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China-Pakistan S&T Cooperation

The 4th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Science and Technology (S&T) under the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held on 23 July virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by Dai Gang, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and Syed Boluchi, Permanent Secretary, Pakistan Ministry of Science and Technology. Representative from the International Cooperation Bureau of Chinese Academy of Sciences, the International Cooperation Bureau of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the International Cooperation Department of the China Association for Science and Technology, Pakistan Ministry of Planning, National Science Foundation and Jinnah University participated in the meeting.

The objective of the JWG meeting was to evaluate several projects under CPEC. Both sides shared the progress of scientific and technological innovation cooperation agreed at the 3rd working group on several key areas such agriculture, energy etc. In his remarks, Dai Gang called on the Pakistani side to actively support the relevant departments and institutions of the two countries to continuously deepen pragmatic cooperation in S&T, including technology transfer, under the framework of the Belt and Road Science and Technology Innovation Action Plan.

Meanwhile, on 31 July, Pakistan successfully launched a remote-sensing satellite (PRSS-1) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center, Sichuan Province. On the purpose of the satellite, Muhammad Yousaf Khan, Chairman of Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), informed that the PRSS-1 will mainly aid national sectors, including land resource surveys and disaster prevention. Pakistan's Federal Minister of Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, who was present at the launching event stated that by the successful launch of the satellite, friendship with China had been "elevated higher than skies" and reiterated the significance of China as a trusted partner in the domain of defence, economy, infrastructure and space. The PRSS-1 was built in collaboration between SUPARCO, China Electronics Technology Group Corporation and MICROSAT China.

China launches World Energy Vehicle Development Organisation

A new international body, the World Energy Vehicle Development Organisation (WNEVDO), registered in China as an international sci-tech organisation, was formally launched on 22 July in Beijing. It was jointly initiated by the China Society of Automotive Engineers, Chongqing Changan Automobile Co., Ltd., and International Federation of Automotive Engineering Societies. Its founding members include companies and institutions from China, the United States, and Germany.

The principal objective of the organisation is exclusively dedicated to accelerating the global shift to electric mobility, for which it attempts to bring together carmakers, energy groups and research institutes from China, the United States, Germany and Britain. As an international academic and non-profit organization, the new body is

described as being committed in uniting professionals, industry experts and R&D teams from around the globe to foster industrial growth, promote technological adoption, nurture talent, and enhance international collaboration in the field of new energy vehicles.

In his inaugural address, Wan Gang, President of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and President of the World New Energy Vehicle Congress (WNEVC), called on the organization "to adopt a global perspective to promote the deep integration of industrial development with sustainable transition." He also underscored "advancing global policy coordination and harmonized standards through multilateral mechanisms" and a service-oriented approach that supports joint development between industrial stakeholders and policy institutions.

Scientific Collaboration Projects

The Institute of High Energy Physics (IHEP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Spain Consortium for the Construction, Equipping and Exploitation of the Synchrotron Light Source (CELLS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 26 July in Beijing. The MoU, which aims to advance the development of synchrotron science and technology, was concentrated on three areas i.e. accelerator technology, experimental beamline technology and scientific cooperation. On the significant of signing the MoU, Prof. Dong Yuhui, Deputy Director of IHEP and Dr. Caterina Biscari, Director of CELLS expressed their hope that by working collaboratively, the synchrotron science community will benefit immensely and be able to provide solutions for global challenges.

The China-Arab States Science and Technology Cooperation Center for Public Health was officially launched on 9 July in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, as committed between China and Arab member states in 2022. More than 170 representatives from government departments, universities and medical institutions from China and Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Algeria attended the launch event.

The Center will focus on three areas, i.e. talent development, medical collaboration and scientific and technological partnerships. For the joint research project, key areas include: infectious diseases, malignant tumours, neuropsychiatric disorders, elderly care, cardiovascular diseases, and critical care. It will also prioritize a China-Arab vaccine innovation and R&D alliance.

In his inaugural remarks, Chen Jiachang, Vice Minister of China Ministry of Science and Technology pointed out that by launching such a Centre signifies a "clear example of putting the idea of a China-Arab states community with a shared future into practice." Several Arab government representatives including Mamoun M. Al-Debi'e, Secretary General of Jordan's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ali Hussein Ali Khedr, Deputy Director of Egypt's National Hepatology and Tropical Medicine Research Institute and Maha EI Rabbat, former Egyptian Health Minister, cherished China-Arab scientific collaboration in public health, which they argued would benefit humanity.

Scientific Research Breakthroughs and Discoveries

Scientists from the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory in Hefei have successfully developed a 3D printing system, eliminating the need for Earth-sourced construction materials. Yang Honglun, senior engineer at the lab, underscored that this breakthrough validates the feasibility of using lunar soil as the sole raw building material, which enables large scale on-site construction of lunar research stations, thereby eliminating the need to transport any additional materials from Earth.

China Science Diplomacy

The fourth meeting of the China-Tajikistan Science and Technology Cooperation Committee was held from 20 to 22 July in Dushanbe. The objective of the meeting was to implement agreements reached at the Central Conference on Peripheral Work and the Second China-Central Asia Summit and to deepen the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Tajikistan. The meeting was co-chaired by Chen Jiachang, Vice Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and President Kushvahzoda of the Tajik National Academy of Sciences.

In the meeting, the two sides comprehensively reviewed the achievements of cooperation, a consensus reached at the third meeting on deepening scientific, technological, and cultural exchanges, strengthening joint R&D projects, and expanding cooperation in key areas. Meanwhile, on 21 July, a joint laboratory between Tajikistan and China was inaugurated for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at the Research Center for Ecology and Environment of Central Asia (Dushanbe) under the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan.

On 7 July, the International Deep Space Exploration Association (IDSEA), an international academic organization dedicated to deep space exploration, was officially launched in Hefei. This association was jointly initiated by the Hefei-based Deep Space Exploration Laboratory, the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration, the Chinese Society of Astronautics, the Chinese Society of Space Research and the French initiative “Planetary Exploration, Horizon 2061.” The founding of the IDSEA was also co-sponsored by academicians from 19 countries including France, Italy, South Africa and Spain.

Wu Weiren, Chief Designer of China's lunar exploration program and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, who has been elected as the association's first chairman, declared that the association would strive for collaborative innovation within the global space community and cooperation in China's space program. He underlined that the association will mainly focus on areas including lunar exploration, planetary exploration and asteroid defense. It will conduct studies on trends in international deep space exploration, host international academic events, foster global talent in space science and technology, take part in making standards and rules concerning outer space, and advance the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space.