



Science, Technology and Education News from China

Number 48 – June 2008

Please note that the previous newsletters can be downloaded from the website of the Embassy of Switzerland in China: www.eda.admin.ch/beijing. To subscribe/unsubscribe or send us your comments, please send an eMail with the corresponding subject to shu.zhou@eda.admin.ch.

Introduction

June 2008 could be a turning point for China to become self-reliant on science and innovation, as President Hu Jintao made a strong plea for Chinese creativity during a conference of scientists and academicians, organised by two of the major Chinese scientific and engineering research institutions in Beijing. The budget for science has increased by 25% in 2008, outperforming an average of 20% increases of previous years. The Chinese State Key Laboratories are making plans for the next five years and are encouraged to cooperate with international organisations. With the 863 and 973 programmes in full flung, China is ready to take on the world on science and technology developments, which will be witnessed when the first “Chinaman” steps on the Moon in October this year.

Contents

1. Hu Says Self-Reliance Vital For Scientific Development; President Makes Strong Plea for Chinese Creativity ..	2
2. 6.4 Billion Yuan for NSFC Projects in 2008	2
3. State Key-Lab Plans To Be Handed In.....	2
4. The 10th Anniversary of 973 Programme Seminars Held in Changsha.....	3
5. China's 1st Spacewalk Mission to Launch in October	3
6. China Launches French-Built Satellite.....	3
7. “Gene Therapy for Severe Diseases” and Related Seminars Held in Shanghai	4
8. CAS Researchers Find New Androgen-Receptor Modulators.....	4
9. Most China-Made Performance-Enhancing Drug Ingredients Legally Exported	4
10. Vigorous Relief Efforts Made in Resources and Environment Fields.....	4
11. Feasibility Study on Swiss Centre in Shanghai	4

Contact

Markus Reubi
Science & Technology Counsellor
Embassy of Switzerland in the People's Republic of China
 Tel: +86 10 8532 8849
 Email: Markus.Reubi@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/beijing



1. **Hu Says Self-Reliance Vital For Scientific Development; President Makes Strong Plea for Chinese Creativity**

(SCMP, 24-06-2008)

President Hu Jintao addressed mainland scientific leaders yesterday, underlining the need for self-reliance as the country begins to elbow into the higher-end global market and take on the challenges of technologically more advanced countries. "[We] must stick to developing our own capabilities to create," Mr Hu told a gathering of nearly 1,500 members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. To underscore the leadership's support, all top leaders - except Vice-President Xi Jinping, who is on an overseas tour - attended yesterday's meeting. [...] Mr Hu's comments were much stronger than those he made at the same event two years ago, when he focused on the need to import overseas talent and engage in international co-operation. Back then, he said "drawing experience and talent from overseas is equally important to self-reliance" and urged mainland scientists to set up co-operative laboratories and research institutes and foster joint research and development programmes. Analysts differed on whether the change in the tone of Mr Hu's speeches signalled a shift in the central government's R&D policy.

Full story:

<http://www6.lexisnexis.com/publisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=574&topicId=100038738&docId=I:811503012&start=4>

Related stories:

[President Hu attends conference of science and engineering academicians](#)

[Hu highlights China's progress, "large gap" in sci-tech development](#)

[Chinese premier calls for sciences, technology to serve social, economic development](#)

2. **6.4 Billion Yuan for NSFC Projects in 2008**

(NSFC, 20-06-2008)

NSFC President Prof. Chen Yiyu announced at NSFC's Sixth Plenary Session of the General Assembly that a budget of RMB53.59 billion (CHF8 billion), which is an increased of 25% to that of last year, was approved by the government for the fiscal year 2008. In practice, NSFC, based on the demand of national budgeting reform and the development of basic research, will arrange a funding plan of RMB6.4 billion (CHF0.95 billion). According to Prof. Chen, 73,800 applications were received from 1,570 registered institutions across the country in 2007, which were 6000 more in number (or an increase of 8.9%) compared to that of 2006. Under the funding framework of research promotion, talents training and infrastructure establishment, 14700 projects from 920 registered institutions were funded, with a total budget of RMB4.975 billion (CHF0.74 billion).

Full story: http://www.nsf.gov.cn/Portal0/InfoModule_479/25329.htm

3. **State Key-Lab Plans To Be Handed In**

(Chinalab.gov.cn, 02-06-2008)

Since 1985, China has built up 153 state key laboratories (SKLs) with an investment of RMB 1.68 billion (CHF0.25 billion), covering most subjects of the basic research in China. The Ministry of Science and Technology is calling for SKLs to submit their plans for 2008 and for the next five years (2008 – 2012). Each SKL is allocated an estimate of RMB10 million (CHF1.5 billion) for upgrading their equipments and matching facilities this year. International cooperation is encouraged and should be built into the plan. The deadline for submission is 1 July 2008.



4. The 10th Anniversary of 973 Programme Seminars Held in Changsha

(973.gov.cn, 18-06-2008)

Between 13 and 14 June 2008, the Basic Research Administrative Centre of the Basic Research Department, Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST), organized a management seminar, one of the series of the conferences to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 973 Programme in Changsha, Hunan Province. Representatives from the National Natural Sciences Foundation (NSFC), the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the State Oceanic Administration, and SinoPec, as well as research managers from Peking University, Tsinghua University, and CAS attended the conference. [...] After 10 years of reform, it is widely recognised among the science and research network in China to use the following management mechanisms.

- A project initiation system that depends on consultation between scientists and the government;
- A Lead-Scientist accountability system;
- An intermediate-stage appraisal system;
- A classified appraisal system.

Representatives also gave comments and suggestions on how to strengthen the collaboration between scientists and the government, and at the meantime, to avoid multiple applications on the same subjects from different sources.

5. China's 1st Spacewalk Mission to Launch in October

(Xinhua, 12-06-2008)



China's Shenzhou VII manned space mission is to launch in October. It will include the first spacewalk by a Chinese "taikonaut." A crew of six astronauts had been chosen for the mission.

Full story: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-06/12/content_8353687.htm

6. China Launches French-Built Satellite

(Xinhua, 09-06-2008)

China launched a new communications satellite, Zhongxing-9, from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the south western Sichuan Province at 8:15 p.m. (Beijing Time) on Monday, 8 June 2008. [...] Zhongxing-9, a satellite ordered by China Satcom from the France-based Thales Alenia Space, would be used for live television broadcast and put into use before the Beijing Olympic Games in August. [...] Audiences would be able to watch live broadcasts of Olympic events via the satellite. The quality and coverage of the country's television and broadcasting services were to be increased, and people in remote regions of China would receive clear television programs.

Full story: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-06/09/content_8334551.htm



7. “Gene Therapy for Severe Diseases” and Related Seminars Held in Shanghai

(863.org.cn, 19-06-2008)

China Biological Technology Development Centre organized a series of seminars recently in Shanghai on “Gene Therapy for Severe Diseases”, “Cell and Immunity Treatment for Severe Diseases”, “The Commercialisation of Key Technologies in Biological Treatment and Related Products” under the 863 programme for the 11th Five Year Plan period.

8. CAS Researchers Find New Androgen-Receptor Modulators

(CAS, 20-06-2008)

Recently “*Natural China*” reported a finding made by WANG Mingwei and his team. In collaboration with Sichuan University West China School of Pharmacy, WANG Mingwei and co-workers from the CAS Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica have discovered a class of androgen-receptor modulators that may result in a better treatment of prostate cancer.

Full story: <http://english.cas.cn/Eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?infoNo=27203>

9. Most China-Made Performance-Enhancing Drug Ingredients Legally Exported

(Xinhua, 19-06-2008)

China's drug watchdog refuted reports on the country's alleged large amount of performance-enhancing drug ingredients exports on Wednesday, saying most China-made ingredients that can be used in making the drugs were legally exported. [...]China is the world's biggest producer of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). Its API exports reached US\$10.6 billion in 2006, according to China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products. The country's exports of medicinal and health care products have been expanding by more than 20% on average each year, with over 60% being APIs and medical dressings, figures from the Ministry of Commerce show.

Full story: http://www.china.org.cn/health/2008-06/19/content_15854344.htm

10. Vigorous Relief Efforts Made in Resources and Environment Fields

(MOST, 24-06-2008)

Organized by MOST and related authorities, experts and researchers working on projects on resources and environment under the 863 Program and the National Key Technologies R&D Program have played important roles in disaster relief and reconstruction after the deadly May 12 earthquake. They either put forward suggestions and proposals or carried out field studies at the quake-stricken areas. Suggestions were made to ensure drinking water safety. The card of “Knowledge on Drinking Water Safety in Quake-stricken Areas” was compiled and distributed. Teamwork on ecological restoration and reconstruction was carried out in a number of fields including evaluation of eco-destruction, monitoring of wildlife zoonoses, and protection of rare and endangered wild animals. Efforts were also made to provide technical backing to waste treatment and the clear-up of debris.

11. Feasibility Study on Swiss Centre in Shanghai

(Swissnex Shanghai, 30-06-2008)

Swissnex Shanghai has launched a feasibility study for an interdisciplinary Swiss Centre within the Centre for European Studies at Fudan University one of the leading institutions of higher learning in China. The main aim of the project would be to leverage on the reputation of Fudan University, to significantly enhance the scientific cooperation between China and Switzerland by developing exchange activities focus on social and economic issues. Attached to the Centre for European Studies, the Swiss Centre intends to highlight Swiss innovative research topics in order to profile and showcase the unique situation of Switzerland in Europe.