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Content

Working together against COVID-19: China in Action

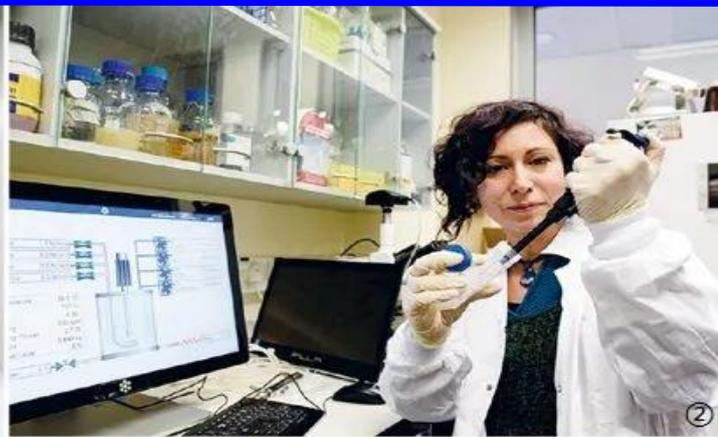


Photo 1: Chinese staff demonstrating the experimental process of the mRNA vaccine for the novel coronavirus.
Photo 2: Israeli researcher working at the Migal¹ Galilee Institute in northern Israel.
Photo 3: Researcher at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, conducting research on the novel coronavirus vaccine.
Photo 4: Scientists at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, conducting pre-clinical trials of the vaccine candidates for the novel coronavirus.

Working together against COVID-19: China in Action

Science and Technology Minister Wang Zhigang: boosting results-oriented, efficient international S&T cooperation in the global fight against COVID-19.

I. Deepening international S&T cooperation is the way forward for all countries to tackle COVID-19

The global pandemic of COVID-19 stresses the need for international S&T cooperation. The epidemic is still spreading globally, and the number of confirmed cases is rapidly increasing around the world. Countries have taken a host of measures to contain the outbreak and accelerated the development of drugs, vaccines, and testing reagents. That said, scientists' knowledge about the virus is yet to be deepened. Effective drugs are yet to be developed and the application of vaccine is still some time away. In the face of this new challenge, no country or region alone has the scientific capacity to beat the virus, hence the urgent need for international cooperation. Scientists across the world need to engage in cooperation that delivers concrete results, cooperation that builds on their comparative strengths. We need to set up a global platform to strengthen the experience and knowledge sharing and pool the wisdom to promote practical and effective results in scientific research, and harness the power of science and research to win the battle against the epidemic.



In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) has repeatedly expressed its willingness to cooperate with China in epidemic-related scientific research, and China has also provided timely information on the outbreak to WHO on a voluntary and regular basis. The photo shows Chinese experts participating in the WHO COVID-19 briefing from Wuhan on 27 March 2020 to share the experience of epidemic prevention and control.

II. Actively promoting international S&T cooperation is an important part of China's actions to contain the global spread of COVID-19

Acting upon the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, Chinese scientists have played an active part in international scientific and technological cooperation since the onset of the outbreak while battling the epidemic on the domestic front.

Actively sharing scientific data and information

Chinese researchers quickly isolated and identified the virus strain and shared the whole genome sequence with WHO, providing an important basis for scientists across the world to conduct drug, vaccine and diagnostic research. China has provided timely information on the outbreak to WHO on a voluntary and regular basis, and participated in the meetings of the IHR Emergency Committee together with other affected countries to share information on the epidemic and facilitate science-based judgement. As of now, China's plan for COVID-19 treatment, prevention and control has been translated into different languages, providing an important reference for the formulation of containment strategies in other countries.

Building a sharing platform for open science

The "platform for sharing research results on COVID-19 prevention and control" launched on the Chinese Medical Journal website encourages scientists to provide quick, free and open access to their scientific findings and data. More than 120 journals and over 840 reports and papers are now available on the website, with more than 2.7 million views. Some foreign researchers have also published their papers on this platform. The two data sharing platforms, i.e. the Global Coronavirus Data Sharing and Analysis System and the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Database, have provided more than 8 million data browsing, retrieval and download services for over 200,000 users in 139 countries and regions. Both Chinese and foreign experts have used the database to conduct in-depth analysis of the virus, and their high-quality research papers have served as the basis for international research and provided scientific evidence for countries to combat the epidemic.

Creating a multi-tiered communication and cooperation mechanism

China has conducted scientific and technical exchanges on COVID-19 with the countries concerned. The science and technology sections of Chinese consulates and embassies in foreign countries have been actively communicating with the government departments, the scientific community and the health sector in the host countries to introduce China's program for epidemic-related scientific research and latest progress and to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation through both bilateral and multilateral channels. We have conducted consultations with relevant countries to establish exchange and cooperation mechanisms and explore the launching of joint research projects on the epidemic. Chinese medical teams sent to the affected countries have shared China's methods and experience in treating the disease and the results produced. We have also recommended Chinese experts to participate in the 9 medium- and long-term research priorities and 10 working groups on COVID-19 identified by WHO and provided guidance to their work; and engaged in information exchange with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) on vaccine research.

Promoting the alignment of practical cooperation projects.

Chinese embassies and consulates have received proposals on a few research projects from relevant countries. We have picked a number of mature projects, projects that have cooperation value and domestic partners, to support and help connect with their partners. At the same time, several Chinese companies are now working with the companies in relevant countries on vaccine development.

III. The international S&T cooperation on epidemic control has delivered concrete results

As a responsible developing country, China is doing its utmost to promote openness and cooperation in the field of science and technology, and Chinese scientists and researchers are contributing their wisdom and strength to the global fight against COVID-19.



In the face of the global spread of the virus, the Chinese government has sent medical expert teams to various countries to support their fight against COVID-19, the common enemy of mankind. The photo shows the medical expert team sent by the Chinese government departing for Russia on 11 April 2020.

Sharing China's experience and practices in combating COVID-19 with the international community

In its battle against the virus, China has accumulated important practical experience in clinical treatment and scientific research based on more than 80,000 confirmed cases, such as screening and recommending effective drugs and treatment techniques in different batches, formulating a category-based and multi-tiered treatment strategy, conducting scientific research to address the urgent needs of treatment on the front line, raising cure rate and reducing death rate, and leveraging the role of traditional Chinese medicine and combining it with Western medicine in treatment. To promote these proven practices, Chinese scientists and medical personnel have taken the initiative to share them with the international community through a variety of means to help countries fight the disease. China will continue to enhance cooperation with the international community in this regard.

Promoting international policy dialogue and exchange on epidemic control

China has maintained close communication with international organizations and institutions such as WHO and CEPI to share effective laboratory tests and clinical diagnostic tools, promote joint research and development of drugs and vaccines, and share epidemic data and information and epidemic control models and experience. We have also engaged in dialogue with other countries to enhance mutual understanding and mutual learning of review procedures, standards and rules for the development of drugs, vaccines and testing reagents.

Promoting the establishment of an international S&T cooperation network for epidemic control

We have explored the establishment of an intergovernmental scientific research exchange and cooperation mechanism and a joint funding mechanism with the key scientific research institutions of relevant countries to strengthen information communication and experience sharing on epidemic response strategies, patient treatment and medical equipment. Through scientific and technological assistance and joint research and development, China has made contributions to global public health with concrete actions and contributed its share to protecting the common homeland of humanity.

The Chinese scientific community and researchers are confident of achieving the final victory in the battle against COVID-19 in China, and are capable of contributing the power of China to the global campaign against the epidemic. We will fulfill the role of science, technology and innovation in the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology)