

President Chen Yiyu Meets with Omi



On April 24, 2008, Prof. Chen Yiyu, NSFC President, met with the delegation headed by Mr. Kouji OMI, Member of the Japanese Lower House of Representatives at Beijing Hotel. Mr. Omi briefed the 5th Science and Technology in Society Forum to be held in Kyoto in October 2008 and formally invited Prof. Chen to attend the Forum. Prof. Chen expressed his interests to the Forum and had a discussion on the topics of the Forum.

Mr. Shuichi Fukuda, Director of Japan International Science & Technology Exchange Center, Mr. Yoichi Maie, Deputy Director General of Japan External Trade Organization's Beijing Office, Mr. Shinichi Isa, First Secretary of Japanese Embassy, and Prof. Chang Qing, Deputy Director General of NSFC Bureau of International Cooperation, were present at the meeting.

(Zhang Yinglan)

Professor Wang Jie Meets with NSF Assistant Director



Prof. Wang Jie, NSFC Vice President, cordially met with Dr. David Lightfoot, Assistant Director of USA National Science Foundation (NSF) responsible for the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, on April 21st, 2008.

After extending a warm welcome to Dr. Lightfoot, Prof. Wang highly praised the coordinated collaboration between the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences of NSF and NSFC Department of Management Sciences. Dr. Lightfoot believed that greater and faster development of basic research in the scope of management sciences in the two countries would surely be catalyzed by the existing sound cooperation between NSF and NSFC.

Ideas were exchanged on the specific scientific fields for future cooperation and related issues concerning joint research projects during the meeting. Participants of the meeting include William Y. B. Chang, Director of NSF Beijing Office, and Li Yijun and Zhang Wei, Deputy Directors-General of NSFC Department of Management Sciences.

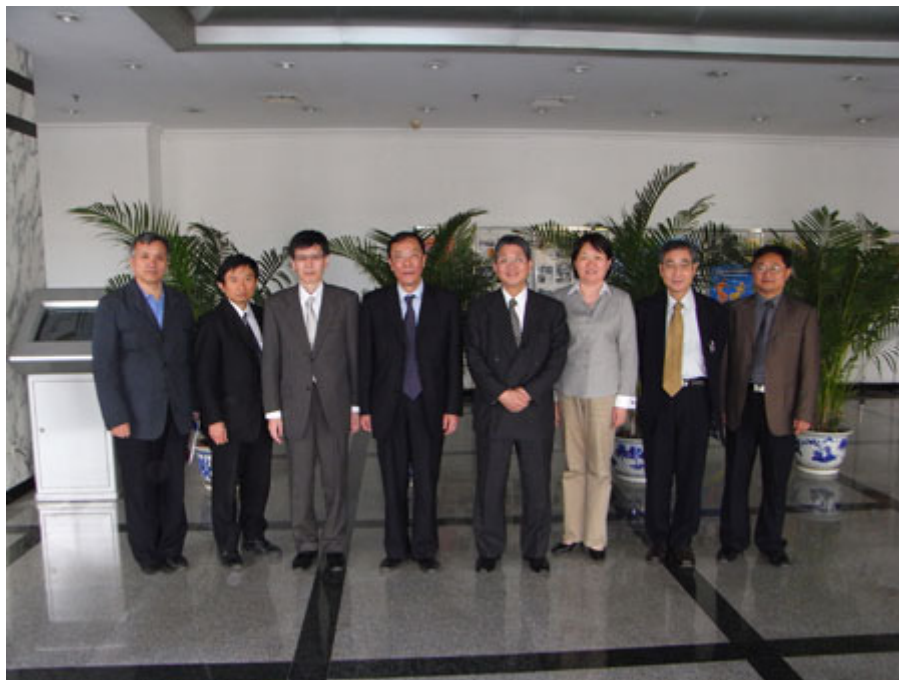
(Chen Huai)

Vice President Sun Jiaguang Visited Japan and Germany on International Evaluation



From May 13 to 22, 2008, NSFC Vice President Prof. Sun Jiaguang led a 6-member delegation on international evaluation to Japanese Society for Science Promotion (JSPS) and German Research Foundation (DFG). They conducted wide range and in-depth discussions with leaders and relevant staff in the two organizations on the background, organization, preparation, process and impact of international evaluation on science funding agencies. The delegation was warmly received by JSPS Executive Director Prof. Izawa, DFG Vice President Prof. Ferdi Schueth and Secretary General Dr. Dorothee Dzwonnek. During their visit in Japan, they also paid a visit to Tokyo University of Technology and held talks with its Vice President and visited the super computer center of the university. Other members of the delegation came from the Bureaus of Planning, Policy, Finance and International Cooperation.

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets JST Delegation



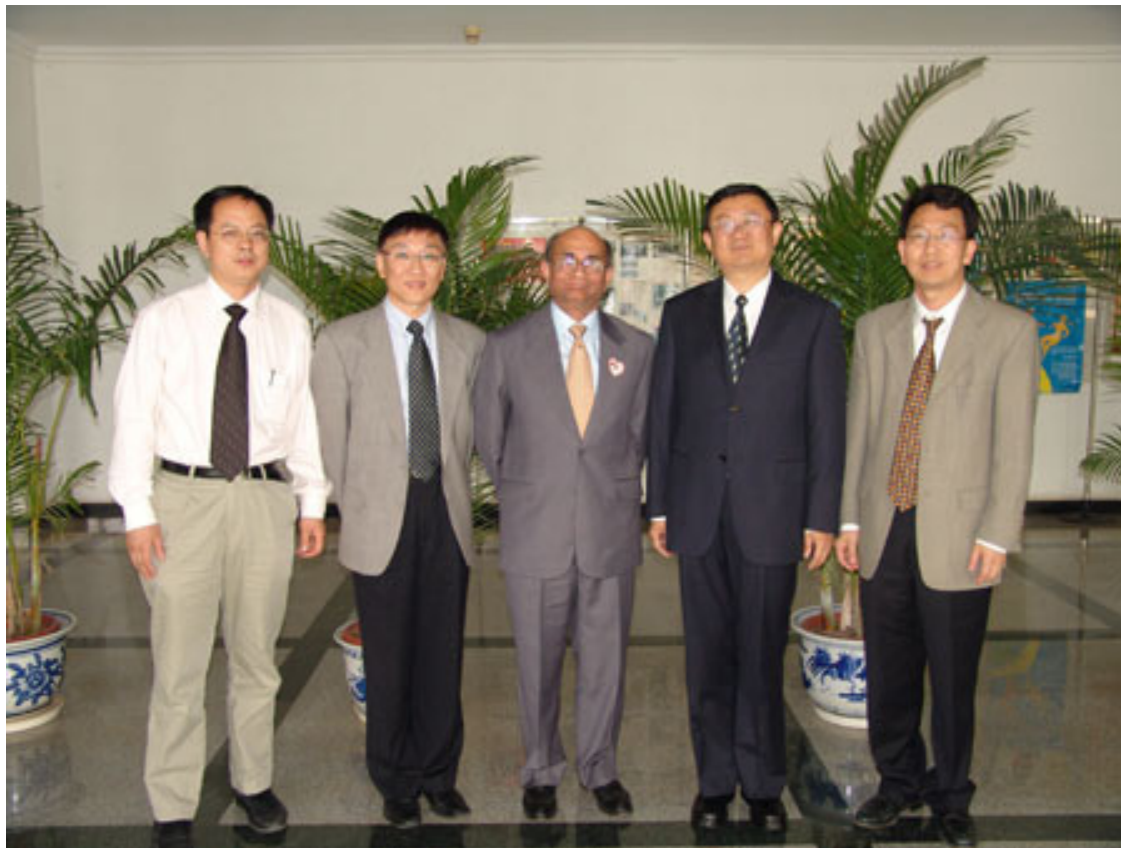
On May 19, 2008, Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC, met with the delegation headed by Prof. Akira Fujishima, Director-General of China Research Center, Japan Science and Technology (JST). Prof. Fujishima is also the Chairman of Kanagawa Academy of Science and Technology, Japan and Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences elected in 2003.

Prof. Shen firstly welcomed Prof. Fujishima and his delegation, and expressed sincere thanks to Japanese government and people for the timely support towards the “5.12” earthquake in Sichuan. Then Prof. Shen praised highly the cooperation between NSFC and JST and valued it as a very successful one. In the last 4 years, both sides jointly supported 18 projects with a total funding of 20 million RMB from NSFC. Prof. Chang Qing of the Bureau of International Cooperation of NSFC briefed the profile and current stage of NSFC to the guests. In a positive response, the JST delegation made an introduction to the three major tasks of the China Research Center this year, and expressed their wish to get support from NSFC. The major tasks obtained Prof. Shen’s recognition on their importance and some constructive suggestions on the implementation.

NSFC and JST have seen more frequent high-level communication since the establishment of the Chinese Research Center in 2006. Prof. Chen Yiyu, President of NSFC, led a delegation to attend the opening ceremony of the Center in Tokyo in 2006. Prof. Shen led a delegation to attend the Symposium of the Japan-China Collaboration of Research and Development organized by the Center in 2007. Prof. Yao Jiannian, Vice President of NSFC, attended the Advisory Committee meeting of the Center on March 2008.

(Zhang Yinglan)

Vice President Wang Jie Meets with Vice President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh



Prof. Wang Jie, NSFC Vice President, met with Prof. Tariq Durrani, Vice President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, on May 21. They held talks on issues concerning bilateral workshops and joint projects to be funded in 2009, and agreed upon the areas to launch the joint call for proposals, as well as deadlines for proposal submission and approval. Prof. Zhang Wei, Deputy Director General of the Department of Management Science, and other NSFC staff attended the meeting.

(Fan Yingjie)

12th Meeting of China-Korea Joint Committee for Basic Scientific Research Held



The 12th Meeting of the China-Korea Joint Committee for Basic Scientific Research was successfully held in Xiamen, China from May 21 to 24, 2008. Through evaluation, the Joint Committee selected 37 bilateral cooperative projects to grant in FY 2008, including 12 joint seminars and 25 joint research projects. The Committee members also made in-depth discussions on the issues of strengthening future cooperation and selecting the topics for the Northeastern Asian Symposium.

Chinese and Korean delegations were headed by Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC, and Prof. Seong Jong Lee, Director General of Bureau of Basic Research of KOSEF, respectively. Totally 23 participants including the members of China-Korea Joint Committee presented in the meeting. The Chinese attendees include Prof. Lin Guoqiang, Director General of NSFC Department of Chemical Sciences and Co-Chairman of China-Korea Joint Committee, and other deputy directors from NSFC departments Prof. Ji Peiwen, Prof. Du Shengming, Prof. Chai Yucheng, Prof. Li Ming, Prof. Zhang Zhaotian and Prof. Zhang Wei, as well as Prof. Chang Qing, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation.

(Zhang Yongtao)

Further Implement the Scientific Outlook for Development and Open up a New Prospect for Science Funding



The first plenary session of the Sixth NSFC General Assembly was held in Beijing on May 27, 2008. State Councilor Liu Yandong attended the meeting, gave her greetings and paid tribute to those scientists and technologists who contributed to the quake-relief endeavor. She emphasized that NSFC should, guided by the scientific outlook for development, precisely grasp its strategic position in the national innovation system, consistently develop and improve the science funding system and strive to open up a new prospect for science funding.

She said that NSFC has earnestly carried out the principles and policies of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, kept improving the funding structure, continuously supported innovative research and strived to cultivate innovative thinking and culture, all of which have played an important role in promoting basic research and upgrading the overall capability of science and technology in China.

She stressed that NSFC should enhance science funding in an all-around way under the guidance of the scientific outlook for development. First, it should summarize experiences to promote the continuous development of science funding with Chinese characteristics. Secondly, it should strengthen strategic research and make forward planning in view of scientific frontiers and national needs. Thirdly, it should improve the mechanism and strive to create an environment conducive to indigenous innovation. Fourthly, it should improve the funding structure and vigorously foster innovative talents. Fifth, it should build up a systematic platform, create a cultural environment and perfect the supporting system to concretely improve its service to scientists. Sixth, it should improve the function of NSFC General Assembly and give full play to the collective wisdom of scientists.

In addition, Liu particularly pointed out that the current situation facing earthquake-relief efforts is still rigorous, which makes the task arduous. Scientists and researchers shall make use of their unique strength of science and technology to contribute positively to the control of infectious diseases, the treatment and cure of

the wounded, the self-rescue of production and the elimination of danger of secondary hazards, as well as the rebuilding of homes. Further efforts shall be made in the earthquake monitoring and forecasting, the economic layout and urban and township planning in earthquake-frequent areas, as well as research in aseismatic structures and function of municipal construction and major infrastructures, so as to increase the quality of scientific forecasting and keep the loss incurred by earthquake to the minimum degree. Meanwhile, research in combating various disasters, especially their formation and precaution countermeasures, shall be strengthened to consistently improve the capability of scientific policy-making in disaster relief efforts.

Prof. Lu Yongxiang, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Xu Kuangdi, President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, attended the meeting.

Panel Meeting for A3 Foresight Program 2008 held in Hangzhou

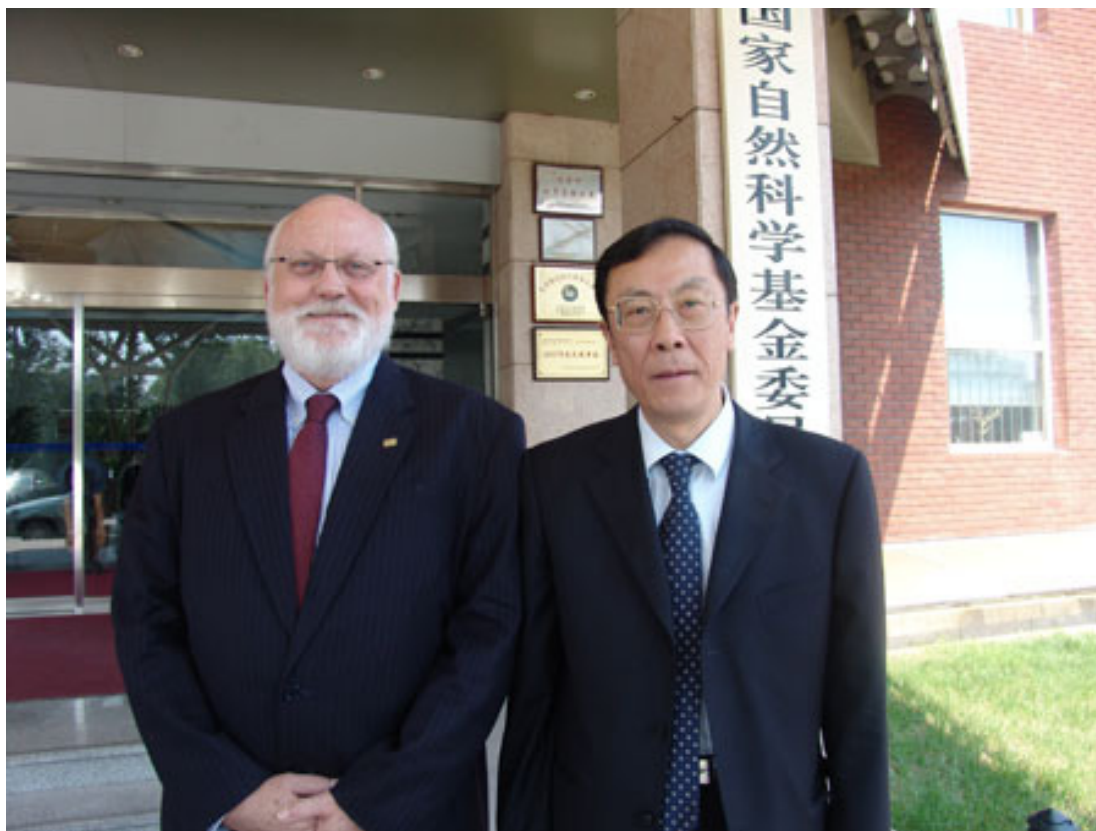
Jointly organized by the Bureau of International Cooperation, Department of Engineering & Material Sciences and Department of Mathematical & Physical Sciences of NSFC, the panel evaluation meeting for A3 Foresight Program for the year 2008 was held in Hangzhou from May 28 to 30, 2008.

Initiated by NSFC, JSPS and KOSEF, A3 Foresight Program, as a part of major cooperative research program in NSFC, receives a joint funding from the three funding agencies. The research field determined for the Program this year is advanced materials. The applications are mainly scattered in the above-mentioned departments, of which two thirds came from the Department of Engineering & Material Sciences.

Department Director's Fund for Earthquake Relief

On May 30, 2008, NSFC Department of Chemical Sciences launched its Director's Fund Emergency Program "Technologies for the collection and analysis of the bacteria and viruses in the air of earthquake stricken areas", which was undertaken by Prof. Zhu Tong and his research group from the Environment and Health Research Center and the College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering of Peking University. Based on the technologies for bio-aerosol collection, biological analysis and monitoring, an ambulatory system for biological monitoring and early warning will be set up to monitor the bacteria and viruses spreading in the earthquake stricken areas in Sichuan Province, so as to deliver data and facts for the early warning, prevention and control of possible epidemic situation.

Vice President Shen Wenqing Meets IRRI Officials



On June 6, 2008, Prof. Shen Wenqing, Vice President of NSFC, met with the delegation from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), headed by its Director General Prof. Robert S. Zeigler.

During the meeting, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation since the MOU was signed, and hoped to strengthen it in the future. The two sides reached preliminary agreement for co-organizing a joint symposium in China in 2008. NSFC and IRRI signed the MOU in 2000 and renewed in 2007.

Other delegates are Mr. Duncan Macintosh, Development Director of IRRI, Dr. Zhao Ming, the Liaison Scientist of IRRI China Office, and Mr. Wang Zhongqiu, Office Manager of China Office. Prof. Chang Qing, Deputy Director General of NSFC Bureau of International Cooperation also attended the meeting.

(Zhang Yongtao)

President Chen Yiyu Visits Taiwan Province



At the invitation of the K.T. Li Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology, a NSFC delegation of 6 members led by its President, Prof. Chen Yiyu, visited Taiwan, China from June 12 to 18, 2008.

During the visit, Prof. Chen introduced NSFC's profile of funding to the officials of the K.T. Li Foundation and professionals from S&T sectors in the island, and expressed that NSFC is willing to promote the interaction between the science communities across the Strait. He pointed out that the positive result from the dialogue between the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) reflects an aspiration shared by the compatriots on both sides of the Strait. Both sides should spare no time in stably facilitating substantial cooperation of science and technology across the Strait based on the dialogue.

The two organizations reached an agreement on jointly supporting substantial cooperation and exchange between scientists of the Mainland and Taiwan. According to the agreement, both sides will identify no more than two priority funding areas every year and kick off with seismology for the year of 2008.

The delegation also visited Tsing Hua University (Hsinchu), Taiwan University, Cheng Kung University and Academia Sinica, and received warm hospitalities during the whole visit.

(Wang Yi)

NSFC VIP Attends the NSFC-JST Workshop



The NSFC-JST Workshop on Environment Conservation and Restoration Using Bioremediation Function/Technology was successfully held in Xi'an from June 24 to 25, 2008. Prof. He Minghong, Vice President of NSFC, and Mr. Fumiaki Takahashi, Executive Director of JST, headed delegations respectively to attend the workshop and delivered speeches at the workshop. About 30 scientists from Japan and China as well as the representatives from both funding agencies joined the meeting.

(Zhang Yinglan)

1st NSFC-JST Joint Evaluation for Funded Projects Ends Successfully



On June 28, 2008, the 1st Joint Evaluation Meeting of NSFC-JST Cooperative Projects was successfully held in Xi'an. More than 30 scientists from both sides and representatives from NSFC and JST attended the meeting.

With 3 from each side, a total of 6 experts formed the joint panel. The meeting split into open and close sessions as designed. The open session was for all participants including applicants while the close one was just for panelists and representatives from NSFC and JST. The Chinese and Japanese PIs of the 4 projects approved jointly by NSFC and JST in 2004 made joint presentations and response to the inquiries from the panelists in the open session. In the closed session, the panel formed the evaluation opinion on each project and voted for the projects to be extended with further support. This meeting proved to be an instructive try-out for international evaluation on cooperative projects with foreign funding agencies.

(Zhang Yinglan)

NSFC Delegation Visits the U.S.



The Science Fund Performance Evaluation Delegation, headed by Prof. Sun Jianguang, Vice President of NSFC, visited the U.S.A. from July 6 to 11, 2008. During the visit, the delegation met with the administrative sections of the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and obtained more comprehensive understanding of the concepts, procedures, structures and relevant working systems of performance evaluation at NSF and NIH through face-to-face consultation and discussion. The delegation was composed of NSFC staff from the Bureau of Planning, Bureau of Finance, Bureau of Policy, Bureau of International Cooperation, General Office and a representative from the Chinese Ministry of Finance.

(Wei Qin)

Top Heads Meet at China-US Computer Science Leadership Summit



NSFC Vice President Sun Jianguang, heading a delegation composed of computer science professionals and NSFC staff, attended the Second China-US Computer Science Leadership Summit held in the U.S.A. from July 9 to 13, 2008, which was jointly sponsored by NSFC and NSF. NSF attached great importance to the summit and its Director, Dr. Arden L. Bement, attended the summit. When talking with Prof. Sun, Dr. Bement expressed his hope for the further consolidation of the cooperative relationship between NSF and NSFC and the substantial enhancement of the collaboration and exchanges between scientists from the U.S.A. and China. They also delivered speeches at the opening ceremony.

Varieties of mutually concerned issues in the field of computer science, education, training, etc. were fully addressed during the summit. An agreement was reached between NSFC and NSF at the end of the summit to continue to cosponsor the Third China-US Computer Science Leadership Summit.

During the stay in the U.S.A, the delegation visited the Directorate of Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) of NSF and received welcome from Dr. Kathie Olsen, Deputy Director of NSF, and Dr. Jeannette M. Wing, Assistant Director for CISE. Each division of CISE presented the delegation with a comprehensive introduction of its funding operations.

(Wei Qin)

President Chen Yiyu Met with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chari Sirindhorn of Thailand



On August 9, 2008, Professor Chen Yiyu, President of NSFC, met with the delegation headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chari Sirindhorn of Thailand. Since her first visit to China in 1981, Princess Maha Chari Sirindhorn has visited China for more than 20 times. As an envoy of her father, the king of Thailand, she came to Beijing this time to attend the opening ceremony of the 29th Olympic Games.

Professor Chen warmly welcomed Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chari Sirindhorn and said to her that: “Her Royal Highness is an old friend of China. You have made a great endeavor to make people to understand each other and promote the friendship between China and Thailand in a long period of time. We praise highly your remarkable contribution with a great respect.” Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chari Sirindhorn first glorified the magnitude success of the opening ceremony of the 29th Olympic Games, and expressed a deep appreciation to Professor Chen’s kind invitation to her first visit to NSFC. She expressed her wish to make her contribution to promote the S&T cooperation between two countries. Professor Han Jianguo made a presentation on NSFC and Sino-German Center for Research Promotion.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chari Sirindhorn was pleased to make her inscription in Chinese by brush under Professor Chen’s invitation. Then Professor Chen accompanied the delegation and visited the Sino-German Center for Research Promotion with zest.

(Zhang Yinglan)