union Medical College (PUMC), the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington and Australia's Queensland University. The study tracked disease-, disability- and demographic-related health trends in China over the two decades from 1990 and 2010. (source: [People](#))

Novel Anti-cancer Compound Found to Selectively Induce Tumor Cell Apoptosis

Induction of cell apoptosis has been a popular strategy for cancer therapy. However, selectively inducing cancer cells to die remains a big concern and challenge for cancer treatment. Research group lead by Prof. YU Qiang in Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica (SIMM) reported a novel anti-cancer compound NPP, methyl 3-(4-nitrophenyl) propiolate, as a preferential tumor cell death inducer. Mechanism studies showed that NPP induces apoptosis by cytochrome P450-catalyzed reactive oxygen species (ROS) formation. Using NPP as a tool, researchers explored the susceptibility of tumor cells to ROS-induced cell death. (source: [CAS](#))

Beijing hosts TCM program

Despite H7N9 human infections, some 17 health officials from 14 Asian countries have travelled to Beijing to attend a 10-day traditional Chinese medicine training program held by the Chinese National Health and Family Planning Commission. The program, sponsored by the commission and organized by Guang'anmen Hospital, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, was launched on 15 April. The program focuses on sharing China's experience in advancing TCM science, non-medicinal therapeutic techniques of TCM integrated with modern medicine and exploring efficient cooperative mechanisms among participating countries. (source: [China Daily](#))

H7N9 vaccine expected ready within 7 months: ministries

As part of China's emergency response to the H7N9 bird flu on technological front, China formally launched a research project on 10 April Wednesday for developing a vaccine for H7N9. Jointly launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the National Health and Family Planning Commission here, the move is expected to make a vaccine ready within seven months, an official statement said. (source: [Xinhua net](#))

China's science academy kicks off H7N9 research

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has started researching how humans can avoid contracting the H7N9 virus. The project, with joint efforts from nine CAS institutes including the Institute of

Microbiology and the Institute of Biophysics, focuses on H7N9's origin, mutations, pathogenesis and interactions with hosts, among other aspects, according to a CAS statement released on 9 April Tuesday. These institutes will conduct scientific evaluations on immune system responses to the virus as well as the performances of antiviral drugs in the hope of accelerating the development of new medicines against the virus. Describing the prevention and control of flu viruses as a "long-time task," the CAS said it will set up a long-term work mechanism that enables various CAS institutes to strengthen cooperation with other units that are fighting the virus on the front lines. (source: [Global Times](#))

New study gauges novel coronavirus lung damage

The novel coronavirus is as virulent as or more virulent than the SARS coronavirus in causing lung damage, a new study by Hong Kong University (HKU) researchers has showed. The research has recently been published in the internationally published Journal of Virology, according to a statement issued by HKU on 8 April Monday. The researchers used human lung tissues maintained in culture to compare infection with the novel coronavirus (HCoV-EMC), SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and the common cold virus 229E. They found that the novel coronavirus infects and replicates in human alveolar type I and type II epithelial cells in the lung and it multiplies even faster than the SARS coronavirus, causing severe lung injury. To explore possible treatment strategies, the research also addressed the pathogenesis of the novel coronavirus. (source: [Global Times](#))

China approves anti-flu drug with H7N9 potential

China has approved a new type of flu drug that it believes may be effective in treating H7N9 bird flu virus. According to a statement issued by the China Food and Drug Administration on 6 April Saturday, the potential of injections of peramivir diluted in sodium chloride injection has been proven by preliminary tests. Peramivir is a neuraminidase inhibitor. As of Saturday morning, China has confirmed 16 H7N9 cases, with six people dead. (source: [Global Times](#))

High blood pressure growing threat to health

The number of people with high blood pressure is increasing at a rapid pace, and community intervention is vital to prevent the disease from posing a heavy burden on China's public health and economy, experts said on 7 April, World Health Day. "It's estimated based on previous surveys that 24 percent of Chinese people over age 15 have high blood pressure," said Wang Wen, vice-chairman of the Chinese Hypertension League. "This means there are about 260 million such patients in the country." "The cost to treat cardiovascular disease is increasing much faster than the pace of China's GDP. High blood pressure is a major cause of the ongoing increase of such diseases. It has helped develop two-thirds of the cardiovascular conditions," said Hu Shengshou, director of the National Center for Cardiovascular Disease. (source: [China Daily](#))

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Food, agriculture and fisheries, biotechnology

Philippines-China collaboration key to producing Philippine local hybrid rice seeds

The SL Agritech Corporation (SLAC), the Philippines' pioneer hybrid rice seeds producer, has developed its own hybrid rice, SL-8H, in collaboration with China and using Chinese hybrid rice technology. Joh Dungca, SLAC promotions and advertising manager, told Xinhua that the technology that they used in developing the local hybrid rice seeds was adopted from China through Professor Yuan Longping, the acknowledged father of hybrid rice. Originally, the SLAC has collaborated with China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center (CNHR-RDC) in developing the SL-8H hybrid rice, which has now enabled farmers to harvest seven to 10 MT per hectare compared to only three to five MT using in-bred varieties. According to Dungca, they are now coordinating with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and Philippine-Sino Center for Agricultural Technology (PhilSCAT) in technology updates on hybrid rice. (source: [Global Times](#))

China to speed up food-tracking system construction

China will speed up the construction of a national electronic food-tracking system as part of efforts to boost food safety supervision, a Cabinet circular said 16 April. Featuring an agenda on food safety work for 2013, the State Council circular urged efforts in making infant formula, ingredient milk, meat, vegetables, liquor and wine, as well as dietary supplement products traceable. Standards concerning volumes of pathogenic microorganisms (such as bacteria), use of food additives, and levels of residue from pesticides and veterinary drugs in food products will be improved before the end of the year, the document said. National product standards for honey and edible vegetables as well as relevant standards of testing methods will also be improved by the end of 2013. (source: [People Daily](#))

Source of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Agricultural Soil Underestimated

Changes in agricultural practices could reduce soil emissions of nitrous oxide (N₂O) and nitric oxide (NO), according to a new study by scientists at Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of California, Davis. Prof. WU Ning and Dr. ZHU Xia from Chengdu Institute of Biology studied N₂O and NO production from three different soil types fertilized with urea or ammonium sulfate under different oxygen concentrations. By labeling ¹⁵N in ammonium (NH₄⁺) and nitrate (NO₃⁻), ¹⁸O in H₂O and NO₃⁻, they distinguished N₂O produced from different pathways, and found that low oxygen concentrations yielded more N₂O and NO from ammonia oxidation pathways. (source: [CAS](#))

Super rice keeps China's supply self-sufficient

New super rice strains with an expected yield of 14.9 metric tons per hectare will help China maintain its largely self-sufficient supply of rice, a staple food for more than 60 percent of its population, over the next few decades, experts said. Minister of Agriculture Han Changfu launched on 9 April Tuesday a scientific research project in Hainan province to develop new super rice strains. The project, which will be undertaken by agricultural scientist Yuan Longping, known as the "father of hybrid rice" for developing the first hybrid rice varieties in the 1970s, will realize its target within five to eight years, according to the ministry. "New super rice strains with high yields will be mainly cultivated in northeastern China and major rice-producing regions along the Yangtze River, such as Sichuan,

Hubei, Hunan, Zhejiang, and Jiangsu provinces," said Cheng Shihua, head of the China National Rice Research Institute, which is also participating in the project. (source: [China Daily](#))

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Information and communication technologies

Robots Join Rescue in Quake Zone

Three types of disaster relief robots have been dispatched to quake-hit areas in the country's southwest Sichuan Province, according to the Shenyang Institute of Automation on 21 April Sunday. The robots were rushed to the quake zone in batches. The first batch, including a robot and three technicians arrived at the quake epicenter Lushan County at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, according to the institute. Two other robots are expected to reach the quake zone on Sunday night or Monday morning, the institute said. "This is the first time these three types of robots will be used in an earthquake rescue and relief mission," the institute said in a statement. Two of the robots are designed to enter ruins to detect life, while the third type, a flying robot, uses a high-definition camera to catch aerial images and send them instantly to relief departments. The robots were jointly developed by the Shenyang Institute of Automation, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the National Earthquake Response Support Service. (source: [CAS](#))

More to access faster Internet

More urban families and rural schools will have access to faster Internet services in 2013, as the government is making more efforts to narrow the "digital gap." Some 18,000 rural villages and 5,000 schools in impoverished regions will enjoy broadband or faster Internet service this year, according to an annual plan released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and seven other ministries. (source: [China Daily](#))

China's cyber security under increasingly severe threats: forum

Over 7 million cyber attacks from phishing websites were blocked by Alibaba and its partners in the second half of 2012, an expert of Internet security said. The data was disclosed by Li Qiushi, a senior manager from Risk Management Department of Alipay.com, the payment platform of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group. "On average, we thwarted some 1,600 such attacks per day during the half a year. And more than 110,000 URLs of the phishing sites had been blocked," he said at the 2013 Internet Industry Security Forum held here. "The work of anti-phishing will be long-standing battle, as the phishing gangs become more and more professional and organized," Li stressed. A better and more comprehensive cooperation of China's Internet giants will be the key point for the next stage, he added. The forum was held by the Internet Security Working Group of China, which was established in 2012 by seven Internet giants, including Baidu, Renren, Tencent, Sina, Microsoft, Alipay and NetEase. Qihoo 360 is also a member of the group. China's cyber security has been under increasingly severe threats amid a variety of safety risks. In 2012, hackers tampered with 16,388 web pages in China, including 1,802 government websites, according to a report released in March by the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team Coordination Center. (source: [Global Times](#))

Chinese scientists observe IT-advancing phenomenon

Chinese scientists have made the very first experimental observation of a phenomenon known as the quantum anomalous Hall (QAH) effect, a discovery that will help accelerate the IT revolution and in developing low-power-consumption electronics. Yang Zhenning, winner of a Nobel Prize in Physics, said at a press conference on 10 April Wednesday that the research was ground-breaking in the field, rating it as worthy of a Nobel Prize. QAH effect is one of the most important physical effects that had remained unobserved worldwide, according to academic Xue Qikun, who has led a team working on the subject since 2008. The discovery, if it is harnessed in the future, will help reduce unnecessary energy consumption stemming from irregular electron collisions, according to Xue. "The technology may even bring about a supercomputer in the shape of an iPad," predicted Xue. (source: [China Daily](#))

Europe-China cooperation in supercomputing discussed at conference

Every opportunity should be seized to create favorable conditions for joint work on high-performance computing (HPC) in Europe and China, Stefan Vodenicharov, president of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, said at the third Europe-China conference on HPC, which started on 8 April Monday. "This requires coordination and pooling of efforts of thousands of experts from dozens of scientific fields," Vodenicharov added. The event will look at cooperation in the field of high-performance systems to simplify and accelerate the widespread usage of supercomputers. Liu Guangming, director of National Supercomputer Center in Tianjin, told Xinhua that China had almost 30-year experience in supercomputing. "Especially since the completion of supercomputer Tianhe-1A, the construction and system development of HPC in China has reached the advanced level in the world," he said. (source: [Global Times](#))

City to install BDS instead of GPS

Beijing information technology authorities said 8 April Monday that they will update the transportation coordination platform by installing BeiDou navigation satellite systems on buses and taxis in the capital by 2013. The China-developed BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) will provide passengers with updated information such as the location and expected time of arrival of public transportation. Experts said that this measure could be taken as a starting point to overturn the dominance of the US-government developed Global Positioning System (GPS) in the nation, and the measure will be good for national security as well as economic growth. BDS at present has 16 satellites that were launched from October 2000 to 2012, with the aim of providing technical support in the fields of mapping, fishing, transportation and disaster reduction, according to the Xinhua News Agency. By the end of 2012, the system had over 130,000 military and civilian users. Thirty satellites will be needed before BDS can provide complete global coverage. (source: [Global Times](#))

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Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies

Filler to Patch up Ancient Silk Delicate

Chinese researchers have found a way to restore and strengthen ancient, fragile silk fabrics using an enzyme-mediated reaction to fill in tiny cracks in the fibres. The team says the work could offer a new conservation technique that avoids using synthetic polymers, which can be toxic and damage silk textiles over time. Zhanyun Zhu and colleagues at the University of Science and Technology of China,

Hefei, have developed a transglutaminase-mediated protein polymerisation method. This uses a biopolymer chemically similar to silk as a filler, to reinforce historic silk fabrics without harmful agents. The process itself forms the necessary cross-links to increase protein stability. (source: [CAS](#))

Researchers Find Way for Controllable Preparation of Active Nano-gold Catalysts

Nano-gold catalysis has received fantastic attention since the discovery of the prominent behavior of nano-gold in CO low-temperature oxidation. However, the controllable preparation of nano-gold catalyst remains a challenge. Researchers at R&D Center for Green Chemistry and Catalysis, Lanzhou Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (LICP), have showed that controllable preparation of active nano-gold catalyst can be achieved using chlorine as an indicator. (source: [CAS](#))

Quantum Cloning Machine Realized Experimentally in Nitrogen-vacancy Center of Nanodiamond

An arbitrary quantum state cannot be cloned perfectly. This is the no-cloning theorem in quantum mechanics and quantum information science. On the other hand, a quantum state can be cloned approximately or probabilistically. So various quantum cloning machines are proposed theoretically and realized experimentally. One important application of quantum cloning machine is to attack the quantum key distribution, which is a secure quantum communication protocol. By using this attack, the security of the quantum key distribution can be analyzed. A widely used protocol of quantum key distribution is the BB84 protocol, in which four quantum states are used to encode the classical information. The quantum cloning machine which can copy these four BB84 states is the phase-covariant quantum cloning machine which actually can copy optimally all qubits located on the equator of the Bloch sphere. Recently, Prof. FAN Heng, Prof. PAN Xinyu and coworkers from Beijing National Laboratory for Condensed Matter Physics at the Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, reported an experimental realization of the phase quantum cloning in system of nitrogen-vacancy center of nanodiamond at room temperature. (source: [CAS](#))

Highly Tunable Propagating Surface Plasmons on Supported Silver Nanowires

The manipulation of light at the nanometer scale is important for both fundamental researches and actual applications. Surface plasmons (SPs) on metal nanostructures provide the possibility for manipulating light at the nanometer scale. For instance, due to the strong field confinement effect in metal nanowires (NWs), these 1-D structures can overcome the diffraction limit imposed on conventional optical components to support SP propagation within sub-wavelength volume, which serves as the basis for high density packing of optical circuits. In recent years, Prof. XU Hongxing and his research team in Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, have conducted a series of original research work aiming at the fundamental properties of metal nanowire-based integrated nano-optical circuits, including interactions between NW SPs and single molecules or quantum dots, angular emission of NW SPs, correlation between incident and emitted light polarizations, influences of substrate and NW curvature on the SP propagation, chiral SP propagation, and routing effect in branched NW structures. (source: [CAS](#))

New-structure Fullerene Found, Making the "impossible" Come True

Apart from the familiar carbon allotropes, diamond and graphite, are there also other carbon molecules in the form of a single mass? Fullerene is one of them. [YANG Shangfeng and his team](#)

from the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), together with colleagues in other universities, discovered, isolated and characterized a new-structure fullerene, changing the understanding of endohedral fullerene structure which has been recognized for more than 20 years. Once the research into fullerene is transferred into practical usage, the prospect is extremely promising. It can be applied in the modification and update of cosmetics and act as electron acceptor material in most organic solar cells. (source: [CAS](#))

Cheap and Fully Degradable Plasticized Polylactic Acid Materials

Polylactic Acid (PLA), the fully biodegradable bio-based polymer, is regarded as the shining candidate to replace many kinds of the petroleum-based plastics. However, the poor heat-resistance and brittleness of PLA turn out to be challengeable for both academic and industrial fields. Since 2009, Prof. ZHU Jin's group of the Ningbo Institute of Materials Technology and Engineering (NIMTE), has been focusing on the PLA material innovation. After developing the heat-resistance transparent PLA materials which is the first and only transparent heat-resistance PLA plastic in the world (Heat Resistant Polylactic acid with Good Clarity, 2011 ANTEC 2011, Boston.), they switched their interest to how to efficiently and cheaply plasticize the PLA material while keeping the PLA composite fully degradable. Recently, the group has made some attractive progress toward this aim by using the modified starch and plant oil together. The experimental result shows that the toughness and the impact strength of PLA/starch composite have been effectively improved. (source: [CAS](#))

Graphene Foams: Cozy and Conductive Scaffolds for Neural Stem Cells

It has been previously reported that graphene sheets support growth and differentiation of human neural stem cells (NSCs) in a similar fashion to other common substrates like glass or polymer PDMS. Chinese researchers have done pioneering work in synthesizing graphene foams to exacting standards of purity and uniformity. When coated with laminin or other matrix proteins, these foams could potentially serve not only as compatible neural housing but also as a means to control the tenants electrically. To probe the electrical characteristics of the foam the researchers used cyclic voltammetry, a common technique often used in basic electrochemistry. Their results indicated that the cells could be safely stimulated via capacitive charge injection in the potential window range from -0.2 to + 0.8 V, similar again to results from 2D graphene film studies. They further noted that the 3D foam architecture provides more efficient charge injection and potentially more specific stimulation capability. (source: [CAS](#))

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Environment (including climate change)

China made 'real progress' in carbon emission legislation, study finds

China has made clear progress dealing with climate change in legislation and more efforts from lawmakers to reduce carbon emission is urgent, according to a study launched by an international organization of legislators. GLOBE International, a network of cross-party legislators from more than 30 countries, looked into 33 countries around the globe in 2012, of which 18, including China, had made real progress in climate change legislation and 14 have made some progress. Canada was

noted to have made no progress because it passed legislation to back out of the Kyoto Protocol. (source: [Global Times](#))

Changes in Annual and Seasonal Temperature Extremes in the Arid Region of China

In recent years, there is an increasing concern in weather and climate extremes, since they may cause serious disasters to human society and nature and seem to be more sensitive to climate change than mean values. Many results have shown that the increases in economic losses, coupled with a rise in deaths, may be caused due to the facts that climate extremes are increasing in frequency and intensity. Furthermore, changes in extremes can be strong indicators of climate change. Exploring changing characteristics of extreme temperature in the arid region of China is a prerequisite for the assessment of impacts of climatic changes on regional ecological environment and agricultural development. Therefore, WANG Huaijun et al. use the daily data of minimum and maximum temperature from 76 meteorological stations for 1960–2010 to detect the annual and seasonal variations of temperature extremes in the arid region, China. The Mann–Kendall test and Sen estimator are used to assess the significance of the trend and amount of change, respectively. (source: [CAS](#))

OCPs Composition, Distribution and Risk Assessment Revealed in Midway Atoll

Organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) including dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) and hexachlorocyclohexanes (HCHs) are synthetic compounds with great chemical stability and listed as persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Due to the wide use throughout the world since the middle of the last century, these compounds are ubiquitous in the environment and pose an environmental and human risk. GE Jing under the supervision of WANG Jun from Key Laboratory of Aquatic Botany and Watershed Ecology, Wuhan Botanical Garden investigated the composition, distribution and risk assessment of 18 OCPs in soils from the Midway Atoll, North Pacific Ocean. (source: [CAS](#))

Role of Ancient Tea Gardens in Biodiversity Conservation Revealed

Ancient tea garden has existed in Lancang County, Yunnan Province for more than 1,300 years, and is regarded as the provenance of Pu'er Tea's seed source. Previous research works have provided basic information for further studies on the ancient tea garden in Yunnan, while the knowledge about the value of these ecosystems in keeping biodiversity is scarce. In order to reveal the role of biodiversity conservation of ancient tea garden, researchers from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden investigated and compared plant diversity and application value of ancient tea gardens, normal tea gardens and secondary forestry communities in Lancang County. Two ancient tea garden communities, Mangjing (MJ) and Jingmai (22°09'37"N, 100°00'57"E) village's ancient tea garden were selected, because those tea gardens are the largest, oldest and most complete ancient tea gardens in China. The researchers also conducted 360 households investigation by using household-based agro-biodiversity assessment (HH-ABA). Their study found that ancient tea garden has high species diversity, compared with secondary forests and normal tea garden communities. (source: [CAS](#))

Cross-border reserve to protect leopards

China and Russia will establish a cross-border Amur leopard reserve this year, the Jilin Province Forestry Department said on 6 April Saturday. The department is engaged in discussions with the Land of Leopard National Park in Primorsky Territory of Russia on a cooperative agreement to protect the big cat. "If everything goes smoothly, we suggest signing an agreement with the park in June,"

said Jiang Jinsong, a provincial forestry department official. "We hope to promote the cooperation as soon as possible," said Alyona Salmanova, head of the science department at Land of Leopard National Park. The park will draft the agreement. The Amur leopard, which lives in the border area of China, Russia and the Korean Peninsula, is a subspecies of the Panthera genus. According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Amur leopard population has dwindled to around 50, making it one of the world's most endangered species. (source: [China Daily](#))

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Energy

China, France renew nuclear power cooperation

China and France turned a new page in nuclear power cooperation, with the signing of statements and memorandum of understanding (MoU) by enterprises from both countries on Thursday. Witnessed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and visiting French President Francois Hollande, the companies inked agreements on research and development of advanced reactors, nuclear fuel sharing, and operation and upgrading of nuclear power stations. The joint development of new-type reactors by the two sides will bring the two countries' cooperation in nuclear power to a new and crucial stage, Machenaud, executive vice president and Asia Pacific branch president of EDF, said. Besides China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group (CGNPG), EDF has also signed cooperation agreements with several major electricity suppliers in China. (source: [China Daily](#))

China regains clean energy investment lead

Report: Country attracts \$65.1b investment last year, a 20 percent rise, against 11 percent global fall. China regained the global top spot in clean energy investment in 2012, with a robust 20 percent rise while investment in the United States and Europe dropped, according to a report released on 18 April. The Pew Charitable Trusts report on clean energy found that China attracted \$65.1 billion in renewable energy investment, the third time the country has headed the investment rankings since 2009. The report said investment levels worldwide declined 11 percent during the year. The United States, last year's world leader, ranked second with investment in the sector dropping 37 percent to \$35.6 billion in 2012. Germany ranked third with \$22.8 billion, down 27 percent compared with the previous year. (source: [China Daily](#))

E China nuclear plant generator operational



The first generator at the Ningde Nuclear Power Station in east China's Fujian Province went into operation on 18 April. The generator has an installed capacity of 1.09 million kilowatts (kw), the same as the plant's other three generators, which are still under construction. "The safety of the plant meets advanced international standards," said Huang Xiaohang, deputy general manager of Ningde Nuclear Power Co., Ltd. Huang said natural disasters like earthquakes and

tsunamis were taken into consideration when designing and locating the plant. The operation of the plant's first generator will increase Fujian's usage of clean energy from 42.56 percent to 45.32 percent, according to Huang Wenyong, deputy chief engineer of the State Grid's Fujian branch. Fujian will transmit 3.6 billion kilowatt-hours (kwh) of electricity to other provinces this year. (source: [Global Times](#))

Measures 'will boost solar panel companies'

Companies hoping to manufacture photovoltaic products, such as solar panels, will have to meet strict new criteria, according to the China Securities Journal. The paper said the criteria, to be issued by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, will boost the industry's development and companies that fail to meet the criteria will find it difficult to get bank loans or land. Experts said the measure will help companies that are well-organized and efficient gain new markets. (source: [People Daily](#))

China's wind power generation up 41% in 2012

China generated 100.8 billion kilowatt hours of wind power in 2012, marking a 41-percent rise from 2011, the National Energy Administration said 9 April Tuesday. The amount represented about 2 percent of the country's total electricity sent through the state grid, according to a statement on the administration's website. The figures are based on statistics from the national wind power information management center, the statement said. In the wind power sector, 62.66 million kilowatts of installed capacity was connected to the state grid by the end of 2012, up 31 percent year on year. The amount of wind power generated in 2012 saved 32.86 million tonnes of coal, 167 million tonnes of water and 84.34 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, the statement said. (source: [People Daily](#))

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Transport (including aeronautics)

China tests self-developed biofuel flight

China on Wednesday successfully conducted a first test flight powered by self-developed biofuel made mainly from palm oil and recycled cooking oil. An Airbus A320 operated by China Eastern Airlines landed at Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport at 7:08 am after completing an 85-minute journey using aviation biofuel produced by Sinopec, the country's top oil refiner. The success made China the fourth country after the United States, France and Finland to boast independent production of bio-jet-fuel. The biofuel produced enough power during the test flight and "was no different from traditional fuels," Providing it passes certain reviews, Sinopec will be granted the country's first permit of its kind for commercial use of biofuel. With an annual consumption of nearly 20 million tons, China has become a significant consumer of aviation fuels, and the development of biofuel is expected to help ease resource pressures and curb carbon dioxide emissions in the industry. (source: [China Daily](#))

China's largest patrol vessel soon in service

A helicopter is pictured on the patrol vessel *Haixun01* in Shanghai, East China, April 15, 2013. *Haixun 01*, soon to be put into service and managed by the Shanghai Maritime Bureau, is China's largest and most advanced patrol vessel. The 5,418-tonnage *Haixun01* is 128.6 meters in length and has a

maximum sailing distance of 10,000 nautical miles (18,520 km) without refueling. It will carry out missions regarding maritime inspection, safety monitoring, rescue and oil spill detection and handling. (source: [China Daily](#))

Remote-sensing planes should be given priority

Remote-sensing planes should get increased rights to use the airspace after serious natural disasters, so they can play a more effective role in rescue and relief efforts, an expert said. Every second is important after the first 72 hours after a disaster such as an earthquake, and a remote-sensing plane can provide valuable and timely information for the government's decision-making efforts in disaster relief operations, Guo Huadong, director of the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said ahead of the fifth anniversary of the 8.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Sichuan province in 2008, causing more than 80,000 dead or missing. "After disasters, remote-sensing planes have to wait until military planes take off first, as military forces usually have priority in the use of airspace," Guo said. Two remote-sensing planes were sent soon after the Sichuan earthquake and sent high-resolution pictures of the whole quake-wrought area, which provided clear routes for rescuers to access the area, Guo said. (source: [China Daily](#))

Harbin-Dalian high-speed rail to reach speeds of 300 km/h

The world's first high-speed railway operating in extremely low temperatures will begin service on April 21 that can reach speeds of up to 300 kilometers per hour. The 921-km line linking Harbin, capital of China's northernmost province of Heilongjiang, and the port city of Dalian, Liaoning province, currently operates at 200 km per hour based on its winter schedule. Since the line opened on Dec 1, it has withstood tests of extremely low temperatures and inclement weather and proved safe and reliable, said Gao Wen, deputy director of Shenyang Railway Bureau, which manages the line. (source: [China Daily](#))

China launches nationwide school bus information collection initiative

As part of China's efforts to form a school bus information system this year, the country's central authorities have ordered the collection of school bus information nationwide. In a joint circular posted online 7 April Sunday, the ministries of education, public security and transport demanded that details on school buses, drivers, onboard caretakers and service providers be provided. Targeting all in-operation school buses, the move is intended to keep government agencies updated on relevant information in order to improve school bus safety management work. (source: [Global Times](#))

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Socioeconomic sciences and the humanities

Renmin University opens research center

Renmin University of China has opened a multi-disciplinary governance research center, aimed at solving problems pragmatically. "In this modern society, not a single problem can be solved individually. Thus, an interdisciplinary research center is necessary to solve problems pragmatically," said Cheng Tianquan, director of the Institute for Public Governance and the university's Party chief. The institute will provide research foundation and policy guidance to solve social problems. Zhang Jianming, an official with the Beijing municipal government, hopes the institute will help the capital to

solve various problems. Cheng said the university has advantages in social sciences. "During the 2012 evaluation from the Ministry of Education, nine majors from Renmin University, including law and politics, ranked at the top of the list," he said. More than 40 professors and researchers gathered at the university to discuss public management in China. (source: [China Daily](#))

First ancient mirror workshop discovered in China

A 2,000-year-old bronze mirror workshop has been excavated in east China's Shandong Province, the first such discovery in China, archaeologists announced on Wednesday. More than 100 stone moulds, as well as foundry pits, wells and blastpipes have been unearthed at the site in a village near Zibo City, said Bai Yunxiang, deputy director of the archeological institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The workshop is believed to have been active in the early period of the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD), when the once-costly bronze mirrors gradually became household objects, according to Bai. These items are made entirely of bronze, with a reflection given by the metal. "It's the first time that a bronze mirror workshop has been discovered, providing precious insights into technologies used for China's ancient mirror making," Bai said. (source: [Global Times](#))

Suspected tomb of Chinese tyrant discovered

Chinese archaeologists said that a tomb unearthed in east Jiangsu Province might be the final resting place of an emperor known for his tyrannous reign about 1,500 years ago. The 20-square-meter tomb in Yangzhou City might belong to Yang Guang, or Emperor Yang of Sui, the second and last monarch of the short-lived Sui Dynasty (581-618), according to the city's cultural heritage bureau. A gravestone excavated from the tomb confirmed the emperor's identity, while an inscription about the year of his death concurred with historical accounts, said Shu Jiaping, head of Yangzhou's institute of archaeology. (source: [Global Times](#))

China reports top 10 archaeological finds in 2012

Chinese authorities on 9 April Tuesday announced the top 10 archaeological discoveries made in 2012, with the earliest dating back to the Paleolithic era. Among the most significant discoveries was the ruins of a small city, the largest of its kind in neolithic China, discovered in northwest China's Shaanxi Province. Archaeologists said the walls of the 4,000-year-old city are decorated with carved jade, indicating that the city was important in ancient Chinese civilization. The discovery has provided new material for the study of Chinese civilization and its development, experts said. (source: [Global Times](#))

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Space

Intl symposium on remote sensing opens in Beijing

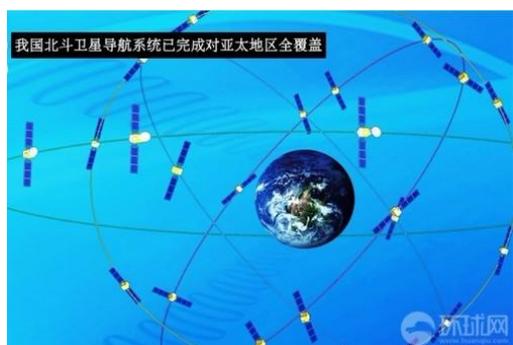
The 35th International Symposium for Remote Sensing of the Environment (ISRSE) kicked off Monday 21 April in Beijing. Themed "Earth observation and global environmental change," the five-day event has attracted more than 1,000 scholars and experts in remote sensing and other related areas from some 50 countries and regions. During the five-day event, participants will discuss and exchange ideas on various topics including climate change and atmosphere, food crisis and poverty reduction, biodiversity, disaster reduction, among others. The international event aims to promote the development and application of the remote sensing technology. It is the first symposium

in the series to be held in China. The symposium is mainly sponsored by the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth under the CAS. (source: [Global Times](#))

Seismic Intensity in SW China Reaches IX Degree: Expert

The seismic intensity scale in the severely quake-hit area in southwest China's Sichuan Province is measured at the IX degree, said the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The China Seismic Intensity Scale is classified into 12 degrees, from I for insensible to XII for landscape reshaping. The quake-hit area is about 15,720 square kilometers and a total of 1.85 million people have been affected, according to the CAS's quick assessment on the scale of the disaster using high-resolution remote sensing images. Experts with China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC) told Xinhua that the 7.0-magnitude quake on 20 April Saturday was an isolated disaster, not an aftershock of the Wenchuan 8.0-magnitude quake that jolted Sichuan and other southwest regions in May 2008. (source: [CAS](#))

BeiDou precision navigation system updated



The BeiDou Ground Base Enhancement System (BGBES) was recently approved in Wuhan, Hubei Province, by an evaluation committee led by Sun Jiadong, an academician with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and chief designer of the BDS. The ground system aims at enhancing the navigation precision of China's homegrown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS). In doing so, the BDS has entered a new era of high precision. The BGBES was conducted by the central government and implemented by the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Engineering Research Center of Wuhan University and the Hubei Provincial Surveying and Mapping Bureau. (source: [China.org](#))

Scientists Contribute in Search for Dark Matter

Chinese scientists have made a significant contribution in the search for dark matter led by an international Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) team. An Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer is a particle physics experiment module that is mounted on the International Space Station. It is designed to search for various types of unusual matter. The core component of the AMS is a Chinese-made huge permanent magnet, said Chen Hesheng, primary member of the AMS team and also former director of the Institute of High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The magnet, jointly made by CAS Institute of Electrical Engineering, CAS Institute of High Energy Physics and China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, is used to identify particles carrying positive electricity from those carrying negative electricity. (source: [CAS](#))

BeiDou system enjoys fast growth of users

The application of China's homegrown BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) has expanded to include more overseas and domestic clients, heightening expectations for a full-fledged information industry based on domestically-produced satellites. A state laboratory under Wuhan University in

central China's Hubei Province and Wuhan city's information technology outsourcing center signed an agreement in Bangkok on 5 April Friday with the Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand, committing to cooperation on the construction of Thailand's geospatial system for disaster forecasting. (source: [Xinhua net](#))

China conducts first space science active experiment

China's first space science active experiment was conducted on 5 April Friday morning to study the dynamical processes of the Earth's ionosphere, a top scientific institute said. The experiment conducted at a sounding rocket launch site in Zhanzhou, south China's Hainan Province, will provide in-situ measurements for studying the vertical distribution of space environment, said Wu Ji, director of the National Space Science Center of Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The vertical exploration test was completed with the help of a sounding rocket, which released a kilogram of powdered barium into the ionosphere at a height of 200 kilometers from the ground, Wu said. (source: [China Daily](#))

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People & Higher Education

Intl scholarship puts China on the map

Tsinghua University announced on 21 April the launch of an international postgraduate program to train potential global leaders, with the aim of developing young talents' understanding of China. The program, called the Schwarzman Scholars, will provide full financial support to 200 students each year, who will come from all over the world to attend a one-year program in [Beijing](#). There will be 100 students in the first class, which will start in fall 2016. It will expand to 200 students a year from 2017. The program is the result of a \$300 million donation, the single largest internationally funded philanthropic effort in China's history. One-third of the endowment is from financial tycoon Stephen Schwarzman, founder of investment giant Blackstone Group. He also helped raise the additional \$200 million. Once the program expands to 200 students, 90 will come from the United States, 20 from China and the rest from across the world. (source: [China Daily](#))

President Xi hails Tsinghua-Blackstone scholarship program

Chinese President Xi Jinping has hailed a scholarship program at the Beijing-based Tsinghua University, urging deepened exchanges among learners across the world to promote mutual understanding and a better future for the mankind. Xi made the remarks in a congratulatory letter to the launch ceremony of Schwarzman Scholars program jointly founded by Tsinghua University and Stephen A. Schwarzman, Chairman of U.S. investment and advisory firm Blackstone. The program offers a one-year study for postgraduates selected from around the world to hone their international perspective and leadership quality, according to a statement on the official website of Tsinghua University. (source: [Xinhua net](#))

Times Higher Education publishes Asia university rankings

The Times Higher Education magazine published its first Asia University Rankings on 10 April Wednesday. Japan's Tokyo University topped the list of 100 universities ranked based on the trusted

performance indicators used to create the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Among all, Japan took 22 spots in the top 100 list, whereas China's Taiwan and the Chinese mainland took 17 and 15 respectively, with the Peking University ranking fourth, closely followed by Tsinghua in the sixth slot. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has six universities in the list, all in the top 50. Phil Baty, editor of Times Higher Education Rankings, told Xinhua that the list was a "very promising showing for China." (source: [Global Times](#))

Scientific research, talents stressed for Chinese military

A senior Chinese military official has urged that more talents be fostered and scientific research deepened in the military field to build strong support for the country's military construction and battle capabilities. Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks during his recent visits to the National Defence University and the Academy of Military Sciences. Both institutions are under the People's Liberation Army, according to a statement. Xu called for the entire army to make a habit of researching wars and tracking the evolution of battle styles in order to identify key factors that have led to victories during wartime. Xu urged the university and the academy to shoulder their roles as the country's military think tanks by focusing on military revolutions and scientific development in the military field in order to make cutting-edge achievements that will influence the outcomes of potential future wars. He also stressed the fostering of more military talents that will be loyal to the Party and the people, well-versed in modern warfare and adept at using new kinds of weaponry in information warfare. (source: [Xinhua net](#))

Chinese Scientist elected as ISPRS President

Prof. Chen Jun from the National Geomatics Center of China (NGCC), was newly elected as President of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) during the 22nd ISPRS Congress. It's the first time for a Chinese scientist to chair the ISPRS since its establishment in 1910 as an international academic organization. Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing is a science and technology based approach to obtaining, recording, measuring, analyzing and expressing the reliable information about the Earth and its environment by means of noncontact imaging and other sensor systems. In 1910, the International Society for Photogrammetry (ISP) was founded in Vienna, Austria with a view to promoting the development of international cooperation for the advancement of photogrammetry, remote sensing and their applications. The Society changed its name in 1980 to the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS). (source: [NSFC](#))

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Research infrastructures

Unmanned survey ship ends 1st mission

China's first domestically developed unmanned survey ship has conducted its first test mission in the South China Sea, Chinese media reported. The 6-meter-long unmanned vessel, which was developed by Shanghai University and Qingdao Beihai Shipbuilding Heavy Industry in Shandong province, took part in a recent China Marine Surveillance patrol of the South China Sea and collected operational data during the mission, according to Shanghai-based Jiefang Daily. The ship carried out a survey around a number of reefs that belong to China, the report said. (source: [China Daily](#))

Tibet to get top-notch telescope

A powerful, state-of-the-art telescope will have a trial run in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region at the end of this year, making professional observation possible on the "roof of the world," a local scientist told Xinhua. The KOSMA telescope, a 3-meter sub-millimeter-wave instrument, is part of the Yangbajain Astronomical Observatory at Yangbajain Township on the suburbs of Tibet's capital of Lhasa. The telescope is being currently tested. "It is China's first sub-millimeter-wave telescope that can perform regular astronomical observation and Tibet's first professional telescope," said Wang Junjie, a researcher with China's National Astronomical Observatories of Chinese Academy of Sciences. It is also the highest sub-millimeter-wave telescope in the Northern Hemisphere, according to Wang, who is also the leader of the telescope project jointly conducted by Chinese and German scientists. The initiative, launched in 2009, is dedicated to joint research between several Chinese institutes and Germany's University of Cologne. It saw the dismantling of the KOSMA telescope in the Swiss Alps in 2009 and relocation to the current site at an altitude of 4,300 meters, one of the best places to observe cosmic rays in the world. (source: [Global Times](#))

China's 'Xuelong' returns from Antarctic trip

The research vessel left the southern port city of Guangzhou on Nov 5, 2012 for Antarctica. It covered 29,000 nautical miles over its 156-day southern voyage, among which 6,000 nautical miles were in ice regions. A total of 239 researchers on board completed 53 research tasks on biology, ecology, geophysics, ocean, climate, environment and glacier, and engineering construction missions. (source: [China Daily](#))

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International S&T relations

China, France agree to step up partnership

China and France agreed to step up their partnership to a higher level with a series of cooperation agreements being signed on Thursday in Beijing. The agreements were reached when Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his visiting French counterpart Francois Hollande at the Great Hall of the People. The two leaders decided to improve bilateral cooperation in fields such as nuclear energy and aviation, and forge new areas of cooperation in urbanization, modern agriculture and farm produce processing, food processing, industrial energy saving, new energy, as well as health care and digitalisation. The two leaders agreed to boost cooperation in cultural heritage protection. After the talks, Xi and Hollande also witnessed the signing of a dozen and more agreement documents ranging from technological innovation, environmental protection, urban sustainable development, culture, tourism, nuclear power, electricity, aviation, finance and insurance, to food safety. (source: [China Daily](#))

China Plans Research Centers To Aid Developing World

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is planning a major new drive to extend science cooperation with developing countries, including setting up research centers outside China, as well as new offices of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) within China. The details of the initiatives are

still under discussion, though some centers have already been launched, such as the 'China-Chile Joint Research Center for Astronomy' in February. The move follows last year's election of the first Chinese president of TWAS, Bai Chunli, who is also the president of the China's science academy. "International cooperation is very important for CAS, and as a new president of TWAS, we have more opportunity to cooperate with other developing countries," said Prof. Bai. The planned new TWAS centers within China, which are still under discussion, will aim to promote the cooperation and exchange of science, and the training of scientists. CAS is also planning to launch a program to train hundreds of new PhD students, as well as senior scholars from developing countries at the Chinese research institutions. (source: [CAS](#))

USTC Joins Establishment of Intel Collaborative Research Institute on Mobile Networking and Computing

The Intel Corporation and three universities of China including the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC), Tsinghua University and Southeast University signed a cooperation memorandum to establish an Intel Collaborative Research Institute on Mobile Networking and Computing (ICRI-MNC) on April 10, 2013. This Institute is known as the first domestic one after Intel introduced collaborative innovation model between enterprises and universities. As one of the important nodes in the Intel Global University Research Network, this Institute will focus on prospective study into mobile networking and computing, which will lift collaborative innovation within Intel and China academia to a new level. According the memo, academic leaders from all the involving parties will constitute a joint leading team taking charge of formulating and studying agenda as well as implementing research programs. (source: [CAS](#))

NSFC President meets with UQ Guests

Prof. Yang Wei, NSFC President met with a delegation led by Dr. Peter Høj, President of the University of Queensland on March 21st, 2013. Prof. Yang extended his welcome to the delegation and briefed on NSFC's latest progress, including a review of the NSFC funded cooperative projects between Australia and China based scientists. Dr. Peter Høj expressed his thanks to President Yang for arranging the meeting, and introduced the latest developments of the scientific research and international cooperation in the University of Queensland, highlighting collaborative projects carried out by relevant departments with partners in China. Prof. Yang also briefed on the applications received by NSFC in 2013, and pointed out that this year NSFC received a declined number of applications compared with last year, and more high quality applications are expected. He stressed that NSFC will spare no effort to support Chinese scientists to carry out international cooperation in the field of basic research and work together with foreign partners to address global issues in energy, environment, food safety, etc. Both sides agreed to make joint efforts to strengthen cooperation and exchanges among young scientists from both countries. Finally, Dr. Høj extended a warm invitation for President Yang to visit the University of Queensland in the near future. (source: [NSFC](#))

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About this newsletter

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