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Updates of international science and technology cooperation

- **Minister Wan Gang Meets with Director of White House Office of Science and Technology Policy John Holdren**
- **16th China-US Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation Held in Beijing**
- **The 1st China-CEEC Conference on Innovation Cooperation Opened in Nanjing**

G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting

- **Delivering the Outcomes of the Hangzhou Summit, Drawing the Blueprint of Innovative Growth**
- **G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting Held in Beijing**
- **G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting Releases Statement**
- **G20 Business Forum on Innovation Held in Beijing**

Updates of international science and technology cooperation

Minister Wan Gang Meets with Director of White House Office of Science and Technology Policy John Holdren

On November 2, 2016, Minister Wan Gang met in Beijing with Dr. John Holdren, Assistant to the U.S. President for Science and Technology and Director of the

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

In the meeting, Minister Wan Gang said that under the umbrella of the China-U.S. Agreement on Cooperation in

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Science and Technology and through inter-governmental cooperation mechanisms such as the Joint Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation and the Innovation Dialogue, China and the United States have shared their respective best practices, expanded mutual benefit, conducted practical and effective cooperation, and achieved fruitful results in clean energy, agricultural science and technology and other fields. Minister Wan Gang expressed his gratitude to Dr. Holdren for his contributions to China-U.S. cooperation in science and technology.

Dr. Holdren underscored the importance of scientific

and technological innovation to economic and social development, and believed that China-US cooperation in science and technology will enable the two countries to jointly tackle common challenges such as climate change and improve the wellbeing of the two peoples.

The two sides also exchanged views on the upcoming 16th China-U.S. Joint Committee Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation and the G20 Meeting of Science and Technology Ministers.

(Source: website of the Ministry of Science and Technology, 8 November 2016)

16th China-US Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation Held in Beijing

The 16th China-US Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation was opened in Beijing on 3 November 2016. Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang and Dr. John Holdren, Assistant to the US President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, co-chaired the joint commission meeting. Vice Minister of Science and Technology Yin Hejun, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Chinese ministries and representatives of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and other US departments spoke at the meeting.

In his opening address, Wan Gang said China-U.S. cooperation in science and technology has taken place since the two countries established diplomatic relations. Thanks to joint efforts in the past thirty-seven years, China and the U.S. have set up pragmatic, effective and sound mechanisms of communication and cooperation, and these mechanisms have created favorable conditions to deepen our cooperation and played helpful roles to advance our economic and social development and improve our people's life. He looked back on the progress and highlights of bilateral cooperation in clean energy, agriculture, environmental protection, healthcare, basic research as well as people-to-people exchange, summed up the fruits and successful models of bilateral

cooperation and introduced China's policies to encourage S&T innovation.

Dr. Holdren said the China-U.S. Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation has played a positive role in advancing exchange and cooperation between the two countries' S&T departments, and the two sides can use the platform to discuss cross-department issues and explore new cooperation opportunities. He noted that bilateral S&T cooperation has produced remarkable progress, and Chinese and American departments and participating institutions have established solid friendship, maintained sound partnership and produced substantive results.

Vice Minister Yin Hejun shared the experience of inter-agency collaboration. He spoke highly of the China-U.S. Clean Energy Research Center, saying the center has been credited as a perfect example of pragmatic China-U.S. cooperation to develop clean energy technologies and deal with climate change and other global challenges. Through bilateral partnership, the two sides have established a sound mechanism to promote trilateral cooperation of industries, universities and research institutes and explore the best ways to protect and manage intellectual property. These efforts have played an effective role for science and technology to boost trade between the two economies. His remarks were echoed by Mr. Cohen, Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Energy. Mr. Cohen looked back on bilateral

cooperation in developing energy technologies, summed up the experience of cooperation and discussed future cooperation.

Representatives on both sides made candid exchanges of ideas and discussions to deepen cooperation in science & technology and healthcare, pursue their shared climate and environmental goals and expand future cooperation. They reached consensus to take advantage of other inter-

agency mechanisms, such as the executive secretariat of China-U.S. S&T cooperation, and the S&T working group of China-U.S. High-level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange, to further advance S&T cooperation.

(Source: China International Science and Technology Cooperation Net, 8 November 2016)

First China-CEEC Conference on Innovation Cooperation Opened in Nanjing

The first China-Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) Conference on Innovation Cooperation opened in Nanjing on November 8. Wan Gang, CPPCC Vice Chairman and Minister of Science and Technology, and Li Qiang, Party Secretary of Jiangsu Province, attended and addressed the opening ceremony. Also present at the ceremony was Shi Taifeng, Governor of Jiangsu Province.

In his speech, Minister Wan Gang pointed out that the establishment of China-CEEC cooperation mechanism in 2012 opened a new chapter for bilateral relationship. Under the framework of openness, inclusiveness, balance and reciprocity, the first China-CEEC Conference on Innovation Cooperation witnessed discussion on strategic vision, initiatives as well as specific actions and major projects to deepen our comprehensive cooperation in science, technology and innovation, and that makes the conference significant for both sides. Wan Gang said China - CEEC cooperation in science, technology and innovation is at a new historic starting point with a promising prospect and great potential to expand to more areas. He hoped the guests could make intensive exchanges and make great contributions to advance the people-centric S&T development and deepen China-CEEC cooperation. He hoped the conference would be held at CEEC nations in the future to make the cooperation more sustainable and more forward-looking, and both sides could work together to build an open, inclusive and reciprocal new-type science & technology

partnership.

At the opening ceremony of the conference, China and the 16 CEECs issued the Nanjing Declaration on China-CEEC Innovation Cooperation, and jointly inaugurated the China-CEEC Virtual Technology Transfer Center.

According to the Nanjing Declaration on China-CEEC Innovation Cooperation, in light of the enormous potential of collaboration brought by the Belt and Road Initiative and CEEC's development strategies, the 16+1 bloc hopes all nations can leverage their respective advantages and industrial characteristics to strengthen cooperation in technology innovation and provide support and services to facilitate international cooperation on production capacity. The nations agree to use the conference as a platform to build an innovation ecosystem that protects intellectual property, accelerate the promotion and application of new technologies, expedite commercialization of mature technologies and scientific achievements, develop joint research platforms to facilitate S&T development in key fields as well as extensive technology application, roll out technology transfer training programs to enhance S&T professionals' competence and skills, and set up a long-term mechanism to hold the China-CEEC Conference on Innovation Cooperation and China-CEEC Youth Entrepreneurship Competition on a regular basis.

(Source: China International Science and Technology Cooperation Net, 10 November 2016)

Delivering the Outcomes of the Hangzhou Summit, Drawing the Blueprint of Innovative Growth

On 4 November 2016, the G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting was opened in Beijing. Liu Yandong, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council, addressed the opening ceremony. The meeting was chaired by Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, President of the China Association for Science and Technology and Minister of Science and Technology, and attended by all G20 members, guest countries and representatives of the relevant international organizations.

Vice Premier Liu pointed out that global innovation is entering a period of highly intensive activities. It holds the “golden key” to breaking the limit of economic growth and opening up new space for the future. Guided by the strategy of innovation-driven development, China will actively integrate into the global innovation network, deepen international science and technology cooperation, and work with all countries to address global challenges

such as food security, energy security, environmental pollution, climate change and public health.

The G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting theming on “breaking a new path for growth”, is the first action for implementation of the outcome of the G20 Hangzhou Summit in this field and the first ministerial mechanism on science, technology and innovation within the G20 framework. The ministers and the participants carried out discussions and reached consensus on a wide range of topics, including the policies and practice of innovation-driven growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, priority areas and models of science, technology and innovation cooperation, science and technology human resources and exchange of innovative professionals.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily,
5 November 2016)

G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting Held in Beijing

On 4 November 2016, the G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held in Beijing. The representatives of the twenty G20 members and six guest countries as well as the officials of the relevant international organizations met in Beijing to discuss global cooperation on science, technology and innovation.

The G20 Hangzhou Summit issued the G20 Leaders' Communiqué, the Blueprint on Innovative Growth and the G20 2016 Action Plan, and, for the first time, included the topic of “breaking a new path for growth” in its agenda. The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial

Meeting is the first action taken after the Hangzhou Summit toward the goal of innovative growth, and the first ministerial mechanism on science, technology and innovation within the G20 framework. Vice Premier Liu Yandong addressed the opening ceremony. The ministers and other participants had extensive discussions and reached broad consensus on the policies and practices for innovative growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, the priority areas and models of science, technology and innovation cooperation, and exchanges of science and technology professionals and innovation talents.

The Statement of G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was issued after the meeting. Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang said, as the key outcome of the meeting, the Statement highlighted the important role of innovation in driving global growth, sustainable development and G20 cooperation and dialogue on science, technology and innovation, and expressed the willingness of the participants to take concerted actions in such aspects as the policies and practices for encouraging innovative growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, the priority areas and models of science, technology and innovation cooperation, and exchanges of science and technology professionals and innovation talents.

The participants shared the view that innovation is a key driving force for long-term economic growth. They stressed the importance of taking innovation as the catalyst to find new drivers for boosting national and global growth and employment, and address the underlying causes of weak growth; reaffirmed the importance of the G20 working group and pledged to continue to advance the G20 agenda related to innovation, new industrial revolution and digital economy, ensure the consistency and continuity of the relevant outcomes in keeping with the priority issues set out by the future presidency, and form synergy between the working group and other mechanisms of G20 under the support of OECD and other relevant international organizations; expressed support for conducting innovation dialogue and cooperation in various areas, focusing on scientific and technological innovation, and for the dialogue and cooperation among participating countries on best practices and policies; called for the development of G20 online community to share best practices on innovation policies, measures and impact; supported the release of the G20 Innovation Report 2016 published by OECD; and encouraged the G20 members to form synergy between the innovation systems of different countries and regions, enhance the science, technology and innovation capacity of developing countries, including their ability to build the innovation eco-system.

The participants encouraged mass entrepreneurship and innovation, supported the alignment of creativity with science, technology and innovation, and endorsed the building of an innovation and entrepreneurship-friendly eco-system; encouraged cross-border investment in science and technology, entrepreneurship and innovation to support economic growth and employment; supported the building of an open, transparent and predictable system with wide participation, equal treatment, fair competition, scientific decision-making and reliable supervision; and supported exchanges and cooperation between innovation hubs and science parks.

The participants underscored the importance of investment in basic science; welcomed the G20 Innovation Forum for Entrepreneurs held concurrently with the ministerial meeting and encouraged the establishment of closer public-private partnership on science, technology and innovation; supported the participation of business community and encouraged public-private partnership and cooperation among G20 members in science, technology and innovation.

The participants stressed that human resources are the most important factor of science, technology and innovation, and supported the movement of science, technology and innovation professionals to meet the future demands for new skills and help the labor force, including the vulnerable groups, to adapt to the changes brought about by new technologies; supported the best practices in the education of sharing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and the training and tutoring of innovation and entrepreneurship skills; stressed and supported the important role of young people and women in innovation and entrepreneurship, and agreed to strengthen exchanges and cooperation of skilled personnel, support the G20 partnership on youth entrepreneurship and innovation, and encourage cooperation on business incubation, maker space and start-up companies.

(Source: website of the Ministry of Science and Technology, 11 November 2016)

G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting Releases Statement

On 4 November 2016, the G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held in Beijing. During the meeting, the representatives of the twenty G20 members and six guest countries as well as the officials of relevant international organizations issued the Statement of G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministerial Meeting (the Statement), encouraging the G20 members to form synergy between the innovation systems of different countries and regions, enhance the science, technology and innovation capacity of developing countries, including their ability to build the innovation eco-system.

Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang said, as the key outcome of the meeting, the Statement highlighted the important role of innovation in driving global growth, sustainable development and G20 cooperation and dialogue on science, technology and innovation, and expressed the willingness of the

participants to take concerted actions in such aspects as the policies and practices for encouraging innovative growth, innovation and entrepreneurship, the priority areas and models of science, technology and innovation cooperation, and exchanges of science and technology professionals and innovation talents.

Minister Wan said the participants encouraged mass entrepreneurship and innovation, supported the alignment of creativity with science, technology and innovation, and endorsed the building of an innovation and entrepreneurship-friendly eco-system. They also stressed the importance of making input into basic science and supported the launch and implementation of cooperation programs for the purpose of addressing major global challenges such as climate change, communicable diseases and resource shortage.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily,
5 November 2016)

G20 Business Forum on Innovation Held in Beijing

On 3 November 2016, the G20 Innovation Forum for Entrepreneurs was held in Beijing. Focusing on the theme of “Science, Technology and Innovation: Power of the Business Community”, the forum invited more than 200 entrepreneurs, experts and scholars from G20 members and guest countries. The participants had an in-depth discussion on scientific and technological innovation, new industrial revolution, digital economy and other innovation issues and contents.

Vice Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang attended the forum and pointed out that the Forum is an important side event of the G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting and a new platform for business participation in the global governance of scientific and technological innovation. He applauded the important role of the business community in promoting innovative growth, and encouraged them

to further leverage the primary role of companies in scientific and technological innovation and technology conversion. He also stressed that the government needs to create a sound environment for the business community to integrate into globalized and open innovation.

During the meeting, Jiang Zengwei, Chair of B20 2016 and Chairman of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), proposed three initiatives to the G20 Science, Technology and Innovation Ministers Meeting: first, hold the G20 Innovation Forum for Entrepreneurs on a regular basis to establish a line of communication between government and business; second, roll out the G20 partnership on youth entrepreneurship and innovation as quickly as possible to support the building of innovation capacity for young people; third, push forward the establishment of the G20 Fund for Smart Innovation to support the development of

innovation industries.

The 11th G20 Summit held in Hangzhou this year has achieved fruitful results. The summit included, for the first time, the topic of “breaking a new path for growth” in its agenda and adopted the G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth and the G20 Action Plan.

The forum was co-sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, CCPIT and China Chamber of International Commerce. Wang Chunfa, Member of the

Party Group and Secretary of the Secretariat of the China Association for Science and Technology, Lino Barañao, Minister of Science and Technology of Argentina, Shri Chowdary, Minister of State for the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the representatives of G20 members, guest countries and relevant international organizations attended the forum.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily,
3 November 2016)