



Joint Declaration

on

Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Health

between

the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China

and

the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss Confederation

We, the Minister of Health of the People's Republic of China and the Federal Councillor heading the Federal Department of Home Affairs of the Swiss Confederation met in Beijing on April 25, 2011, jointly expressing the satisfaction to establish partnerships on health policy cooperation, in particular concerning public hospital reform, between Chinese cities and Swiss cantons

- Aware of the long standing ties between our governments and the traditional friendship between the people of China and Switzerland,
- Reaffirming the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the People's Republic of China of May 17, 2005, and especially its article I stating that cooperation in health should be conducted "on the basis of equality and mutual benefit",
- Aware of the possibility to use synergies with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs for the strengthening of the scientific and technological cooperation signed 21st November 2003,

- Welcoming the already existing cooperation in the health sector, particularly the direct cooperation between our two ministries in capacity building in global health diplomacy,
- Desiring to develop bilateral cooperation in health matters for the benefit of both countries, their health professionals, researchers and general population,
- Recalling our previous meeting of 17th May 2010 on the margins of the 63rd World Health Assembly in Geneva where we discussed ways of intensifying health cooperation through concrete action,

Officially endorse the launch of four partnerships on health policy cooperation, in particular concerning public hospital reform, between Chinese cities and Swiss cantons.

These partnerships are established between the following cities and cantons:

- Canton of Basel (with capital city Basel) and Municipality of Shanghai
- Canton of Geneva (with capital city Geneva) and Municipality of Shenzhen (Guangdong province)
- Canton of Vaud (with capital city Lausanne) and Municipality of Zhenjiang (Jiangsu province)
- Canton of Zürich (with capital city Zürich) and Municipality of Kunming (Yunnan province)

Pursuant to article III of the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation, these partnerships are aimed at exchanging information in the health sector, including administration, such as laws and regulations, analysis, and reports. While focusing on hospital planning, hospital governance, oversight, payment and management, these partnerships are open to cover other areas of mutual interest from governmental side and as well as direct cooperation of major hospitals. In conformity with the same article III of the Memorandum of Understanding, these partnerships also offer an adequate framework for conducting visits by experts from both countries in order to develop a mutual better understanding about health services and offer better training and specialization of health professionals and researchers. Furthermore, these partnerships will offer valuable occasions for organizing joint seminars, workshops and working meetings in order to strengthen exchange of expertise in specific areas that the partners deem particularly relevant to their work.

It is our understanding that while acting under the umbrella of the Memorandum of Understanding and in compliance with the laws and regulations of their respective countries, the different partner cantons and cities will further define the specific fields of interest and the concrete way of implementation of cooperation with their respective counterparts and within their available resources.

While each partnership is unique in its scope, nature and functioning, thus working independently from the other existing partnerships, we are willing to assume a role of coordination and information for the sake of all interested partners.

In this sense, we invite all the participating partners to regularly exchange relevant information among themselves and to convene in due time to share their experience across the board, thus enabling all partners to draw maximum benefit of this initiative.

Beijing, 25th April 2011