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Vice Premier Liu Yandong Highlights the Importance of Reform and Innovation

At a meeting in April 2014 in discussion over the reform of research projects and relevant funding management, Liu Yandong, Politburo member and Vice Premier, emphasized that the reform of scientific and technological management system is a key part of China's overall arrangement of reform. Institutional barriers should be eliminated to drive forward innovation-driven development, unleash innovation dynamism and give full play to the role of science and technology in spurring and leading socio-economic development.

Liu noted that with ever-increasing R&D investment and flourishing research results, it is pressing to deepen the comprehensive reform of scientific and technological system. First, government should speed up transformation of its functions, establish a list of responsibility in R&D management, and shift its role away from dominating social innovation to facilitating it. Second, institutional improvement should be enhanced in scientific and technological management by putting in place various measures including S&T reporting system, national innovation survey, and S&T management information system. Third, synergy of policy and actions should be strengthened in S&T, industry, taxation and finance, and the R&D incentives be put in place so as to establish a enterprise-dominated and market-oriented mechanism for technological innovation. Fourth,

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innovation ecosystem should be improved, so as to build a collaborative innovation mechanism having multiple stakeholders involved. Fifth, the evaluation system, incentive measures and the remuneration system for researchers should be improved to promote the translation of research results into productive forces.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, April 24, 2014)

Minister Wan talks about S&T Strategy Research

On April 10-11, the fifth joint meeting on national S&T development strategy was held in Beijing. Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and Minister of Science and Technology, who is also the President of the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development, attended the event. The meeting focused on the circumstances and main tasks for China's S&T development, conducting discussions on the reform in implementing innovation-driven development strategy, S&T development planning in the 13th five-year plan period, a survey on national innovation index, the commercialization of research results, technology evaluation and forecast, industrial innovation and competition analysis, and the situation and hot issues of financial support for science and technology, etc.

Minister Wan talked about the issues that need attention in driving forward the strategy innovation-driven development, and expressed his views on China's S&T development, reform of scientific and technological management system, allocation of public funding and other resources, and the modernization of governance for science and technology.

According to Minister Wan, when it comes to how to carry out studies on S&T development strategy, the researchers should pay much attention to the following:

Firstly, they should go deeper in thinking instead of rushing some conclusions even with massive information.

Secondly, they should remain an objective attitude and have an inquisitive mind. Strategy studies should proceed from the rules of S&T activities and current issues to pursue scientific conclusions with good understanding and right methodology, generating valuable policy recommendation.

Thirdly, foresight and courage are required for researchers. They need to get hold of the whole picture of reform and development, and come up with insightful views on strategy and policy.

Fourthly, researchers should have a strong sense of policy on practical issues and be good at finding policy ideas through their strategic studies, indicating that for whom or to whom recommendation is raised, and how to carry it out and its possible effect and so on.

The officials involving S&T strategy and policy studies from MOST and at local government S&T departments and relevant researchers attended the meeting. Representatives from Beijing, Jiangsu Province, Hubei Province and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region briefed the meeting on the latest progress of their studies on strategy and policy.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, April 11, 2014)

Latest progress in International S&T Cooperation

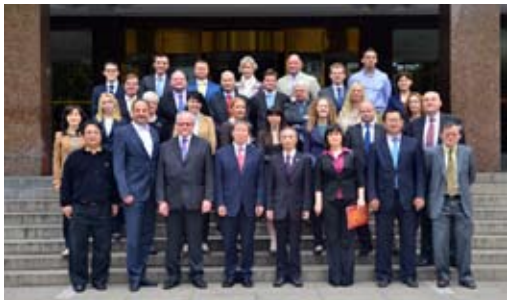
1. China-Central and Eastern European Countries Science and Technology Cooperation

On May 19, the Workshop on Technology Innovation Cooperation and Transfer between China and Central and Eastern European Countries was held in Shanghai. Vice Minister of Science and Technology Cao Jianlin delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony.

As part of the cooperation between China and central and eastern European countries, the workshop discussed policies favorable to technological innovation and the development of related industries, China's high-tech parks, innovation clusters, science parks in universities and the commercialization of research results, and the role of incubators in fueling the growth of industries. Specific cases were also examined. The workshop expressed support for the transfer of applicable technologies between China and central and eastern European countries.

Vice Minister Cao briefed the participants on China's development and international cooperation in S&T. He noted that China and central and eastern European countries enjoy great potential for cooperation in innovation and technology transfer. He hoped that through the two-week discussion and onsite visits, the industry and research institutes could work together to facilitate the commercialization of research results and contribute to economic boom and social progress.

A total of 23 representatives from the governments and industries of central and eastern European countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland and Slovakia, attended the event.



(Source: MOST, originally titled Vice Minister Cao Attends Opening Ceremony of the Workshop on Technology Innovation Cooperation and Transfer between China and Central and Eastern European Countries, May 28, 2014)

2. China-South Asian Countries Science and Technology Cooperation

- **The First China-South Asian Countries Science and Technology Ministers Meeting held in Kunming**

The First China-South Asian Countries Science and Technology Ministers Meeting convened in Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province on June 6. Li jiheng, Governor of Yunnan Province, gave an opening remark, and Wan Gang, Minister of Science and Technology, delivered a keynote speech. Among other ministers and senior officials present at the meeting were Amirzai Sangin, Afghan Minister of Communications and Information Technology; Zahid Hamid, Pakistani Federal Minister of Science and Technology; Patali Ranawaka, Sri Lanka Minister of Technology and Research; Khondaker Asaduzzaman, Secretary of Bangladesh Ministry of Science and Technology; Mohamed Ashmalee, Maldives Minister of Finance and Treasury; Krishna Paudel, Secretary of Nepal Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment; and Nagaraj Naidu, Consul General of India in Guangzhou. Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang met with the heads of S&T delegations from South Asian countries in the afternoon.

The following consensus was reached at the meeting:

1) All parties have attached great importance to China-South Asia S&T cooperation, considering it as highly complementary, of exceptional potential and in line with the demand for economic growth. Expanding S&T cooperation is helpful in strengthening friendship, developing talents and promoting cultural exchanges. It is also beneficial to enhancing the capacity

of technological innovation and endogenous growth, driving industrial development and improving people's livelihoods. Currently, China has established an inter-governmental S&T cooperation mechanism with India and Pakistan, and has started the building of a joint research center with Sri Lanka, Nepal and others.

2) South Asian countries speak highly of China's suggestions on cooperation. Minister Wan Gang briefed on China's S&T development. He also gave five suggestions on China-South Asia S&T cooperation:

- Set up state-level joint laboratories/research centers to support long-term cooperation;
- Implement the plan of encouraging young scientists from South Asian countries to work in China to jointly develop scientific talents;
- Construct China-South Asia Technology Transfer Center to transfer China's advanced applicable technologies to South Asian countries;
- Conduct cooperation on agricultural technology to serve the agricultural development;
- Facilitate exchanges on technology innovation policies to share with others China's practices and experience.

All parties have agreed that China's suggestions comply with the growth demand, which contribute to improving capacity of technological innovation, speeding up the development of relevant industries, and making common progress in this area.

3) All parties have promised to steadily carry forward various cooperative projects. In order to achieve this purpose, all participants have made a commitment to improving bilateral and multilateral cooperation mechanism, expanding inter-governmental cooperative channels and inter-enterprise cooperative platforms, and building up closer partnership. This meeting has laid a solid foundation for China to launch the scheme of China-South Asia S&T Partnership at a proper time.

(Source: MOST, June 16 2014)

- **China-South Asia Technology Transfer Center Inaugurated**

Science and Technology Minister Wan Gang, together with his counterparts (or representatives of ministers) from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Maldives and other countries, inaugurated China-South Asia Technology Transfer Center at the opening ceremony of the Second China-South Asia Expo on June 6. China's Vice Premier Wang Yang and state leaders of South Asian countries attended the inauguration.

China-South Asia Technology Transfer Center is a significant achievement scored by the First China-South Asian Countries Science and Technology Ministers Meeting held on the same day. The center is co-established by the Ministry of Science and Technology and Yunnan Province, with the aim of developing professional technology transfer institutes and talents, setting up China-South Asia Technology Transfer Network, and promoting regional cooperation and development. Taking into account the cooperation demand of enterprises in China and South Asia, the center will provide professional services such as technological exchanges among enterprises, training in applicable technologies, and demonstration of advanced technologies. The center will be devoted to furthering the cooperation among enterprises, facilitating the transfer of advanced applicable technologies between China and South Asian Countries, and pushing forward the innovation and regional integration.

After the establishment of the center, follow-up actions will be taken in creating China-South Asia Technology Transfer Network, setting up China-South Asia Technology Transfer Information Platform, and organizing China-South Asia technology transfer activities.

(Source: MOST, June 16 2014)

3. S&T Cooperation within the Framework of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM): Asia-Europe New-type Urbanization and Sustainable Water Management Symposium held in Changsha

To strengthen S&T cooperation within the framework of ASEM, the Chinese government put forward proposals for "establishing Asia-Europe Water Resource Research and Utilization Center" in October 2010, and for "creating Asia-Europe Water Resource Technology Innovation and Cooperation Network" at the Ninth ASEM in November 2012. On the basis of the above proposals, Asia-Europe Water Resource Research and Utilization Center was set up in Changsha, Hunan Province in August 2011. The center has completed multiple tasks which include strengthening organizational management and relevant capacities, fulfilling a bunch of unilateral or multilateral international cooperative projects on Asia-Europe water resource, compiling *The Technical Report on Asia-Europe Water Resource (2011-2012)*, and organizing related international academic meetings as well as international training programs. China continued to implement the initiative of Asia-Europe Water Resource Technology Innovation and Cooperation Network in 2013.

Asia-Europe New-type Urbanization and Sustainable Water Resource Management Symposium took place in Changsha, Hunan Province from May 22 to 23 2014. It was hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, Hunan provincial government and Asia-Europe Foundation, with the support of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, UNESCO Institute for Water Education, Hungarian Water Business Cluster, and Asia-Europe Foundation Alumni Network. Representatives from the above-mentioned organizations attended the meeting and delivered their speeches.

This international meeting has attracted more than 170 representatives and experts from the governments, enterprises, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in 22 ASEM state members. The attendants exchanged their opinions on four topics of urban water management policies, water ecosystem-oriented urban planning, application of and cooperation on water technology innovation, as well as case studies and networks. 25 experts from 18 countries presented their academic reports. They shared not only their practices and experience in balancing urbanization with sustainable water management, but also relevant studies, technologies and development ideas. More detailed discussions were made on specific topics involving policy innovation on water resource management, urban water ecosystem planning, urban drinking water leakage management, urban domestic sewage treatment, removal of heavy metals from sewage and so on. The attendants also provided suggestions on water resource management issues arising in the process of urbanization.

The meeting developed and approved *Changsha Declaration,* in which ASEM state members show commitment to using their influence to attract more attention and participation, and strengthening regional

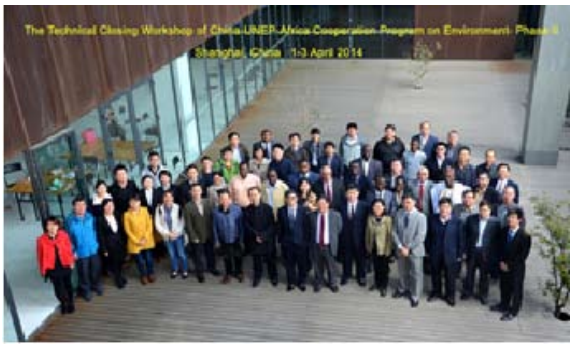
communication and cooperation to create an information platform for urbanization and sustainable water management. They have also promised to jointly promote water resource management and policy innovation, future R&D as well as applicable technology transfer and demonstration, and build up Asia-Europe Water Resource Research and Utilization Center as well as Asia-Europe Water Resource Technology Innovation and Cooperation Network.

(Source: MOST)

4. Water Cooperation in Africa Launched by MOST and UNEP

Chinese Science and Technology Minister Wan Gang, and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, signed the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and United Nations Environment Program* in November 2011, initiating Water Cooperation in Africa which includes six projects from 2011 to 2013. These projects involve a dozen African countries, and aim to introduce China's water resource management technologies, dry land farming techniques and others into Africa through R&D cooperation, technology transfer and demonstration. Water Cooperation in Africa has received great attention from state leaders of the recipient countries, and provides for China and international organizations valuable insight into jointly carrying out international aid projects.

The Department of International Cooperation of MOST and UNEP Regional Office for Africa (ROA) held the Technical Workshop of MOST-UNEP Water Cooperation in Africa in Shanghai from April 1 to 3, 2014, intending to give a summary on those projects from a technical perspective, review cooperation results, and write project reports and promotional materials. Representatives from the Department of International Cooperation of MOST, UNEP Beijing Office and Tongji University attended the workshop and delivered speeches. There were more than 60 participants who came from UNEP ROA, 13 Chinese organizations, and 11 African partners in 8 African Countries. They reported progress made in the projects, discussed problems encountered during the process, shared experience and lessons gained from practice, and gave opinions on project summaries. African representatives expressed their gratitude to MOST, UNEP and Chinese partners for what the latter have done and hailed China's advanced applicable technologies as meeting local demand and producing positive effects. They hoped that such cooperation would be expanded in the future, and more Chinese applicable technologies, technology development models and experience would be introduced into Africa to support its sustainable development.



(Source: MOST, April 23 2014)

5. S&T Cooperation within the Framework of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): 2014 APEC Research and Technology Workshop held in Guangzhou

As a member of APEC, China has always been committed to furthering pragmatic and multilateral cooperation on technology and innovation among members. The theme of 2014 APEC Meeting is "Jointly Build a Future-oriented Asia-Pacific Partnership" with the three priority topics being: promoting regional economic integration; spurring innovative economic development, reform and growth; and strengthening the construction of all-round infrastructure and interconnection. China will host the 2014 APEC Meeting.

2014 APEC Research and Technology Workshop

(ART) was held in Guangzhou from March 3 to 7, which is co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and South Korea's Ministry of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Future Planning, with Guangdong Science and Technology Exchange Centre and the Korea Institute of Science and Technology as organizers. Government officials, experts and scholars from 12 APEC economies and other international organizations discussed relevant topics on implementing technology innovation policies. Chen Linhao, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation of MOST, affirmed in his opening remarks that ART has played a positive role in facilitating policy dialogues among APEC members. He also called for attention from participants to other events launched during the APEC Meeting in China and encouraged them to get involved.

Since China will host the 2014 APEC Meeting, this workshop arranged a "Special Session for China". During the session, officials from MOST and Guangdong Science and Technology Department, as well as experts from the Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development talked about China's S&T and innovation strategy, provided more information for the participants.

As one of the events related to 2014 APEC S&T innovation, this workshop has played a constructive role in facilitating policy dialogues in Asia-Pacific region, strengthening regional communication and promoting S&T innovation.

(Source: MOST, March 25 2014)