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MOST & UN Sign MOU on STI for Sustainable Development

On December 4, 2017, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) Vice Minister Xu Nanping and UN Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin signed in Shanghai *the Memorandum of Understanding between MOST and UN on Science Technology and Innovation for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals* (hereinafter referred to as "the MOU").

Focusing on key areas covered by *the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, MOST and the UN have agreed to work closely to develop the online platform of Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Green Technology Bank, conduct joint research and study in areas relevant to the transfer, transformation, assessment and certification of green technologies, and hold joint training and exchange meetings. The two sides also decided to scale up and share experiences of Green Technology Bank and Innovation Demonstration Zone for implementing *the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to aid sustainable development. The MOU is the latest achievement of furthered cooperation between the two sides in recent years. It is also a milestone in building closer bilateral ties to boost science, technology and innovation in the future.

During the talk between Vice Minister Xu Nanping and UN Under- Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin after the signing of the MOU, Liu Zhenmin said that as a result of remarkable achievements in the field of sustainable development, especially China's efforts in building the Green Technology Bank and Innovation Demonstration Zone, China stands as a role model for the world and will share its experience and models with other countries. Vice Minister Xu Nanping said that both sides should help drive scientific and technological innovation in the international community, promote the implementation of *the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and deepen cooperation in Green Technology Bank and Innovation Demonstration Zone with joint efforts in holding innovation forum for sustainable development.

(Source: MOST, December 11, 2017)

2nd China-CEEC Conference on Innovation Cooperation Held in Bratislava

As a specific move to implement the *"Riga Outline for Cooperation between China and CEECs"* in 2016, the Second China—Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) Conference on Innovation Cooperation was held in Bratislava, the capital city of Slovakia, on November 27—29, 2017. Vice Minister of Science and Technology Li Meng headed the Chinese delegation and delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony. A total of 200 participants attended the conference including Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic Mgr. Martina Lubyová, Minister responsible for innovation and technological development Nenad Popovic, President of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) of Hungary Dr. József Pálinkás, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of Slovakia Oľga Nachtmannová, and State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia Lukáš Parízek together with other participants from Central and Eastern European countries, businesses and research institutes.

Vice Minister Li Meng highlighted China's open environment to encourage innovation in science and technology and its innovation policies of universal benefit. He noted that as the "16 + 1" cooperation mechanism for innovation in science and technology is getting increasingly full-fledged, all sides should take it as a good opportunity to further strengthen people-to-people exchange, support joint R&D projects and establish long-term cooperation platforms. Vice Minister Li Meng and Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic Mgr. Martina Lubyová jointly launched the website of China-CEEC Virtual Technology Transfer Center.

China and Slovakia also signed *the Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Financing Sino-Slovakia Scientific Research Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research Sports* at the conference. The MOU was included in the list of achievements of the Sixth Summit of China-CEE Countries held in Budapest on November 27, 2017.

(Source: MOST, December 8, 2017)

8th Sino-Italian Innovation Cooperation Week Opens in Chengdu and Guiyang

Co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) of Italy, the 8th Sino-Italian Innovation Cooperation Week was opened in Chengdu and Guiyang on November 16-17, 2017. When addressing the opening ceremony in the two cities, Director-General Ye Dongbai of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology stated that international cooperation on science and technology is critically important today when China witnessed such rapid technological advancement. At present, China has enjoyed a boom in its international cooperation on science and technology as it has established cooperative ties with 158 countries and regions, signed 111 inter-governmental cooperation agreements and joined more than 200 inter-governmental organizations for scientific and technological cooperation. He hoped that China and Italy will be future-oriented, strengthen exchanges and cooperation among small and medium-sized enterprises, give full play to their advantages in terms of personnel, capital and technology, and promote Sino-Italian sci-tech innovation cooperation in an all-round way.

At the opening ceremony in Chengdu, Sichuan Provincial Technology Transfer Center signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Department of Chemistry and Materials Technology of the Institute for Polymers, Composites and Biomaterials of National Research Council of Italy on the project of building a new material technology conversion center. Scientists and entrepreneurs from both countries held talks and matchmaking activities in the areas of smart life and community, environmental protection, science parks, new material, industrial design and finance.

Guiyang organized six parallel forums on life science and health, big data, broadband & wireless and smart transportation, energy and environmental protection, design and creativity, new energy and automobiles, and traditional Chinese medicine. B2B project matchmaking meetings were also held on issues of health and life sciences, energy and ICT technology, automobile industry, design and creative industries.

Prior to this, the eighth China-Italy Innovation Cooperation Week was held in Beijing on November 14-15, 2017. Since 2010, the event has been successfully held for seven times, attracting more than 4,000 Chinese and Italian participants. It facilitated more than 4400 technical connections between enterprises of both sides and materialized nearly 600 cooperation intentions and thus has become an important platform linking the innovation resources of the two countries with more cooperation and innovation results.

(Source: MOST, November 22, 2017)

"China Pavilion" Side Events Held at the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference

On November 15, 2017, the "High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change" was successfully held in "China Pavilion" at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany. The forum was jointly sponsored by China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, co-organized by The Administrative Center for China Agenda 21 of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Development Program.

China's special representative on climate change affairs Xie Zhenhua stressed the importance of joint actions in the efforts to turn the common goal of combating climate change into reality while addressing the opening ceremony. He called for more South-South and greater South-North cooperation and thus to turn the cooperation community bigger and stronger.

South-South cooperation in scientific and technological innovation has once again become the focus of the discussion. At the Ministerial Meeting, Liu Yanhua, Chairman of China's National Expert Panel on Climate Change and Counselor of the State Council, said that innovation in science and technology is an important means to tackle climate change and achieve sustainable development. Cooperation among countries in the South will not only help developing countries share their experience to meet technological needs faster and better, but will also help eliminate poverty and integrate people's livelihood with green economy to achieve the common goal of sustainable development.

(Source: MOST, November 21, 2017)

China and Singapore to Boost Cooperation in Hi-tech Innovation

At the International Enterprise (IE) Singapore – CapitaLand Tech & Innovation Summit 2017 held in Beijing on November 24, 2017, the two countries identified the goal to build a shared platform for innovation and entrepreneurship, focusing on the fields of Internet, big data and artificial intelligence to achieve in-depth integration of science and technology with real economy and foster new economic growth points.

While addressing the conference, Director General Zhang Zhihong of the Torch Center of the Ministry of Science and Technology said that China and Singapore enjoy long-term cooperation in science and technology which could be traced back to Suzhou Industrial Park jointly established in 1994, and the 8th firm in China's national hi-tech zones went public in Singapore recently. He pointed out that in today's globalized world, when seeking innovation, different countries need to proactively promote international exchanges and cooperation with an open mindset and develop well-established platforms as the launch pad.

A total of 300 participants attended the conference, including Singapore's Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and National Development Koh Poh Koon, Singapore Ambassador to China Stanley Loh Ka Leung, Director of IE Singapore China Group Ho Chee Hin, and CapitaLand China CEO Lucas Loh, together with others from venture capital agencies, universities and media, and top executives from nearly 20 industries.

(Source: MOST, November 29, 2017)

MOST Kicks off 2017 "Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Program in Science"

In a bid to promote the exchange and cooperation among young scientists and technicians in China and Japan, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) launched 2017 "Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Program in Science" during November 28 to December 3, 2017. The program was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology and organized by China Science and Technology Exchange Center. The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) was responsible for recruiting members of Japanese delegation. The program aims to further promote the exchange and cooperation of the two countries in sci-tech innovation with greater people-to-people exchanges by inviting outstanding young Japanese managerial staff and researchers in the field of science and technology to China for short-term visit. This year, the Japanese delegation was composed of 107 young talents from six ministries including Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and more than 50 renowned research institutes and universities including JST, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), University of Tokyo, and Keio University.

To better understand the status quo and the local policies encouraging scientific and technological innovation in China, the Japanese delegation held informal talks with the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the State Intellectual Property Office. It also visited the science parks, research institutes and innovative enterprises in Shaanxi, Henan and Shanghai, which also gave them a better picture of Chinese traditional culture.

The "Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Program in Science" was officially launched in 2016 and in the same year it received the first batch of 78 young Japanese talents. The program has further strengthened the people-to-people exchanges between China and Japan, built a stronger public base for bilateral relations and cooperation in science and technology innovation, deepened the exchanges and friendship between young scientists in the two countries, and will certainly play an active role in enhancing bilateral cooperation and friendly exchanges in the years to come.

(Source: MOST, December 7, 2017)

China and U.S. Satellite Navigation Meeting Held in Beijing

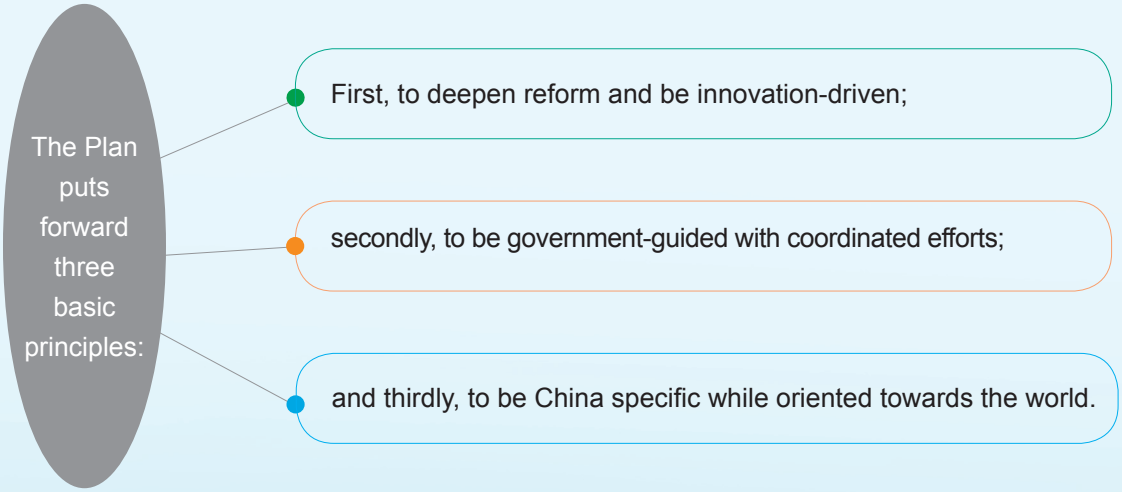
On November 29, 2017, Wang Li, Chairman of China's Satellite Navigation System Committee, and Jonathan Margolis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. State Department, held a satellite navigation meeting in Beijing. The two sides signed *China-U.S. Joint Statement on the Compatibility and Interoperability of Chinese BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) Signals*. According to the statement, the two systems have achieved radio frequency compatibility under the framework of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and civilian signal interoperability, and the two countries will continue the cooperation on compatibility and interoperability in the future. The coexistence of the BDS and GPS as a result of their compatibility and interoperability helps offer quality services to the public and promote the cooperation of the world satellite navigation family.

Earlier, China and Russia signed a joint statement on the cooperation of the compatibility and interoperability of BDS and Glonass Systems. In the future, with the unfolding of the global network of BDS, the cooperation between China and other countries in satellite navigation system will be further deepened which will result in more innovation and better services for global users.

(Source: MOST, December 8, 2017)

>>> 13th Five-Year Plan for Sci-Tech Innovation of Technical Standards Published

In order to fully implement the strategy of technical standards, improve the mutually supportive mechanism of science and technology and standardization, enable science and technology and different industries to play a better role in the development and application of technical standards, speed up the transformation and application of sci-tech achievements, establish and refine new type of technical standards, promote transition of the development driver and enhance the development quality and efficiency, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), and the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) jointly formulated and issued *the 13th Five-Year Plan for the Sci-Tech Innovation of Technical Standards* (hereinafter referred to as the Plan).



The goal set out in the Plan is that by 2020, the policy environment for the innovation of technical standards is to be optimized, the capabilities for developing technical standards and offering better services to be enhanced and a coordinated development scenario integrating sci-tech innovation and standardization and featuring government guidance and public participation to be shaped so as to better support a closer link between sci-tech and the economy and foster new competitive edge in international competition. To be more specific, it includes:

-- To prioritize the development of technical standards, support the development of more than 1,000 national standards for technologies that are basic and common, for public interest, and common across different industries, and to lead the world in standards in emerging and cross-cutting fields.

[Snapshot of major plans] >>>

-- To develop more than 200 international standards, promote their quotation and transformation or the adoption of more than 1000 Chinese standards by overseas projects and products, and enable technical standards to play a bigger role in international trade, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, and the “go global” drive by Chinese technologies, products and services;

-- To establish 50 national standard innovation bases in key fields and regions so as to effectively support the establishment of a standardized service system that transforms scientific and technological achievements into technical standards and meet the needs of mass entrepreneurship and innovation;

-- To establish 50 national standard verification and test stations to provide technical support for the identification of technical methods and key indicators for standard development;

-- To form a number of important group standards with more abundant and accessible channels for the transformation and adoption of sci- tech innovation results;

---- To cultivate a group of leading innovative enterprises driven by standards with greater innovative capability for technical standards;

-- To promote greater participation of sci-tech personnel in technical standards, enhance the capabilities of enterprises’ technical standard staff, and foster more talents in this area with international vision and background in different fields.

The Plan also identified specific key areas for the study of the applicability of Chinese standards in its “go global" drive, especially for the standards that are basic and for common use, for public interest, common in different industries and those for international application.

(Source: MOST, June 13, 2017)

>>> 13th Five-Year Plan for Sci-Tech Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas Published

In order to identify the goals and development philosophy of scientific and technological innovation in agriculture and rural areas in the "13th Five-year Plan" period, refine the key tasks and measures and make comprehensive headway, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Water Resources, State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, State Forestry Administration, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Meteorological Administration, State Administration of Grain, State Oceanic Administration and All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives jointly compiled and issued *the 13th Five-Year Plan for Scientific and Technological Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Area* (hereinafter referred to as the Plan).

The development goal stated in the Plan is that by 2020, the goal of scientific and technological development in agriculture and rural areas defined in *the Outline of National Program for the Medium and Long-term Development of Science and Technology (2006-2020)* should be fulfilled; the contribution of S&T advancement in agriculture should be over 60%; and the overall strength of sci-tech innovation in agriculture should be at the forefront of the world so as to effectively help achieve the goal of building a moderately well-off society in an all-round way and joining the rank of innovative countries. It aims to achieve a significant improvement and optimization in the following aspects:

--The capability and strength of sci-tech innovation in agriculture;

--The comprehensive performance and competitiveness of agriculture;

--The development of innovation base and talent pool;

--The efficacy of agricultural sci-tech innovation system;

--The eco-system of innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture and rural areas.

[Snapshot of major plans] >>>

The key tasks stated in the Plan include:

(A) To improve agricultural sci-tech innovation system;

(B) To build up the first-mover advantage of agricultural sci-tech innovation;

(C) To consolidate the material basis of agricultural sci-tech innovation;

(D) To expand agricultural high-tech industries;

(E) To enhance international cooperation in agricultural science and technology;

(F) To better the service ability of counties for sci-tech innovation;

(G) To strengthen poverty alleviation by science and technology.

The Plan proposes the following measures to achieve the goals and key tasks:

- (A) To strengthen organization, leadership and co-ordination;
- (B) To improve the policy system for sci-tech innovation;
- (C) To foster talent pool and think tanks;
- (D) To establish an organizational model covering the whole chain of sci-tech innovation;
- (E) To conduct result monitoring and evaluation.

(Source: MOST, June 13, 2017)