



Research and Environment News from China

Number 15 - September 2005

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Introduction

Switzerland has been strongly represented this month in China in the field of education, research and environment.

In particular, **State Secretary of Education and Research, Charles Kleiber**, paid a visit to Beijing, accompanied in Beijing by a delegation of rectors of Swiss universities. Amongst others, M. Kleiber met with the vice-ministers of education, science and technology to discuss the status and future of cooperation in superior education, research and technology (cf. article number 9).

The **International Risk Governance Council's (IRGC)**, a foundation that was founded in Switzerland last year, had its second yearly meeting in Beijing and organised a symposium "Risk Governance and Sustainable Development in China". The topic and objective is a global approach to global risks management, from natural hazards to climate change, from terrorism to diseases. Besides the government, Switzerland was strongly participating, with scientists –including **ETH Nobel Price Richard R. Ernst** -, companies –SwissRe-, etc.

The "**International High-Level Forum on Bioeconomy**", organised by the China National Center for Biotechnology Development (CNCBD), the entity that co-organised the Swiss-Chinese biotech symposium in 2004, was also strongly attended by Swiss scientists. It was co-chaired by **ETH Nobel Price Richard R. Ernst**, and its sessions „Biotechnology Industry“ by **Serono**. **Parliamentary M. Cavalli** attended the session „Medical Biotechnology,,.

In the field of environment, **SECO** financed two successful and very relevant symposiums this month: „The Clean Development Mechanism (**CDM**): New Market and Investment Opportunities“, in the 9th China International Fair for Investment and Trade in Xiamen, and “Financing **e-Waste** Management and Extended Producer Responsibility in China“, as part of the R'05 7th World Congress on Recovery, Recycling and Re-Integration in Beijing.

Science & Technology

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| 1. Chinese scientists develop new technology to test pig disease | <i>new technology</i> |
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| 3. The EPFL establishes a dedicated China relations team | <i>EPFL China relations team</i> |
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| 5. Chinese company bids for Galileo operation franchise | <i>Galileo Project</i> |
| | <i>operation franchise</i> |
| 6. China successful in researching into 1,500 new human genes | <i>new human genes</i> |



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| 7. EU, China to Step up Cooperation in Biotechnology Economy | <i>Biotechnology Economy</i> |
| 8. Stem Cell Databank Launched | <i>Stem Cell</i> |
| 9. Pressemitteilung/Communiqué de presse | <i>SBF/SER SS</i> |

Charles Kleiber

Environment

KEYWORDS

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| 2. China encourages further foreign investment in road transportation industry | <i>foreign investment</i>
<i>road transportation industry</i> |
| 3. China to begin constructing its biggest nuclear power plant next year | <i>nuclear power plant</i> |
| 4. Chinese railway eyes five objectives | <i>railway construction</i> |
| 5. China faces six challenges in the 21st century, expert | <i>major challenges 21 century</i> |
| 6. Land erosion poses threat to grain yield | <i>soil erosion</i> |
| 7. Alstom builds its largest global hydro power base in China | <i>hydro power</i> |

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KEYWORDS

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| 2. Study: Gender inequality serious in China's rural areas | <i>Gender inequality</i> |
| 3. Death toll in natural disasters no longer kept as China's state secret | <i>natural disasters</i>
<i>Declassification</i> |
| 4. Mainland population below 1.37 billion by 2010 | <i>Mainland population</i> |
| 5. 172 affected in Fujian cholera outbreak | <i>cholera</i> |
| 6. China offers herbal treatment for HIV/AIDS carriers | <i>HIV/AIDS herbal treatment</i> |
| 7. New Cure for Leukemia | <i>Leukemia</i> |
| 8. China's Phase One AIDS Vaccine Trial Nears End | <i>AIDS Vaccine Trial</i> |

Activites coming up soon

November 1-4, 2005	
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
Venue: Xizi Guest Hotel, Hangzhou	
Contact : Mr. Bing Zhu International Coordinator Secretariat of 2005CERSD	
Tel: 0571-85106941	Fax: 0571-85172009
Email: 2005cersd@163.com	http://www.2005cersd.org.cn



November 7-8, 2005
Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference 2005
Venue: The Great Hall of the People, Beijing
Contact: Mr. Mu Xiongbing, Mr. Wan Qian (for Government Delegations)
Tel: 0086-10-51665898 or 68501341 Fax: 0086-10-84064862 or 68501971
Email: apecsmesa@vip.163.com , wangwh@mx.cei.gov.cn
Contact: Qin Haiyan and Wang Zhongying (for others)
Web: www.birec2005.cn
Email: birec2005@birec2005.cn
Tel: 0086-10-64228218 or 62180145 Fax: 0086-10-64428215 or 62180142
November 8 -11, 2005
World Recycling – Shanghai' 05
International Conference & Exhibition on Car, Electronics & Battery Recycling
Venue: Hotel Shangri-La, Pudong
Contact: Ms. Jeanette Duttlinger
Tel: +41 62 785 10 00 Fax: +41 62 785 10 05
Email: info@icm.ch Website: www.icm.ch
November 20-22, 2005
2005 international forum for environmental legislation and sustainable development
Venue: Friendship Hotel, Beijing
Contact: Mr. Liu Jin Mr. Ge Chen Miss. Zhao Aihua
Tel: +0086-(10)-65257203, +0086-(10)-65257204 Fax: +0086-(10)-65257215
Email: zxem@npc.gov.cn
June 28-30, 2006
Wind Power Asia 2006- The 3rd Asian Wind Power Exhibition and Conference
Venue: China World Trade Centre, Beijing, China
Tel: 86-10-68360959, 68360575 Fax: 86-10-68360949
Email: marcowang@unique-expo.com
April 28 - 30, 2006
The 7th China International Environmental Protection Exhibition and Hi-New Technologies Conference
Venue: Shanghai International Exhibition Center
Tel: 021-54592323 Fax: 021- 54253480
Email: zmes@zhongmao.com.cn
Contact: Mr.Jiang Zhiyou 13370228868
January 15-16, 2007
The 4th International Workshop on Energy and Environment of Residential Buildings (IWEERB 2007)
Venue: Harbin Institute of Technology
Contact: Mr.Zhi Weiluo
Tel: 86-0451-898 60889 Fax: 86-0451-8628 2123
E-mail: iweerb2007@hit.edu.cn



Environment-related international tenders and investment opportunities:

english.cepi.com.cn/homepage/homepage.jsp

Contact

Patrick Freymond

Counsellor, Head of Science, Technology, Environment, Health, Project Financing
Embassy of Switzerland in the People's Republic of China
Tel +86 10 6532 2736 ext 311
eMail: patrick.freymond@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/beijing

Science & Technology

Chinese scientists develop new technology to test pig disease

(People's Daily on line, 2005-08-30)

Chinese scientists have developed a new technology to test the pig-borne disease caused by swine Streptococcus suis more effectively.

The new technology will take only one hour and a half to spot swine Streptococcus suis bacteria, while the traditional method takes three to seven days.

The technology was developed by experts with the Beijing Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine Department and the China Veterinary Products Supervision Institute.

It passed appraisal by an expert team from the State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine on Friday.

The pig-borne disease, caused by swine Streptococcus suis bacteria, hit southwest China's Sichuan this July, leaving about 40 people dead.

Streptococcus suis is usually transmitted through contact with raw pork or sick swine. Symptoms include high fever, nausea and vomiting, followed by meningitis, hemorrhaging under the skin, toxic shock and sometimes coma.

We're (probably) not alone, says Shaw Prize winner Planet-hunting scientist has high hopes of alien life

(South China Morning Post, 2005-09-3)

Alien spacecraft and intergalactic life forms may have evaded detection by 200 professional telescopes scanning the universe every night - but they still could be "out there", an award-winning scientist says.

"I think the chance of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe is very high, but still we have no evidence," said Geoffrey Marcy, one of two scientists sharing the Shaw Prize this year.

"We don't have evidence but I suspect that there probably are [life forms] simply because our universe is so enormous," said Professor Marcy, who shared the US\$1 million prize with Professor Michel Mayor for their work in discovering planets outside the solar system.

"Our Milky Way galaxy has about 200 billion stars and there are hundreds of billions of galaxies similar to our galaxy," he said at a presentation ceremony at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai last night.



The pair will discuss the possibility of life on other planets in a lecture to be delivered at the University of Science and Technology today.

The two scientists were the first to identify the orbits and masses of planets spinning around stars other than the Sun.

"We have detected more than 150 planets by indirect proof and we know we have a lot of planets," said Professor Mayor.

Professor Marcy said some planets they had discovered had temperatures similar to that which helped nurture life on Earth, between zero and 100 degrees Celsius.

But Professor Mayor said not all the planets were pleasant. "Some of these planets are awful worlds ... Imagine you have one planet turning around its star in only four days - you would have to pay your taxes every four days," he said.

Despite the possibility of life out there somewhere, Professor Marcy said there was "no strong evidence to this day" of alien spacecraft visiting Earth.

"Two hundred professional telescopes cover the earth - northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere. Every night, the skies are scanned, but there has never been a detection of a UFO by professional astronomers. I think this non-detection is more significant than people will often voice."
The Shaw Prizes were established by Sir Run Run Shaw as an "Asian Nobel".

The EPFL establishes a dedicated China relations team

In order to maintain and further develop closer relations with academia and industry in China, and particularly to support cooperation of EPFL professors and scientists with Chinese counterparts and to provide EPFL students with exchange opportunities in China, the Vice-Presidency for International Affairs has appointed in a part time function (20% each):

- **Zhen Xiao**, B. Eng, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2-year working experience in Microelectronics design in Switzerland, currently a Research Assistant and PHD Candidate, LMIS3, IMM, STI, **EPFL**, BM 3.109, Station 17, 1015 Lausanne, Tel: +41 21 693 6742, email: zhen.xiao@epfl.ch
- **Nicolas Musy**, Dipl. Physics, Engineer EPFL, based in China since 1988. c/o CH-ina Co. Ltd, 15-c 1078, Jiang Ning Road, 200060 **Shanghai**, P.R. of China, Tel +86-21-626 608 44, Fax: +86-21-627 608 56 nicolas.musy@epfl.ch

Both have extensive knowledge and experience of China. They will contribute to the development of EPFL-China relations and open up new opportunities for students.

A first project will be started to provide EPFL students with the opportunity to spend one year in China, combining an intensive Chinese language course with work on their master's.

The China relations team is looking forward to cooperate with other related organizations involved with China and to generate valuable joint-projects and synergies.

Eyes in the sky to help China's disaster relief measures

(China Daily, 2005-09-23)

China plans to launch a constellation of eight satellites to warn of natural calamities, and help in the aftermath, a senior official of the country's disaster-relief watchdog announced Thursday.



Three satellites will be sent into space in the first half of 2007, with five more to join them by 2010, providing a network focused on disaster prevention and relief work, said Jia Zhibang, deputy director of the National Disaster Reduction Committee.

The satellites will be positioned in two groups at altitudes between 100 and 200 kilometres from Earth and provide high-resolution images, said Fang Zhiyong, a senior official in charge of the programme at the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Apart from disaster alerts, the satellites - weighing about 100 kilograms each - will play a key role in evaluating and analyzing damage, he said.

The data provided by the satellites can thus "help uncover false reports - for instance, officials reporting a lower death toll to avoid punishment - and provide appropriate relief," Fang added.

"The results will be 80 per cent closer to the reality about, for example, how many people and areas have been affected,"

Rebuilding disaster-affected areas and the relocation of victims will also be made easier as the new system can help design better plans in advance, he said.

China has three kinds of civilian-use satellites in space - for monitoring weather conditions, probing for natural resources and for ocean exploration.

The central government has invested more than 800 million yuan (US\$99 million) in the new project.

"We will invite neighbouring countries to join us in the programme at the Asian Disaster Relief Conference next week, so that we can establish an information exchange platform to jointly cope with serious disasters," Fang said.

"And, we may launch more than eight satellites, if necessary."

A three-day ministerial-level meeting on disaster relief in Asia will kick off in Beijing next Tuesday and is expected to attract 350 participants from 40 countries.

Thousands have lost their lives and China has suffered huge economic losses from natural disasters in recent years. This year, many parts of the nation have been ravaged by floods, drought and typhoons.

Figures released Thursday show 1,630 lives were claimed in natural disasters between January and September 20 this year, with direct economic losses amounting to 163 billion yuan (US\$20 billion).

Earlier this month, the government announced it would no longer keep death tolls secret, or under-report them, as part of efforts to establish transparent governance.

But Jia Zhibang said at the briefing Thursday that death tolls from past calamities would not be revised or republished.

"As for the three-year natural disaster which struck China from 1959 to 1962, the government has no specific information about the death toll and therefore there will not be any new figure," he said.

Chinese company bids for Galileo operation franchise

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-20)

A Chinese state-controlled company announced Monday in Beijing that it will bid for the operation franchise of the Galileo Project in China.

Meng Bo, chair of the board of China Galileo Industries (CGI) Ltd., said, "We're trying to get the operation franchise in China, which might begin in 2008." CGI, a joint venture owned by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, China Electronics Technology Group Corporation, China Satcom and China



Academy of Space Technology, was designated by the European Union (EU) as the Chinese partner on the Galileo Project.

The operation franchise plan helps ensure profits made from the money-consuming Galileo Project, costing 3.5 billion euros in research and satellite network deployment.

In July, the Galileo Joint Undertaking endorsed an operation company, newly built by Alcatel and EADS, to be the global franchiser overseeing the Galileo operation, with a franchise fee worth 3.2 billion euros.

The EU and the European Space Agency kicked off the Galileo Project in March 2002 to develop a satellite-navigation system independent of the U.S. military global positioning system (GPS) monopoly.

The project will launch 30 navigation satellites, which will provide remote sensing data with resolution up to one meter. At present, the data resolution in the GPS civilian domain is only ten meters.

China was the first country outside Europe to join the Galileo Project, agreeing to invest a total of 200 million euros into the global consortium. About 70 million euros of the Chinese investment has been put into technologies development and the remaining 130 million euros into deployment of space and ground infrastructure.

"GPS is mainly for military use and some civilian use, while the Galileo systems will be mainly for civilian use and be responsible for customers so as not to shut off signals without our customer's consent," Meng said.

The EU estimated that by 2020, the Galileo Project will bring Europe tens of billions of euros in revenue and tens of thousands of job opportunities. Chinese experts expected revenues worth 260 billion yuan (23.6 billion euros) in Galileo systems applications by 2020.

China successful in researching into 1,500 new human genes

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-27)

As is learned from the National Important S&T Achievements Exhibition for the Tenth Five-Year sponsored by Ministry of Science and Technology, Chinese researchers so far have achieved breakthrough in researching into 1,500 new genes related to key human biological genes and diseases, including 160 functional genes with specified functions and of potential development, 24 new genes with specified functions that can be applied to the development of new products and 8 new genes with independent intellectual property right which have been included in the R&D projects for medical targets or early-stage pharmaceuticals under the partnership with pharmaceutical makers or developers.

Along with the implementation of "functional genome and biological chips", a key sci-tech project during the Tenth Five-Year period, China has achieved earth-shaking breakthrough in the research and application of new functional human genes and disease related genes. As of the researches on liver cancer, relevant research institutions have verified and screened out CYP-J for new medical target. The effort has resulted in 15 interactive precursor composites, of which a YCZ001 produces apparent prohibiting effects on in-vitro liver cancer. From the cloned genes and functional research, this is the first time that China successfully screened out the interactive precursor composites. Although there is still a fairly long way toward developing the new medicines, the success has been proved to be inspiring.

In terms of research into blood pressure, Chinese researchers have found four genes that could lead to the disease.

EU, China to Step up Cooperation in Biotechnology Economy

(Xinhua News Agency September 16, 2005)

The European Union (EU) and China agreed on Thursday to boost cooperation in developing modern knowledge-based biotechnology economy.



"We are both very interested in looking for solutions that lie in the life sciences and biotechnology, because these are sustainable solutions that can help us find a balance between the needs of our economies and our environment," said an EU-China joint statement issued at a conference on biotechnology economy.

At the same time of the two-day gathering in Brussels on biotechnology economy, a conference on the same topic was held in the Chinese capital of Beijing.

The document, made by EU Science and Technology Commissioner Janez Potocnik and Chinese Science and Technology Minister Xu Guanhua, highlighted the importance of biotechnology economy.

"We may learn together and help one another as we seek to find a new way forward to the biotechnology economy of the future," the document said.

The biotechnology economy covers the management, production and use of biological resources such as food, feed, fiber and fuels.

According to the EU's executive arm, the European Commission, a number of technology platforms have been created recently to identify the strategic challenges for these industries.

Stem Cell Databank Launched

(China Daily September 19, 2005)

Shanghai opened its fourth haematopoietic stem cell donor databank Sunday.

Founded by the Shanghai Red Cross Society, the facility will be open to the public all year around to offer donors more convenience, said Zhang Jin, who is in charge of haematopoietic stem cell donations at the society.

According to Zhang, more than 53,000 volunteers had donated their blood samples to the Shanghai-based collection pool by the end of last month.

Correspondingly, 63 leukaemia patients had found their matching marrow.

Stem cells, which can be extracted from embryos a few days old, children and even adults, are capable of growing into any of the 300 different kinds of cell in the human body.

Isolated from the blood or bone marrow, haematopoietic stem cells are able to form blood and immune cells.

Haematopoietic stem cell transplants are now routinely used to treat patients with cancer and other disorders of the blood and immune systems.

"We are encouraging more young people to donate their bone marrow as we plan to establish a storage of 100,000 blood samples in Shanghai," said Huo Jingyi from the Shanghai Committee of the Communist Youth League, another organizer of the event.

In the first half of 2005, more than 7,000 young volunteers have given their blood samples and 17 transplants have been performed in Shanghai.

But about 500 new leukaemia patients in Shanghai need the surgery every year, Huo told China Daily yesterday.

China is home to what is probably the largest stem cell program in Asia.

Pei Xuetao, team leader of the National High Technology Research and Development Program's stem cell division, told a magazine earlier this year that China has "about 300 to 400" PhDs working on all types of stem cells in more than 30 scientific teams across the country.

In addition, China will further its cooperation with Western countries in stem cell research.



"Our cutting-edge technology, large and diverse patient population, and rich stem cell resources are attracting the world's attention," Pei, also director of the Beijing Institute of Transfusion Medicine, told China Daily.

Der Staatssekretär für Bildung und Forschung Charles Kleiber führt zusammen mit einer Delegation von Rektoren der Schweizer Universitäten in Peking Gespräche mit den chinesischen Vizeministern für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Technologie / Le secrétaire d'Etat à l'éducation et à la recherche Charles Kleiber accompagné d'une délégation de recteurs des universités suisses a rencontré à Pékin les vice-ministres chinois de l'éducation, de la science et de la technologie

Pressemitteilung, Peking, 22. September 2005

Der Staatssekretär für Bildung und Forschung Charles Kleiber traf heute in Peking in Begleitung einer Delegation von Schweizer Universitätsrektoren mit den chinesischen Vizeministern für Bildung, Forschung und Technologie zusammen. Die schweizerische Delegation erörterte mit ihren Gesprächspartnern die bestehende Zusammenarbeit und besprach die Möglichkeiten zur Förderung des Austauschs zwischen der Schweiz und China im Hochschul-, Forschungs- und Technologiebereich. Diese Gespräche geben der wissenschaftlichen Zusammenarbeit mit China einen neuen Impuls.

Im Bildungsministerium sprachen Staatssekretär Charles Kleiber und die Delegation der Schweizer Universitätsrektoren mit Vizeminister Zhang Baoqing. Sie einigten sich mit ihren chinesischen Gesprächspartnern über eine Erhöhung der Anzahl Austauschstipendien sowie über den Grundsatz der Anerkennung der Gleichwertigkeiten im Hochschulbereich. Im Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Technologie wurden Charles Kleiber und die Rektorendelegation von Vizeminister Li Xueyong empfangen. Sie erörterten mit ihren chinesischen Gesprächspartnern die bestehenden und kurzfristig geplanten Zusammenarbeitsprojekte im Forschungsbereich sowie die Möglichkeiten einer längerfristigen Entwicklung von gemeinsamen Forschungstätigkeiten.

Diese Gespräche dienten vor allem der Bestimmung von Grundsätzen, mit denen der wissenschaftlichen Zusammenarbeit zwischen der Schweiz und China neue Impulse gegeben werden können. In Zukunft soll ein gemeinsamer Kooperationsfonds geschaffen werden, aus dem in Bereichen von beiderseitigem Interesse der Austausch von Studierenden, Doktorierenden und Postdocs sowie Forschungsprojekte finanziert werden sollen. Dieser umfassendere Ansatz soll von einem gemeinsamen politischen Ausschuss und einem die wissenschaftliche Gemeinschaft in beiden Ländern vertretenden wissenschaftlichen Ausschuss umgesetzt werden. Die getroffenen Grundsatzvereinbarungen zeugen vom guten Ruf der schweizerischen Wissenschaft und Technologie in Asien und insbesondere in China und sind ein Gewinn für die schweizerische Wissenschafts- und Aussenpolitik.

Die Delegation der Schweizer Universitätsrektoren umfasste namentlich die Professoren André Hurst, Rektor der Universität Genf, Ulrich Gäbler, Rektor der Universität Basel und Hans R. Thierstein, Prorektor Internationales, ETH Zürich.

Auskünfte:

Rachel Horner, Stellvertretende Ressortleiterin Bilaterale Forschungszusammenarbeit, Staatssekretariat für Bildung und Forschung SBF, Tel. 031 323 20 93

Communiqué de presse, Pékin, le 22 septembre 2005

Le secrétaire d'Etat à l'éducation et à la recherche Charles Kleiber accompagné d'une délégation de recteurs des universités suisses a rencontré à Pékin les vice-ministres chinois de l'éducation, de la science et de la technologie. La délégation suisse a fait avec ses interlocuteurs le point des coopérations existantes et a discuté les possibilités de développer les échanges entre la Suisse et la Chine dans le domaine de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche et de la technologie. Ces entretiens ont donné une nouvelle impulsion à la coopération scientifique avec la Chine.

Au ministère de l'éducation, le secrétaire d'Etat Charles Kleiber et la délégation des recteurs se sont entretenus avec le vice-ministre Zhang Baoqing. Ils se sont mis d'accord avec leurs interlocuteurs chinois sur une augmentation



du nombre de bourses d'échanges et sur le principe de la reconnaissance des équivalences dans l'enseignement supérieur. Au ministère de la science et de la technologie, Charles Kleiber et la délégation des recteurs ont été reçus par le vice-ministre Li Xueyong. Ils ont fait le point avec leurs interlocuteurs chinois des projets de coopération existants et prévus dans un avenir immédiat et ont discuté les possibilités de développer à terme des activités de recherche conjointes.

Ces rencontres ont surtout servi à déterminer les principes directeurs qui permettront de donner une nouvelle impulsion à la coopération scientifique entre la Suisse et la Chine. Il s'agira à l'avenir de créer un fonds commun de coopération qui alimentera des échanges d'étudiants, de doctorants et de post-doctorants et des projets de recherche dans les domaines d'intérêt mutuel. Cette approche plus intégrée devrait être conduite par un comité politique mixte et un comité scientifique représentant la communauté scientifique suisse et chinoise. Les accords de principe réalisés témoignent de la bonne réputation de la science et de la technologie suisse en Asie et spécialement en Chine et constitue un atout dans le cadre de la politique scientifique et de la politique extérieure de la Suisse.

La délégation des recteurs comprenait notamment les professeurs André Hurst, recteur de l'Université de Genève, Ulrich Gäbler, recteur de l'Université de Bâle, et Hans R. Thierstein, pro-recteur pour les relations internationales de l'Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Zurich.

Renseignements:

Rachel Horner, cheffe suppléante de l'unité Coopération bilatérale de recherche, Secrétariat d'Etat à l'éducation et à la recherche, Tél. 031 323 20 93

Environment

China to independently build core vessel of 650,000-kw nuclear power plant

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-27)

China First Heavy Industry (CFHI), one of the nation's leading manufacturers, will independently construct the Reactor Pressurized Vessel (RPV) of a 650,000-kw generating unit.

The vessel will be the first of its kind ever built entirely by a Chinese manufacturer, CFHI President Wu Shengfu said at the contract signing ceremony held in Beijing Sunday.

The price of domestically made RPV is about two thirds of the imported one, he said, noting that foreign companies also offer more moderate prices than Chinese companies taking part in the competition.

RPV, the vessel in which nuclear fission takes place, is the core of nuclear plants. It is unchangeable and decides the safety and life-span of nuclear plants.

The pressurized water reactor generating unit is the No. 4 generating unit of the second phase of the Qinshan Nuclear Power Plant based in East China's Zhejiang Province. RPV of the No. 3 generating unit will be constructed by Doosan Corporation of the Republic of Korea.

Li Yongjiang, board chairman of Nuclear Power Qinshan Joint Venture Company Limited, said that the use of domestically made equipment will cut the total price of the generating unit by about 20 percent.

"We also chose a foreign company in this project because Doosan's reasonable price, and because it's only the first time for a Chinese company to independently undertake such a significant construction," he said.

According to him, the use of domestically made equipment will increase from 55 percent in the No. 1 and 2 generating units to 70 percent in the No. 3 and 4 units, and the construction term will be shortened from 72 months to 60 months.



China encourages further foreign investment in road transportation industry

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-26)

China welcomes foreign investment in the road transportation industry, an official said at the third Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference on Monday.

Various policies, including solo ownership and joint capital and cooperation were made to encourage foreign investors to invest in China's road transport industry," said Zhang Jianfei with China's Ministry of Communications.

According to the commitments China made to the World Trade Organization (WTO), WTO members are allowed to invest in the transportation business in China by means of solo ownership, he said.

Foreign investment is allowed to be input in infrastructure, especially those in rural areas, to boost rural passenger transport network and cargo transport developments, he said.

Foreign-funded transportation companies enjoy national treatment in China, Zhang said.

Since China adopted its policy of opening to the outside world in 1979, its road transportation industry has absorbed approximately 5 billion US dollars of foreign investment.

By the end of 2004, China has signed 10 bilateral motor transport treaties and three multilateral intergovernmental treaties with countries like Russia, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Laos, Vietnam, and Nepal, and set up 60 international road ports.

China to begin constructing its biggest nuclear power plant next year

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-26)

The construction of a nuclear power plant in Yangjiang, a port city in south China's Guangdong Province, is expected to begin early next year, said Zhong Yi, vice mayor of the city.

It will be the largest nuclear power plant in China.

The plant will have six reactors with a total installed capacity of six million kilowatts and a budget of 80 billion yuan (about 9.86 billion US dollars). According to Zhong, 93 percent of preparatory infrastructure for the the plant, which was approved by the State Council, has been completed. International bidding for plant equipment supplies was announced last September and remains open.

So far, a dozen international nuclear power giants have placed bids. Winners of the bidding will be chosen and announced before the end of the year. China currently operates nuclear power plants at Daya Bay and Ling'ao, both in Guangdong Province, and Qinshan, in eastern Zhejiang Province, and has been building a fourth one at Lianyungang, in east China's Jiangsu Province.

Chinese railway eyes five objectives

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-21)

In the next 15 years China will give emphasis to railway construction in five aspects so as to carry forward development of railway and meet demands of national economy and social development.

According to Chief economist of the Ministry of Railway Huang Min, by 2020 the operating-mileage of China's railway will reach 100,000 km; railway for cargo transport will be separated from those for passenger transport in artery lines; double-track of artery lines will realize electrification; the double-track rate and electrification rate will reach 50 percent; transport capacity and quality are to satisfy demands of national economy and social development; the principal technical equipment will reach or approach international advanced level. The work is to be done in the following aspects:



Build fast passenger transport networks. Through constructing passenger transport lines, developing inter-city rail transport and upgrading existing railway, a 30,000 km-long fast passenger transport network, with Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Xi'an and Chengdu as hubs, most provincial capitals as connecting point will be built.

Improve the layout of railway networks. Expand railway network in the western region, and improve the structure in middle and eastern regions. About 16,000 km new railway will be built.
Intensify the construction of coal transport channels. Further strengthen construction of coal transportation channel to form a coal transport system with strong capacity, advanced organization and complete functions.

Build a container transport system. Put up 18 central container stations and 40 container handling stations near provincial capitals, large ports and major inland ports; form a container transport network by building new railway and upgrading existing railway.

Strengthen construction of principal hubs. Make adjustment to marshalling stations and upgrade passenger transport stations; build maintenance and repair bases for locomotives and carriages; improve structure of hubs.

Preliminary estimation shows the above projects need approx two trillion yuan, Huang Min said. To completely realize the goals set in medium and long term railway plan, government's dominant role should be further intensified and social capitals should be drawn to railway construction.

China faces six challenges in the 21st century, expert

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-06)

China will inevitably run into six major challenges during its development in the 21st century, said Niu Wenyan, chief scientist and team leader of the research of sustainable development strategy at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, at the 21st Century Forum' 2005 in Beijing.

First is the coming of three population peaks in the future three to four decades. China already has a total population of 1.3 billion, and each year of the coming two decades will see an average of 10 million newborns.

Second is the excessive consumption of energies and natural resources at this developing stage. It is learned that China contributed 4.3 percent to world economy in 2004, but used the world's 30 percent coal, 27 percent iron and steel, 25 percent aluminium and 40 percent cement. This extensive way of resources unitization will hardly be curbed in the coming two or three decades.

Third is the overall and continuous deterioration of ecological environment in this country.

Forth is the enormous pressure of urbanization. "Currently we have 12 to 13 million people moving from rural to urban areas each year, and the trend will continue into the coming 30 to 40 years," said Niu.

The last two challenges are narrowing regional gaps and solving fundamental problems concerning farmers, agriculture and rural areas, as well as the cultivation of the capacity of sustainable development and national strength.

The six challenges would severely hinder China's future advancement, Niu stressed, and sound development can only be achieved under the guidance of the scientific concept of comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development.

China's development goals in 50 years

"It will take China 50 years to reach the level of sustainable development in moderately developed countries and enter the top ten rankings in overall capability of sustainable development" said Niu Wenyan, chief scientist of the research group for sustainable development of the Chinese Academy of Sciences at the 21st Century Forum' 2005 on September 5.



The goals are as follows:

By 2050, the contribution of scientific development to the overall national economy reaches 70 to 75 percent.

By 2050, the average life expectancy of Chinese people can reach 85 years.

By 2050, Engel Coefficient averagely should be below 0.15, Gini Coefficient averagely between 0.30 and 0.35, Human Development Index above 0.9 and dual structure coefficient within 1.5.

In 2050, per capita years of receiving education will be extended from the present 7.8 years to above 14 years.

China will strive to realize a zero growth of its natural growth rate of population and at the same time improve the population quality and mix.

China will strive to realize a zero growth of the speed of energy and resources consumption and at the same time vigorously improve its capability of wealth accumulation.

China will strive to realize a zero growth of the speed of degradation of eco-system and environment and meanwhile make efforts to improve their quality, and improve the overall living environment to enter a sound cycle of sustainable development in an all-round way.

Niu said, based on the conclusion drawn from the consensus across the world, to implement the strategy of sustainable development, all the countries must strive for "three zero growths": first, zero growth of natural growth rate of population, which is a basic balance between birth rate and death rate and is yet to be attained in China; second, zero growth of the speed of consumption of energy and resources, which cannot be realized without a balanced population, but through building a conservation-minded society and take a path of a new type of industrialization, which will pave the way for the third step, zero growth of the speed of the degradation of eco-system and environment.

Land erosion poses threat to grain yield

(China Daily, 2005-09-26)

HARBIN: Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, China's biggest grain-producing area, might lose its fertile black soil within 50 years unless severe soil erosion is curbed, experts warned.

A statement from the Heilongjiang Water Resources Department shows that a quarter of all the land in the province is suffering from soil erosion to varying degrees.

The blame is being put on the destruction of the province's natural vegetation, which allows wind and rain to blow and wash the soil away.

The province's black soil, which gets the credit for the high grain yield, is disappearing at the drastic rate of nearly 300 million cubic metres annually.

The vital elements contained within the lost soil, such as nitrogen, phosphorus and kalium, would amount to 5 million tons of standard fertilizer.

Each year, soil erosion causes the grain output to reduce by an estimated 2 to 4 billion kilograms.

The black soil layer in the province is diminishing by about 1 centimetre every year, according to the statement.

"Judging from the current exploitation and erosion rate, the soil will be wiped out within 50 years," said Liu Yan, who works in the Water and Soil Preservation Office of the department.

Black soil is formed by the decay of dead plants in the earth over a long period of time and in a cold climate. It is well known for its richness in organic materials and easiness to plough.



The original thickness of the soil layer in Heilongjiang before large-scale exploitation in the 1950s was around 60 to 80 centimetres. Now that figure is down to about 20 to 30 centimetres on average, according to Liu.

"Black soil is one of the most valuable natural resources that cannot be reproduced because it takes 400 years to form a centimetre of the soil," he added.

"We are now using the land earmarked for our grandchildren," said Guo Jingchun, deputy director of the Heilongjiang Agricultural Science Institute.

"This is not alarmism," he said. "Man-made factors are causing huge land erosion."

According to Guo, the damage done to the black soil by our generation through excessive exploitation is equivalent to the damage usually done by three generations.

"If we let the same trend continue, our grandchildren will obviously have nothing to grow on," he said.

Guo said that the wide use of artificial fertilizer is causing more "inner damage" to the black soil.

Plants can only absorb about 25 per cent of the fertilizer used, the remaining is left in the earth. It will gradually harden the soil and accelerate the process of changing the land into sand.

Besides the black soil belt in Northeast China, there are another two large areas of similar black soil on the Ukrainian Plain and in the Mississippi region of the US.

Severe land erosion also occurred during the development of those two places. "Black hurricanes" were a common feature in the two areas in the 1920s.

They both decided to plant more trees to weaken the wind, and also planted different crops in different seasons.

A large-scale soil preservation campaign is kicking off in Heilongjiang Province with a series of tree planting projects along the Songhua River and Wuyu'er River, two main rivers in the province.

Alstom builds its largest global hydro power base in China

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-14)

Tianjin Alstom Hydro Co., Ltd (TAH), a leading supplier of hydropower generation equipment and systems in China contributed nearly 30 percent share of the domestic hydro market. Alstom now owns 99 percent share of TAH, which was jointly founded with a company under Tianjin municipality in 1995.

With the heavy investment and the full technologies transferred from Alstom, TAH has been turned into the world's first class hydropower equipment manufacture enterprise that is capable of making and supplying the largest hydro turbine, up to 900 MW in the world. The factory covers an area of 60,000 sq m, an annual order volume of more than 170 million euros.

The development of TAH in the past decade reflects the tremendous growth of Alstom's hydropower business in China. As the largest power generation equipment and technology provider to the Three Gorges project, and the winner of the 16 sets of 300MW units Pumped Storage Project, Alstom is by far the unparallel leader in China's hydropower market.

In addition to manufacturing technologies, Alstom has also transferred engineering know-how to facilitate businesses' rapid growth in China. Philippe Joubert, president of Alstom Power Turbo-Systems and Environment Sectors, said, "we have been continuously delivering as promised, which is evidenced in all our investments and rapidly expanding activities here. We reiterate that China is the most important market of Alstom in the world. Our vision is to become a true Chinese player in all fields, consistently contributing our most advanced technologies and proven know-how to facilitate China in building its electric power infrastructure."



Health

China admits gays as major group for AIDS prevention, control

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-2)

Gays, long neglected in China out of moral concern, are a group that exists and is of major concern to fight against HIV/AIDS, said Chinese Vice Health Minister Wang Longde Wednesday.

At the Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, Beijing Plus Ten meeting commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Wang said that the Chinese government cannot fail to admit that gays exist and neglect them as they are very important in checking the spread of AIDS.

How to deal with gays is a serious problem, he said, pointing out that many gays not only have sex with men, but also with women, who could well be infected with the HIV virus.

According to UNAIDS, the U.N. body coordinating the fight against the disease, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS is 39.4 million. Over the past two years, AIDS patients in east Asia and Pacific region increased by 50 percent.

China had 840,000 people infected with HIV at the end of 2003 and experts predict that the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in China could exceed 10 million by 2010 if no strong measures are taken.

But the number was only an estimate as it is hard to tell how many people actually live with HIV/AIDS.

China is investigating the spread of HIV in many regions across the country, and will offer a "much more accurate figure" to be released around World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, said Wang.

Study: Gender inequality serious in China's rural areas

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-08)

Gender inequality still exists in China, especially in poverty-stricken rural areas, a recent national study on gender assessment learned.

Professor Li Xiaoyun of the College of Humanities and Development at China Agricultural University said on Tuesday that although the status of Chinese women has improved greatly in the past two decades, gender inequality still commonly exists in almost all social aspects including political power, education, health, employment and assets possession. Li made the comments in Beijing at a workshop on gender and poverty in China.

A study group led by Li earlier this year surveyed 10 villages in the poorest rural areas including Sichuan, Gansu, Shaanxi and Jiangxi provinces, as well as the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

"In poverty-stricken areas, men and women are quite unequal in political rights," Li said. "Women are less involved in villager autonomy elections and account for a very low percentage of the village committee."

"Some male villagers think women cannot be leaders because of their weak thinking capacity and physical condition. More important is that women were not nominated in the election process."

As women have participated little in decision making, with only 12.5 per cent of rural cadres being women, few women have received training and benefits from village-level poverty reduction programmes, the study found.

Jointly funded by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the study is part of a one-year study on gender assessment in China that was launched in October last year.



More measures are expected, in order to reduce the gender gap and enhance gender awareness among policy-makers, development project planners and practitioners, said Shireen Lateef, principal gender specialist for the bank.

"In light of the apparent gender inequality in East Asia, the Asian Development Bank has promised to introduce a gender equality strategy into every project and activity," Lateef said.

Women also have less decision-making power at home and less chance of receiving education, nutrition and health care, the survey's results indicated.

For example, Wang Xiulian, a 42-year-old resident of Xingmin Village in Ningxia with no formal education, has to work long hours in the vegetable greenhouse, which has made her suffer from severe asthma. Wang's husband, who has a senior middle school education, is mainly responsible for herding sheep.

The study also found that the prevalence of illness rates in rural women is 5 per cent higher than in rural men. In the villages surveyed, about 60 per cent of women suffered from a long-term illness, and twice as many doctor visits were made by women compared with men.

Long work hours and poor nutrition and care after childbirth are blamed as the two main reasons why women's illness rates are higher.

In Houhe Village, Sichuan Province, more than 70 per cent of women suffer from gynaecological illnesses. Many of the women who have died of hysteritis in Panzhuang Village in Shaanxi in recent years were in their 30s.

While men try to find jobs that pay more substantially, most farm work in recent years has fallen to women, meaning that they are doing housework in addition to their labours outside, the survey found.

Guo Ju, 55, a resident of Xiaowang Village in Gansu Province who cannot read or write, cooks, washes and cleans after finishing her day's work on the farm. Guo's husband herds cows, and their four children have left home to work in cities.

Guo had a quarrel with her husband during the wheat harvesting recently. She said. "I asked my husband to help me, but he said his job is just to herd the cows."

Death toll in natural disasters no longer kept as China's state secret

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-12)

China no longer regards the death toll in natural disasters and relevant materials as state secrets, reversing a practice that has lasted for years, a government spokesman said in Beijing Monday.

"Declassification of these figures and materials will facilitate our disaster relief work and also ensure the people's right to know," said Shen Yongshe, spokesman of the National Administration for the Protection of State Secrets.

He said at a press conference that the administration and the Ministry of Civil Affairs have jointly issued a document on declassifying such figures and materials both at national and provincial levels from August 2005.

"Previous stipulations that classify related information as confidential are abolished accordingly," he said.

Shen said that the old practice was adopted in line with the historical conditions the country faced in the past. As China continues to deepen reform and improve its disaster relief work, keeping the death toll as state secret conforms to neither the need to develop the country's disaster relief work nor the practice widely adopted by the international community.



"Declassification of such information is conducive to boosting our disaster prevention and relief work," he said.

The decision marks a major step taken by the government toward "administering according to law" and "building a transparent government," he added.

Zou Ming, a senior official of the ministry, said the Chinese government always attaches importance to the disaster relief work and the Ministry of Civil Affairs has done a lot in releasing information about natural disasters.

In fact, he said, the ministry has begun to make public the death toll of major natural disasters and the annual total over the past few years.

"It helps raise the social concern over and public awareness of natural disasters, and facilitate international exchanges and cooperation in this field," Zou said.

Mainland population below 1.37 billion by 2010

(China Daily, 2005-09-17)

QINGDAO - China's population and family planning minister on Friday said China will work to limit its mainland population below 1.37 billion by 2010.

Zhang Weiqing, minister in charge of the National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC), said that China has been working to build a new mechanism featuring management according to law, self-governance of villagers or residents, quality services, policy impetus and comprehensive management as an overall approach towards the population issue during the past few years.

On a workshop held in Qingdao of the eastern China's Shandong province, Zhang stressed that China will keep its family planning policy in place to maintain a low birth level.

To some extent, China's population growth has been brought under control in the past 30 years, with a steady growth of 100 million people every seven years, postponing China's 1.3-billion Population Day by four years to fall on early this year. According to data released by NPFPC, given China failed to implement the family planning policy, China's population would be nearly 400 million more than the present figure.

Zhang said China should continue to improve its population legal system in an effort to work out laws and regulations on managing unbalanced sex ratio at birth, reducing birth defect rate, strengthening management of population control medicines and family planning services to eliminate practices that hurt people's legal rights and interests.

He also stressed that work should be done to study population policies focusing on all-round development of humans and implement interest-oriented policies to award and assist families practicing family planning.

Starting from 2004, China began to implement a pilot project of "rewarding some rural households practicing family planning." Last year, more than 310,000 farmers in 10 cities of five provinces where the pilot project was implemented received around 200 million yuan (24 million dollars) in cash reward for having only one child or two daughters in their families.

The Sept. 16-18 meeting will study progresses and experience during the Tenth Five-Year Plan period from 2001 to 2005 on family planning reform and new mechanism construction and put forward the goal that most regions in the country should set up such a mechanism by 2010 as a way to properly handle the population issue in a comprehensive way.



172 affected in Fujian cholera outbreak

(China Daily, 2005-09-20)

FUZHOU: A total of 172 cholera cases have been found since August in East China's Fujian Province, the highest number in recent years.

So far, there have been no deaths since the first case was found on August 12 in Fuzhou, capital of the province. The reported 172 cases include 137 in Fuzhou, and sporadic ones in a few other coastal areas, according to statistics from the Health Department of the Fujian provincial government.

So far, 83 patients have recovered and been released from hospital. All other patients are in a stable condition.

The incidence of the disease is higher than the same period in recent years, said health officials.

Most patients said that they had eaten seafood in some small roadside restaurants. An initial investigation by the province's health and epidemic prevention departments agreed that the outbreak was caused by seafood, especially shellfish.

The departments have been inspecting more than 100 kinds of seafood in the province in order to confirm the cause of the disease.

To stop the disease spreading further, quarantine and inspection stations have been requested to enhance sanitation supervision for seafood in the markets and shut down restaurants without business licences.

Meanwhile, the provincial health department also required relevant hospitals to strengthen the monitoring of diarrhoea cases and other suspected cases, and report disease updates to superior departments.

Cholera is an acute infectious disease of the small intestine, caused by the bacterium vibrio cholera and characterized by profuse watery diarrhoea, vomiting, muscle cramps, severe dehydration, and depletion of electrolytes. It can lead to rapid dehydration of the body and prove fatal unless treated quickly.

Shellfish eaten raw or undercooked is a potential source of cholera, according to Xu Longshan, an expert with Fujian Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

The incidence of cholera and other intestinal diseases has been kept at a low level in the past three years. However, August has seen a big rise over the same period last year.

China will set up 34 sites nationwide to conduct routine cholera monitoring, according to a plan issued early this month by the Ministry of Health.

The aim of the plan is to enhance cholera monitoring, discover new cases in time, confirm the source of epidemic diseases and increase understanding of these diseases, the plan said. Monitoring sites will also be built in 17 regions including Hainan, Guangdong, Fujian, Shanghai, Beijing and Chongqing.

China offers herbal treatment for HIV/AIDS carriers

(People's Daily on line, 2005-09-24)

A test program to treat HIV/AIDS carriers with traditional Chinese medicine has seen preliminary clinical achievements. According to the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, since China launched the program last August, eleven provinces and municipalities in total have been included.

Compared with the Western-style drugs that may have many side effects and are too expensive, the cost for traditional Chinese medicine in HIV/AIDS treatment is relatively low and results in fewer side effects.

According to doctors, the herbal treatment aims to protect and raise patients' immunity, ease the symptoms so as to secure a better quality of life.



In contrast, the western style treatment aims to kill the virus. But so far there hasn't been any kind of medicine proved to be successful in doing that.

The test program of herbal treatment are part of China's ongoing campaign to help thousands of HIV/AIDS sufferers with the use of traditional Chinese medicine as a way to fight the fatal disease.

Liu Wenwu, an official with the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, says that the implementation of such test program looks smooth and promising.

"Since the national test program was launched in August 2004, about 2,700 AIDS patients in the five provinces of Henan, Hebei, Anhui, Hubei and Guangdong, have got help by June this year. What's more, we are adding 6 more provinces into our coverage this year," said Liu.

The central government has earmarked some 36 million Yuan, or more than 4.5 million US dollars, for the test program.

More than half of which cover the cost for the drugs and the rest will be used in the training and management of the medical staff.

HIV/AIDS carriers from the pilot areas who voluntarily participate in the program are receiving free treatment in test clinic bases established in those provinces.

The local government and hospitals will maintain the privacy of the volunteer patients and doctors will adopt different therapies to patients in accordance with their specific conditions.

Doctors say it is also possible to use the combination of western-style anti-virus drugs with traditional Chinese medicine.

According to Liu Wenwu, herbal treatment for HIV/AIDS carriers has seen fairly good clinical effects.

"Statistics show that herbal treatment for HIV/AIDS patients evidently help ease the common symptoms include diarrhea, vomit, weariness. Traditional Chinese medicine also effectively reduces those side effects of anti-virus drugs. Patients and their relatives welcome our treatment, which has enriched the clinic treatment for HIV/AIDS," said Liu.

Liu Wenwu added that in regards to the differences between western-style and Chinese traditional medicines, the evaluation standards of the two are different. Chinese traditional medicine experts are establishing a standardized evaluation system for curative effects, in an effort to scientifically carry out herbal treatment for HIV/AIDS.

Official statistics show China had 840,000 people infected with HIV by the end of 2003.

The World Health Organization reveals that over one-third of the population in developing countries lack access to essential medicine.

Since China has fully integrated traditional medicine into its health care systems, the provision of safe and effective traditional medicine therapies could become a critical tool to increase access to the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

New Cure for Leukemia

(Xinhua News Agency September 26, 2005)

China has developed its own typing reagent of hematopoietic stem cell, which could be used to cure leukemia, according to sources with the Chinese Academy of Military Medical Sciences.



The homemade HLA-DRB1 typing reagent is cheaper than imported reagent of its kind and is easier and quicker in use, said Wang Shengqi, head of the key laboratory of biological genetic chips under the academy, who has led the team of this research for five years.

The new typing reagent can be used to test all the 13 discovered genetic types of HLA-DRB1, covering all the 18 known serological types, according to Wang.

Transplantation of hematopoietic stem cell is the most effective treatment of leukemia. Bone marrow donors have to go through HLA genetic typing to find a matchable leukemia patient, he said.

The reagent is also applicable in organ transplantation, forensic medicine and HLA-related studies, Wang revealed, noting that it breaks the monopoly of foreign bone marrow and organ transplantation typing reagents in China.

The reagent has been approved by the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) this month, and will be soon put into production by a Shenzhen-based company, he said.

China is estimated to have nearly 4 million leukemia patients, and the number is increasing by 40,000 every year, Wang said. The national data base of bone marrow had received donation from more than 290,000 people by the end of July this year, according to previous reports.

China's Phase One AIDS Vaccine Trial Nears End

(Xinhua News Agency September 18, 2005)

Fifteen volunteers were injected with Chinese home made AIDS vaccine Sunday in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, a signal China's phase one AIDS vaccine trial test has entered the final phase, said a Chinese medical expert.

Chen Jie, deputy director of Guangxi autonomous regional disease control center, said clinical data of all the volunteers will serve a scientific basis to show whether the second phase trial project of AIDS vaccine will start.

All the 49 volunteers for the phase-one trial test, divided into eight groups, were all in good physical condition and no one ever quit.

The State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) approved the first clinical phase of the new AIDS vaccine on Nov. 25, 2004.

There have been 35 AIDS vaccine trial tests on humans around the world, most of which are still at the early phase. With its first AIDS case reported in 1985, China now has an estimated 840,000 HIV carriers and AIDS patients, according to sources with Chinese medical authorities.