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China and Nigeria to Promote Establishment of Intergovernmental Science and Technology Cooperation Mechanism

On January 14, 2016, Chinese Science and Technology Minister Wan Gang met with a delegation led by Nigerian Minister of Science and Technology Ogbonnaya Onu. Minister Wan pointed out that China and Nigeria have a long tradition of friendship between the two countries and gave full recognition to the excellent cooperation between the two sides under the framework of the China-Africa Science and Technology Partnership Program. Minister Onu expressed his thanks for the assistance which China has provided in Nigeria's national development and congratulated China on her remarkable progress in the social and economic fields in recent years. Minister Onu said that Nigeria as the largest economy and the most populous country in Africa urgently needs

advanced science and technology from China to support her domestic social and economic development.

Subsequently, the two sides held discussions on fields of common interest, including space science and technology, communication satellites, remote sensing applications, electronic equipment, power systems, solar energy and talent training. Both sides agreed that they will work together to promote the establishment of an intergovernmental science and technology cooperation mechanism between the two countries to further raise the level of bilateral exchanges and cooperation in science and technology and make beneficial contributions to the economic and social development of both countries.

(Source: www.cistc.gov.cn, January 21, 2016)

China and Germany Deepen Science & Technology Innovation Cooperation Mechanism

At the invitation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Madame Wanka, Minister of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany visited China in January 2016. During her visit, Minister Wan Gang and Minister Wanka held a bilateral meeting on January 19, 2016. The two sides agreed to hold the Fourth China-Germany Innovation Conference in Germany in the first half of 2016. Topics of the upcoming innovation conference will expand from innovation policy discussions to specific fields of current China-Germany cooperation in science and technology innovation, including electric vehicles, clean water, science and technology management, future cities, semiconductor lighting, in an effort to enrich the contents of dialogue.

In line with the spirit of cooperation ("Industry 4.0") as laid down in the Action Outline for China-Germany Cooperation: Building Innovation Together, Minister Wan Gang and Minister Wanka signed a Joint Statement of

Intent on Developing and Promoting Innovation Solutions Through Bilateral Science and Technology Cooperation in the Smart Manufacturing (Industry 4.0) and Smart Service Fields, which will focus on smart logistic, smart service, energy and resources use efficiency, cyber-physical systems (CPS), security assurance, system integration, interconnection and standardization in the smart manufacturing (Industry 4.0) field. Meanwhile, in relation to the needs of current science and technology program management reforms and China-Germany cooperation in science and technology, the two sides also signed a Joint Statement of Intent on Procedures and Criteria for Joint Research and Innovation Project Sponsorship to push forward their joint formulation and release of project sponsorship guidelines and joint sponsorship mechanism implementation.

(Source: www.cistc.gov.cn, January 29, 2016)

China and Thailand Further Promote Bilateral Cooperation in Science & Technology Innovation

On the afternoon of January 14, 2016, Chinese Science and Technology Minister Wan Gang met with a visiting Thai delegation led by Science and Technology Minister Pichet Durongkaveroj. The two sides exchanged views on further promoting China-Thailand cooperation in science and technology innovation.

Minister Wan welcomed Minister Pichet and his delegation for their visit to China. He remarked that China and Thailand enjoy a long history of friendly contact and that under the framework of the China-ASEAN Science and Technology Partnership Program, the ministries of science and technology of both countries have promoted and undertaken a series of fruitful cooperation in recent years. Among them, the China-Thailand Joint Research Center for Railway Systems has played an active role in pushing forward track transport technology and industry development in both countries, while the China-Thailand Young Scientist Exchange Program has also continuously consolidated the foundation of and injected vitality into science and technology cooperation between the two

countries. Minister Wan pointed out that in the future the two sides may further explore bilateral cooperation in the areas of science and technology innovation policy, science parks and space technology, connect the development plans and strategies of the two countries and make China-Thailand cooperation in science and technology a model of regional science and technology cooperation.

Minister Pichet spoke highly of the achievements of China-Thailand cooperation in science and technology innovation and agreed with Minister Wan on his proposal to push forward bilateral cooperation. He said that the relevant fields are also important concerns of the Thai side and that the Thai side is willing to actively work with the Chinese side under the framework of the interdepartmental joint committees and push forward China-Thailand cooperation in science and technology innovation to make active contributions to regional development.

(Source: www.most.gov.cn, January 22, 2016)

China and Australia Strengthen Exchanges and Cooperation in Science & Technology Industries

On January 21, 2016, an Australian delegation led by Mr. Ian Jacobs, Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales visited the Torch Center of the Ministry of Science and Technology. The two sides held discussions on jointly establishing a science park (on the main campus of the University of New South Wales).

Mr. Ian Jacobs briefed the Torch Center on the basic situation of the University of New South Wales and then made a detailed introduction to the idea of setting up a “Torch Innovation Park”: By 2020, with support from both the Chinese and the Australian government, bring China’s innovative ecosystem--the model of “Torch” Science Park--into Australia and thus raise China-Australia cooperation in science and technology

innovation to a new level. The University of New South Wales will build a new, 20,000m² innovation park of state-of-the-art technology in the well-known eastern area of Sydney which enjoys a unique geographical advantage. By then, the newly completed light rail will conveniently connect with the Kensington Campus of the University of New South Wales and the business district of the city center. The University of New South Wales Torch Park will attract a larger number of small- and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurs, investors and decision-makers from Australia and China.

The head of the Torch Center highly agreed with the idea of “Torch Innovation Park” and expressed the hope that both China and Australia can fully work out

their respective needs, specify an intent of cooperation, further deepen mutual understanding through cooperation, continuously promote China-Australia exchanges and cooperation in science and technology industries, and

make efforts to establish the cooperation project as a landmark project of China-Australia cooperation in the science and technology field.

(Source: www.most.gov.cn, January 26, 2016)

Deepening Implementation of Innovation-driven Development Strategy and Improving the Ability of Science and Technology Innovation Greatly

The year 2016 marks the first year of the final decisive stage to build a well-off society in an all-round way. It is also a crucial year for the country to push forward structural reforms and join the ranks of innovative countries. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) puts forward the following opinions with a view to implementing the spirit of the Eighteenth Party Congress, the third, fourth and fifth plenary sessions of the Eighteenth CPC Central Committee and the Central Economic Work Conference, deepening implementation of the innovation-driven development strategy and further leveraging the leading role of science and technology innovation in comprehensive innovation.

The general philosophy for advancing science and technology work in 2016 is as follows: thoroughly implement the spirit of the Eighteenth Party Congress and the third, fourth and fifth plenary sessions of the Eighteenth CPC Central Committee, as well as the spirit of a series of important speeches made by General Secretary Xi Jinping, follow the requirements of the “Five-in-One” general plan and the strategic layout of “four comprehensives”, adhere to the philosophy of “innovative, coordination, green, open and shared development, regard the outline for implementing the innovation-driven development strategy as the main line, pay more attention to basic research, original innovation and breakthroughs in core and key technologies,

to the commercialization of research results, to the implementation of reform tasks, to creating a favorable environment for innovation, to relying on science and technology personnel and serving innovators, and to improving work ability and style, leverage the basic, key and leading role of science and technology innovation in structural reforms at the supply side, improve the quality and efficiency of science and technology innovation supply, speed up the transformation of driving forces for development, and make a good start for implementing the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan and ensuring China’s ranking among innovative countries.

MOST will formulate and release science and technology innovation plans for the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan Period, and make specific arrangements for the innovation-driven development strategy in the next 5 years; greatly improve the ability of science and technology innovation, and consolidate the foundation of innovations that lead to development; thoroughly implement the arrangements for science and technology system reforms, and release the vitality of innovation entities; implement the requirements for strict Party governance in an all-round way, and truly improve the working capacity of the science and technology management staff.

(Source: www.most.gov.cn, January 21, 2016)

2016 National Science and Technology Work Conference Held in Beijing

On January 11, 2016, the National Science and Technology Work Conference was held in Beijing. In line

with the spirit of the Eighteenth Party Congress and the third, fourth and fifth plenary sessions of the Eighteenth

CPC Central Committee, as well as the spirit of a series of important speeches made by General Secretary Xi Jinping, the meeting has implemented the innovation-driven development strategy, summed up science and technology work of 2015, specified the idea of the work for 2016, and considered and issued key measures for the reform and development of science and technology. Dr. Wan Gang, Vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Minister of Science and Technology, delivered a work report. The conference was presided over by Wang Zhigang, Secretary of the CPC Leading Group and Vice Minister of Science and Technology.

In his work report, Wan Gang pointed out that in the past year science and technology work in the country focused on thoroughly implementing the innovation-driven development strategy and pushing forward science and technology system reform. Thanks to hard efforts to make grand planning, overcome difficult issues, open up development space, build new ecosystems and encourage right discipline and work style, science and technology work on all fronts has been elevated to a new high. The innovation ability and science and technology strengths of the country were markedly improved, and a number of world-leading major science and technology results were achieved and a force of high-end innovation talent of international influence has emerged. Mass entrepreneurship and innovation thrived in the society. All these provided powerful support for adapting to and leading the new normal of economic development and maintaining stable economic development.

Dr. Wan Gang stressed that during the Twelfth Five-Year Plan Period, especially since the Eighteenth Party Congress, China has notably improved its independent innovation capacity and its environment for entrepreneurship and innovation, and brought its drive of innovative country building to a new height. He emphasized that the Thirteenth Five-Year Plan Period is the decisive stage of China's efforts to build itself into a well-off society in an all-round way and the final stage for the nation to join the ranks of innovative countries. The Central Party Committee has put forward new, higher requirements for science and technology innovation,

major national strategies and national social and economic development have generated more urgent demand for science and technology innovation, and the longing of the people of the whole country for a good life has higher expectations for science and technology innovation. Science and technology innovation work in the country should center on deepening implementation of the innovation-driven development strategy, carry out major decisions by the Central Party Committee, and strengthen systemic work planning and implementation. There is a need to first make breakthroughs in more strategic fields by building China's first mover advantages and enhancing international competitiveness. Efforts should be made to build pillars underpinning development, speed up the establishment of a new industrial technology system of international competitiveness and push forward revolutionary technology innovation. With the focus on mass entrepreneurship and mass innovation, we should develop specialized mass innovation space and support mass entrepreneurship, crowd-sourcing, collective support and crowd-funding in order to push forward mass entrepreneurship and innovation. Greater efforts should be made to nurture national strategic forces of innovation and build innovation infrastructure platforms led by national laboratories, nurture and establish innovative talent forces and expand the force of innovative entrepreneurs; improve the overall efficiency of the national innovation system and establish a number of influential innovative cities and regional innovation centers; get deeply involved in global innovation governance through better allocation of innovation resources globally.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily,
January 11, 2016)

MOST Unveils Two Major Measures for Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation

At the regular press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council on February 5, 2016, Yin Hejun, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, said that pushing forward entrepreneurship and innovation is a major measure to implement China's Innovation-driven Development Strategy and an effective means to cope with the new round of scientific revolution and industrial reform. A number of maker spaces which have their own highlights, potential and features have now emerged in various localities across the country, becoming important bases of mass entrepreneurship and innovation.

According to Vice Minister Yin Hejun, the State Council has issued a series of policies since last year to push forward mass entrepreneurship and innovation, including Several Policy Measures to Greatly Push Forward Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation and Guiding Opinion on Developing Mass Entrepreneurship Spaces to Push Forward Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation. These have staged a new wave of innovation and entrepreneurship. In the near future, the Ministry of Science and Technology will speed up mass entrepreneurship space building from two aspects. On one hand, it will push forward maker spaces to better serve the development, transformation and upgrading

of the real economy. Efforts will be made to focus on the industrialization of science and technology results, closely link with "Made in China 2025" and other major strategies, and promote leading enterprises to reform and innovate in the areas of R&D, production, marketing, service and management; and nurture more vibrant micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, inject new technologies, new equipment and new models into economic development, nurture new business models, and expedite the birth of new industries.

On the other hand, Yin Hejun pointed out the need to improve the ability of maker spaces to serve innovation and entrepreneurship. Efforts will be made to provide whole-process support and offer innovative entrepreneurs with services related to industrial design, inspection & testing, model processing, intellectual property rights and patent standards; providing innovative entrepreneurs with personalized, high-end, customized and value-added services. Entrepreneurs will receive tailored tutoring through training to improve their professional qualifications and abilities.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily,
February 6, 2016)