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CEM9 and MI-3

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CAS and CAE General Assembly Held in Beijing >>>

On May 28, the 19th Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) General Assembly and the 14th Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) General Assembly were held in Beijing. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, President of China and Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the CPC delivered an important speech. Over 1,300 figures attended the event. They were CAS and CAE members, representatives of “100 scientists and 100 grass-root scientific

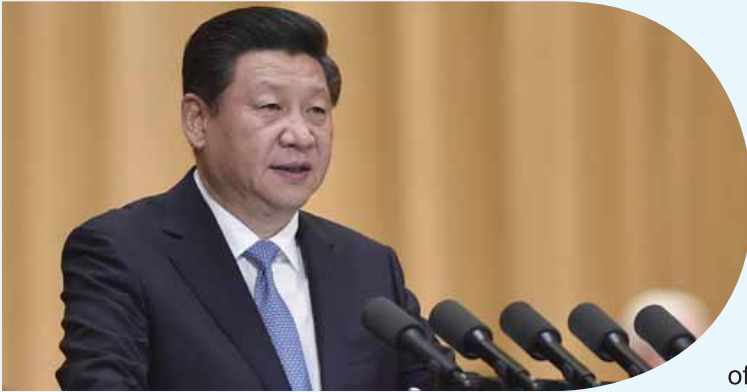


personnel”, representatives from central government bodies and military agencies, scientists and engineers from research institutes in Beijing and faculties and students from higher learning institutions.

President Xi remarked that if China aims to realize its rejuvenation by becoming strong and prosperous, it has to focus on developing science and technology and strive to become the world’s main science center and innovation highland. The missions ahead are so challenging. The vast majority of the scientists and engineers should be fully aware of the general circumstances, work to gain an edge, face up to the problems and difficulties, focus on international S&T frontiers, lead the efforts in S&T development, shoulder the historic responsibilities, be bold in pioneering STI development in the new era and strive for building a world leader in science and technology.

President Xi Jinping stressed that since the 18th CPC National Congress we have summarized the practices in boosting S&T development, focused on the general situation, made plans from a holistic perspective, furthered the reform and worked hard on all fronts. We have also been upholding the CPC’s leadership in S&T development, the goal of building a world leader in science and technology, the path to innovation with Chinese characteristics, the efforts to stimulate innovation vitality through furthering reforms, the idea that innovation-driven development is talent-driven development and integration into global STI network. China has sped up its efforts in developing science and technology to catch up with others and realized major historic changes of overall importance. With the boom of major innovation outcomes, we have become a parallel or leading runner in certain frontier areas. We are experiencing a stage of leaping from quantity-oriented to quality-oriented development and from breakthroughs in individual areas to systemic capacity enhancement.

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President Xi pointed out that in the 21st century the global STI development has prospered in an unprecedented manner, and the new round of scientific revolution and industrial transformation is shaping global innovation pattern and economic structure. Science and technology has never exerted such profound impact as today on the future of a nation and livelihood of its people. Having become fully aware that

innovation represents the primary driving force, we

need to provide high-quality S&T supply and underpin the development of modern economic system. We should build up confidence in innovation and work on enhancing innovation capacity. Efforts should be made to ensure that core technologies are controlled by ourselves and the right to innovation and development is hold firm in our hands. We should make sure that the pursuit for better lives serve as the ultimate goal of STI development and livelihood improvement as the important orientation of STI development.

President Xi stressed that we need to further S&T system reform, enhance the efficiency of innovation system and work on stimulating innovation vitality. We need to adhere to the “two-wheel drive” of S&T and institutional innovation, focus on how to resolve problems to meet the needs, step up our efforts in practice carriers, institutional arrangement, policy guarantee and environment cultivation, sustain our endeavor in major innovation players, innovation foundation, innovation resource and innovation environment, strengthen national strategic S&T strengths and enhance overall efficiency of the national innovation system. Efforts should be made to reform and innovate on research fund use and management, reform on S&T evaluation system and rightly evaluate the scientific, technological, economic, social and cultural values of STI outcomes.

President Xi required that we should be deeply involved in global S&T governance, contribute Chinese wisdom and work on building a community of common destiny. Efforts should be made to further international S&T cooperation, advance innovation on a higher starting point, work proactively on planning for and utilizing international innovation resources, build up partnerships featuring win-win outcomes, jointly tackle mankind’s challenges of future development, food security, energy security, health and climate change, bring benefits to more countries and peoples while fulfilling our own development and facilitate global balanced development. We need to plan for and advance STI development with global vision, integrate ourselves into global STI network, further open national S&T programs to the outside, become an active participant and leader in international mega-science programs and engineering projects and encourage our scientists to initiate and organize international S&T cooperation programs.

President Xi highlighted that we need to stay firm to the strategic role of talent-based development, pool talented people through comprehensive means and consolidate the foundation of innovative figures. For



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innovation on talent evaluation mechanisms, we should establish an S&T evaluation system with innovation capacity, quality and contributions as the orientation, and set up and implement an evaluation system conducive to concentration on research and innovation. Efforts should be made to improve S&T award system to ensure reasonable return to excellent STI talents and unleash the innovation vitality of talents of all kinds. Reforms should contribute to shifting the practices of regarding papers, patents and funds as talent evaluation standards. In order to build a pro-innovation environment, we need to accelerate the efforts to put in place mechanisms for talent growth and use, incentive mechanisms for competition-based development and competitive mechanisms for all kinds of talents to stand out of the crowd.

President Xi pointed out that CAS and CAE should continue to give play to their role of national strategic S&T strengths, align efforts with the country's science community, act in line with the general world S&T development trend, work for building a world leader in science and technology, understand the direction of scientific revolution, facilitate leapfrog development of S&T and take bold actions to bring greater S&T outcomes. Efforts should be made to give play to the intelligence strengths of CAS and CAE members, conduct forward-looking and targeted strategic research, enhance the capacity in comprehensive research and strategic planning, put forward specialized, constructive and pragmatic suggestions, and contribute more wisdom and strengths to national governance system and governance capacity modernization.

President Xi stressed that young people are the future of a country, the hope of a nation and the future of innovation. Various levels of Party Committees and governments should be bold in using outstanding young talents, build a sound ecosystem for young people's growth and develop them into builders and successors of socialism with ideas, spirits and responsibilities. We should make sure that the work of S&T be an appealing one and a profession kids yearn for, help fulfill the kids' dreams and build up an S&T future of outstanding figures.

(Source: Xinhua Net, May 28, 2018)

Guidelines on Promoting Foreign Scientists' Participation in National S&T Programs Issued by MOST



The Ministry of Science and Technology promulgated the Guidelines on Promoting Foreign Scientists' Participation in National S&T Programs, in order to implement the innovation-driven development strategy, serve world S&T frontiers, major economic areas and national major needs, explore on new models, approaches and mechanisms of open S&T cooperation, integrate into and plan for global innovation network, pool global innovative talents for national major R&D missions, facilitate two-way flow of S&T resources, underpin establishment of a modernized economic system and accelerate the building of a world leader in science and technology.

The principles are as follows: first, open wider to the outside and keep up with the global scientific revolution and industrial transformation through open cooperation; second, adhere to strategic orientations and deploy relevant work in line with open-up strategies of countries along the Belt and Road; third, advance the work in an orderly manner and launch systemic design and steady implementation under the precondition of national security and S&T security; fourth, uphold objectivity and fairness and ensure that foreign scientists participate in national S&T programs through open competition, contribute their wisdom and share their outcomes.

With regard to inviting foreign scientists to get involved in top-level design of strategic research and mission layout of national S&T programs, the Guidelines requires that we plan for and advance innovation with global vision, give full play to platforms of strategic consulting and comprehensive evaluation committee, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) academic advisory committee and National S&T Major Project experts' evaluation team, invite actively foreign scientists, especially high-level strategic experts, contribute thoughts to national STI plan formulation, innovation policies, S&T program layout and establishment of major S&T projects, and constantly elevate the level of strategic consulting for decision-making.

In terms of involving foreign scientists in management of national S&T major programs, the Guidelines puts forward that in line with the relevant requirements of the reform on central-budgeted S&T programs and project funding management, we should invite them to be part of the experts' committee or overall experts' teams in basic and frontier areas and areas of social public good and participate in formulation of application guidelines, project approval and evaluation, process management and project closure under S&T programs, so as to provide relevant departments and project management agencies with professional support in implementing national major R&D missions. The bank of S&T experts should help store high-level foreign experts for national S&T project management consultation.

The document encourages foreign scientists to lead and participate in research into national S&T programs. Except cases concerning national security, we encourage them to register Chinese- and foreign-funded legal person entities within Chinese border, lead and participate in



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applying for national S&T Programs and embark on R&D missions based on open competition. As PIs, foreign scientists should sign employment contracts with Chinese institutions as required; applicants with different nationalities should be treated in an equal manner when it comes to formal examination and project approval and evaluation. We encourage relevant departments to contribute to the implementation of national major R&D missions, invite scientists with major original innovation capacity and leading talents with major technical innovations from all over the world and support them in working full-time in China.

According to the Guidelines, the Sino-foreign joint research mechanism should be improved through international S&T cooperation projects. We should further inter-governmental S&T cooperation, formulate country-specific strategies, confirm priority areas and major orientations through bilateral/multilateral S&T cooperation agreements, arrange international S&T cooperation projects under the NSFC Programs and National Major R&D Programs, fund joint research and exchanges and jointly deal with global challenges. Efforts should be made to open up and improve new channels and ways of overseas institutes and scientists undertaking national S&T programs, and pilot projects should be launched.

It was required that we give play to the role of international mega-science programs and engineering projects in pooling global innovative figures. We should further expand the width and depth in participating in international mega-science programs and engineering projects and facilitate international openness, cooperation and sharing of major research infrastructure, devices and science data. We will plan for and lead the efforts in organizing international mega-science programs and engineering projects, attract foreign top-notch scientists and teams for hi-level research, work to become important participant and contributor in international S&T issues and contribute more Chinese strengths to global STI development.

The document requires that we deepen open cooperation of various types of national STI bases. The innovation bases like national labs, state key labs, national engineering research centers, national technical innovation centers and national clinical medical research centers should establish, stabilize and improve foreign scientist introduction mechanism and international S&T coordination network, enhance international impact and pave the way for inviting foreign hi-level talents for jointly implementing national major R&D missions.

It was also stressed that we provide quality services for foreign scientists to get involved in our programs in an in-depth manner. Relevant departments should assist them on issues related to working, living, social security and children education, so as to accommodate their concerns. We should also guide them in studying and abiding by our laws, regulations and policy rules, respecting social order and customs and enjoying a pleasant stay in China.

(Source: MOST, May 22, 2018)

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➤➤ Minister Wang Zhigang Meets with Uruguay Minister of Education and Culture

On April 17, 2018, Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science and Technology, met with Maria Julia Munoz, Uruguay Minister of Education and Culture. The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on China's development of science and technology innovation and the bilateral cooperation in science and technology innovation.

Minister Wang Zhigang introduced to the Uruguayan side the important plans for science and technology innovation and development formulated at the 19th CPC National Congress and China's considerations for international cooperation in science and technology innovation. He pointed out that the Nineteenth Party Congress put science and technology innovation higher on its agenda and stressed innovation as the primary driving force to lead development, a strategic support for building a modern economic system, and an important factor to serve the transformation of the Chinese economy from high-speed to high-quality growth. The Nineteenth Party Congress called for strengthening open cooperation in innovation capacity. This is a strategy for China to undertake international cooperation in science and technology in the new era. In the next stage, the Ministry of Science and technology will speed up science and technology innovation in various fields and continue to serve scientists and engineers and creating a favorable environment for innovation. Minister Wang Zhigang stressed that science and technology diplomacy is gaining a more important position in China's overall diplomacy and China will not close its door to the rest of the world but will only open it wider in the future. Minister Wang Zhigang said that the Ministry of Science and Technology is willing to work with the Uruguayan side to deepen bilateral cooperation in science and technology innovation through co-building joint laboratories and strengthening exchanges between research personnel, contribute to the well-being of the peoples of the two countries, and make China's contributions to the development of the world.

Minister Munoz responded to Minister Wang Zhigang's views and suggestions. She said that the Uruguay side identified with the idea of "high-quality development" put forward at the 19th CPC National Congress and expressed appreciation and support for China's open cooperation in science and technology innovation. Minister Munoz pointed out that China-Uruguay cooperation in science and technology represents an important pillar of bilateral relations between the two countries and has received the attention of leaders of both countries. The Uruguay side is willing to strengthen cooperation between the two sides in agricultural science and technology and exchanges between young scientists and push forward continuous progress in the cooperation between the two countries.

After the meeting, Minister Wang Zhigang and Minister Munoz signed a *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay*.

(Source: MOST, April 24, 2018)

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❖❖❖ Vice Minister of Science and Technology Li Meng Attends CEM9 and MI-3



The Ninth Clean Energy Ministerial (“CEM9”) and the Third Mission Innovation Ministerial (“MI-3”) were held in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Malmo, Sweden, respectively, from May 23 to 24, 2018. A Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister Li Meng of the Ministry of Science and Technology attended the meetings. Members of the delegation

included representatives of the National

Energy Administration, the Department of Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection of the National Development and Reform Commission, and the relevant departments of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Co-hosted by the four Nordic countries and the European Union, the meetings were attended by ministerial representatives of 24 countries including China, Australia, France, Germany, India, Korea, Britain and the United States, and also of the European Union, as well as representatives of some internationally known research institutions, enterprises, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Energy Agency and other international organizations. Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen addressed CEM9. The two meetings produced a series of results. Among them, CEM9 announced the launch of four initiatives on regional and global energy interconnection, clean energy investment and financing, carbon capture, utilization and storage, and nuclear energy innovation and clean energy, and set up four special actions on gender equality by 2030, long-term scenarios of clean energy transformation, distributed power generation in strategic regions, and power system flexibility. For its part, MI-3 announced the creation of Hydrogen Energy Innovation Challenge, of which China is one of the founding members, as well as the establishment of 14 bilateral or multilateral partnerships under the seven challenges of the MI framework.



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At the meetings, Vice Minister Li Meng made speeches to express China's propositions and specifically expounded on the profound connotations of the five major ideas of development, especially green development, put forward by General Secretary Xi Jinping. Vice Minister Li Meng made an introduction to China's practices to lead high-quality development guided by the five major ideas of development and put forward China's action plans, drawing high attention and appreciation from all participating countries. The relevant Chinese proposals also won endorsement and response from other countries. Among them, the regional energy interconnection initiative, which was established under the CEM mechanism with China as the leading proponent for the first time, won unanimous praise from the participating countries. And some countries concerned voiced their support for the initiative right at CEM9. The electric vehicles initiative, in which China is a co-leader, won a growing number of participating countries. China's specific action measures and achievements in the field of clean energy technology innovation and deployment drew attention and appreciation from all parties. Denmark, Britain, Finland and other countries invited bilateral and multilateral talks to explore opportunities for cooperation, showing China's growing influence in the CEM and MI mechanisms.

(Source: MOST, May 31, 2018)