

SSSTC

A Brief History

Recognizing China's status as one of the leading emerging countries and its contribution in science and technology development, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) decided to foster closer ties with Chinese universities and industries and to make Swiss innovation better known in China. Based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2003 with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), the SSSTC was funded by the SER and began its pilot phase in 2004 with symposia and workshops. In 2007, further MoUs were signed with MOST and Ministry of Education (MoE) to support the continuation of an action phase SSSTC from 2008 to 2011. To date, 80 joint projects have been approved. As a result, a steady stream of exchange scholars are travelling to their partner countries to work and to learn a different culture. These joint projects receive financial support from both Swiss and Chinese sources – an arrangement marking a new era of Sino Swiss cooperation.

For further information

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May, 2010



Sino Swiss Science and Technology Cooperation

A joint venture between
Swiss and Chinese governments
to promote mutual understanding and
scientific and technological exchanges

Cover: Silhouette of a papercutting from «Wenn Ost und West sich begegnen» – An exhibition by Ernst Hohl-Kulturstiftung Appenzell. Artists: Hua Xuexiu, Huang Ying, Wang Hongchuan and Xu Yang.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
State Secretariat for Education and Research SER

uzh | eth | zürich

SSSTC Facts

- **Program Purpose:** To promote the visibility of Swiss universities and the reputation of Switzerland as an innovation country in China through science and technology cooperation.
- **Program Owner:** State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER).
- **Current Phase:** 2008 – 2011; extension expected.
- **Funding for Current Phase:** CHF 8.8 Millions from Switzerland plus matching funds from China.
- **Priority Fields:**
 - For Joint Research Projects (JRP): Life sciences, environment/ sustainability, materials science, medicinal sciences.
 - For other instruments: no priority field limitation. All fields are welcome.
- **Funding Instruments:**
 - Joint Research Projects (JRP), Faculty Exchange (FE), Student Exchange (SE): support traditional forms of research collaboration.
 - IP (Institutional Partnership): encourages collaborations at an institutional level, which should promote broad-based, long-term contacts between the institutions.(For a detailed description of the instruments and the projects awarded so far, please refer to: www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china.)
- **Management:** ETH Zurich as the Leading House (LH) and the University of Zurich (UZH) as the Associated Leading House (ALH), under the supervision of the National Steering Committee* and the Joint Working Group*. Representation in China: swissnex China (www.swissnexchina.org).
- **Deadlines:** Collaborations involving industrial partners: flexible. 15.09.2010 will be the final deadline for the funding period 2008 – 2011. For individual deadlines, please refer to: www.global.ethz.ch/stc/china.



Photo left: A visit to Shanghai Chang-Zheng Hospital (left to right: Dr. Andreas Serra, Prof. Changlin Mei, Director Nephrology Institute, CZH, Prof. Rudolf Wüthrich, Director Clinic for Nephrology ZUH).

Photo right: Joint data analysis: Lidewij Keser (l, University Bern) and Yaobin Song (r, Chinese Academy of Science).

* Joint Working Group (JWG) consists of representatives from the State Secretariat for Education and Research, Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, swissnex China, Leading House and Associated Leading House. National Steering Committee (NSC) consists of representatives from the State Secretariat for Education and Research, Federal Office for Professional Education and Technology, Swiss National Science Foundation, Conference of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences, swissnex China, Leading House and Associated Leading House.

Chinese Partners

The SSSTC is supported in China mainly by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Funding has also been provided by other Chinese agencies.

Signing ceremony, 24.11.2008.
Front row left to right:
Li Xueyong, Paul-Erich Zinsli. Back
row left to right:
Liu Yandong, Pascal Couchepin.



Eligibility

- Scientists from qualified Swiss **universities and research institutions** who are interested in research/ education cooperation with a Chinese counterpart.
- **Enterprises** that are interested in receiving highly qualified Chinese or Swiss students as interns and/or that are interested in research collaboration with Swiss or Chinese academic partners.
- **Corporate Partners** are welcome: The SSSTC welcomes discussions and suggestions from enterprises regarding potential academic-industrial cooperation.

Outlook

The SSSTC emphasizes scientific excellence, which is the only way to guarantee technological innovation. Research cooperation will remain the center piece of this program. Beyond that, two steps have been taken:

Internship Program: The SER, in its effort to keep education and research relevant to the society, has mandated the SSSTC to promote industrial participation in the program. As a first step, the SSSTC welcomes Chinese and Swiss companies to provide internship positions in China for Swiss students or vice versa. The SSSTC will subsidize the airfare for Swiss students. This program is designed to provide students with a cross-cultural experience which prepares them for a globalized world.

Social Sciences: A cooperation agreement was signed between the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the UZH (representing the SSSTC) in October, 2009. Beyond promoting cultural exchanges, this partnership also may pave way for important discussions on issues such as banking and finance. A closer partnership between the SSSTC and the CASS is expected.