



Science, Technology and Education News from China

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Introduction

China's Scientist Premier recently spoke with *Science* about China's efforts to ground its economic and social development in sound science. Prof. Lothar Reh, retired Prof. at ETHZ, won another prize in China as the co-winner of this year's "State Friendship Award" and the "State Award for International Science and Technology Cooperation" with Prof. Scott Douglas Rozelle of United States. Also, Swiss higher education was represented yet again at the China International Education Expo 2008.

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1. [China's Scientist Premier](#)

(Science, 17-10-2008)

In a rare one-on-one interview, Premier Wen Jiabao recently spoke with Science about China's efforts to ground its economic and social development in sound science. Wen, 66, spoke candidly and forcefully, without notes, on everything from social and economic development being the "wellspring" of science and technology to cultivating scientific ethics and reducing China's reliance on fossil fuels. Highlights included remarks about the future of transgenic engineering: "I strongly advocate making great efforts to pursue transgenic engineering. The recent food shortages around the world have further strengthened my belief in developing such technologies."

More details on <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/data/322/5900/362/DC1/1>

2. [Winners of CAS Award for International Cooperation Receive National Prizes](#)

(CAS, 08-10-2008)



Scott Douglas Rozelle and Lothar Reh, laureates of the CAS Award for International Cooperation in Science and Technology in 2007, have both been honored with the State Friendship Award and the State Award for International Science and Technology Cooperation in 2008. [...] Reh, a pioneer in the development of circulating fluidized bed (CFB) technology from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich), has worked with the CAS Institute of Process Engineering (IPE) to create conditions for research and promote the signing of a strategic cooperation agreement between IPE and ETH Zürich. According to the agreement, the ETH Zürich donated a whole set of industry-scale CFB experimental equipment to IPE in the name of the Swiss Government, which was an important contribution to the establishment of a research platform for combining theory with experiment, and has produced extensive influences among the international academic community and industry.

More details on <http://english.cas.cn/eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?InfoNo=27369>

3. [State S&T Project Fund Auditing Kicked off](#)

(MOST, 08-10-2008)

MOST initiated fund auditing for the State S&T Projects in September. It is the first examination on the project fund utilization during the 11th Five Year period, covering 86 projects and 706 subjects of the 863 Program, 973 Program and Key Technologies R&D Program, and with a total fund over RMB4 billion.

More details on http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/pressroom/200810/t20081006_64152.htm

4. [China Report Warns of Greenhouse Gas Leap](#)

(Reuters, 22-10-2008)

China's greenhouse gas pollution could double or more in two decades says a new Chinese state think-tank study that casts stark light on the industrial giant's role in stoking global warming. [...] The study may add to contention over China's response to global warming at a time of accelerating international negotiations. Beijing will be at the heart of efforts to forge a treaty next year to succeed the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which expires at the end of 2012.

More details on http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2008/10/22/worldupdates/2008-10-22T112023Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0 -360899-1&sec=Worldupdates



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5. Accompanying Satellite Begins Orbiting Shenzhou-7 Spaceship

(CAST, 05-10-2008)

Picture released by China's manned space project on Oct. 5, 2008 shows the image of China's Shenzhou-7 spaceship, taken by a small monitoring satellite six seconds after it was released from the spaceship on Sept. 27, 2008. Launched about two hours after Chinese astronaut Zhai Zhigang finished the country's first spacewalk, the monitoring satellite has sent back over 1,000 pictures of the spaceship. The shadow on the spaceship was that of the monitoring satellite. (Xinhua Photo) It is the first time that China has succeeded in maneuvering this kind of space orbiting.

More details on <http://www.cast.cn/CastEn>Show.asp?ArticleID=28333>



6. China Leads Developing Countries on Health List

(China Daily, 28-10-2008)

China ranked 13th on a list ranking international health conditions released by a Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) study group recently. The tally uses a Nation Health Index (NHI) combining four branch indexes measuring populations' metabolisms, immunities, nervous systems and behavior, and determined China to be "qualified healthy". [...] Finland ranked No 1, and Nigeria came last. Overall, the development pattern of the Northern European countries was the healthiest. The United States ranked No 11, and Russia came in 29th.

More details on <http://english.cas.cn/eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?InfoNo=27404>

7. Pest Outbreak Contained in SW China

(China.com, 22-10-2008)

A pest outbreak in the tangerines in southwest China's Sichuan Province has been contained despite a brief period of panic it caused among the public. [...] Wan Fanghao, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said the pests destroy fruit crops but poses no major danger to human health, according to a notice posted on the Ministry of Agriculture website on 21 October 2008.

More details on
http://english.china.com/zh_cn/news/china/11020307/20081022/15149257.html



8. CERN LHC Start-Up on September 10, 2008

(NSFC, 06-10-2008)

Since 1999, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) have been jointly providing support to Chinese scientists for participating in the cooperation for R&D and construction of the two experiments of CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) and ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC Apparatus) in LHC. Chinese scientists successfully fulfilled their tasks undertaken.

More details on http://www.nsfc.gov.cn/Portal0/InfoModule_479/25994.htm



9. Scientists Complete Sequencing Giant Panda Genome

(CAS, 16-10-2008)

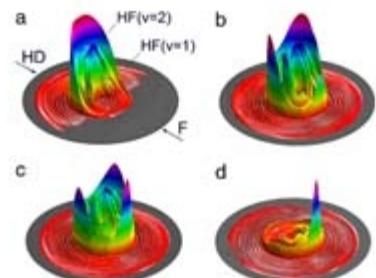
Chinese scientists have completed sequencing the genome of giant pandas. [...] They hope the new information will give them a better biological understanding of why pandas eat bamboo, have black circles around their eyes and produce few offspring. [...] There are about 1,590 pandas living in China's wild, mostly in Sichuan and the northwestern provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu. [...] Giant pandas, known for being sexually inactive, are among the world's most endangered animals due to a shrinking habitat. It's one reason why scientists decided to sequence its genome.

More details on <http://english.cas.cn/eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?InfoNo=27384>

10. Probing the Resonance Dynamics in the F+HD Reaction

(CAS, 21-10-2008)

Direct observation of the transition state in a chemical reaction is regarded as a "Holy Grail" in the chemistry community. This Holy Grail has recently been obtained by a group of physical chemists at the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics under CAS. The group, led by Profs. YANG Xueming and ZHANG Donghui, reports in the 2 Sept. issue of PNAS its success in observing the prominent forward scattering for the HF product in an important reaction, the reaction between fluorine atom (F) and hydrogen deuteride (HD), with unprecedented accuracy. This scattering, according to the team, is caused by the ground resonance state of the product. On the 3D contour plots obtained in their experiment, CAS researchers identify "dramatic" changes in the outcoming direction of product of the F+HD reaction against very small changes at collision energies around 0.5 kcal/mol. Illustrated are snapshots of the product translational energy at certain scattering angles with a range of collision energies: 0.43 kcal/mol (a); 0.48 kcal/mol (b); 0.52 kcal/mol (c); and 0.71 kcal/mol (d). (Image: YANG Xueming.)



More details on <http://english.cas.cn/eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?InfoNo=27391>

11. China International Education Expo (CIEE) 2008

(Swiss Embassy, 30-10-2008)



On 18/19 October, 2008 the CIEE opened its doors to interested students from China. For the second time after 2007, the Embassy participated and shared a double booth with the University of St. Gallen HSG. Four other Swiss institutions joined the Swiss corridor: Ecole Hôteliere de Lausanne, Les Roches International School of Hotel Management, César Ritz Colleges Switzerland and Glion Institute of Higher Education. The private schools will follow the Expo to Shanghai and Guangzhou where it will end on 2 November, 2008. Five more schools from Switzerland are joining in Shanghai and/or Guangzhou: Les Roches Gruyère University of Applied Science, University of Applied Science HTW Chur, SHMS Swiss Hotel Management School and the University of Business and Finances.



More and more Chinese students decide to conduct at least part of their studies abroad every year. They are strongly encouraged to do so by their universities, the Chinese Government and – last but not the least – their parents. The question is: Does this mean that the general interest in studying in Switzerland is growing at the same speed? At CIEE 2008, the following observations were made:

- Countries like Holland, Spain, Canada and Australia have made considerable coordinated efforts to promote themselves as destinations of excellence in higher education. Some countries like Italy and Switzerland followed a semi-coordinated approach, while others were represented through their individual institutions only. The visibility of the first group of countries clearly exceeded all others.
- The fact that more and more Swiss universities are offering English programs makes them more interesting to Chinese students and therefore more competitive in the international education market.
- The comparatively low tuition fees of the Swiss public universities came as a surprise for most Chinese students. They usually know Switzerland only as one of the most expensive countries in the world.
- A growing number of well-informed young Chinese bachelor-students were asking very specific information about individual universities.
- Students asked about the effect of Switzerland issuing Schengen-Visas and seemed to entertain a positive perception of this fact (easier to travel in Europe, easier for parents to visit, etc.)