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euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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EURAXESS LINKS CHINA

Dear colleagues,

This time in our **EU Insight**, we focus on the new instrument for high quality, timely, independent scientific advice to the European Commission: the Scientific Advise Mechanism (SAM) announced in May.

In June, we are not meeting one, but two excellent, inspiring researchers in our feature section. The Beijing-based astrophysicists –**Richard de Grijs (PKU)** and **Deng Jianrong (CAS)** – are pushing the frontiers of human knowledge by exploring the universe, while pursuing careers between Europe and China. We talked about their research, the importance of science communication as well as EU-China researchers' mobility.

We're looking for creative, communication-loving researchers who want to take part in this year's **EURAXESS Science Slam**. If you are a researcher who likes to reach out to the public, or if you know any such enthusiasts, go to www.scienceslamchina.com and see how you can take part. Either for fun only, or for the competitive spirit: Science Slam is for all creative researchers who want to show their research project to the world. Find out all you need regarding the EURAXESS Science Slam on page 17.

Apart from that, you can: have a look at new funding opportunities in our [Grants & Fellowships](#) section, browse through the selection of [Jobs](#) in Europe and in China, find out about [news and updates from the world of Sino-European research](#), and read the usual [press review](#).

As always, we will be happy for any further comments or suggestions.

Enjoy the reading

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1 EU Insight – The new Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)

How should independent scientific advice be institutionalised in the European Commission (EC) after the mandate of the EC Chief Scientific Advisor (CAS) came to an end in November 2014? For several months, the EC searched for ways to answer that question, studying the various science advisory models around the globe and the “particular needs and culture of the commission”.¹ Finally, in mid-May 2015, EC President Jean-Claude Juncker endorsed a new instrument for high quality, timely, independent scientific advice: the so-called **Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)** recommended by Commissioner Carlos Moedas, responsible for Science, Research and Innovation within the college of commissioners.

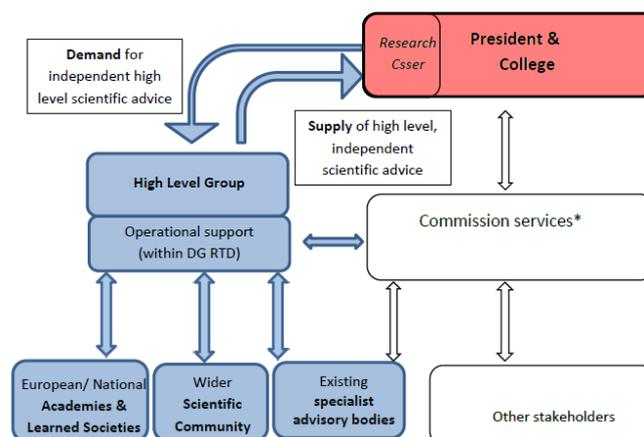
Scientific Advice across all policy areas

Key criteria of the new mechanism are **independence of institutional or political interests, bringing together evidence and insights from different disciplines and approaches, and transparency.**² For specific policy areas, the EC already has access to extensive scientific advice through 1) the Joint Research Centre (JRC) providing in-house scientific support, 2) external experts (groups, contracted studies, and standing, independent advisory committees), and 3) Horizon 2020 financed research projects in support of EU policies (societal challenges). However, the new mechanism is envisioned to provide timely, independent, high level scientific advice to meet needs **across all policy areas.**³

The Scientific Advice Mechanism’s features

This future mechanism will draw on the wide range of scientific expertise in Europe through a **close relationship with national academies and other bodies**, coordinated by a **High-Level Group of Independent Scientists.**⁴

Figure 0.1: SAM’s two main features are: (1) a structured relationship with scientific advisory bodies in Member States (e.g. national academies) – to benefit from the wealth of knowledge and expertise; (2) a High-Level Group of eminent scientists supported from within DG RTD – to improve the interaction with scientific community, and to ensure independence, scientific integrity, and transparency. The high-level group and the Commission services (incl. JRC) provide scientific advice to the EC president and the college of commissioners.



* Including the Joint Research Centre which provides in-house scientific support

Source: “A new mechanism for independent scientific advice in the European Commission.”

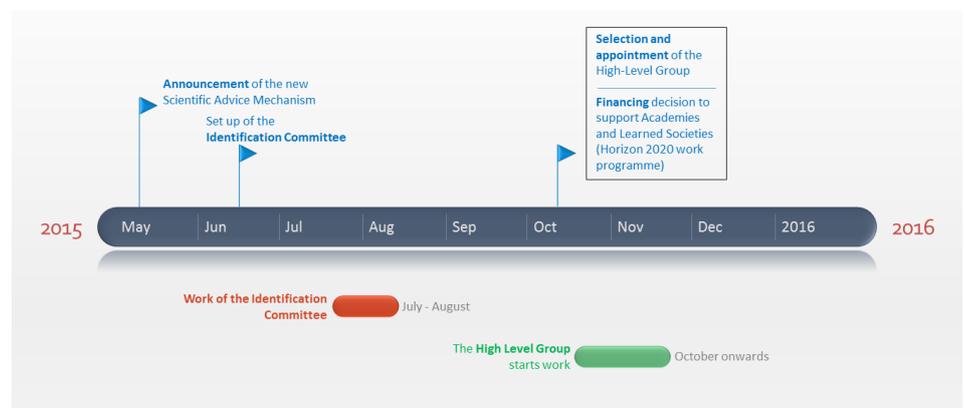


The group will consist of seven members, who can come from anywhere in the world, and who will receive operational support from within the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG-RTD) in the form of a 20 to 25 person-strong secretariat. Commissioner Moedas' role will be that of a "intermediary" between the future high-level panel and the EC president as well as the EC commissioners.⁵

Implementation timeline

In the coming months, Commissioner Moedas's task will be to implement this new arrangement involving other Commissioners and making the most of effective cooperation between Commission services. The figure below is taken from the NCP Brussels website⁶, indicating the envisioned timeline for the set-up of the Scientific Advisory Mechanism until autumn 2015.

Figure 1.2: Timeline for the set-up of the Scientific Advisory Mechanism: May to December 2015.



Source: NCP Brussels.

According to *Science*, "The advisory panel's members will be recruited by a[n] [...] 'identification committee,' through a process modeled after the [European Research Council's search for scientific council members](#)".⁷

A budget of up to EUR 6 million of EU funding is envisioned to support the Scientific Advice Mechanism, but this has yet to be confirmed.

The mechanism will be in place by autumn 2015.

Sources and further information

¹ Alison Abbott. "European Commission unveils long-awaited science advice plans". *Nature*. 13 May 2015. <http://www.nature.com/news/european-commission-unveils-long-awaited-science-advice-plans-1.17557>. Accessed 23 June 2015.

² "President Juncker welcomes world-leading scientists, discusses role of science in competitiveness and announces new mechanism for scientific advice". European Commission. Press release. 13 May 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4970_en.htm?locale=en. Accessed 22 June 2015. [European Commission, 2015a].

³ "A new mechanism for independent scientific advice in the European Commission." European Commission. <http://europa.eu/rapid/attachment/IP-15-4970/en/Science%20Advice%20Mechanism.pdf>. Accessed 22 June 2015 [European Commission, 2015b].



⁴ European Commission, 2015a.

⁵ Rabesandratana, Tania. "Updated: European Commission to appoint seven to new high-level science advice panel", *Science*, 13 May 2015. <http://news.sciencemag.org/europe/2015/05/breaking-european-commission-create-new-high-level-science-advice-panel>. Accessed 22 June 2015.

⁶ The Scientific Advice Mechanism. NCP Brussels. News. 11 June 2015. <http://www.ncpbrussels.be/tools-and-information/news/236-the-scientific-advice-mechanism>. Accessed 23 June 2015.

⁷ Rabesandratana, 2015.



Dr. Deng earned her PhD in Particle Physics at Duke University in 2008. During 2004 - 2008, Dr. Deng worked at **Fermilab**, outside Chicago, USA for research on the Tevatron collider. In 2008, she moved to **CERN** in Switzerland for research at the **Large Hadron Collider**, where a new particle, Higgs boson, was discovered in 2012.

Her main research projects are Cosmic RAYS Found In Smartphones (CRAYFIS), and Tianshan Radio Experiment for Neutrino Detection (TREND).

2 Meet the Researchers: Prof Richard de Grijs and Dr Jianrong Deng

Perhaps all of us at some point in childhood dreamt of being astronauts who explore the mysteries of the universe. In this month's Feature, we talked to Beijing-based physicists who made their dreams come true: Dr Jianrong Deng from China and Prof Richard de Grijs from the Netherlands. Both based in Beijing, they told us about their rich experience in research, collaboration with Europe and mobility from and into China.

Dr Jianrong Deng, National Astronomical Observatories of Chinese Academy of Sciences and China head of CRAYFIS (Cosmic Rays Found in Smartphones)

Dr Deng is an associate researcher at National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NAOC, CAS). She seeks for signatures of new physics beyond the standard models, such as new particles, new interactions and new dimensions. Potential discoveries are expected to answer some fundamental questions of Nature, such as the origin of cosmic rays, the nature of dark matter, new natural symmetries, and possible extra dimensions of space-time.

Dr Deng, tell us about your research.

I am currently an associate researcher at National Astronomical Observatories in Chinese Academy of Sciences. I work in the Cosmology division. That means,



CERN and LHC

CERN, the "Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire", or European Council for Nuclear Research, was founded in 1952 as a world-class fundamental physics research organization in Europe. At that time, pure physics research concentrated on understanding the inside of the atom, hence the word "nuclear".

Sitting at the Franco-Swiss border, CERN has revolutionised our understanding of the universe but also computing: The World Wide Web was invented at CERN in 1989 by British scientist Tim Berners-Lee.

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the world's largest and most powerful [particle accelerator](#).

that I look up to the sky to understand the origins of the universe. I never call myself a cosmologist, because I am a physicist and there is a lot I don't understand in the field – but it is fascinating.

I got my PhD in high energy physics. In my career, I've been basically following particle accelerators. Before 2008, the world's highest energy accelerator was at Chicago's Fermilab, so I was based in the US. In 2008/9 the Large Hadron Collider started at CERN in Europe, and as a result, I and a lot of my colleagues moved to Europe.

After that, you decided to go back to China.

When I was in Chicago, we were about 800 collaborators in the Collider Detector at Fermilab experiment (CDF). It was a very open environment and the size was manageable. In CERN, there were about 3000 each for the two experiments (ATLAS and CMS). This was frankly a lot. I decided to move on after the discovery of the Higgs Boson in 2012. The LHC will be the highest energy collider for the next decade. At that point, I made the choice of leaving the LHC and joined a smaller team who is looking at the Ultra High Energy Cosmic Rays (UHECR).

The LHC takes about 20 years to build. And that's another reason why I moved to the field of UHECR. The highest energy of cosmic rays reaches 10^{20} electron volt (eV), which is several order of magnitude higher than the LHC energy (running at 10^{13} eV). The universe is the biggest particle accelerator, and it is free! You don't need to spend 20 years on building it. Instead, you just need to find a smart way how to catch the rays.

They are two complementary ways of trying to understanding the universe.

Tell us about CRAYFIS project, the crowd-sourced cosmic ray detector.

The credit of CRAYFIS goes to Daniel Whiteson, professor at University of California Irvine. He was my advisor during my post-doc. The whole idea started off from a paper he published with another colleague. At that time, I worked at Tianshan Radio Experiment for Neutrino Detection (TREND) which also catches radio signals from the universe in the north of China. When I heard about CRAYFIS, I decided to join their team of less than twenty enthusiasts. It is a fantastic project.

So far we have over 50,000 people who registered for the app's world-wide release in the coming summer. We want to achieve a mass of one million users. That's why we hope to get more users in Europe and in China.

You spent your time in the US, in Europe and in China? Have you ever encountered any challenges in relation to mobility?



In Europe, language was a big difficulty. I lived in France and I didn't speak any French. Despite the fact our working language was English, it doesn't help if you struggle to buy bread in a bakery. In the end, I learned French and managed, but it took some time. For the cultural part, in the US the scientific environment is very open. Cultural differences influence the way you do science, which is the case also in China. You have to be polite and well prepared when you ask questions to senior professors, otherwise they can get offended. In France, I also met some professors with a similar attitude.

CRAYFIS is an app that turns your smart phone into a cosmic ray detector. It is the first and only crowd-sourced cosmic ray detector in the world. It is a novel approach to observe cosmic ray particles at the highest energies.

It uses the world-wide array of existing smartphones - instead of building an expensive dedicated detector. Learn more at crayfis.io and join the database of beta testers.



In your opinion, how important is international mobility for a researcher's career?

I think it matters hugely because in science you need comparison. For example in China, we are still catching up. So moving abroad meant to me that I learned things I couldn't learn in China. We just didn't have the know-how or the technology. Nowadays, we have the internet but face-to-face communication and meeting your colleagues still makes a huge difference. When I moved abroad, I was prepared for a culture shock. But when I moved back, I thought I didn't have to prepare for the cultural differences as I was coming home. Then I realised that I was away for ten years, and the country I came back to was not the same anymore. I also evolved and got used to different ways of doing science. I faced a reverse culture shock, and it took me a couple of years to adjust. China is moving forward very fast. We have a lot of support in science, and we need more and more people who are coming back. They can make the advantage of the government support. The economy is booming and that is usually the best time for science to follow.

To what extent do communication and public understanding matter to your research?

The success of CRAYFIS entirely depends on public participation. We put a very large fraction of our work into the public outreach. We want to get one million users; otherwise we will not achieve meaningful scientific results. There are other similar experiments, but their setback is that they cannot physically expand forever. On the other hand, we have the capacity to reach a wide public audience – the wider, the better. The challenge is that scientists usually close their doors to work behind their computers – but we really need to go out there and reach out to the public. We all want to understand what happened in the first three minutes after the Big Bang - children at school, students or the general public – so I hope they will help us get the data.

How did you choose your field – particle physics?

When I was little, my role model was Marie Skłodowska-Curie. At my college entrance exam, I chose nuclear physics, which as a field was on offer only at



one university – so I didn't have to think a lot. In my career, I followed nuclear physics, and then went on to high energy physics.

What are your plans for the future?

Trying to understand the history of the universe! Endless curiosity is driving my work forward. I want to continue with CRAYFIS - it is the best toy I have. I will be playing with it for a while.

Prof Richard de Grijs, Director of the East Asian Regional Office of Astronomy for Development as well as the international coordinator for China of the Institute of Physics (UK).

An outspoken member of Beijing's international research community, Richard has been based at Peking University since 2009. His research has evolved from studies of galactic structure to stellar and star cluster population synthesis (and anything related to star clusters near and far). He has placed more recent emphasis on aspects of astronomical distance scale.

Please introduce yourself and your research.

My name is Richard de Grijs. I'm a Dutch astrophysicist currently working at the KIAA at PKU. I took up my position and moved from the UK to become a full professor at PKU, which was a promotion compared to my previous job.

My research is very broad within the area of astrophysics. I got into my current field of work during my first post-doc. I had obtained amazing data from the Hubble Space Telescope – images of a nearby galaxy that looked pretty disturbed because of a close encounter with another galaxy.

When the two galaxies got close to each other, gravity did its work and created havoc. That led to large-scale star formation. Many new stars were born because of this interaction, and most of them occurred in the form of star clusters – each containing a few hundred thousand to millions of stars. Star clusters can be used as lighthouses in distant galaxies, as you can see them from afar even when you can't see individual stars. Then you can model them based on their observational properties – the shape of their spectrum, their brightness, their size – this all tells you something about the evolutionary history of the galaxy in which they are found.

What do you work on now?



Prof Richard de Grijs

Prof de Grijs is based at the Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics and Peking University.

Richard de Grijs obtained his PhD from the University of Groningen (Netherlands) in 1997. He joined the Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics at Peking University in 2009.

You can follow him on www.astro-expat.info and meet him at the Understanding Science lectures every month in Beijing.



Now I still work mainly on the physics of star clusters, but I also look at what happens much closer by, in galaxies close to Milky Way, where we can see individual stars. Most star formation happens in the form of clusters, but in galaxies like the Milky Way, we see large numbers of stars that don't belong to star clusters, so at some point there must be a conversion from clustered to more individual distributions. This is the basis of my research.

How did you become an astrophysicist?

When I was in 3rd grade, at primary school (!), I was interested in geography. Once I fell ill and missed a lesson on the Moon. In order to catch up on what I missed, I started reading up. I first wanted to be an astronaut but I was very tall, so I decided to be an astronomer instead. Looking back, it wasn't that realistic either, as astronomy is a hard field to establish a successful career in, but it worked out. Math was always my strongest subject so it was easy to proceed.

You had a number of academic posts in the UK and the US before you moved to China. What were your motivations behind the relocation?

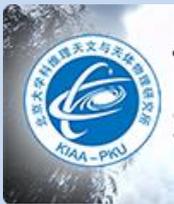
My wife, who is Chinese, and I met in the US, and then we moved to the UK. She is an academic as well, and at that time it was hard for her to establish herself in a permanent position in the UK. In the meanwhile, I had established good connections with Chinese astrophysicists, and had supervised a number of PhD students from China. Then I learned that a new international research institute – the KIAA – was established at PKU. My wife didn't want to move back to China at first, but then she received an offer from Tsinghua, so it was a natural decision to go.

There are still not so many foreign researchers who come here.

It is true that as a foreign researcher in China you have to be careful where you are going to. The scientific level is sufficiently high in many fields, although this is not always recognized internationally. For me, the risk wasn't as high, as I came as a senior researcher and I was already established.

I wouldn't have come to China, if I hadn't been offered a tenured position. It was a promotion but I also felt that I was ready for a new challenge. At the moment, I work with the best students I've ever worked with – and this is a strong asset of PKU. PKU students are simply great. In addition, in the UK the science funding was being reduced time after time, but science funding in China is still increasing. So also from a funding perspective, it is increasingly better to be a researcher in China.

Why don't more European researchers recognize this opportunity? What can be done to change this?



The Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics (KIAA) is jointly supported by Peking University and Kavli Foundation, USA. KIAA started operation in 2007.

KIAA's mission is to establish an international center of excellence in astronomy and astrophysics that promotes the development of basic astrophysical research. Its primary goal is to foster frontier research in a vibrant intellectual environment.



The culture is completely different and it is not easy to come directly from Europe. Very few people speak English outside of work. The professional culture is very hierarchical compared to Europe or the US, so you have to adjust and be flexible.

I think the outside world doesn't see the potential, and often considers China very closed. I hope that we are contributing to changing this perception at the KIAA. We are very international and the astronomical community in China recognizes that we do things differently, and we are gradually being accepted more widely.

We are a Chinese institution that is recognized internationally. We have a fair fraction of foreign faculty members and post-docs from all over the world. International scientists increasingly get to know about us and as a result, we are now receiving strong applications for post-doc and faculty positions.

So, the situation is changing. The Chinese government is trying to attract senior foreign scientists, but less focus is on attracting junior researchers. The recruitment package is pretty good as long as you work for CAS, which excludes most universities. It is more difficult to attract good people to universities, as there is no parallel scheme to that offered by the CAS. The Chinese government is making visa applications easier for foreign experts, so they're on the right track. But it needs a bit more streamlining to make the environment more international.

How does the community recognize you as a foreigner?

When I first moved here five years ago, there were very few senior foreign scientists in China. At that time, the perception in the scientific community was that these people wouldn't stay here for more than a few months, or a few years at best. I got the impression that we weren't taken very seriously as members of the community. That is changing. I have the feeling that we are taken more seriously now, as people know we are here for the long haul. We are allowed to apply for funding, at least for standard grants from NSFC, in English, and this is fantastic. But the bigger pots of money, the Key Projects and funds from other ministries, including MoST, these must be applied for in Chinese and defended in Chinese. In that sense, we are stuck at the bottom of the funding pile. We can get grants which are quite adequate for our research needs but not overly generous in terms of international travel or hiring post-docs. For large grants, we need to be co-investigators with Chinese PIs, which is something that could be improved.

I do my science on my computer. I actually don't need to have access to very large telescopes. I can apply for observing time at international facilities, I can use their archives, plus we have smaller facilities in China which fill a niche. I have collaborators across the world. In terms of obtaining scientific data, I have no issues, plus, as I mentioned, I have fantastic students. So I am very happy.

What are the big “fashionable” challenges in your field?



Astronomy in China is mostly done at CAS institutes – the National Astronomical Observatories and its subsidiaries in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Kunming, as well as at USTC in Hefei. There are also a small number of universities such as PKU and Nanjing University where astronomy departments have been established. And the Chinese community is very keen to get involved in big projects to pursue the big questions. They are members of the TMT – the Thirty Meter Telescope, thirty meters in diameter – a next generation large telescope which is being built in Hawaii. It should be operational during the early part of the next decade. Thanks to the TMT, we will be able to directly image planets maybe as small as our Earth. Now we can probe planets several times the size of Jupiter. In general, we will also be able to see the universe in much more detail. Nowadays, we can study the Milky Way in detail, but once we go to greater distances, our images become fuzzier.

A key question is what causes the accelerated expansion of the universe. The universe is not just expanding but the expansion is accelerating, and this is happening thanks to a mysterious force or pressure, called dark energy. This field – cosmology – is also big in China.

What motivates you as a researcher?

That is a simple question with quite some implications! From a scientific point of view, I am just curious. I want to know more – pursuing knowledge for the sake of knowledge. But I am not someone who sits in front of a computer all day. I like interacting with people, so my students are a real motivator. That's what makes me come to the office every day.

You are an outspoken person also active in Beijing's Understanding Science initiative for science communication. Can you tell us more about it?

When I first moved here, there was an EU-funded programme called S&T Fellowships. It was a very successful EU initiative that funded around 60 junior scientists to move to China for a few years. STF-funded young Europeans set up Understanding Science. We have public events about once a month. Most often we invite visiting scientists from abroad to give presentations to the general public and talk about science while enjoying food and drinks at a local café.

Why is this important?

Science is funded by the general public through taxes so I think it is important to show that what we are doing at universities is actually more interesting than what ends up in the scientific papers. Sometimes we do research that has direct bearing on people's lives and sometimes we do research only for the sake of research. We want to show what those beautiful things we figure out are.



Understanding Science

"Understanding Science" is organized by the UK Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), International Space Science Institute - Beijing and the Institute of Physics (IoP). You can get their alerts about monthly lectures for general public on: understandingsciencebeijing@gmail.com



Do you think it matters even more than it used to? We are surrounded by science and technology.

That is indeed the perception in the Western world. Most funders require you to include public understanding in your research proposals. China is not as developed yet, but I think this is changing. The government recognizes the need for scientific communication, although it hasn't been translated into policies yet, as far as I know.

The world is becoming more technological so it is good to have an idea of what science and technology can do for you. You don't need to be a scientist or a technical person as long as you understand how scientific reasoning works, and how to have a critical view of the world.

EURAXESS supports international mobility of researchers. You have lived in the US, the UK, the Netherlands and China. What impact has mobility had on your life? Is it important in science of the 21st century?

Yes. I think it is crucial that you have experience that goes beyond the country of origin. The world is international, it is a global market place – and science and technology are also global. And by moving away from your comfort zone, to another country with possibly a different language, you open up yourself to new influences. You become a more rounded person and require a different perspective.

How can mobility between Europe and China be improved?

As a senior scientist, I'd be pleased to host PhD students or junior post-docs in my group. Such programmes are happening at an institutional or bilateral basis, but dedicated funding for people to come to China on a larger scale is lacking. There are funds in China to go to Europe, but the situation also isn't ideal. Funding from the China Scholarship Council is limited and requires the awardees to spend a minimum of two years back in China after the completion of their fellowship. This puts off the more capable students because they would like to be more flexible. I think what needs to be done is that the decision-makers on a higher level should come up with good funding schemes that allow mobility in both directions – without the immediate need to return to the home country for a number of years. It is taxpayers' money well invested, because the large majority of awardees will eventually come back, more rounded and more experienced than they would be after a single stint abroad. And those who won't return will still be very valuable ambassadors for their home country!

Thank you for your time!



3 EURAXESS Links Activities

3.1 Research and Innovation Tour: Where Europe and China Connect

Next events (with EURAXESS Links China participation):

Chengdu: Monday 6 July, 9-11 AM, Sichuan S&T Exchange Center (registration details tbc)

Chongqing: Tuesday 7 July, 9-11 AM, Chongqing University of Posts and Communications, Yifu Building (register with Ms WU Jing wujing@cqupt.edu.cn)

Each event is tailored to provide a unique set of lectures and presentations promoting different research and innovation programmes. Moreover, attendees will be given opportunities to exchange views face-to-face with the European representatives. Highlights of each Tour seminar are inspiring testimonials from former or current participants engaged in EU-level or EU Member State/Associated Country national collaborative research programmes. This year, **the R&I Tour leads through 16 cities in 14 provinces across China between May and November.** Please get the latest news and stories about the Tour on this [website: www.eu-in-china.com](http://www.eu-in-china.com)





3.2. EURAXESS Science Slam



Don't be afraid to tell the story of your research!

A science slam is a scientific talk where researchers compete to present their work in front of a non-expert audience. The slam is a way to show the engaging and fascinating side of research to the wider public.

We are looking for enthusiastic researchers keen on showing their projects to the public. Have a look at www.scienceslamchina.com and sign up. If your idea is among the five most creative ones, you will become one of the 5 finalists in the Science Slam in Beijing.

Creativity and interest in reaching out to the public are necessary requirements to take part. Those with competitive spirit will surely be pleased with the fact that the first prize is a free trip to Europe which includes a trip to **EU headquarters in Brussels** to meet EU research policy representatives, **plus** free field visits to a research institution – **anywhere in the European Union!**

The EURAXESS Science Slam is open to researchers from **all fields and all sectors** (incl. Social Sciences and Humanities, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences and Engineering) **all nationalities and all research career stages currently based in China** (incl. Hong Kong and Macau).

The deadline for submissions is **8 October 2015**. The 5 best videos will be selected by a jury and their authors invited to come to Beijing and compete for a trip to Europe at the Science Slam finals at the end of October in Beijing. More info at www.scienceslamchina.com

Terms and Conditions are [here](#).

[Access the flyer here](#) in PDF: **We'll be glad if you help us distribute it among your students, your colleagues and friends in the research community!**





The Slam

Do you want to have a rock star moment? Present your ideas to the world?

Don't be afraid to tell the story of your research! EURAXESS Links China is now looking for the **EURAXESS Science Slammer China 2015**. Join the competition and enjoy the fun side of science! Submit a short video and get to the LIVE finals to be held in **Beijing in October 2015**. Only one slammer will win the Slam crown – and a free trip to Europe as first prize!

In Europe, you will have the opportunity to visit a European research institution of your choice, meet representatives of the European Commission in the headquarters in Brussels and catch up with the other five EURAXESS Science Slam winners from ASEAN, Brazil, India, Japan and North America!

About EURAXESS Links

EURAXESS Links is a networking tool for European researchers working outside Europe and non-European ones wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a research career in Europe. It has thus far been launched in ASEAN (as a hub encompassing Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam), Brazil, China, India, Japan and North America (encompassing Canada and the USA). EURAXESS Links provides information about research in Europe, job vacancies, European research policy, as well as opportunities for research funding, international collaboration and trans-national mobility.

How to participate:

Step 1: Get creative and develop an original idea to present your research project to the world. Everything is allowed: Live experiment, cooking, tap dancing - you name it!

Step 2: Register at www.scienceslamchina.com and we will ask you to show us your research with a short video or video call.

Step 3: Become one of the 5 finalists in the Science Slam in Beijing and compete for a trip to Europe.

All Science Slam presentations must be in English. Video submissions must be max. 5 minutes long. Closing date: **8 October 2015, 12pm (Beijing time)**

EURAXESS Science Slam is open to China-based researchers from all sectors, all fields (incl. Social Sciences and Humanities, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering), all nationalities and all research career stages.

For more information please visit our country website: china.euraxess.org

3.3 EURAXESS Science Slam – Here is what you can win: Winners’ Tour 2015

Do you wonder what the main prize looks like to get inspired? The winners from last years’ EURAXESS Science Slam 2014 have just returned from an unforgettable trip to Europe.

Together with our very own winner from the **China competition, Wang Yanting**, the winners from other regional competitions in **ASEAN, Japan, India, Brazil and North America** also joined the tour.

Their European week started in **Bonn, Germany** with a two-day science communication training. Winners then left to meet EU research policy representatives in **Brussels, Belgium**. Afterwards, each of them went to the institution of their own choice, and the group spread out to Copenhagen, Potsdam, Cambridge, Toulouse, Paris and Mannheim. **Wang Yanting** who won last year’s science slam in China with her “**Story of Addiction**” went to meet her experts of choice in Mannheim and Heidelberg.



Winners in front of Grand Place in Brussels (Wang Yanting on the very left)

4 News & Developments

4.1 EU & Multilateral Cooperation

Commission replies to European Citizens' Initiative against animal testing

The European Commission issued a Communication in response to the European Citizens' Initiative [Stop Vivisection](#). While sharing the conviction that animal testing should be phased out in Europe, the Commission considers it premature to repeal the current Directive on protecting animals used for scientific purposes, as the signatories of the initiative request. For the Commission, the Directive is needed to ensure a high level of protection of the animals used in research. The JRC actively supports the Directive, running the [European Union Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing \(EURL ECVAM\)](#) which develops, validates and promotes alternative approaches to animal testing.

[Read more](#) (Source: Joint Research Centre)

World environment day: consume with care

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) motto for this year's world environment day is "Seven billion dreams. One planet. Consume with care". It reminds us that the well-being of humanity, the environment, and the functioning of the economy ultimately depend upon the responsible management of the planet's natural resources. In this context, the JRC supports the EU's efforts to move towards a more competitive, resource-efficient [circular economy](#).

Source: [Joint Research Centre](#))



Microscopic examination of cells treated with cytotoxic chemicals.
© EU, 2015



The JRC supports global efforts to move towards a more sustainable consumption
© UNEP



23rd EUBCE marks the record of participating countries and confirms its global leading role for the bioenergy community



With 803 presentations by over 2,500 authors and co-authors, this year, the 23rd European Biomass Conference and Exhibition has marked the record number of 76 participating countries. In total, 1,394 participants attended the EUBCE and, as the hosting country, Austria ranked first by number of participants, followed by Germany, Italy and The Netherlands. An impressive 30% increase in the number of participants from Asian countries also showed the growing interest for biomass and bioenergy in this region.

Source: [EUBCE](#) and [Joint Research Centre](#)

Horizon 2020 kick-starts Bio-based industries in Europe with €50 million

The first ten projects of the new Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU), a partnership between the EU and industry, will get underway with a total of €50 million from Horizon 2020, the EU's research funding programme, and a further €28 million from the industry. This is thanks to the signature of the grant agreements finalised this month (15 June 2015). Source: [What's New in Research & Innovation](#)

SME Instrument latest results: 42 innovative SMEs to share €68.5 million under Horizon 2020

42 SMEs from 14 countries have been selected in the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 2. For each project, the participants will receive up to €2.5 million (up to €5 million for health projects) to finance innovation activities and the development of their business plans. The companies will also be entitled to benefit from up to 12 days of [business coaching](#).

The European Commission received 614 proposals under Phase 2 by the first cut-off date of 2015 on 18 March. 230 received an evaluation score above the application threshold and 37 or 16.1% have been selected for funding.

Spanish SMEs have once again been particularly successful with 7 beneficiaries on track to receive over €12.6 million. They are closely followed by firms from Italy, Finland, France, Netherlands and the UK.

Since the launch of the programme on 1st January 2014, 214 SMEs from 22 countries have been selected under Phase 2 of the SME Instrument sharing more than €294 million.

Source: [European Commission - Research & Innovation – Press Centre](#)

Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 2
Grant requested and number of SMEs per country
(March 2015 cut-off)

Country	Grant Requested (€ m.)	Number of SMEs
Spain	12,62	7
Finland	9,09	4
Israel	7,22	3
United Kingdom	7,05	4
Italy	6,68	6
France	6,24	4
Netherlands	5,11	4
Germany	3,59	2
Estonia	2,49	1
Slovenia	2,45	2
Denmark	1,89	1
Hungary	1,7	1
Sweden	1,41	2
Ireland	0,99	1
Total	68,53	42



MONTHLY FOCUS - Robots at the wheel

Could self-driving cars ever really replace human drivers? How will they interact with other traffic? Who would be liable in the event of an accident?

As self-driving cars accelerate towards reality, we explore some of the key questions surrounding the future of automated transport. We find out that city-dwellers could soon be transported around the streets in automated pods, whereas those that live in the country will depend more and more on their car to perform routine tasks such as parking and cruising on the motorway.

We talk to the researchers who are designing ways for automated cars to talk to each other so they can switch lanes, cross junctions and organise into platoons without the help of humans.

We also explore how the EU is teaming up with the US and Japan to share ideas and make self-driving cars a global reality, and how one of the next big challenges is to come up with a set of rules and regulations before self-driving systems can be introduced.

Source: [HORIZON The EU Research & Innovation Magazine](#)

SPACE - First light from far-away planet shines the way to new earths

It isn't easy to spot planets far away in our galaxy – normally we can only infer their presence, from the effect they have on their host stars. But now a group of astronomers has demonstrated an easier way to study distant worlds, by detecting the first visible light reflected off an exoplanet.

According to group member and PhD student Jorge Martins at the University of Porto in Portugal, seeing the exoplanet like this was rather like looking at a streetlamp one hundred metres away, and being able to glimpse a moth flying right next to it.

Source: [HORIZON The EU Research & Innovation Magazine](#)

HEALTH - Glove-like device gives artificial hands a sense of touch

Researchers say they have made the first device that can give artificial hands sensory feedback without needing to be implanted into the skin.

There is already technology that can give sensory feedback to people with false hands, but it requires that a nerve interface is implanted into their arm.

Now, European researchers on the WAY project have developed a method of enabling prosthesis wearers to feel when they have grasped something by using vibrations.

Source: [HORIZON The EU Research & Innovation Magazine](#)



The star 51 Pegasi is in the northern constellation of Pegasus, also called The Winged Horse. Image ESO/Digitized Sky Survey 2.



The glove can enable amputees to pick up fragile objects. Image Credit: The BioRobotics Institute, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy.



EU and Japan step up cooperation on 5G mobile technology and strengthen research and innovation collaboration

With the new 5G agreement, the EU will join forces with Japan to cope with the increasing need for wireless Internet and complement current efforts to create a [Digital Single Market](#) in Europe.

Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society said: "5G will be the backbone of our digital economies and societies worldwide. This is why we strongly support and seek a global consensus and cooperation on 5G. Our agreement with Japan is a milestone on the road to a global definition of 5G, its service characteristics and standards. It shows that our countries are ready to take leadership in building our digital future."

The agreement will allow EU and Japan to work towards a common understanding and standards of 5G, identify new harmonised radio band frequencies for 5G spectrum and cooperate on future 5G applications in areas like [connected cars](#) or [e-health](#). Together, the partners will also invest €12 million during the next two years in 5G-related projects to help develop the [Internet of Things,Cloud](#) or [Big Data platforms](#).

Source: [European Commission](#)

EUREKA calls featured on new search tool YourEUprofile

[YourEUprofile](#) is a new intelligent search tool on European funding programmes, calls for proposals and related legislation. EUREKA is a strategic partner of the service and its calls for projects are prominently featured.

The associated new website, [EU Funding Trends](#), also provides regular news and events updates on EU funding, particularly in the area of innovation and including latest information on EUREKA's activities.

Source: [EUREKA Network](#)

Text and data mining freedom at stakes in copyright reform

The work of European Scientists could be hampered by proposed copyright law

Scientists digging in the haystack of research publications for patterns, trends or other information, increasingly rely on text and data mining (TDM) techniques. Without these tools, it is impossible to systematically analyse the rapidly growing volume of scientific knowledge. Yet, European scientists cannot apply TDM as widely as they wish. Due to legal restriction, they fear that Europe may fall behind other countries with respect to TDM. As the commission is expected to propose a reform of existing regulations later this year, the debate on TDM and copyright law is gaining momentum. Scientists hope a reform will harmonise copyright regulations across the EU member states in favour of TDM. But traditional scientific publishers continue to [support existing regulations](#).

Source: [EuroScientist](#)





MyScienceWork launched POLARIS, a digital platform for the promotion of research



MyScienceWork announced the launch of POLARIS, customized online platforms to maximize the dissemination and communication of research. POLARIS is a versatile tool that allows institutions to make their research accessible, communicate about their latest findings, establish collaborations and have decision-making tools for their research priorities.

For further information, please consult [the French version of this news item](#).

(Source: Luxembourg Portal for Innovation and Research)

Read also [Research institutions need visibility. Luckily, there's POLARIS!](#)

4.2 EU Member States*, China & Bilateral Cooperation

Europe, China and beyond : 6th INCO Conference: Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity

On Wednesday 17th June, the 6th INCONTACT conference with subtitle “Joint Innovation, Common Prosperity” took place in A.C. Embassy hotel in Beijing. Dr Xing Jijun (DDG of CSTEC), moderator of the morning session, gave a warm welcome to the audience of participants from Horizon 2020 National Contact Points from EU Member States, Associated Countries and around the world, as well as EU embassies, EU Delegation and EURAXESS Links, in addition to Chinese regional contact points and thematic contact points from various regional S&T Exchange Centres. The following opening addresses, by Dr Laurent Bochereau, Science Counsellor of the EU Delegation, and Mr Nondas Christofilopoulos (FORTH) the coordinator of INCONTACT 2020 stressed out the importance and role of NCP network.



* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



European Union: "EU-China Friendship Garden" inaugurated at Beijing Foreign Studies University

As part of the official celebrations for the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the European Union and the People's Republic of China, the Delegation of the European Union to China, in cooperation with Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and all 28 EU Member States, officially inaugurated "The EU-China Friendship Garden" in a ceremony on the BFSU campus today.

For this occasion, a total of 29 trees were planted: 28 ginkgo trees representing the 28 EU Member States, as well as one oak tree, representing the EU-China partnership. Ginkgo Biloba trees symbolize longevity and tenacity and have been cultivated in China for over 1,500 years. The Oak tree is a symbol of strength and endurance, and was also regarded as a sacred tree in many parts of Europe in ancient times, known as the Tree of Life since its roots penetrate deep into the ground and its branches reach high to the heavens. ([The Delegation of the European Union in Beijing](#)).

Germany: Sino-German conference "Sustainable Urbanization" at Tongji University in Shanghai

On 8 May 2015, in the occasion of that the German Ministry of Education and Research has declared the 2015 a year of science with the special theme "Future City", a joint German-Chinese Conference titled "Sustainable Urbanization" was held at Tongji University in Shanghai. The conference was organized jointly by the two countries and opened by Vice Minister Cao Jianlin of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and State Secretary Dr. Georg Schütte from the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). ([German Embassy in Beijing](#)).

Greece: Greek Consul General Meets with the Deputy Head of the National Library of China

The Greek Minister Councillor, Ms. Fotiadou, met on Thursday 28 May with Deputy Head the National Library of China, Mr. Sun Yigang, to explore possibilities for cooperation between the National Library of Greece and the National Library of China. Among the areas of possible cooperation that were mentioned was the exchange and training of professional staff, maintenance and restoration of old books and manuscripts, as well as making reports and seminars. The parties also discussed the possibility of signing the relevant Memorandum of Understanding between the two libraries. ([Embassy of Greece in Beijing](#)).



France: Signing of a cooperation agreement in the field of agricultural research

On the sidelines of the conference "Agro-ecology in the context of climate change", that was held in Beijing and organized by the Embassy of France on 4 June, the adviser to the chairman of the Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD), Mr. Etienne Hainzelin, and Vice -president of the Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences of China (CATAS), Mr. Sun Haoqin, signed a memorandum of cooperation. This agreement covers multi-thematic research, high-level training, innovation, and shared use of results from future joint research. ([Embassy of France in Beijing](#)).

France: Conference Associated With the World Day of Accreditation

Norbert Paluch, Science and Technology Counselor of the Embassy of France in China, took part in a session devoted to *Support the Accreditation of Health and Social Protection Policies*, organized as a part of a conference held by the Chinese authorities because of the *World Day of Accreditation* held on June 9, 2015 in Beijing. The National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (CNAS), the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the National Commission for Health and Family Planning, the Control Center and Disease Prevention (CDC of China) and the Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) attended the event.

The participation of the Counselor was an opportunity to recall the intergovernmental agreement from 2004 on the prevention and fight against emerging infectious diseases, and specify the main components:

- Creation of the *Institut Pasteur* of Shanghai;
- Four mobile laboratories high biosafety P3, stationed in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou;
- Construction of a biological high-security laboratory P4 in Wuhan (Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences - CAS);
- Training in safety and biological safety of Chinese personnel involved in the operation of Wuhan P4 laboratory;
- Bilateral working to harmonize standards and regulations concerning safety and biosecurity;
- Scientific cooperation.

After briefly presenting the characteristics of Wuhan P4 laboratory, whose [completion](#) was celebrated on January 31, 2014, the Counselor reiterated the importance of each of the four phases of the laboratory accreditation process, leading to its operationalization. ([Embassy of France in Beijing](#)).



France: Franco-Chinese dialogue on agro-ecology in the context of climate change

The Embassy of France in China, working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MAAF), INRA and ALLIENVI, held a conference on "agro-ecology in the context of climate change" in Beijing from 3 to 5 June. The program included discussions on the contribution of agriculture to the fight against and adaptation to global warming, as well as a field visit in Shandong province.

140 participants from the world of research, public policy development and agricultural training as well as the corporate world (with the participation of the French side of Air Liquide, Berthoud, Cooperl, Danone, Groupama, I-Tek, Limagrain, Veolia, Vidon & Partners and Roullier) met in Beijing to share and compare their agro-ecological approaches and practices.

Agricultural University of China, the Institute for Agro-Environmental and Climate Change of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences in China, the Rural Development Centre (DRC) of the council of state affairs and the Chinese Academy of Forestry participated in the conference on the Chinese side. ([Embassy of France in Beijing](#)).

France: the CNRS launched two structuring actions with China in the fields of Genomics and Climate Science

Starting in 2012, China was the first scientific partner of CNRS (The French National Scientific Research Centre) in Asia. The number of joint publications between China and the CNRS has continued to grow over the years. To support this development the CNRS has begun to focus on special "**structuring actions**". These actions are set up in the form of supervised and evaluated scientific partnerships whose purpose is the implementation of special 4-year projects. The "**International Associated Laboratory**" (LIA) is the main tool of this policy. The CNRS in China currently has 17 LIA in almost all scientific fields, including social sciences. In a recent mission a CNRS delegation established two new such Structuring Actions in the fields of Genomics and Climate Science. ([Embassy of France in Beijing](#)).

Italy: A Report on Italy's Science & Technology Strategy in China Published

A study on scientific and technological cooperation with China, aimed at industries, universities and research bodies, has been published. The study analyses the relations between Italy and China, identifies geographical areas and issues on which to focus future efforts and points to the mutual benefit in cooperation between Italy and China in the field of S & T.



The study was made at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and drafted by a small group of experts from institutions, organizations and universities that have a well-established collaboration with countries in East Asia.

The study was carried out with the collaboration of the Italian Embassy in Beijing and the Ministry while contributions were provided by Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, National Research Council (CNR), National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN), National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV), Sapienza - University of Rome, Politecnico di Milano, Politecnico di Torino, and Unitalia.

A copy of the report can be found online [here](#) (in Italian). ([Italian Embassy in Beijing](#)).

Italy: Opening of an Italian-Chinese Joint Research Center in Remote Laser Sensing

The Center was established by the BRIT (Beijing Research Institute of Telemetry) and the Italian CNISM (National Consortium for the Physical Sciences of Matter). The joint activities concern the monitoring of the composition of the atmosphere to obtain very detailed information on the presence of pollutants of various kinds and to carry out precise mapping. ([Italian Embassy in Beijing](#)).

Spain: The Second China-Spain CIO Exchange Meeting Held in Beijing

On 18 June, the second China-Spain CIO (Chief Information Officer) Exchange Meeting was held in Beijing. The Meeting was held at the headquarters of the Chinese firm Huawei. The Spanish side had 11 representatives attending the event, the global CIO of the Spanish meat giant Campofrio, the CIO of the Spanish engineering company Tecnicas Reunida, the IT director of the wine company Miguel Torres, the IT director of Abba Hotels S.A., the CIO of Universia Education Group, the CEO of the consulting firm Presidente Grupo Ambrosetti, the CIO and Director of Public Relations of UCAM Education Group, the global head of Vodafone, the vice president of the Spanish branch of Huawei, and the General manager of the social networking site CIONET. The Spanish representatives visited Huawei and exchanged information. Secretary-General of the China Construction Machinery Industry Association Working Committee, Zhouxian Biao, participated in the exchange. ([hc360.com](#)).



United Kingdom: Business Secretary Sajid Javid meets Chinese entrepreneurs in London

The British Business Secretary, Sajid Javid, saw on 19 June 2015 the signing of commercial MoUs and contracts between UK and Chinese companies worth around £30 million.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Sajid Javid, met with Chinese and British companies in London to help strengthen the UK and China commercial collaboration across trade and investment.

The Business Secretary welcomed the growing presence of Beijing firms in the UK and encouraged further inward investment. (gov.uk).

5 Grants & Fellowships

LOOKING FOR FUNDING?

To find out more about **EU funding opportunities** for your research or innovation project please visit the [European Commission's Participant Portal](#) where all calls are published.

International researchers are also invited to join the [database of independent experts](#) for European research and innovation. Distinguished specialists are strongly encouraged to join the database of independent experts, through which they can participate in the evaluation of project proposals and monitoring of actions, submitted under Horizon 2020.

5.1 EU: Call announcements for international researchers

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: New Offers from Host Institutions

Researchers working across **all disciplines**, from life-saving healthcare to 'blue-sky' science, are eligible for funding. The MSCA also support industrial doctorates, combining academic research study with work in companies, and other innovative training that enhances employability and career development. Download a [pocket guide](#) to MSCA.

The only currently open call is H2020-MSCA-IF-2015 – Individual Fellowships (IF) – European and Global. Deadline: 10 September 2015.

[Details and all application documents are on the Participant Portal.](#) The IF is available for **experienced researchers** who at the deadline for the submission of the proposal have a doctoral degree or at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Looking for a host? Check [500 expressions of interest from Spanish Institutions](#), or see some offers from [Irish](#) or [German](#) host institutions. The types of fellowships and eligibility conditions are described here.

The following institutions are keen on hosting a MSCA fellow. See their offers below.



Spain: The University of Zaragoza

Here is a [link to a pdf](#) with an offer for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships at Spain's University of Zaragoza.

Poland: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin

Click [here](#) to download an offer to meet your possible next host institution in Poland under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (MSCA IF).

Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland, is seeking to develop collaborative funding proposals with experienced researchers for submission under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (IF) programme.

Italy: University of Calabria

Click [here](#) to download an offer to meet your possible next host institution in southern Italy under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (MSCA IF).

China/The UK: Looking for a Marie Curie *Global Fellow* from Europe to China (Chinese nationality)

Dr Maris Farquharson (Nottingham Business School in China) is looking for an **experienced researcher of Chinese nationality** who currently works in Europe and would like to get engaged in a project on returnee entrepreneurship in China (Ningbo) for two years. Dr Farquharson's research explores **Chinese returnee entrepreneurs in high-tech sectors** (-Chinese people who have worked outside China and then returned to set up a high-tech company in China).

For this goal, Dr Farquharson is looking for an experienced researcher (with a PhD degree and up) of Chinese nationality who is resident in Europe, in order to be eligible for the MSCA Global Fellowship. The Global Fellowship would enable the person to come to China for two years with a mandatory return period back in Europe. All details and more on the research proposal can be found in [this PDF](#).

FEBS Return-to-Europe Fellowship

Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) Return-To-Europe Fellowships are awarded to support outstanding scientists who, having left the European area for post-doctoral training elsewhere, wish to return to Europe for a post-doctoral position with a view to pursuing an independent research career. These Fellowships are granted for two years. The amount of the Fellowship will depend on the cost of living in the country where the research will be carried out.

Applicants need to have obtained their PhD in Europe and held a post-doctoral position overseas for no more than four years. They should normally be scientists with no more than six years post-doctoral experience.



In order to be eligible to apply for a Return-to-Europe Fellowship, applicants need to be members of a FEBS Constituent Society, to be working in a laboratory outside Europe and to be seeking to work in a laboratory in a FEBS country. Applications must be aimed at furthering the science of biochemistry and molecular biology. Max. duration 24 months, annual deadline **1 October**. Details are on [FEBS](#) or [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

FEBS Long-term Fellowship

Federation of European Biochemical Societies FEBS Long-Term Fellowships are awarded to support long-term visits for the purpose of scientific collaboration or advanced training. These Fellowships are originally granted for one year and may be renewed for a further year up to a maximum of three years. The amount of the Fellowship will depend on the cost of living in the country where the research will be carried out. Info is available on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

5.3 EU: Open calls under Horizon 2020

Access all open calls on the [Horizon 2020 Participant Portal](#).



Excellent Science programme

5 open calls including:

European Research Council frontier research grants:

[ERC Proof of Concept Grant](#) – Deadline **1 October 2015** (cut-off dates 5 Feb. and 28 May 2015)

[MSCA Individual Fellowship](#) – Deadline **10 September 2015**

Industrial Leadership

6 open calls (*ALL calls are open to Chinese participation!*):

Societal Challenges

11 open calls (*ALL calls are open to Chinese participation!*)

Watch out for the new Work Programmes 2016/2017, to be published in early autumn 2015.



5.4 EU Member States*: Call announcements for international researchers

Austria: Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships

The purpose of the Erwin Schrödinger Fellowships is to allow young scientists doing research in Austria to perform work stays at leading foreign research institutions. **Young and highly qualified scientists of any discipline and nationality currently affiliated with an Austrian research institution may apply** for research stays abroad of 10 to 24 months in length (without return phase) or a stay of 16 to 36 months in length (including return phase of 6 to 12 months).

The applicants must obtain an invitation from host institutions both abroad and in Austria (in case they apply to the fellowship scheme including a return phase). Applications accepted continuously. Further information [here](#).

Austria: Franz Werfel Grant and Richard Plaschka Scholarship

The Franz Werfel Grant addresses itself to **young university teachers whose work focuses on Austrian Literature**. The Richard Plaschka Scholarship is for **foreign university lecturers of history** whose main academic focus is **Austrian history**. Grant recipients should focus on eastern and south-eastern European area history with an emphasis on cross-border collaboration. Both programmes, provided by OeAD, offers material support for up to 18 months, but through follow-up support also guarantees sustainability. Candidates of any nationality, and at least of a postgraduate level, with a background in Austrian literature may apply. Recipients of Werfel grants can work as visiting researchers at university departments and carry out specialist studies in libraries, archives or at research institutions. Two calls per year. Next deadline: **15 September**

Further information [here](#)

Austria: Marietta Blau Grant

The Marietta Blau Grant offers financial support for carrying out the abroad part (6-12 months) of a doctoral programme at Austrian universities: the grant enables scientific research worldwide. Target group: Highly qualified doctoral

* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



candidates enrolled at an Austrian university. Closing date for application: **September 1st**. See more [here](#).

Germany: DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships in the fields of Space, Aeronautics, Energy and Transportation Research

DLR-DAAD Research Fellowships is a new programme implemented by the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR - German Aerospace Center) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This special programme is intended for highly-qualified **foreign doctoral and postdoctoral students as well as senior scientists**. DLR-DAAD Fellowships offer outstanding scientists and researchers the opportunity to conduct special research at the institutes of the DLR in Germany. DLR-DAAD Fellowships are defined and awarded on an individual basis. Each fellowship announcement will indicate the specific qualification requirements and terms of the visit. The current offers are published under [DLR-DAAD Fellowships - Current Offers on the homepages of the DAAD and the DLR](#). Currently there are open positions in Aeronautics; Space; Transportation; Energy. The application deadline depends on the offer. More information [here](#).

Germany: Incoming and Outgoing Fellowships from Bayer Science & Education Foundation

The Bayer Fellowship Programme is geared to students and trainees in scientific, technical and medical disciplines. It is open to applicants from German-speaking countries wishing to go abroad and foreign applicants who want to go to Germany.

The program comprises the following areas:

- [Otto Bayer Scholarship](#): natural sciences
- [Carl Duisberg Scholarship](#): medicine
- [Jeff Schell Scholarship](#): agro sciences
- [Kurt Hansen Scholarship](#): science teachers
- [Hermann Strenger Scholarship](#): apprentices

Deadline: **10 July 2015**. More info on [Bayer Foundations](#).

Germany: PhD Programmes at the International Max Planck Research Schools

The Max Planck Institutes and German universities jointly run the International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS). There are 60 IMPRS covering all disciplines: 26 in the Chemistry, Physics and Technology Section, 23 in the Biology and Medicine Section, and 11 in the Human and Social Sciences Section. The PhD programmes are **open to applicants from any country**



holding a Master's degree in a relevant field. Proof of English proficiency is a plus, but is not mandatory. **Deadlines** vary from a school to another: **September – November**. Further information [here](#)

France: Ifremer 2015-2016 Post-doc grants in Marine Sciences

Ifremer offers post-doctoral positions to **young French or foreign scientists** who have completed their PhD and are motivated by development and innovation in various fields of Marine Sciences: technology and ecotechnology, aquaculture, fisheries, environment, risks analysis, physics of oceans, etc. Postdoctoral positions are contracted for a **duration of 12 months**, possibly renewable for 6 months, starting in November 2015. Candidates who already performed post-doctoral research at Ifremer are excluded. Consult the list of available subjects here. Deadline: **10 September 2015**. Further information is [online](#).

The Netherlands: Vidi Grants

NWO has awarded a Vidi grant worth up to 800,000 euros to 87 experienced researchers. They can use this to develop their own, innovative line of research and to set up their own research group. Together with **Veni** and **Vici**, **Vidi** is part of the **NWO Talent Scheme**. The Vidi laureates will do research into a variety of subjects including the arms race between bacteria and viruses, the merry culture in and around the Low Countries and the appetite of a neutron star. Vidi is aimed at experienced researchers who, after their PhD, have carried out successful research for a number of years. These researchers belong to the best ten to twenty percent in their discipline. With a Vidi grant researchers can do research for a period of five years. The deadline last year was in October, see more information [here](#).

Sweden: STINT's Teaching Sabbatical

STINT's Teaching Sabbatical programme aims to develop both individuals and institutions. By giving Swedish researchers and university lecturers, who are passionate about education, international experiences relevant to their teaching role rather than their research one, STINT wants to contribute to educational renewal and the creation of new networks. Great emphasis is put on the added value of the stay abroad, which is why STINT encourages candidates to search for new international experiences. Deadline is **16 September**, see more information [here](#).

France: Institut Pasteur Roux-Cantarini Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Institut Pasteur offers postdoctoral fellowships through the Pasteur RouxCantarini programmes to give **young scientists of any nationality** the opportunity to perform a first or a second postdoctoral training in a laboratory of the Institut Pasteur. Applicants must have defended their PhD thesis less than four years before they take up their fellowship. The fellowships are awarded for a period of up to **two years**. Candidates must contact, before applying, the



head of the Institut Pasteur laboratory in which they would like to perform their work. Two calls per year. **Next deadline: 10 September** Further information [online](#).

Germany: Alexander von Humboldt's Foundation Sofja Kovalevskaja Award

The Sofja Kovalevskaja Award allows you to spend five years building up a working group on an innovative research project of your own choice at a research institution in Germany. **Researchers from all disciplines** may apply directly to the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation which may grant up to eight Awards annually. The award is valued at up to EUR 1.65 million. Eligible candidates are **top-rank foreign junior researchers** who completed their doctorate within the last six years, and have published work in prestigious international journals or publishing houses. Deadline: **1 September 2014** Further information [here](#)

Sweden: VINNOVA: VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming Fellowships

The purpose of this call is to support experienced researcher careers through mobility and international collaborations. Experienced researchers of all nationalities who have at least four years of research experience are eligible. Next deadline: **16 September 2015**. Info is [online](#).

Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: International Short Visits

The scheme International Short Visits is aimed at researchers in Switzerland who wish to go abroad for a short period or researchers abroad who wish to collaborate with researchers in Switzerland. During the visit, they pursue a small joint research project.

Short visits may last from **one week to three months**. There are no geographical and topical restrictions. The grants include travel, room and board expenses. Next deadline: Anytime. More information is [online](#).

Turkey: CO-FUNDED Brain Circulation Scheme's 4th Call

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) announces the Programme CO-FUNDED Brain Circulation Scheme (Co-Circulation Scheme). The main objective of the proposal is to attract research talent to **Turkish Research Landscape which is an integral part of the European Research Area**. The Programme is a Co-Funding Scheme and supported by TÜBİTAK and The Marie Curie Action COFUND, of the 7th. Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Commission. Co-Circulation Scheme is for incoming mobility for periods of 20-24 months (**the 4th and last call will be 12 months**), for experienced researchers of **any**



nationality with the view to enhance their career perspectives and to assist them in obtaining an independent research position

The deadline of the 4th call is **21 September**. Get more information [here on the programme's website](#).

Europe: PhD Positions with MSCA ITN Network EDICIS-PROMED

For its research posts, MEDICIS-PROMED is recruiting 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs). Eleven positions are funded by the EU, three of which will be recruited by CERN, with a further eight at the premises of MEDICIS-PROMED partners in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom, and four funded by the Swiss Confederation for recruitment by Swiss partners. More info [here](#).

Europe: Clinical training fellowship in Respiratory Science

ERS clinical training fellowships enable members in the early stages of their careers in respiratory medicine to visit a host institution in a European country other than their own to learn a skill or procedure not available at their home institution. The medical training should benefit the home institution when the successful applicant returns there. Next deadline is **3 August 2015**. Apply [here](#).

Europe: ERS Child Lung Health Research Fellowship

The ERS child lung health research fellowship is suitable for MDs in the early stages of their research career undergoing specialist clinical training in pediatric respiratory disease.

This translational research and basic science fellowship gives the opportunity to learn and develop new pediatric respiratory disease skills not available at the home institution. This programme should benefit the home institution when successful applicants return there. Next deadline is **17 August 2015**. Apply [here](#).

Switzerland: Advanced Postdoc.Mobility

Advanced Postdoc.Mobility fellowships are designed for postdocs residing in Switzerland who wish to enhance their scientific profile by working at a research institution abroad. In addition to the fellowship, applicants can request a grant for a research period upon returning to Switzerland.

The fellowships include a grant for subsistence costs, a flat-rate for travel expenses and a possible contribution to research, conference costs and matriculation fees. The return grant includes a salary and social security contributions. The funding period is 12 to 36 months (fellowship) and 3 to 12 months (return phase).

The deadline is **1 August**. See more information [here](#).



The UK: Wellcome Trust's Collaborative Awards in Science

The Wellcome Trust's **Collaborative Award** scheme supports groups of researchers who are pursuing scientific problems.

Collaborative Awards provide flexible support to excellent groups of independent researchers with outstanding track records. Proposals must address important scientific problems that can only be achieved through a collaborative team effort.

Applications which propose to carry out interdisciplinary research across Science, Medical Humanities, Society and Ethics and Innovations funding are encouraged to apply.

Applications are considered three times a year. Preliminary closing date for next round of applications is **21 September 2015**. See [more information](#).

The UK: Newton Fund UK-China-Philippines-Thailand-Vietnam call for collaborative research proposals in rice research

Applicants are invited to submit bilateral or multilateral collaborative research proposals comprising eligible researchers from the UK, China, Thailand, the Philippines or Vietnam. All proposals will be required to have a UK Principal Investigator, in addition to a Principal Investigator from one or more of the partner countries.

The funders aim to support innovative basic, strategic or applied research that will contribute to and underpin long-term sustainable production of rice, including an understanding that rice production sits alongside the provision of other ecosystem services. Proposals of up to three years in duration will be encouraged (details [online](#)). Up to £6.5M from BBSRC and NERC has been earmarked for this call with matched funding from partner agencies in China, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. More information is available [here](#).

Global: IIASA Post-doc Fellowships

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), based in Austria, conducts policy-oriented research into problems of a global nature using an interdisciplinary approach: Energy and Climate Change, Food and Water, Poverty and Equity. It provides full funding for a number of postdoctoral researchers each year. Scholars conduct their own research on topics closely related to IIASA's research agenda. The fellowships, of a 2-year duration, cover a monthly allowance, relocation expenses and some travel costs. Candidates of any nationality holding a PhD degree with less than 5 years of postdoctoral experience may apply. **Next application round opened on 1 June**. Further information [here](#)

China: PIFI – Presidential International Fellowship Initiative

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) offers a package of international fellowships, collectively called the “**CAS President's International Fellowship**



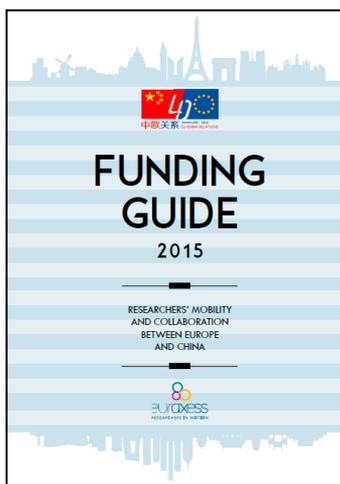
Initiative (PIFI)”, to support highly-qualified international scientists and postgraduate students to work and study at CAS institutions and strengthen their scientific collaboration with CAS researchers.

The PIFI program is available for **four categories** of international researchers and students: A. distinguished scientists, B. visiting scientists, C. postdoctoral researchers and D. international PhD students.

Information in English is available [online](#). Applications for categories A, B or C must be submitted through the main host institution affiliated to CAS. Applications submitted by individuals will NOT be accepted. Annual application deadline is **September**.

5.5 Calls still open

Calls first announced in [previous editions of the newsletter](#)



EURAXESS Funding Guide

[This is the link to the downloadable PDF](#). You can browse through a **wide array of European-level funding**, dozens and dozens of **national funding schemes**, plus a number of **Chinese funding schemes open to Europeans**. Feel free to forward it to your colleagues, friends in research-related fields all your students. We can also mail you a printed copy if you are interested.

Europe: Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships

Deadline is **25 October**. More information is available [online](#).

Europe: European Respiratory Society/EU RESPIRE2 postdoctoral Marie Curie Fellowship

This Marie Curie Fellowship offers opportunities in the broad field of respiratory science, co-funded by the European Union. The programme is aimed at experienced researchers from any discipline and will help fellows to become the future leaders in respiratory research. Next deadline: **31 July 2015**. More information is [online](#).



Belgium: BEWARE Fellowship: *Industry and Academia*

A new call has been launched in **February 2015** (cut-off dates: April 30, June 30, September 30 and November 30). Online applying form will be available from March 15th [online](#).

Czech Republic: Josef Dobrovský Fellowship



The objective of the fellowship is to support "Czech studies". **Deadline 31 August.** Information [online](#).

Denmark: International Network Programme

More information is [online](#). Next application deadline is **August 25, 2015**.

Denmark: New call for Niels Bohr Professorships

Deadline **September 1, 2015** by noon. Information and all available documents are [here](#).

Estonia: Government Scholarships

More information on the scholarships are available [on StudyinEstonia portal](#); the list of international programmes is [here](#).

Finland: CIMO Asia Programme

The next application round for China will close on **Thursday, 20 August 2015**. Find more information [here](#).

France: PRESTIGE Postdoc programme

Call for applications is **open all year long** with four cut-off dates: **31/03, 30/06, 30/09, 31/12**. More information can be found on [campusfrance website](#).

France: Connect Talent

The support for Connect Talent is funded by Pays de la Loire Region to research, training and innovation "breakthrough projects".

Deadlines: **September 2015 and February 2016**. More at www.connectalent.org

France: Institut Pasteur: Doctoral Doctoral Grants

For more information, visit [online](#) website or contact: boursesRIIP@pasteur.fr

Germany: Win a trip to Germany - FAU Open Research Challenge for young international researchers around the world

Solutions must be submitted by **26 July**. See more information on [FAU's Open Research Challenge website](#).

**Poland: Thesaurus Poloniae - Research on Polish Culture**

Deadline between 30th of June and 15th of July 2015. [Click here for more information.](#)

Spain: International Call for Fellowships in Biomedical Imaging M+Visión Cofund 2015

Incoming (7 fellowships): the three years of fellowship take place in Spain. **Outgoing** (3 fellowships): the first two years of fellowship take place in the United States and the third year in Spain. More information [online](#) or at sara.alfonso@madrimasd.org

Global: Human Frontier Science Program Postdoctoral Fellowships

Long-Term Fellowships (LTF) are for applicants with a Ph.D. in a biological discipline. **Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships (CDF)** are for applicants with a Ph.D. from outside the life sciences. The next fellowship submission deadline will be **27 August 2015**. See more information on the [website of HFSP](#).

Germany: Applications for German Chancellor Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation open

The next application round for the German Chancellor Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is open.

You can apply online until **15 September 2015**. More information on the German Chancellor Fellowship is available at www.humboldt-foundation.de/youngleaders.

Germany: Humboldt Research Fellowships

The applications for **Fellowships for Postdoctoral Researchers** and for **Experienced Researchers** are reviewed on a rolling basis. Further information here ([Postdoctoral](#)) and here ([Experienced Researchers](#)).

Germany: Emmy Noether Programme

Applications reviewed continuously. Further information is available [here](#).

Ireland: Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postdoctoral)

Open to all nationalities, **deadline 17 June 2015**. More info is [online](#).

**Italy: Call for 86 posts in PhD courses at the Scuola Normale Superiore**

Applications can be admitted by **31 August 2015**, for the autumn session. Click [online](#) for more information.

Hungary: Stipendium Hungaricum for PhD Students

Click for more information www.stipendiumhungaricum.hu/.

The Netherlands: NWO VISITORS TRAVEL GRANT

The call is now open, information [here](#).

Luxembourg: National Research Fund (FNR) - INTER Mobility Call for Proposals 2015

Deadline: **30 June 2015**. [More information](#).

Portugal: Grants for Sabbatical Leave.

All research fields and nationalities are eligible. The call is permanently open, information (in Portuguese) can be found [online](#).

Turkey: TÜBİTAK Programme 2221 - Fellowships for Visiting Scientists and Scientists on Sabbatical Leave

Short-term (up to 1 month), Long-term (up to 12 months) and Sabbatical Leave (from 3 months to 12 months). Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Further information [here](#).

Other useful websites for EU fellowships and funding:

- [Find A Postdoc](#)

- [Find scholarships in Europe](#)

- [Find PhDs in Europe](#)

- [Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants](#)

- [Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science Funding Guide](#)

- [Estonian Research Portal](#)

- [France PhD portal](#)

- [DAAD's Research in Germany Portal](#)



[- DAAD Research Fellowships and Grants Portal](#)

6 Jobs

Access thousands of job and fellowship announcements in Europe and worldwide on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#). You can sort jobs by country, level of seniority, field or research or via free text searches.

You can also advertise jobs and fellowships at your organisation, free of charge, on the EURAXESS Links China website.



6.1 Jobs in Europe and China

Europe: Job Opportunities for You Supported by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Looking for a research related job in Europe? Maybe not looking but interested to see what's available these days?

In addition to [EURAXESS Job Portal](#), which collects different job opportunities for researchers from all over Europe, you might be interested in taking a look at website of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions research fellowship which has a section called *Jobs for you*. Example of jobs posted recently are a position of a Early Stage Researcher in Spectroscopy of fluorinated Peptides and Peptidomimetics, PhD fellowship in synaptic physiology and a PhD position in fisheries management at Norwegian College of Fishery Science.

Take a look at [MSCA website](#).



Denmark: Assistant Professorship in China Studies

Copenhagen Business School invites applications for one vacant Assistant Professorship in China Studies at the Department of International Economics and Management (INT). Core research areas of the Department of International Economics and Management are 1) International Business, 2) Emerging Markets, 3) Asia Studies, and 4) Corporate Governance.

The assistant professorship is a non-tenured position of 2 years with research and teaching obligations. Closing date is 1 August. For more info and contact details, have a look at [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

Italy: ERC funded Early-Stage-Researcher/PhD positions: "Distributed optimization in cyber-physical networks"

Four Early-stage-researcher/PhD positions will be available starting Fall 2015 within the ERC Starting Grant project OPT4SMART. Research will be conducted at the Università del Salento (Lecce, Italy), under the supervision of Prof. Giuseppe Notarstefano. **OPT4SMART** will investigate a novel distributed, large-scale optimization framework and its application to big-data estimation, learning, decision and control problems in cyber-physical networks. The desired candidate holds a Master degree (or equivalent, giving access to doctoral studies) in Engineering (preferably ECE, ME, AE), (Applied) Mathematics or related fields. More information is on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

The UK: Research Assistants/Research Associates

The University of Leicester is looking to appoint researchers to join the team of the European Research Council-funded RESPONSIVEGOV project, led by Prof Laura Morales. Applications from excellent candidates in the fields of political science or political sociology to undertake independent and collaborative research, and to provide research support to the project Principal Investigator, are welcome. More information is on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

Norway: PhD Research Fellowships in History of Ideas/Intellectual History

The candidates will be affiliated with interdisciplinary research groups at the Faculty of the Humanities connected to the Nordic initiative at UiO ("Unpacking the Nordic Model"). Applicants must present an independent project that lies within the areas of these research networks. Find more on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

Finland: Assistant Professor/Associate Professor, Aquatic Research in Changing World (Tenure Track)

The University of Eastern Finland, UEF, is one of the largest multidisciplinary universities in Finland, operating on three campuses in Joensuu, Kuopio and Savonlinna. Applications are sought for an **Assistant Professor or an Associate Professor (Aquatic research in changing world)**. Talented and merited person with verifiable knowledge on conducting high level research in the field(s) of materials science and/or aquatic biology or comparable field that



is (are) related to purification of the mining industry waste waters. The person should have experience in international collaboration as well as in acquiring national/international research funding. Info [here](#).

The University of Eastern Finland (UEF) is also offering other positions on various levels (Tenure Track, PhD positions, Postdoc positions), they are all on EURAXESS Jobs. Enter keyword "UEF" or search under "Finland".

China: Ningbo University Positions

Ningbo University (NBU) is a young and dynamic university located in the beautiful city of Ningbo by East China Sea, with five campuses covering 160 hectares of land. NBU is inviting applicants to apply for postdoc, assistant professor and professor positions. Research Fields: Biological sciences, Technology, Physics, Engineering and Medical sciences. Access further details on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

China: Faculty Positions at IDG/McGovern Institute for Brain Research at Peking University: Beijing, China

Applications are invited for Principal Investigator (PI) positions at IDG/McGovern Institute for Brain Research at PKU. Positions are open at all ranks from Assistant, Associate to Full Investigator ship. The Institute was established in 2012 with support from Peking University, IDG and Patrick J. McGovern and Lore Harp McGovern, who are committed to improving human welfare, communication and understanding through their support for neuroscience research.

The institute emphasizes interdisciplinary interactions and approaches, with faculty members from biology, cognitive sciences, psychology to psychiatry and further. Applications from both Chinese and non-Chinese nationals will be evaluated on an equal opportunity basis. They look for the best researchers in neural and cognitive sciences to join. Information on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

6.2 Other EU Research Jobs Portals

EU

- [Academic Jobs EU](#)
- [Euro Science Jobs](#)
- [European Job Mobility Portal](#)
- [Careers with the European Union: European Personnel Selection Office](#)
- [Careers with the European Union \(EPSO\), non-permanent positions](#)
- [EuroBrussels- European Southern Observatory \(ESO\) recruitment portal](#)



- [CERN job portal](#)
- [Joint Research Centre external staff recruitment portal](#)

Jobs Portals in Member States and Associated Countries:

- [CEA PhD and Postdoctorate offers portal](#)
- [Belgian Federal Portal for Research and Innovation](#)
- [Cyprus' Research Promotion Foundation Database](#)
- [CNRS external examination portal](#)
- [Max Planck Society's job portal](#)
- [Helmoltz Association's job portal](#)
- [Irish Research Council Funding Portal](#)
- [Italian National Research Council vacancies](#)
- [BBSRC vacancies \(UK\)](#)
- [Science and Technology Facilities Council vacancies \(UK\)](#)
- [Helmholtz Centres \(Germany\)](#)

7 Events

7.1 EURAXESS Links China recommends

Next Understanding Science Lecture on 6 July: 25 years of Hubble

On Monday 6 July at 7:30 p.m., Prof. Claude Nicollier, a Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, will give a talk entitled "Hubble: 25 years of utilization and on-orbit servicing." This talk will be held at Truth Cafe at Beihang University.

The Hubble Space Telescope, joint project of NASA and ESA, was installed on a Low Earth Orbit by the Space Shuttle in April of 1990. Suffering from a serious optical problem, it was visited for the first time by another Shuttle crew to recover the expected optical quality and exchange other components.

Since that time, it became a very productive space-based astronomical facility and was visited again during four extra servicing missions until May 2009 to maintain it as an up-to-date instrument of superior performance. It has been used extensively to study the Solar System, protostars and star formation



regions in our galaxy, as well as planetary nebulae, galaxies, clusters of galaxies, and the very deep Universe as well.

The lecture will take place at **Truth Café at Beihang University**: Xueyuan Road No.37, Haidian District, Beijing, China

致真咖啡: 北京市海淀区学院路 37 号

"Understanding Science" is organized by the UK Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Institute of Physics (IoP) and the team welcomes you to join this and future events. Please feel free forward this email to any friends you think may be interested – email is understandingsciencebeijing@gmail.com

China and Italy: Festival of Science in Beijing

The Festival of Science will be held on **July 17 in Beijing**. This year the festival's guest of honor will be Italy. The Festival will be held at the **Beijing Exhibition Center**. On behalf of Italy, the Science Festival of Genoa, the National Institute of Nuclear Physics, the National Institute of Astrophysics and the National Research Council will participate and have their own stands at the exhibition. There will also be an exhibition dedicated to Alessandro Volta.

The Festival is organized by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), a non-governmental organization that aims to promote scientific culture in China. The Festival is primarily aimed at young people between 5 and 25 years old; the theme for 2015 will be the light (Light and Color) in relevance to the International Year of Light. (Source: Italian Embassy in Beijing, for more info visit www.chinasciencefestival.com).

7.2 Upcoming scientific events in Europe and in China

Field	Date	Location	Title (click for more details)
Events in Europe			
65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting	28 June-3 July 2015	Lindau, Germany	Lindau Meeting
Life Sciences	5-8 September 2015	Birmingham, the UK	6th EMBO Meeting
Food Safety	14-16 October 2015	Milan, Italy	Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together



Events in China			
Life Sciences	22-26 June 2015	Suzhou	New Insights into Glia Function and Dysfunction
Chemistry	26-29 June 2015	Shanghai	International Symposium on Phytochemicals in Medicine and Food (ISPMF 2015)
Neuroscience	29 June – 3 July 2015	Suzhou	Francis Crick Symposium: Advances in Neuroscience
Computer Science	11-12 July 2015	Beijing	International Conference on Advanced Computer Control
Geology and Geophysics	19-21 July 2015	Shanghai	The 5th Conference on Geology and Geophysics (ICGG 2015)

8 Press Review*

8.1 Policy & Papers

New regional rankings released – China leads in Asia

China's universities have made strong progress in two Asia rankings released last week, while Saudi Arabia and Brazil dominate in QS's Arab Region and Latin America rankings.

In Times Higher Education's THE Asia University Rankings 2015, China has overtaken Japan as the continent's higher education powerhouse. And in the QS University Rankings: Asia 2015, China has consolidated its lead position. One in four of Asia's top 100 universities are Chinese institutions, and of these 25 leading universities, 16 have improved their positions this year.

Phil Baty, editor of Times Higher Education Rankings, said: "The world expects that Asia will be the next global higher education superpower, after Europe and North America. The new data from Times Higher Education demonstrate that

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many of the continent's leading universities are already competing on equal terms with the best in the West." ([University World News](#)).

Shanghai mulls policies for more talent

Shanghai has released 22 measures aimed at attracting creative talent from abroad and transforming the city into a global technological innovation center.

Beneficial policies, including providing permanent resident permits for high-level overseas talent and giving subsidies to high-tech professionals, are designed to open Shanghai's doors wider to the world. High-level employees who have permanent jobs in Shanghai will get privileges such as quicker processing of their foreign expert permit and a loosening of the upper age restriction from 60 to 70 years old. ([China Daily](#))

Shanghai OKs draft plan to be an innovation hub

"This initiative is in line with Shanghai's goal of becoming an international financial, shipping and trade center by 2020," said Yan Yanming, a researcher with the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. ([China Daily](#))

China launches support project to attract scientific talents

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) will launch a new project to attract and support urgently needed talents, according to an announcement on Monday /22 May/. Titled "New 100-Talent", the project aims to attract 100 scientists worldwide, who are most urgently needed in cutting-edge fields in China and have the potential to make international breakthroughs, according to the CAS.

The project will include financial and support staff to the leading figures who have achieved innovation so that they can continue to yield new findings in science and help cultivate young research fellows. The young talents under the age of 35 with outstanding potential in research will also be covered by the project, encouraged to carry out independent studies. ([China Daily](#))

A host of new measures will aid startups

China has announced nearly 100 measures to help grass-roots entrepreneurs get more loans, pay less tax and even receive free psychological counseling when their startups fail, top officials said on Friday /5 June/

(A) major task of the policies is to ensure that local startups can better access loans, government subsidies and other supportive services. Other favorable measures include offering affordable land use, power and Internet service prices, according to the NDRC. Cao Jianlin, vice-minister of science and technology, called for more attention on college students-turned-entrepreneurs and the likelihood of failures" "Universities should offer entrepreneurship courses that teach basic financial and communication knowledge," Cao said.



He added that there are already some counseling sessions in place to prepare the entrepreneurs for a possible failure in business. ([China Daily](#))

Innovation, entrepreneurship in hyperdrive

From university campuses to restaurants and cafes, successful start-up stories are spreading fast, inspiring more adventurers to take a chance. "The mobile Internet age have created massive opportunities for the likes of us," said Xian Jian, chief technology officer of the application and a former employee at Internet giant Baidu.

All levels of Chinese governments are moving to bolster the start-up frenzy. Provincial and municipal governments in Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangxi and Heilongjiang have invested money, announced tax incentives and provided facilities to help college students start a business. ([China Daily](#))

China set to bolster space, polar security: draft law

China has included security of its activities and assets in outer space, on the international sea bed and in polar regions in a draft national security law, the latest move to improve the legal framework protecting national interests.

The draft law - tabled for a third reading on Wednesday by China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee - said China would peacefully explore and exploit outer space, international sea bed areas and polar regions.

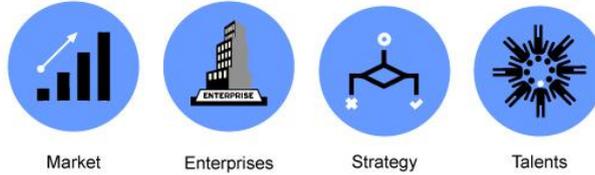
The country will build entry and exit security, scientific expeditionary and development and utilization capacities, enhance international cooperation, and safeguard its activity and asset security on those "new strategic frontiers", the draft read. ([China Daily](#))



'Made in China 2025' to focus on ten key sectors

Made in China 2025

The 4 advantages



Market Enterprises Strategy Talents

The 10 key sectors



New information technology Numerical control tools Aerospace equipment High-tech ships Railway equipment
Energy saving New materials Medical devices Agricultural machinery Power equipment

GRAPHIC BY ZHANG RUIQI/PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE

Infographics: [People's Daily](#)

8.2 Voices & opinions

Made in China, should it be appreciated or blamed?

To many people, a handy and direct way to comment on “Made in China” is: advanced countries became loyal buyers of cheap Chinese products and gave rise to its consistent and powerful growth. However, if one only understands this issue from a manufacturing, consumption, export or import point of view, they are almost certain to miss some facts and even get bogged down by complaints or trade disputes. The good news is, an increasing number of people are willing to think outside the box and understand “Made in China” and innovation within the global economic regime as a whole. ([SJTU ParisTech Review](#))

Beidou system to aid Belt and Road

The Beidou Navigation Satellite System will help China carry out the Belt and Road Initiative, according to senior project officials. Yang Changfeng, chief



designer of the Beidou system, told China Daily that the Belt and Road Initiative have created a perfect platform and opportunity for the Beidou system to promote itself globally. ([China Daily](#))

Three Ministerial Departments Issue Circular on 'Peacemaker' Initiative for PV Industry

Three ministerial departments including the Ministry of Information and Technology recently issued a joint circular, which is intended to promote the application of advanced PV products, and the upgrading of the industry. In addition, the circular introduces a "Peacemaker" initiative, according to which China's PV power generation projects must apply technologically advanced products. ([People's Daily](#)).

Washington is targeting Chinese scientists in America, and so is Beijing

The ethnic Chinese technical research community in the US is worried. American justice authorities are stepping up actions against industrial theft.

Last week alone saw two cases, with a star Chinese professor arrested on arrival in LA (five of his colleagues were also charged but remain at home) and a Philadelphia physics department head arraigned.

Xi Jinping has been amping up the United Front appeals to Chinese technology leaders and overseas communities and students, exhorting them to 'build a pro-socialist coalition outside the country.' Appeals to patriotic scientists to 'contribute to the motherland' or return home grow louder.

China's concern for its diaspora is understandable, but the more Beijing trumpets its involvement in overseas 'bamboo networks', the more nervous other countries will become about 'fifth columns.' Almost half a million Chinese go abroad for study annually, and the conveyor belt of knowledge moves steadily in China's net direction (...). By asserting ethnic solidarity with Chinese abroad, Xi calls their loyalty out and may disenfranchise them instead. That will reduce his country's access to foreign technology. Meanwhile America's witch-hunts too undermine the most powerful quality of its science: openness. And overseas Chinese researchers risk becoming isolated, caught in the middle of a fight most of them want no part of. ([lowlyinterpreter.org](#)).

Undue burdens

Proposed controls on foreign operations in China are a threat to scientific collaboration. Accordingly, over the past month it has sought comments on a new draft law — the Non-Mainland Non-Governmental Organizations Management Law — that will tighten restrictions on NGOs.

The move may not be a surprise, given the political mood. But the proposed scope of the law is broader than many people expected, and is causing alarm.



Its definition of an NGO is so broad — all activities of “not-for-profit, non-governmental social organizations” — that, according to Jia Xijin, a specialist on NGOs in China at Tsinghua University, it covers all organized activities between Chinese nationals and foreigners. Many people, citizens and visitors alike, probably have no idea that the law will apply to them.

The new rules would require individuals or institutions wishing to carry out activities in China to get a sponsor, such as a ministry or other agency of local government. Then they must apply for permission — not to the civil-affairs ministry, as in the existing system, but to the public-security bureau. ([Nature](#))

Chinese Vice Premier: China to Put Ecological Environment Protection to More Prominent Position

Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli recently stated that China will put ecological environment protection to a more prominent position. ([Chinanews](#)).

8.3 Thematic Activities

Health

China completes genome sequencing of imported MERS case

Scientists have completed sequencing the genome of the first case of imported Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and found no evidence of variation that would make the virus more contagious. The sequencing was accomplished on Wednesday /3rd June/ by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention in cooperation with health department of Guangdong Province, where the case was reported on May 29. The genome map of the virus shows high homology with MERS-CoV detected in the Middle East. Scientists believe the strain originated in Saudi Arabia. ([Global Times](#))

China Develops MERS Antibodies in Lab

China has developed a variety of laboratory-level therapeutic antibodies and polypeptide drugs for the treatment of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), the Beijing News reported. Shi Yi, a researcher with the Beijing Institutes of Life Science under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said a group of researchers led by Gao Fu, a CAS academician, began studies on MERS antibodies in 2013. They have discovered the mechanisms under which the MERS virus invades the host cell, he said. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).



Food, agriculture & fisheries, biotechnology

A Near-atomic Resolution View on Photosynthesis

Photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert sunlight to energy, has fascinated us all. While significant progress has been done towards understanding the mechanism of photosynthesis in general, we still do not know how this process takes place at an atomic level.

In-order to achieve this, a team of scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Okayama University in Japan succeeded in capturing a 2.8Å resolution crystal structure of the photosystem I (PSI) from a pea plant (*Pisum sativum*)

The greatest significance of this research is the achievement of a higher resolution structure that resulted in an ability to see four additional light-harvesting complexes, providing more details on the chemical nature and geometrical arrangements of the pigments. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).

Chinese Biologists Find Duckweed to Tackle Water Pollution

Biologists have found a strain of duckweed that can effectively purify polluted water and transform nitric oxide into biological fertilizer, a researcher told Xinhua on Wednesday.

A research team lead by Zhao Hai, with the Chengdu Institute of Biology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, identified the duckweed species from more than 800 samples collected across the world in nine years.

Should this duckweed be planted in just 1 percent of China's lakes and ponds, it could generate 1.72 million tons of ethanol annually, worth 10.3 billion yuan (1.68 billion U.S. dollars). Meanwhile, it can reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 10 million tons, said Zhao. More than 70 percent of China's rivers and lakes are polluted and reducing aquatic nitric oxide content would go some way to addressing this, he said. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).

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Information & communication technologies

Chinese Supercomputer to Monitor Climate Change

China is building a supercomputer to track climate change and forecast extreme weather, a team of scientists announced.



As part of a broader plan called "Interpret the Globe," the supercomputer is expected to analyze a huge amount of data about the atmosphere, the oceans and the earth's crust.

Analysis of data collected by China's meteorological satellites, which account for half of the world's total orbiters of this kind, will provide technological support to global climate change negotiations.

"Previous studies in this field were dominated by western researchers and are sometimes unfair and biased. Our own study will give China a bigger say in future climate change talks," said Zeng Qingcun of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The CAS is now collaborating with a Chinese IT company Sugon on the supercomputer, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2015. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).

Baidu fires researcher who told subordinates to break rules in image-recognition competition

Chinese search giant Baidu has fired Ren Wu, the lead author of the Deep Image paper documenting the company's latest image-recognition technology, for breaking the rules in a recent competition, the ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge. The news comes one week after the organizers of the competition announced that people affiliated with Baidu used at least 200 submissions when just two per week were permitted. Baidu issued an apology and vowed to conduct a review. ([venturebeat.com](#)).

Chinese Text Project

The Chinese Text Project is an online open-access digital library that makes pre-modern Chinese texts available to readers and researchers all around the world. The site attempts to make use of the digital medium to explore new ways of interacting with these texts that are not possible in print. With over twenty thousand titles and more than three billion characters, the Chinese Text Project is also one of the largest databases of pre-modern Chinese texts in existence. ([Chinese Text Project](#)).

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Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies

Chinese scientists develop new graphene material to make fuel-free spacecraft possible

A special kind of graphene has been developed by Chen Yongsheng and Tian Jianguo, twoprofessors from Nanjing University, and their research team. Under



exposure to light, the material can produce a driving force a thousand times stronger than traditional light pressure, creating the possibility of a fuel-free spacecraft. ([People's Daily](#))

China Uses Drones to Monitor Pollution Problem from Above

China's environmental regulators want to increase the use of drones watching pollution levels, supplementing the existing monitoring system.

In the central city of Wuhan, drones were sent up to inspect emissions from chimneys in urban area that are usually linked to the local heating system. In the northeast, environmental officials in Heilongjiang Province used drones to monitor straw burning in rural areas, a source of air pollution.

China has spent billions of yuan in recent decades to develop a national pollution monitoring system, but its effects have been limited because polluters always seem to be able to find ways to hide. Now, as the prices of remote control drones fall and their performance improves, many officials and experts are counting on the technology to become a powerful new tool in environmental supervision, but others said it is too early to celebrate. ([Caixin](#))

Hong Kong researchers' scratch proof nano-material smartphone screens 'cheaper than sapphire'

University researchers in Hong Kong have developed an ultra-hard scratch resistant film for mobile phone and tablet screens using nano-materials. The ArmoGlass material, invented by researchers at Hong Kong Baptist University, consists of a layer of nano-materials and is stronger and cheaper to produce than sapphire glass, currently used in products such as the Apple Watch. ([SCMP](#))

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Environment (including climate change, conservation and biology)

Renewables lead peers in sustained employment generation

When it comes to renewable energy, China leads the world in terms of employment with more than 3.4 million jobs out of a global total of 7.7 million, according to a report by the Abu Dhabi-based International Renewable Energy Agency. Employment in the sector rose 18 percent over the past year, the organization said. China also leads global employment in solar photovoltaic, wind, solar heating and cooling, biomass and biogas. ([China Daily](#))

China 'making progress on carbon emissions', say British researchers



Greenhouse gas emissions from the world's biggest polluter are likely to start declining five years earlier than expected, according to an LSE study which lends a boost to hopes to curb climate change. ([The Telegraph](#))

China's greenhouse gas emissions may peak by 2025, says study

On current trends, the world's biggest carbon emitter will discharge 12.5-14 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2025, after which emissions will decline, it said. The work was carried out by two research institutes at the London School of Economics. "This finding suggests it is increasingly likely that the world will avoid global warming of more than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels," they said in a statement. ([SCMP](#))

Climate policy: Steps to China's carbon peak

In 2013, China released one-quarter of the global total of carbon dioxide for the year, and 1.5 times that released by the United States. It is the world's leading emitter of the gas. Without mitigation, China's CO₂ emissions will rise by more than 50% in the next 15 years. Last November, in a joint announcement with the United States, China pledged that its CO₂ emissions will peak by 2030. Existing policies are insufficient to make that happen. This article raises four possible policy options to tackle the problem. ([Nature](#)).

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Energy



Hami: One of major wind power bases in China

Rich in renewable energy resources, Hami (*in Xinjiang*) is one of the country's major wind power bases. ([Global Times](#))

ET Solar Industry Limited will Not Ship Goods to Europe Directly from China

The EU recently imposed sanctions on several Chinese PV producers. Chinese PV producers including ET Solar Industry Limited will not ship goods to Europe directly from China. ([China Business News](#)).

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Transport (including aeronautics)

China's Baidu could beat Google to self-driving car with BMW

Baidu – the search engine and technology company often called China's Google –plans to release a self-driving car with BMW by the end of the year. The Chinese firm has been working on autonomous vehicles for the past couple of years, recently partnering with car makers including BMW.

The two companies announced a self-driving research project in April 2014, driving test cars around the complex highways of Beijing and Shanghai. Wang Jin, Baidu's senior vice president, told the China cloud computing services summit that the company would launch a new self-driving car with BMW in China before the year is out. The prototype car will be used to test road-readiness of Baidu's technology, which will involve the car driving itself but still have human controls. ([The Guardian](#))

Tesla's Ambitious Quest for Traction in China

Based on vehicle licensing data compiled by the China Automobile Dealers Association, Tesla's China unit sold only 2,499 electric cars last year, or barely half the number of Model S cars imported into the country. And China sales accounted for only a fraction of the 31,700 Tesla vehicles sold worldwide last year, according to the Nasdaq-listed company's latest financial report. ([Caixin](#))

Scientist's Work Led to First Tibet Railway

Extending China's railway network to the colder climes of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau a decade ago or Tajikistan as part of the current Belt and Road Initiative presented the problem of building a railroad on terrain subject to permafrost. Lai Yuanming, 52, a leading permafrost expert, provided the solution. His research solved the two major problems - preventing the track from buckling due to ice melting on the roadbed, and improving thermal stability that led to Tibet's first railway.

The success of his research has brought Lai honors, including a number of science and technology awards from the Chinese central government and the local government in Gansu province. He was elected as a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2011 - the top honor for Chinese researchers - at the age of 49.

Such technologies have been applied to the 550 kilometers of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway built on permafrost, or permanently frozen soil, and a water transfer project in Gansu province. The latest permafrost technologies will also be used in the planned Qinghai-Tibet Expressway. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).



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Socioeconomic sciences & the humanities, archaeology & paleontology

Palaeontology: Tracing the Backbone in China's Rocks

China's rich fossil resources have supplied many firsts — discoveries that have rewritten and helped to construct evolutionary history. The bilingual (English and Chinese) *From Fish to Human* summarizes and highlights the spectacular Chinese vertebrate fossil record and its place in the broader span of vertebrate life. ([Nature](#)).

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Space

Electric thruster propels China's interstellar ambitions

An electric thruster, creating a thrust as gentle as a breath blowing out a candle, could send a spacecraft to Mars, so long as it keeps "blowing" and accelerating the craft over time.

Electric propulsion is regarded as one of the top cutting-edge space technologies as it could make humans go into deep space at a lower cost than other forms of propulsion.

The few countries mastering the technology have kept it confidential. Relying on its own efforts, China has developed the state-of-the-art technology, following the United States, Russia, Europe and Japan, and hopes to enter the international electric propulsion communication satellite market.

China plans to send its first full electric propulsion satellite into orbit around 2020, providing broadband communication data transmission to China and neighboring regions, according to Wang Min, deputy chief designer of the communication satellite, at the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

China also plans to launch a hybrid propulsion communication satellite at the end of 2016. The electric propulsion system would be used in China's space station in the future, Wang says. ([Global Times](#))

China Opens Agency to Clean up Space Junk Circling Earth

China has established a national agency to boost efforts aimed at tackling the growing threat that space junk poses to its space programs. The new organization was formed by China's space agency, known as the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, and



the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a government research body. It is to research space debris, including non-functional spacecraft, abandoned parts of launch vehicles and other debris.

Xu Dazhe, director of the space agency, said the body will study, track and maneuver debris to protect the country's space endeavors. It is also intended to make better use of the CAS' observatories, which can be used to monitor space trash. ([Caixin](#)).

China Plans to Launch Dark Matter Probe

Chinese scientists are planning to launch a dark matter probe satellite by the end of this year, researchers with the project announced. The dark matter particle explorer (DAMPE) satellite will observe the direction, energy and electric charge of high-energy particles in space in search of dark matter, said Chang Jin, chief scientist of the project, at a press briefing held by the Shanghai Engineering Center for Microsatellites (SECM). The probe, the first satellite in a program consisting of five research satellites, will also be used to study the origin of cosmic rays and observe high-energy gamma rays. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).

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People & Higher Education

More than 1,400 scientists receive top academic title of CAS

More than 1,420 Chinese scientists have been named academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) since 1955, when the first members of academic divisions were inducted.

The CAS academician title is a top national honor in science and technology, and new academicians are added every two years. Fourteen foreign scientists received the CAS academician title in 1994, and the number has since risen to 88. ([Shanghai Daily](#))

Ministry bid to gain overseas recognition for *gaokao*

China's education ministry is pushing for the country's National College Entrance Exam, known as the *gaokao*, to be accepted for admission by more overseas universities.

The move comes as the weighting of the English language segment in the examination has been reduced, and amid fears that Chinese students may lose



out on overseas university places because of a perceived 'lowering of standards' as the number of subjects examined expands. Over nine million school leavers in China will sit the gaokao in early June. But preparing for additional examinations for overseas universities is stressful. ([University World News](#))

Chinese university revives research on official ideology to head off suspicious values

Chinese leading universities have initiated a series of activities to encourage the study of Marxism. In addition to naming a building after Karl Marx, Peking University has also started compiling a collection of Marxism classics, using a name that puts it on an equal footing with collections of Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian texts.

Despite government efforts to stress ideological education, Western ideas such as liberalism, conservatism and religions have much bigger impacts on the minds of students. The launch of the Marx collection along with other related projects is hoped to raise the profile of Marx, buttressing the governance of the CPC. ([Global Times](#))

Bogus colleges and qualifications: is supervision lax?

Despite repeated bans by China's education authorities, new fake universities and other scams continue to pop up on blacklists that are published every year to alert the Chinese public.

Some students and their families are beginning to question whether there is adequate supervision of the shady business. In May, China's Ministry of Education issued a list of 2,845 accredited higher education institutions in China, including 447 private institutions and seven jointly run by Chinese and foreign universities, for prospective applicants to check against.

But students and their families say this is not enough. They said the government's list of approved institutions was not publicised enough, and they had not been aware of it. ([University World News](#)).

University Teachers Encouraged to Launch Start-up

In China, teachers in universities used to be forbidden to start businesses of their own unless they first quit their jobs. But now, in the latest measure to boost technology creation, Shanghai has been the first to lift the ban. University teachers can now establish start-ups while retaining their titles.

Universities in Shanghai are now working on detailed measures to ensure researchers have no trouble coming back to university by allowing them to return to their original positions, while keeping social security and contracts. ([CAS Newsroom](#)).



Universities expand 'internet army' to bolster party line

Some four million students must be recruited on campuses by the end of this month according to targets set by the Communist Youth League or CYL. A league notice released earlier this year said a new "internet civilisation" campaign would involve more than 10.5 million volunteers across the country including four million volunteers on the university "battlefront". ([University World News](#))

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Research Infrastructures

Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Institute partners with Truly to commercialise LCD screen research

A Hong Kong government body set up to enhance the city's research and development capability has formed a partnership with a leading LCD screen manufacturer to commercialise its research. The Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Institute (ASTRI) and Truly International Holdings Limited have formed the ASTRI-Truly Joint Research and Development Centre to turn the institute's research into commercial products.

Hong Kong-listed Truly is one of the top ten manufacturers of LCD screens for the automotive industry and supplies Volkswagen, BMW and Jaguar Landrover. The company also manufactures LCD screens, touch panels and cameras for smart phones. ([SCMP](#))

China-Africa Knowledge Project Research Hub

The Researcher Database is an aggregation of academics, practitioners, and PhD candidates involved in the study of China-Africa, and is comprised of members of the CA/AC Network and other researchers working on the China-Africa relationship. It is searchable by thematic area of interest, region or country of work, name of researcher, and institution. ([China-Africa Knowledge Project Research Hub » Researcher Database](#)).

International S&T relations

Disenchanted Chinese tech companies plot escape from New York

Chinese tech firms have fallen out of love with America, and it shows - a growing number of them are looking to drop their listings in New York and head



back home. Many Chinese tech executives are betting on higher share valuations in China where stock markets have recently caught fire. They also hope to evade any legal mess when Beijing formally outlaws foreign shareholder control of firms in protected tech sectors. An exodus of Chinese tech firms would spell the end of a profitable line of business for Wall Street underwriters. ([Reuters](#))

China, Europe announce joint satellite mission

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the European Space Agency (ESA) have decided their joint space satellite program will focus on an X-ray imaging satellite to study the Earth's magnetosphere.

The project, known as SMILE, was selected from 13 proposals and is due to launch in 2021. It plans to study the effects of the Sun on the Earth's environment by creating images of the interactions between solar winds and the Earth's magnetosphere with innovative X-ray and ultraviolet technologies, the CAS said in a statement.

SMILE will be the first comprehensive collaboration between China and the ESA with joint efforts in definition, implementation and data utilization, the CAS said, adding that the next step will be a project feasibility study. ([China Daily](#))

University collaboration takes the Silk Road route

China has launched a new international alliance of universities to back up its huge infrastructure plan along the ancient Silk Road route, a byword for trade and cultural exchanges between Asia and Europe.

The Universities Alliance of the New Silk Road is a new higher education platform ostensibly to provide research and engineering support for China's mammoth 'One Belt, One Road' project which includes countries in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and East Africa.

Some 60 universities from about 22 countries were invited to the gala inauguration last month of the Universities Alliance at Xi'an Jiaotong University, a major engineering and management institution in Xi'an, Shaanxi province.

([University World News](#)).



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About this newsletter

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