



Joint Statement

on

Sino-Swiss Science & Technology Cooperation

between

the Ministry of Science and Technology of China

and

the Federal Department of Home Affairs of Switzerland

The Minister of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China,

H.E. Dr. Wan Gang,

and the Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs,

H.E. Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter,

held talks in Beijing on 25 April 2011 during Federal Councillor Burkhalter's official visit to China. Their Excellencies the Ministers, reviewed the results of the Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation (hereafter referred to as SSSTC), which has been successfully ongoing for the past years and planned steps for future cooperation. They committed to work together, to develop partnerships to the benefit of both countries and stated their satisfaction to witness a steady intensification of valuable collaborative activities in science at the institutional level in the past years.

Considering that following to the *Cooperation Agreement in Science and Technology between the Swiss Confederation and the People's Republic of China*, signed in 1989, and based on the *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) 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 scientific and technological cooperation between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland* signed in 2003, first pilot projects were successfully carried out in the period 2004-2007;

Considering that an operational structure for the implementation of the collaboration within the SSSTC was agreed in a *Joint Statement*, issued on 23 April 2007, and in the *Minutes of the Meeting on the China-Switzerland Cooperation Strategy 2008-2011 in the field of Science and Technology*, signed in Beijing on 20 November 2007 and a more effective Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation Program SSSTC for the period 2008-2011 was decided and set up between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (hereafter MOST) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (hereafter SER) thereafter;

Considering all the valuable tools for cooperation between the countries developed in multilateral frameworks, especially in the European Framework Programmes for Research and Development;

Considering that a Joint Statement signed in Bern on November 24, 2008 in presence of State Councillor Liu Yandong and Federal Councillor Pascal Couchepin reiterated the political support of the bilateral cooperation;

Considering that with the establishment of swissnex China in 2008, an important platform has been successfully set up to help promoting and expanding cooperation between Switzerland and the People's Republic of China;

Considering that in the statements issued last September during the second Joint Working Group held in Beijing on 10 September 2010, the Parties reiterated their satisfaction towards the bilateral program, an important milestone in the deepening of the excellent relationships between the parties as well as the increasing collaborative activities in the fields of science and technology, based on scientific excellence, mutual interest and reciprocity.

It is stated:

1.

- Within SSSTC 2008-2011, 25 joint research projects are currently supported. They were selected on the basis of scientific excellence, mutual benefit and matching funding. The acknowledged high quality of projects and researchers make this bilateral program visible and important in both countries. Based on the high level of fruitful cooperation reached in the past years, MOST and the Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA (SER)) will continue to actively promote and encourage S&T cooperation between China and Switzerland.
- Additional projects shall be jointly selected with CAS in 2011 in the field of “New materials / Nanotechnology” as well as “Renewable Energy / Clean Technologies” and signed in 2012. Both Sides will provide the appropriate financial funding and support.
- Within SSSTC 2013-2016, China and Switzerland are committed to strengthen, deepen and further focus the programme for this next phase. Earmarked funds higher than current level will be set aside on both sides in order to further enhance Sino-Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation.
- The signatories note with highest satisfaction, as current developments show, that SSSTC significantly contribute to an overall increase of number of collaborative activities between Chinese and Swiss researchers, research institutions, and programmes. They also greatly encourage direct institutional links and collaborations between their respective higher education and research institutions.

2.

- Both sides welcome bottom-up cooperation between Swiss and Chinese institutions such as the Sino Swiss Joint Lung Cancer Clinical Research Center between University Hospital Zurich and Shanghai Chest Hospital and joint research on cognitive rehabilitation after stroke between Reha Rheinfelden Rehabilitation Centre and Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Both sides welcome long-term, stable and sustainable cooperation mechanism.
- The signatories strongly encourage the efforts of their respective National Science Foundations to fund and support excellent scientific collaboration through existing channels so as to ensure and reinforce sustainable collaborations. On the Swiss side, since 2006, 93 long term projects, 6 short term projects and 10 fellowships indicate such collaboration with China.
- Numerous collaborations and joint projects are already established between the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the domain of the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology through its members, the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich ETHZ and the Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), and the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI). PSI and CAS are profiting from fruitful exchanges of persons and ideas and are willing to foster collaborative efforts on common design and realization of large research infrastructures. They intend to implement the most advanced type of photon source, the X-ray free electron laser (XFEL), as next major large-scale research facilities. Future exchanges and projects to be developed in the planning and development of SwissFEL and the Chinese XFEL project SXFEL will benefit from the support of both sides to further strengthen existing links.
- Cooperation between the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics SINAP and PSI has led to a fruitful exchange and joint research projects between Swiss Light source at PSI and Shanghai Synchrotron Radiation Facility.

- The active participation of both sides in the ongoing seventh European Framework program has created 60 collaborations between researchers of our two countries. Further cooperation and projects shall be developed and funded through all possible programs for Research and Development of which the Parties are eligible, notably the European multilateral framework.

Both ministries are strongly committed to extend and actively encourage cooperation in fields of science and technology. They highly value such cooperation as an important contribution to address complex research issues and global challenges, not only for the benefit of the people of China and Switzerland but also for mankind as a whole.

Wan Gang

Minister

Ministry for Science and Technology

Didier Burkhalter

Federal Councillor

Federal Department of Home Affairs