



# Science, Technology and Education News from China

## Number 67 – January 2010

Please note that the previous newsletters can be downloaded from the website of the Embassy of Switzerland in China: [www.eda.admin.ch/beijing](http://www.eda.admin.ch/beijing)<sup>1</sup>. To subscribe/unsubscribe or send us your comments, please send an email with the corresponding subject to [cynthia.robbiani@eda.admin.ch](mailto:cynthia.robbiani@eda.admin.ch).

### Introduction

2010 will find Chinese policymakers increasingly focused on formulating the country's 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (FYP) for Economic and Social Development (2011-2015). As a blueprint for laying out China's national policy priorities for the coming 5 years, the final 12<sup>th</sup> FYP to emerge will be led by the Strategic Planning Department of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's lead planning agency. This edition will also inform you about the SSSTC Program that launches its 4<sup>th</sup> call for proposal for Faculty and Student Exchange, in all disciplines, with deadlines being set on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of thousands of Chinese turned skyward in the afternoon, attracted by the planet's longest annular solar eclipse in 1,000 years, as it crossed China. It was visible in parts of Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Hunan, Hubei, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu and Shandong provinces as well as Chongqing municipality.

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<sup>1</sup> Please click on the blue texts to activate the hyperlinks to either email addresses or related websites.



## Policies

### The 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan

2010 will find Chinese policymakers increasingly focused on formulating the country's 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (FYP) for Economic and Social Development (2011-2015). As a blueprint for laying out China's national policy priorities for the coming 5 years, the final 12<sup>th</sup> FYP to emerge will be led by the Strategic Planning Department of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China's lead planning agency. With the research phase of the process that started a year ago, the NDRC announced that the drafting of the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (FYP) had begun last fall. The next step will be the approval of high-level areas of policy focus, first by the State Council, China's highest executive authority, and then by the 11<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress (NPC), China's highest legislative authority, in March, after which more detailed drafting proceed. By mid-autumn 2010, a mature draft will be submitted to Chinese party leadership for review and approval, with the ultimate goal of presenting the 12<sup>th</sup> FYP for final approval by the NPC in March 2011.

China's planning policy process today is much more open compared to just a few years ago. With the arrival of Hu Jintao and other "Fourth Generation" leaders on the scene in 2003, the evolution of the process has been greatly accelerated. The 11<sup>th</sup> FYP was a clear expression of the generation's vision for China, focusing on long-term economic sustainability and placing much greater emphasis on openness and accountability in form. For example:

- **Expert Opinion:** Experts from inside and outside of government, domestic as well as foreign, were widely consulted on both the substance of the 11<sup>th</sup> FYP and the planning process itself;
- **Public consultation:** Efforts were made to bring Chinese citizens directly into the process, most famously in 2005, when more than 4 million Chinese were surveyed about their views on environmental protection;
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** In consultation with multilateral organizations, a mid-cycle review process was introduced, offering the possibility for reflection and course-correction;
- **Accountability:** The performance evaluation of officials responsible for implementing the 11<sup>th</sup> FYP would reflect the plan's new sustainability goals, rather than merely rewarding high growth.

According to an article published in the People's Daily Online<sup>2</sup> on January 20<sup>th</sup>, it is the first time that China invites international expertise to advise on goals and policies of its key FYP. Some officials and experts attending an international seminar held by the NDRC said *"it was very important for China to consider its development strategy more from a global perspective as China has been increasingly incorporated with the world economy"*. The seminar invited distinguished thinkers to focus on how China's 12<sup>th</sup> FYP can be designed to rebalance economy, environmental and social performance, and to reflect a global perspective.

Continuity should be what will characterize the 12<sup>th</sup> FYP. Many of the fundamental imbalances targeted by the 11<sup>th</sup> FYP as for example income disparities between regions and between urban and rural China are long-term challenges requiring sustained effort and China itself concedes uneven progress. The World Bank's Mid-Term Evaluation of China's 11<sup>th</sup> FYP praises China, for example, to raise per capita GDP, to maintain a strong fiscal position and to extend health insurance coverage. As the trend shows greater openness, the planning process may indeed offer more opportunities for engagement, although the complexity of the process will require considerable skill at navigation.

<sup>2</sup> <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90778/90862/6873408.html>



## News

### 1. Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Program New Call for Proposals

(Swissnex Shanghai, 25-01-10)

SSSTC Program launches its 4<sup>th</sup> call for proposal for Faculty and Student Exchange, in all disciplines, with deadlines being set on March 15, 2010. The Faculty and Student Exchange Grants are Swiss governmental funding designed to facilitate the first contact between scholars of both countries. A Swiss faculty can apply SSSTC funding to invite Chinese faculties or students to work for a short period at his/her laboratory in order to discuss detailed plans for future collaboration. The length of the stay should not exceed 12 months for an exchange student, and no more than 3 months for an exchange faculty. SSSTC grant can also be applied by faculties / students working / studying in Switzerland to cover their international travel expenses to China for short stay in the institutes of their hosts.

Details of the SSSTC Faculty and Student Exchange Grants can be found in the following link under the names of FE and SE: <http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china/instruments>. Interested parties can download the application form for FE and SE at <http://www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china/forms>, and contact Dr. Lan Zuo Gillet (+ 86 21 62351889, [lan.zuogillet@swissnexshanghai.org](mailto:lan.zuogillet@swissnexshanghai.org)) in China or Dr. Maio Chen (+41 44 632 8101 [maio.chen-su@sl.ethz.ch](mailto:maio.chen-su@sl.ethz.ch)) in Switzerland for more info.

### 2. Innovation should drive Science: WEN

(CAS, 12-01-2010)

Premier WEN Jiabao yesterday called for scientific innovation to help the country cope with the global economic downturn and serve as an impetus to realize lasting economic prosperity. He made the call at a grand ceremony to present the 2009 State Top Scientific and Technological Award. WEN said greater efforts should be made to embrace global scientific and technological development and build China into an innovation-driven economy. Independent innovation should always play a key part in economic restructuring and transformation of the country's development pattern, he said. Efforts should be made to achieve scientific breakthroughs on issues related to people's living standards, national security and competitive power. WEN called for intensified efforts to develop new emerging industries such as new energy resources, information and the Internet as well as life sciences. He also underlined the importance of training scientific talents to provide support for the country's modernization drive. GU Chaohao, a mathematician, and space scientist SUN Jiadong received the top science honor yesterday for their outstanding contributions to scientific and technological innovation. But the announcement generated mixed feelings among academics. The life stories of established scientists are a reminder many university faculty should spend more time on research than on reputation and salary. Chinese universities have strengthened efforts in anti-academic corruption and fraud following a recent revelation of 70 fake academic papers from Jinggangshan University in East China. [http://english.cas.ac.cn/Ne/CN/201001/t20100112\\_49957.shtml](http://english.cas.ac.cn/Ne/CN/201001/t20100112_49957.shtml)

### 3. China Exhibition on Innovative Technologies and Products Held in Egypt

(MOST, 07-01-10)

China Exhibition on Innovative Technologies and Products, co-hosted by MOST and Egypt Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and organized by Torch High Tech Industrial Development Center of MOST, was held from December 3rd to 5th in Cairo, Egypt. The exhibition, covering 3,000 square meters, featured 181 innovation fruits of 154 enterprises and research institutes from 19 provinces in China. It is also one of the largest and most successful science and technology exhibitions held in foreign countries in the recent years. All products on display are hi-tech ones through innovation, including the state-of-the-art technologies at every link of TD-SCDMA industry chain, chips, antennas, equipment, and terminals, high-speed rail vehicles, electric car, automatic track photovoltaic power system, high-speed



routers. A lot of world-renowned enterprises also showcased their products at the event, such as Huawei, ZTE, and Datang. [http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/pressroom/201001/t20100107\\_75256.htm](http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/pressroom/201001/t20100107_75256.htm)

#### 4. Chinese look skyward for once-in-a-millennium eclipse

(Xinhua, 15-01-2010)

Zhu Juyuan, 65, belongs to the Yi ethnic group, who considers the sun a goddess. When it became a black orb encircled by a fiery ring on Friday, he ran out of his home in southwest China's Yunan Province to see the event. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese turned skyward in the afternoon, attracted by the planet's longest annular solar eclipse in 1,000 years, as it crossed China. It was visible in parts of Yunnan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Hunan, Hubei, Henan, Anhui, Jiangsu and Shandong provinces as well as Chongqing municipality. A crowd of more than 700 people cheered at 4:45 p.m. at Erhai Lake in Yunnan's Dali City, which was thought to be the best location for observation. "Too beautiful. I'm lost for words," said Dong Liang, a 27-year-old college student from Kunming, capital of Yunnan. "The sky turned a kind of mysterious blue. A round shadow was moving fast into the bright disk and later a white ring appeared, just like a ring on someone's finger," said Yang Chunjin, a local resident. [...] Zhu Juyuan looked into water to see the reflection of the darkened sun as his Yi ancestors did to show respect. "The eclipse was considered to be the sky tiger eating the sun. When the eclipse occurred, elderly people always said something evil would happen, so they would beat drums and gongs to scare the sky tiger away," said Zhu. The days when people feared an eclipse had long gone, he said. "It's common knowledge here that the moon has blocked the sunlight."

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/15/content\\_12817256.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/15/content_12817256.htm)

#### 5. Chinese official says Internet security a global problem

(Xinhua, 14-01-2010)

A senior Chinese information official said China firmly opposed cyber attacks and called on all countries to work together to ensure Internet security, according to Thursday's People's Daily, a leading Chinese newspaper. "China's Internet is open to the world.... China is a victim of and firmly opposes cyber attacks," he said, noting the number of overseas cyber attacks on Chinese mainland websites in 2008 had increased by 148 percent over the previous year. He also noted that in the recent nationwide crackdown on the spread of pornography via the Internet and mobile phones, the China Internet Illegal Information Reporting Center had received 80,000 reports about websites containing obscenity on the Internet and mobile WAP sites. It was found that the "majority" of them were from foreign countries or websites with servers based in foreign countries. He said all countries should "take active and effective measures to strengthen management of the Internet and make sure their problems do not affect other countries' cyber order." Wang said the government will keep to invite the public to help supervise the Internet, and shut down illegal websites once found so as to create a favorable environment for the healthy development of minors. He called on relevant departments to ensure that information flow on the Internet is smooth and timely, and secure and orderly in the meantime.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/14/content\\_12808722.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/14/content_12808722.htm)

#### 6. Singapore, China to enhance co-op in science, technology

(Xinhua, 15-01-2010)

The Singapore-China Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology (SCAAST), the first non-governmental body set up on Friday to promote the exchange of science and technology between the two countries. Speaking at the founding ceremony held here Friday, Grace Fu, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Education, praised China for its economic achievements and development in science and technology. "China has achieved tremendous advancements and astonishing success in terms of science and technology, manufacturing and city-building. China has now become the base for the manufacturing of worldwide industrial and household products," she said, adding "Industries such as aeronautical engineering, bio-technology, as well as large-scale disease diagnosis and treatment are developing with amazing speed." She said that there are many



areas where Singapore and China can learn from each other. Citing the Suzhou-Singapore Industrial Park and the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city as joint cooperation examples, Fu said that Singapore is an old friend of China and has the good opportunity to be involved in the process of China's economic liberalization. She also encouraged the SCAAST to bring about deeper and broader levels of cooperation in science and technology, and enable scientists, inventors, and engineers to forge closer industry ties and collaboration between the two countries.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/15/content\\_12817254.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/15/content_12817254.htm)

## 7. China Launches Third Orbiter for Indigenous Global Satellite Navigation System

(CAS, 18-01-2010)

China took one step forward in its ambition to build an independent global navigation network capable of rivaling foreign congeneric systems with the successful launch of a new orbiter into space early Sunday morning. Boosted by a Long-March-3III carrier rocket into a geostationary orbit from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center, it was the third orbiter China has launched for the network, also known as Beidou, or COMPASS system. It will join another two already in orbits to form a network which will eventually have a total of 35 satellites, capable of providing global navigation service to users around the world around 2020. The new orbiter and the carrier rocket were researched and developed by Chinese Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation and Chinese Academy of Carrier Rocket Technology respectively. The network will have five satellites in geostationary orbit and another 30 in non-geostationary orbits, according to a plan for the COMPASS system. According to the plan, the system will firstly provide navigation, time signal and short message services in the Asia and Pacific region around 2012. The COMPASS system will provide both open and authorized services, according to China's satellite navigation project center.

[http://english.cas.ac.cn/Ne/CN/201001/t20100118\\_50085.shtml](http://english.cas.ac.cn/Ne/CN/201001/t20100118_50085.shtml)

### Events (Février-March 2010)

#### 2010 Asian Asteroid Observation Network Workshop

Date: February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Place: Lijiang  
Contact: Tel: 0871-3920678

#### ECAL luxury & design exhibition

Date: 01-12 of February in Shanghai  
01-14 of March in Beijing  
Contact: [Christine.kyburz@eda.admin.ch](mailto:Christine.kyburz@eda.admin.ch)

#### Education Expo Mongolia 2010

Date: 27-28 of March  
Place Ulaanbaatar  
Contact: [Christine.kyburz@eda.admin.ch](mailto:Christine.kyburz@eda.admin.ch)

#### Chengdu Int'l IC-China Conference & Exhibition 2010

Date: March 8<sup>th</sup>  
Place: Chengdu  
Contact: Tel: 028-86669581

#### The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Int'l IC-China Conference & Exhibition

Date: March 11<sup>th</sup>  
Place: Beijing  
Contact: [xiaoh@chgje.com](mailto:xiaoh@chgje.com)

#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Int'l Conference on Engineering for Waste and Biomass Valorisation

Date: March 17<sup>th</sup>  
Place: Beijing  
Contact: Tel: 010-62551358

#### The 23<sup>rd</sup> China (Zhejiang) Int'l Sci., Education, Medical Equip., Supplies & Technical Exchange Exhibition

Date: March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Place: Hangzhou  
Contact: Fax: 0571-87054677

#### China Int'l Machine Vision Exhibition 2010

Date: March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Contact: Tel: 010-68594793

#### China Fashion Week 2009

Date: March  
Place: Beijing  
Contact: Tel: 010-64387199