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euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

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EURAXESS LINKS CHINA

Dear colleagues,

This month in our **EU Insight**, we focus on the new **Innovation Union Scoreboard**, recently released by the EU.

In “Meet the Researcher”, we introduce **Dr Feng Hao**, Chinese **European Research Council** grant holder. Dr Hao, based at University of Newcastle, talks about his research in e-voting and gives tips and advice - **a must-read for all interested in ERC grants application process**.

We have released a new version of the **Funding Guide** and launched it in conjunction with the kick-off of the “**2015 Research and Innovation Tour: Where Europe and China Connect**”. The R&I Tour will visit many other cities from now until November; you can find the full schedule **on page 14: Have a look** not to miss a seminar near you.

We are also launching the **EURAXESS Science Slam** for submissions. Science Slam is a science communication competition, where researchers use their creativity to express their project to layman audience. We will bring more information soon but all basics are available on www.scienceslamchina.com.

You can also find a fresh batch of news from EU, Member States, Associated Countries and their activities in China. Of course, no EURAXESS newsletter edition would be complete without **Grants & Fellowships** for researchers of all stages and nationalities, as well as **Events** invitations and a **Press Review**!

Last but not least: If you are **involved in EU-China doctoral education**, pay attention to the EU-China DOC project. You can help strengthen mutual understanding of doctoral education by filling out a short questionnaire for **this Erasmus-funded project**.

Thanks and enjoy!

EURAXESS Links China



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1 EU Insight: Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015

On 7 May 2015, the European Commission released its latest study on the state of innovation in the European Union. Like its predecessors, the [Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015](#) (now in its 14th edition) provides a comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of the 28 EU Member States and selected associated and neighbouring countries. The aim of the assessment is to help Member States identify and better understand areas of strength and/or weakness regarding innovation and to determine appropriate actions to facilitate their respective innovation performances.

The report

To determine the state of affairs concerning innovation across individual Member States, the report draws on a methodology used in previous editions. This methodology is based on a composite indicator, which is comprised of 25 different individual indicators. This composite indicator, known as the “Summary Innovation Index,” summarises a range of indicators which are broken down into three main types—Enablers, Firm Activities and Outputs—and eight key dimensions. (*because of changes to some of the indicators used, a direct comparison with the results of the 2014 Scoreboard was not possible)

According to this year’s report, although stable, innovation in the EU is stalling, and in some cases, is in decline. The reasons for this finding are manifold, but key amongst them are lingering effects of the 2008 financial crisis. For many Member States, the financial crisis has had a major impact on private sector innovation, with many innovation firms going into decline, less patents applied for, investments in venture capital shrinking, and high-tech products importation and general product sales being down, to name just a few of the problems affecting this sector. In addition to this finding, this year’s Scoreboard also points out that the decline in innovation is present in 13 of 28 Member States. However, not all is bad news for Europe in relation to innovation. Even though 13 Member States demonstrate a poor or weakening performance in terms of innovation, the remaining 15, have actually improved their performance. This is especially true for Malta, Latvia and Bulgaria. Also to come out the Innovation Scoreboard is the fact that while convergence in terms of innovation growth is occurring, it is happening too slowly.

Categories and Leaders

Using the performance indicators mentioned above, the Member States were divided into four classifications. These performance groups are broken down into the following types: innovation leaders, innovation followers, moderate



innovators, and modest innovators. Ranked in the top group of innovation leaders are Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Finland. These countries are in turn followed by Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia and the UK. Behind these two groups are Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain. The last group - that of modest innovators - is made up of Bulgaria, Latvia and Romania. These rankings position the various EU Member States in terms of their innovation performance relevant to the EU average. Countries in the first category of innovation leaders are all well above the EU average, while those in the second innovation followers group are either above or close to the average. Those in the moderate innovators category are viewed as performing well below the EU average.

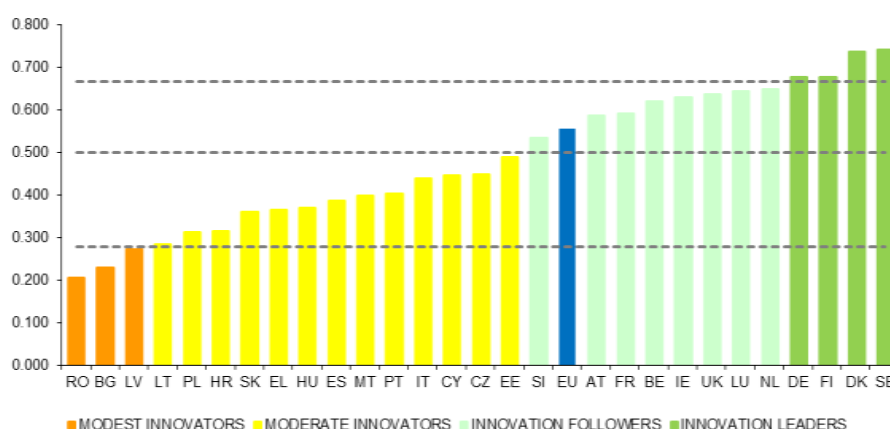


Figure 1: EU Member States's innovation performance

Of all the countries studied, Sweden performs the best innovatively. Furthermore, all the countries listed in the top group have remained stable from the previous year (2014), with only Cyprus and Estonia changing group membership (downward). Where change becomes most obvious is within the various groups themselves. For example, amongst the innovation leaders, Finland and Germany have exchanged places.

To further understand how EU Member States are performing, the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015 also assessed other European and non-European countries. Among European countries, Switzerland is the top performer in general, outperforming all EU Member States combined. Whereas globally, South Korea and the United States rank as the best innovators.

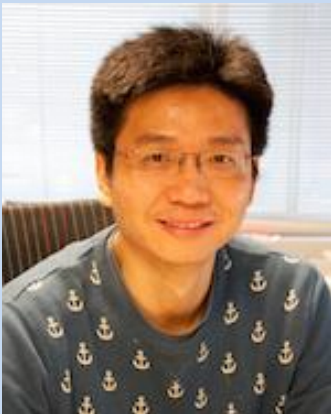
To learn more about the Innovation Union Scoreboards and how the EU Member States have fared in the last decade, please follow this link: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards/index_en.htm.



Sources

- 1) Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015. European Commission. http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/facts-figures/scoreboards/files/ius-2015_en.pdf Accessed 22 May.
- 2) Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015: Executive Summary. European Commission. Accessed 22 May 2015.
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2 Meet the Researcher: Dr Feng Hao, ERC Starting Grantee at University of Newcastle in the UK



Dr Feng Hao graduated with a PhD in 2007 at the Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge. Earlier, he received his education from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore.

He had several years of working experience in security industry before joining the faculty as a lecturer in 2010.

Read more about his research and personal story on [ERC Stories: Towards Next Generation E-Voting](#).

Awarded an ERC Starting Grant of EUR 1.5 million in 2013, Dr. Hao is based at the School of Computing Science, Newcastle University (UK).

Providing new directions in the field of security, Dr. Feng Hao's ERC project aims to devise a secure and publicly verifiable system of e-voting. We asked him to share his story and provide further tips for China-based researchers.

Tell us about your role and your research.

I'm the Principal Investigator (PI) of the ERC project. The project is about investigating a new generation of e-voting systems called "self-enforcing e-voting" (SEEV). A SEEV system allows voters to independently verify the tallying results, hence guaranteeing the integrity of an election. It differs from previous verifiable e-voting schemes in that a SEEV system does not require any trustworthy tallying authorities; hence the system is "self-enforcing".

Very few Chinese nationals hold ERC grants. Why did you apply for the funding?

I applied because I thought I had a good research idea. The idea was about realizing public verifiability of an e-voting system for a large-scale election without requiring any trustworthy tallying authorities. I called this new type of e-voting system "self-enforcing electronic voting" (SEEV). No one has investigated this before, as all existing voting schemes proposed in the past universally require a set of tallying authorities to administrate the tallying process. However, the implementation of tallying authorities has proved rather difficult in practice. I did preliminary research in this area and discovered that the role of tallying authorities was actually not as indispensable as many had believed.



To prove that it is possible to obliterate the dependence on tallying authorities completely, I, with a colleague (Matthew Kreeger), designed a concrete SEEV system in 2010 and tried to get the paper published. However, the idea in the paper was not compatible with the mainstream e-voting research at the time. So the paper was repeatedly rejected. But still, I believed the idea was viable and worth pursuing. This motivated me to apply for the grant to support continued investigation along this line of research. The grant allowed me to recruit a team of researchers to work on SEEV and tackle remaining challenges. One year after the grant was awarded, our paper (basically unchanged from the initial 2010 version) was accepted by a major journal for publication.

Do you have any tips for future applicants?

The evaluation is based on two parts: the researcher track record and the proposal. The applicant needs to pay attention to both parts, as they carry the same weight during the evaluation process. For the first part, the applicant needs to demonstrate a creditable track record on successfully solving important research problems in the past. Thus, reviewers would have confidence that, given a new challenging problem and adequate support of resources, the applicant will likely perform successfully again.

On the second part, a high-risk-high-gain type research is more likely to be favoured by reviewers than incremental research. A high-risk-high-gain project usually involves exploring something that is potentially viable but for various reasons something no one has tried before (hence the high-risk); but if successful, it will be a game-changer in the field (hence the high-gain). The two parts need to be closely related to demonstrate that the applicant has unique skills and advantages to work on the proposed project.

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

I believe it is important for the researcher to work in an environment that “clicks” with his/her research interest and strength. Once in a right environment, the researcher's potential can be exploited to the maximum extent. International mobility can greatly help the researcher search and identify such an environment.

What sparked your interest in science?

It was the stimulating environment of the computer laboratory at the University of Cambridge, where I did my PhD from 2004 to 2007. As PhD students, we had the flexibility to freely explore research topics of our own interest. The research culture in the computer lab has been to tackle real-world problems. This fits well my engineering background and interest of working on practical



European Research Council supports top researchers from anywhere in the world. It offers three basic grants:

1. **Starting Grants** (2-7 years after your PhD, up to € 1.5 million in funding for 5 years)
2. **Consolidator Grants** (7-12 years after PhD, up to € 2 million for 5 years)
3. **Advanced Grants** (more than 10 years of research after PhD up to € 2,5 million in funding for 5 years)
- + 4. **Proof of Concept** (for ERC grant holders)



problems. My interest in science was further amplified when I found that one of the security protocols I invented was deployed in real-world applications and used by millions of users.

What do you hope the impact of your work will be?

I hope to see the SEEV technology adopted by national elections in the future. The technology should be able to address many security problems of (unverifiable) e-voting systems that have been used in many countries.

What are your plans for the future?

In the next five years, I plan to focus on e-voting research and make as much impact as we can in this field. In the meantime, I will be consolidating my research in related areas such as secure communication protocols, NFC payment, BitCoin and so on. In 5 years, I hope to be able to write a book about security protocols and their real-world applications.

What motivates you as a researcher?

I like working on practical and challenging research problems with real-world impact.

Annual deadline for application to [ERC Starting Grant](#) is in February. To know more about the practicalities of applying for this prestigious funding, you can read also the previously published „[20 Tips on How to Apply for ERC Grant](#)“ by Prof Andreas Zeller (ERC Advanced Grant holder).

Have a look also at [this resourceful website in Chinese](#) called “ERC for non-European researchers”!

3 EURAXESS Links Activities



3.1 In Focus: Research and Innovation Tour: Where Europe and China Connect

Bringing Europe and China closer together through research and innovation



As one of the highlights of the 40th anniversary of EU-China relations, the **2015 Research and Innovation Tour: Where Europe and China Connect** is the 4th edition of an ambitious campaign that aims at **raising awareness about European research in China**.

The opening of the Tour took place in Wuhan on 18 May under the auspices of the EU Ambassador to China and several Consuls General of the EU Member States. The biggest Central Chinese city and home to 10 million people on Yangtze River, hosts a number of leading universities and research institutes. Wuhan's large student population feed China's talent pool in research and innovation.

Following an inaugural press conference, the first Research and Innovation Tour seminar was hosted by the **Wuhan University of Technology**. The great support and involvement of central and provincial S&T authorities allowed participating Member States' S&T Counsellors not only to disseminate information on their programmes but also to enhance Europe's understanding of the local R&I landscape through meetings with S&T decision makers.



Head of EU Delegation to China Mr Hans Dietmar Schweisgut launched the R&I tour by giving a warm welcome to an audience at the Wuhan University of Technology on 18 May



The Head of EU Delegation to China, Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, also spoke to EURAXESS in an exclusive miniinterview:

“The 40th anniversary is one of things to which we want to give substance. It’s always easy to talk about anniversaries, but we need to come up with a meaningful programme to show the way forward. We shouldn’t only look at what has been achieved – a lot has been achieved indeed – but also at what is lying ahead. China today is a completely different from the China 40 years ago. It’s an economic powerhouse that will drive innovation of the future. The EU is also quite different too – at that time, we were only 9 member states, now we are 28. We are diversifying and we are at the forefront of science and technological development. So it is logical to look into research and innovation - we started the Innovation Cooperation Dialogue in 2012 and will build on that.”

He added that: *“We need to work on explaining to the Chinese side how we work - what’s the “division of labour” between the 28 member states, what our instruments are, how we coordinate ourselves. That’s why the Research and Innovation Tour is such a good instrument because it showcases how we work together.”*



Audience at Wuhan University of Technology

Thanks to the Science Attaché of French Consulate General in Wuhan, Mr **Marc Bondiou**, our European group also got the opportunity to see the local strenghts through a short visit to the **Institute of Virology of Chinese Academy of Sciences**, mainly the **biosafety P4 lab** (highest level of biosafety where researchers work with the most dangerous biological samples) under construction. The P4 laboratory, first one in Asia, is built it **in close cooperation with France** (Jean Mérieux Laboratory in Lyon).

The second leg of the Tour in **Changsha** was hosted by Hunan University of Chinese Medicine. The HUCM is one of China’s leading institutions in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) research, medical training and also a Horizon 2020 Contact Point.

After the morning workshop, lively testimonials and presentations by Norway, the UK, France, Italy, EU Delegation and EURAXESS and a meeting with local S&T authorities, we visited the National [Hunan Hybrid Rice Research and Development Centre](#). Its famous director, **Prof Yuan Longping**, gave a



captivating presentation about the importance of hybrid rice in global food production. Prof Yuan's life-long research in hybrid rice has significantly contributed to global food safety over the decades: Today about a half of China's production of rice is based on hybrid varieties that Prof Yuan alongside agricultural researchers in Changsha's Hybrid Rice R&D Centre helped to develop.



Our EU Research and Innovation Counsellor, Dr Laurent Bochereau, and Prof Yuan Longping, "Father of Hybrid Rice"

To sum up, the first two Tour seminars were a big success. The highlights of both workshops were undeniably interesting testimonials by researchers themselves, who gave first-hand experience in their experience in Sino-European collaboration with the EU, its Member States or Associated Countries. **Dr Tang Hao** (researcher in biochemical analysis, and a participant in the FP7 GlycoHIT project, working on **improved prognosis of cancer**), **Prof Zhihong Hu** (one of China's **top virologists and former Marie Curie fellow**), **Dr Yu Yang** (participant in a FP7 **MSCA project in cultural heritage** and a **EURAXESS Science Slam winner**), and many others all helped the audience relate better to European research.



Dr Yu Yang (Wuhan University), participant in a Marie Skłodowska Curie staff exchange programme PUMAH on cultural heritage, and a EURAXESS Science Slam winner 2013, spoke at an inaugural press conference alongside EU Ambassador and UK and French Consul General, and at a Tour seminar shared his experience about how Europe helped to advance his research.



This year, the 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)



The Tour schedule is as follows:

- 1) May 18-19 in **Wuhan** and May 20 in **Changsha**
- 2) June 9 in **Urumqi**
- 3) July 7 in **Chengdu** and July 8 in **Chongqing**
- 4) September 10 in **Dalian**; September 11 in **Shenyang**
- 5) September 22 in **Changchun**; September 23 in **Harbin**
- 6) October 15/16 in **Beijing**
- 7) October 23 in **Hefei**
- 8) October 27 in **Suzhou**; October 28-29 in **Shanghai**
October 30 in **Hangzhou**
- 9) November 16-17 in **Shenzhen**; November 18 in **Guangzhou**

...Plan ahead not to miss it!

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.

EURAXESS Links China will soon start looking for China's best science slammers! Five finalists will compete for the title in the LIVE slam to be held in Beijing in October 2015. The first prize is a free trip to Europe, including 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).

Here is what you need to do to enter the competition:

Step 1: Get creative and develop an original idea to present your research project to the world. Tap dancing, cooking or a live experiment - everything is allowed.

Step 2: Register at www.scienceslamchina.com and we will ask you to show your research to us 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**.

The submissions will open soon – watch the website for news. 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. More info at www.scienceslamchina.com



3.3 EURAXESS Links Network Newsletter Nr. 9 – learn about Links across the world

In this edition of our China Links newsletter, in the Network Newsletter that brings the news from all the Links countries (North America, Brazil, Japan, India, China and ASEAN), the attention is given to the **role of innovation in the European Union**, with a focus on the various **forms** it takes and the **type of support** available for its fostering. You can read:

- **overview of the EU's innovation strategy**,
- ways of **implementation** of the strategy
- **EU innovation conference** due to take place on 22-23 June in Brussels: "A New Start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation".
- **EU-India cooperation in innovation** (and what that means for third country partners)
- Upcoming **events and activities in Links** – ASEAN, China, Japan, Brazil, North America and India

You can access the newsletter [here](#)!

3.4 Academic colleagues involved in EU-China doctoral education: Please fill in the short survey from EU-China DOC!

Access the survey in [Chinese](#) and [English](#) here.

The [EU-China DOC](#) project is coordinated by EU-China Higher Education Research Center of Vrije Universiteit Brussel. The project is an Erasmus Mundus Action 3 Project supported by the European Commission.

The aims are to increase the awareness and knowledge about European Higher Education among Chinese higher education actors and to **strengthen dialogue and cooperation between European and Chinese stakeholders in the field of doctoral education**.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes of your time. The information will be treated confidentially for analytical purposes.

We kindly ask you to fill in the questionnaire and forward it to academic colleagues (supervisors) and administrative staff involved in EU-China co-operations.

The survey is aimed at providing **insights regarding the views, perceptions, drivers and barriers related to EU-China cooperation in higher education, and in particular doctoral education**. The survey will also shed light on the existing differences of the two HE systems and perceived advantages or disadvantages for academic and student mobility between the EU and China. The findings will help the consortium to develop tools and measures to overcome obstacles and to enhance future collaborations.



The deadline is **15 June**. You can also contact Dr Lucas Zinner at lucas.zinner (at) univie.ac.at or Prof Chang Zhu chanzhu (at) vub.ac.be for further clarifications.

3.5 EURAXESS Links China on WeChat

You can follow us now also on **WeChat** for weekly updates. Find us under “EURAXESS” or scan the QR code below!



4 News & Developments

4.1 EU & Multilateral Cooperation

Watchdogs of the system’: the EU’s new scientific advisory panel explained

On May 13, the EC announced a new Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) – a seven-member panel of experts to oversee the process of how the Commission gets scientific advice on controversial issues like shale gas or GMOs.

“There was quite some fuss, notably in the UK; it was quite a surprise,” observed Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General for Research and Innovation, [in an interview with Science|Business](#). The new system is intended to make the whole process of providing scientific advice more transparent and of higher quality.

According to Smits, the SAM will be a complete system of advice, supported by Commission staff and connected to all the academies of science of the member-states. It is based on matching demand (Commission services) with supply (the national academies and learned societies). It will be overseen by a





seven-member group of “very senior people” – including possibly an economist, a social scientist and others. “We are not talking about a panel of Nobel Prize winners,” he said. The aim is to appoint people with the varied experience to judge and oversee the complex process of providing balanced, high-quality scientific advice on important issues. The panel, which reports directly to Moedas, will be supported by a unit to be created inside Smits’ Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

You can read the whole interview [here](#).

Interview with EC President Juncker: Europe to benefit from China's One Belt, One Road initiative

The China-initiated Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road will bring more benefits for European nations that are hungering for investment, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has said.

"I can see and I understand the motivation and value of China's One Belt, One Road initiative. The benefits are not just for China itself; Europe, too, stands to benefit from better connections with Asia's dynamic economies," Juncker told Xinhua in a recent interview, his first with a Chinese news outlet since he took office.

The European Union (EU) would build better links and reduce barriers within and outside the 28-member bloc so that more trade and interaction can help it achieve its goals for peace and prosperity, he said. (china.org.cn)

Unleash innovation to spur growth in Europe

Improving Europe's capacity to innovate and be globally competitive requires further efforts to encourage disruptive ideas and foster their commercial up-take. These are some of the conclusions to be drawn from the latest ranking of innovation performance across Europe.

The European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015 reveals that the EU's overall level of innovation has remained stable. However, the crisis has left an impact on the private sector's innovative activity: the number of innovative firms is in decline, as are SMEs' innovations, patent applications, exports of high-tech products, venture capital investments and sales of innovative products. While there have been improvements in human resources, business investments in research and development and the quality of science, these are not enough to result in a stronger innovation performance.

Full article: [European Commission](#)



President Juncker welcomes world-leading scientists, discusses role of science in competitiveness and announces new mechanism for scientific advice



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker hosted a working lunch for a group of eminent, internationally awarded scientists to discuss how to ensure Europe remains a centre of excellence for science, how to foster innovative ideas that are brought to market, and how to ensure that EU policy benefits from the best scientific advice.

President Juncker said: *"The thirst for discovery is what has helped move society from the Stone Ages. The world has changed, but for our society to continue advancing and our economy to grow, we need the highest ambition in pursuing knowledge, breakthroughs, and innovations. For that to happen, a formidable brain alone doesn't always suffice. We need additional sources of finance and investment for research and innovation. The [Investment Plan for Europe](#) will play a fundamental role in achieving that. Investing in research is a priority for Europe. [...]"*

The meeting was also an opportunity to discuss how to best institutionalise independent scientific advice in the European Commission.

Full article: [European Commission](#)

161 highly innovative SMEs funded by Horizon 2020 SME Instrument

161 companies from 23 countries have been selected in the latest round of Horizon 2020 SME Instrument Phase 1. For each project, the participants will receive €50,000 to finance feasibility studies. They can also request up to three days of business coaching.

Full article: [European Commission](#)

Royal Society elects new Fellows

Outstanding scientists, including pioneers in climate modelling, the treatment of infectious diseases and plant genetics, make up the 47 new Fellows and 10 new Foreign Members announced by the Royal Society today.

Source: [Royal Society](#)

EU Boost for Polar Science

A new initiative to enhance the integration of Europe's scientific and operational capabilities in the Polar Regions has been funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme





The €2 million five-year EU-PolarNet programme brings together 22 of Europe's internationally-respected multi-disciplinary research institutions to develop and deliver an integrated European polar research programme that is supported by access to first-class operational polar infrastructures. EU-PolarNet will involve stakeholders from the outset to create a suite of research proposals whose scientific outcomes are directly relevant and beneficial to European society and its economy.

Full article: [ResearchinGermany](#)

Pint of Science Festival also in Europe



The festival took place over three days in the evenings of Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th May 2015. It happened simultaneously in the UK, Ireland, France, Italy, USA, Spain, Germany and Australia.

In 2012 Michael Motskin and Praveen Paul were two research scientists at Imperial College London. They started and organised an event called 'Meet the Researchers' which brought people affected by Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, motor neurone disease and multiple sclerosis into their labs to show them the kind of research they do. It was inspirational for both visitors and researchers. They thought if people want to come into labs to meet scientists, why not bring the scientists out to the people? And so Pint of Science was born. In May 2013 they held the first Pint of Science festival which featured some of the biggest names in their fields to explain their ground-breaking work to lovers of science and beer. It was a phenomenal success of course!

The aim of the organisers is to deliver science talks in a fun, engaging and approachable way by bringing them to a pub close to you. They will bring you the most interesting and knowledgeable scientists around to give a talk about their research. You just sit back, sip your drink, listen and then you can either ask questions, have a drink with them or even tell them about your crazy idea to save humanity.

If you are thinking of organising a talk for next edition or want to know more about this science communication event, you may contact Pint of Science team at <contact@pintofscience.com>

Read more: [Pint of Science](#)

4.2 EU Member States*, China & Bilateral Cooperation

* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.



Czech Republic: Czech technology in Shanghai and Beijing was a success

The end of April 2015 was in the name of Czech technologies in Shanghai and Beijing. Czech companies were the center of attention at the China Shanghai International Technology Fair (CSITF 2015). Their technologies met the interest of hundreds of Chinese partners from a variety of sectors. Other Chinese Fairs, which saw Czech participation, were the China International Machine Tool Fair (CIMT) in Beijing and Auto Shanghai. Czech technologies were also successfully presented at various business forums in Shanghai and other Chinese cities. Most of these events took place in April 2015 as part of the Czech Days in Shanghai. The participating business delegation was the largest to ever visit China.

The Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang expressed interest in further cooperation between the Czech Republic and China in the field of science and technology. This area is one of China's priorities in Central and Eastern Europe. ([CZ in Beijing](#))

Denmark: Renewable energy workshops hosted at the Embassy (Sino-Danish Onshore wind power workshop and Advanced Bio-Ethanol workshop)

Denmark has contributed significantly to the development of clean energy in China.

The Royal Danish Embassy hosted a workshop on China's existing onshore wind fleet the 13th of May, and the day before, the 12th of May, the Embassy held workshop on Sino-Danish cooperation on advanced bio-ethanol.

Renewable energy cooperation is a key work area under the framework of the Sino-Danish comprehensive strategic partnership which was signed between the two countries in 2008.

The workshops were hosted as part of the Royal Danish Embassy's celebration on 65th anniversary of establishment of the diplomatic relations between Denmark and China. ([Danish Embassy in China](#)).

Germany: Earth researcher wins German science award

Zhu Xiaoxiang, a Chinese researcher, was among the 10 winners of the 2015 Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize, the most important award for early-career scientific researchers in Germany, at a ceremony in Berlin on Tuesday May 5, 2015.

The Heinz Maier-Leibnitz Prize has been awarded annually since 1977 by the German Research Foundation to outstanding researchers as both recognition and an incentive to continue pursuing a path of academic and scientific excellence.





The prize, named after the atomic physicist and former foundation president, is regarded as the third-most important science prize in Germany, after the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize, also awarded by the foundation, and the German Future Prize, awarded by Germany's president.

Zhu, a 30-year-old honorary professor at the Technical University of Munich, was honored for her research on Earth observation. She plans to optimize remote sensing data and provide the foundations needed to design new satellite sensors, the foundation said.

As a group leader at the German Aerospace Center, she develops modern signal processing methods by reconstructing poor signal strengths to improve resolution, reducing noise using nonlocal filters or reconstructing objects using mathematical models.

"It's a golden era for Earth observation," Zhu said. "I'd like to make contributions to promoting scientific cooperation between Germany and China in this area." ([China Daily](#)).

France: Chinese government to pay for 10,000 to study in France

China will send 10,000 students funded by the government to study in France in the course of the next five years, as part of an initiative to continue deepening Sino-French ties, said Cen Jianjun, director of the Ministry of Education's international cooperation and exchange department.

The program will be officially launched after the second meeting on China-France high-level cultural and people-to-people exchanges, to be held in Beijing on May 15.

The exchange program was established last year and has achieved much in cultural and people-to-people exchanges, Cen said. Particularly impressive is the increasing number of student exchanges, he added. China has more than 40,000 students studying in France, while France has 10,000-plus students in China, ranking 10th in terms of China's international students. ([China Daily](#))

France: Recipients have been chosen for the French Discover China 2015, COOPOL Innovation programme and Xu Guangqi programme

18 projects have been selected for the 2015 version of the French government's **Discover China** programme. The call for the programme opened on 2nd February; 34 programs that were deemed eligible. Of the 27 proposals in the field of natural sciences, 13 have been chosen, and of the 7 proposals in the field of social sciences and humanities, 5 have been selected. The funding covers the travel- and living expenses for the 18 recipients in 1 to 2 missions to China.



Projects have also been selected in **the Xu Guangxi programme**. The call for the programme opened January 19th 2015 and of the 81 projects that were deemed eligible, 25 projects have been chosen, 15 in the natural sciences and 10 in humanities and social sciences.

The four selected companies for the **COOPOL Innovation programme** were Atelier du Fruit in the field of agribusiness development with the aim to find micro-constituents from fruits and vegetables as a natural alternative to additives and preservatives; the company CYTOSIAL Biomedic who wants to develop biopolymer compatible with the constraints of the treatment of periodontal disease; the company Jean VOISIN with a research on the theme of vegetated purification and treatment of domestic waste water; and finally the company SYSTRA for a comprehensive approach to rail projects.

The evaluation of all of the funding schemes was in the hands of the French Embassy in China as well as the French Consulates General in China. ([France en Chine](#))

Switzerland: Solar Impulse 2 in Nanjing

Solar Impulse 2 ("Si2"), the world's **most advanced solar-powered airplane and the first to fly day and night without fuel**, landed successfully in Nanjing, People's Republic of China, following a 20 day-long stay in Chongqing.

During Solar Impulse 2's stay in Nanjing, swissnex China, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai and the Swiss Embassy in the People's Republic of China organized various events to engage local officials, students and young professionals, presenting the excellence of Switzerland's higher education, innovation and technology under the wings of Solar Impulse 2. ([Swissnex](#))

UK: Pathways to Sustainability in a Changing China Conference

The Pathways to Sustainability in a Changing China conference was held 20-21 April 2015 at Beijing Normal University (BNU) and provided a valuable opportunity for the ESRC funded Sustainability Technological Environmental Pathways to Sustainability (STEPS) Centre members, researchers from across China and international partners from our the STEPS Global Consortium to share insights, experiences and plans for future research and engagement. The conference was supported by Newton and marked the launch of a Sustainability Hub, one of six hubs spread across five continents, forming the Pathways to Sustainability Global Consortium. See [here](#) for a blog post. (Newton Fund News)



UK: From 'Made in China' to 'Designed in China': new copyright research centre opens in Ningbo

As China's economic focus continues to shift from manufacturing to design, a new research centre examining Chinese digital copyright was launched at the University of Nottingham Ningbo on Friday, 6 March 2015. The Centre is supported by a £500,000 grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Newton Fund over two years with matched funding from the Ningbo Science and Technology Bureau. It will act as a key national research hub with links to related projects and research groups in Beijing, Shanghai and other major cities. Find out more about the centre [here](#). (Newton Fund News)

UK: Researcher Connect

Researcher Connect is a series of **short interactive modules for researchers at any stage of their career and from any academic discipline**. It is a professional development course that focuses on the development of excellent communication skills using English language in international, multi-cultural contexts.

The British Council is running 13 sessions of their Research Connect workshop in 2015, in partnership with local education departments or higher education institutes in Tianjin, Shanghai, Ningbo, Guangzhou, Changsha, Chongqing and Kunming. The first workshop is scheduled for June in Tianjin. The British Council are also negotiating with NSFC to launch their Researcher Links programme, more details will be announced soon.

More information on Researcher Connect modules is available on [British Council Website](#).

Bilateral Agreements between EU and China in a new interactive map released by Dragon STAR

The map presents you with helpful information regarding the existing cooperation programmes between European countries and China and shows the different mechanisms and agreements regarding how involved ministries and mandated bodies provide money for scientific cooperation. See the map [here](#).



5 Grants & Fellowships

5.1 New Edition of the Funding Guide online!

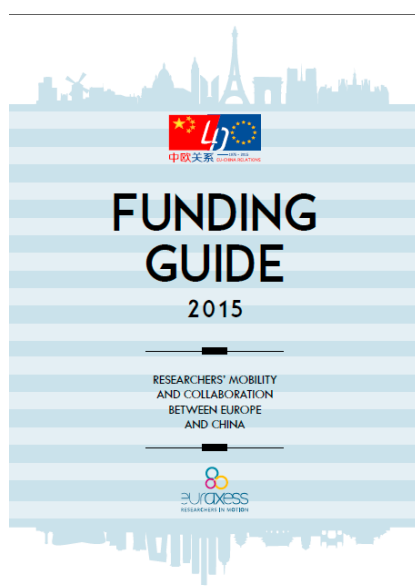
Latest edition of the ["Funding Guide: Researchers' Mobility and Collaboration between Europe and China"](#) is ready for download!

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**. We hope you will find the information helpful in advancing your research! Feel free to forward it to others. We can also send a printed version to you or your institution.

The Funding Guide is intended for researchers of **all career levels without restrictions on research fields**. Related professionals from universities, research institutions or companies will also benefit from the information.

The Funding Guide, edited by EURAXESS, is a result of joint effort between the EU Delegation, representatives of EU Member States, Associated Countries and their funding agencies, and Science and Technology Talent Center of MoST. We much appreciate everyone's contribution.

We will keep the file updated so if you have comments, let us know. We can also send to you a printed version by post if you would like to have one. [This is the link to the downloadable PDF](#). Feel free to forward it to your colleagues, friends in research-related fields all your students.





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.

5.2 EU: Call announcements for international researchers

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, named after the double Nobel Prize winning Polish-French scientist famed for her work on radioactivity, support researchers at all stages of their careers, regardless of nationality. 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. In addition to generous research funding, scientists have the possibility to gain experience abroad and in the private sector, and to complete their training with competences or disciplines useful for their careers. More information about various funding schemes and requirements for applying is available [here](#).

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.](#)

[This blog](#) has all you need to know about Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

This blog can also be **useful to individual mobile researchers**, especially the IF (Individual Fellowships) section. <http://mariecurieactions.blogspot.ch/>

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](#).

Jean Monnet Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (RSCAS) offers one or twoyear fellowships to postdocs in an early stage of their academic career. Priority will be given to proposals that fit well with one or more of the Centre's core research themes: European Institutions, Governance and Democracy, Migration, Economic and Monetary Policy, Competition Policy and Market Regulation, Energy Policy and Climate Policy, Global Governance & International and Transnational Relations of the EU. Deadline is **25 October**. More information is available [online](#).

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](#).

Europe: 15 PhD positions in Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN ECRYPT-NET (Cryptography)

ECRYPT-NET is a European research network that intends to develop **advanced cryptographic techniques and implementations for the Internet of Things and the Cloud**. The network is currently recruiting a **group of 15 PhD students** who will be trained in an international context that involves Summer Schools and internships in a company or research organization in a second country. The network is looking for highly motivated candidates with a strong academic track record, ideally with some background on cryptology and with proven research abilities. See more information on the website of [ECRYPT-NET](#).

5.3 EU: Open calls under Horizon 2020

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

Excellent Science programme

7 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

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

Societal Challenges

25 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

Czech Republic: Josef Dobrovský Fellowship

The objective of the fellowship is **to support “Czech studies”** in both national and territorial delimitation by means of the financing of short-term study stays of foreign researchers at the Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The fellowship is intended for **young researchers** (usually aged up to 35) who need to study the Czech historical, cultural, language, geographic or natural characteristics in the Czech Republic. The fellowship is named after Josef Dobrovský in order to pay homage to the internationally acknowledged Czech philologist, historian and the founder of Slavic studies. **Research stays of 15-45 days at the Czech Academy of Sciences and related costs are covered.**

The applications for the Josef Dobrovský Fellowship are filed by the directors of CAS Institutes. The deadlines for submitting the applications are 28 February and 31 August of each year. More information about the fellowship is available [online](#).

Denmark: International Network Programme

International Network Programme supports **network activities between Danish and foreign researchers from China (incl. Hong Kong)**, India, Israel, Japan, USA, Brazil, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Turkey.

Who can apply? Recognised scientists employed at Danish universities and research institutions and recognised scientists and research experts employed in R&D intensive companies and GTS Institutes in Denmark who wish to carry out network activities. It covers expenses for: Workshops and conferences, International travel including airfare, accommodation and daily expenses, overhead/administration expenses. More information is [online](#).

Next application deadline is **August 25, 2015**.

Denmark: New call for Niels Bohr professorships

The Niels Bohr Professorship Program seeks to attract strong, international, senior-level researchers who are able to significantly advance the internationalization of a specific area of research in Denmark with lasting, long-term effects.

The Danish National Research Foundation invites **Danish researchers** to submit proposals for Niels Bohr Professorships. Applicants from **all research**

* Including countries associated with Horizon 2020.





fields may apply. Proposals must be submitted by the researcher responsible for the research group at the Danish university receiving the visiting professor.

The professorships may start operating in the summer/early fall of 2016, for a 5-year period. Proposals must be received by the DNRF no later than Tuesday, **September 1, 2015** by noon. Information and all available documents are [here](#).

Finland: CIMO Asia Programme

The CIMO Asia Programme provides funding for projects concerning education cooperation between higher education institutions in Asia deemed to be particularly important to Finland, in 2015, for China and India.

The programme supports cooperation projects between higher education institutions aiming at internationalizing education. The **projects are always coordinated by the Finnish higher education institution** and only Finnish higher education institutions can submit an application for Asia Programme.

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

France: PRESTIGE Postdoc programme



The PRESTIGE programme, coordinated by Campus France, is co-financed under the Marie Curie Actions-COFUND of the FP7. PRESTIGE is a co-financing programme, funding about 1/3 of the post-doc fellow's living, mobility and research allowance, while the remaining 2/3 are financed by another partner, either public or private. PRESTIGE should help to strengthen and broaden various existing mobility initiatives, thus making both France and the European Research Area (ERA) more attractive to researchers.

PRESTIGE is **open to all scientific fields** provided that each proposed research project is in compliance with the EU ethics rules. Co-financing partners may however limit the eligible scientific fields, according to their own prioritised thematic areas.

The PRESTIGE 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: 15 Postdoctoral Fellowships in Biology and Information Technologies

Call for applications launched by the French Atomic and Alternative Energies Commission (CEA).

2 years post-doctoral fellowships are in the field of:



- Genetics and Personalized Medicine
- Functional Imaging of Plants
- 3D cell culture Imaging
- Engineered Protein based Materials

Working language is English and knowledge of French language is not necessary. The host Institutes are located in Grenoble, Cadarache and ParisSaclay.

Open to PhDs in physics, informatics, biology, chemistry or engineering of all nationalities. The positions are open until they are filled by appropriate candidates. Applicants are selected in a competitive process. [More information.](#)

Germany: Otto Warburg International Summer School and Research Symposium 2015

Otto Warburg International Summer School and Research Symposium will focus this year on transcription factors and their role in establishing and maintaining cellular identity.

The school will be held in September 6th-11th in Berlin and application deadline is **7 June, 2015**.

Germany: 12 PhD positions at TU Ilmenau

The Research Training Group (RTG) on Lorentz Force Velocimetry and Lorentz Force Eddy Current Testing at Technische Universität Ilmenau is offering the following open positions: 12 full-time research positions for doctoral students; 1 qualification scholarship to prepare for doctoral studies. The positions start in January 2016.

The deadline for application is **9 June 2015**, see more information [here](#).

Germany: Green Talents Award 2015

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) holds annually the prestigious "**Green Talents - International Forum for High Potentials in Sustainable Development**" to promote the international exchange of ideas regarding green solutions. The award honours 25 young researchers from around the world each year. The winners come from various scientific disciplines and are recognised for their outstanding achievements in making our societies more sustainable. The winners get:

- An **invitation to Germany in 2015 to participate in the fully funded two-week science forum**. While touring Germany, top



locations will open their doors to the Green Talents and offer them an exclusive insight into their facilities and projects.

- A **chance to present themselves and their work in personal discussions** held as part of individual appointments with experts of their choice (during the two-week science forum).
- A second invitation to Germany in 2016 for a **fully funded research stay of up to three months**. At an inspiring location of their choice, the Green Talents will gain new experiences and advance their professional careers while establishing long-lasting partnerships.
- **Exclusive access to the "Green Talents Network"** of currently 130 high potentials in sustainable development from over 40 countries.

The competition is open to anybody that doesn't hold a German passport or lives in Germany and isn't older than 32 years of age at the time of application.

Application deadline is **2 June 2015**, 12pm (noon, Central European Time). Apply [here](#). More information can be found on the website of the [Green Talents Competition](#).

Germany: Travel grants for journalists to meet world's brightest mathematicians and computer scientists in Heidelberg

For the third time, recipients of the ACM A.M. Turing Award, the Fields Medal, the Nevanlinna Prize and the Abel Prize gather in Heidelberg to meet with 200 young researchers from all over the world.

For one week, the laureates of mathematics and computer science will exchange with young researchers through lectures and workshops, plus a "hot topic" session discussing the socio-ethical challenges of Big Data.

The immense success of the past Forums pushes forward and the organizers once again provide the opportunity for journalists to come to Heidelberg and converse with the preeminent scientists of mathematics and computer science. The 3rd HLF will take place from 23 to 28 August, 2015, and applications for the coveted travel grants are accepted until **30 June, 2015**. [Information on how to apply is online](#).

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

Germany's Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) invites **young international researchers around the world to participate in their**





open research challenge. The contest consists of three separate challenges in three of FAU's major research areas:

Electronics, Information and Communication: Digital Forensics
 Energy, Environment and Climate: Discrete Optimization
 Optics and Optical Technologies: Photonic Technologies

The winners of each challenge will be invited to an all-expenses-paid stay in Erlangen-Nuremberg in October 2015, during which they are welcome to visit relevant research groups and laboratories at FAU, discuss their solutions, explore possibilities for future collaboration or career development, get to know the cultural and culinary highlights of Germany and Bavaria, and finally present their work at the popular science festival "Long Night of Science."

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

Netherlands: Evert Willem Beth Foundation: funding for research and symposiums

The Evert Willem Beth Foundation, part of Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), funds some research and symposiums in the following disciplines:

- modern logic
- philosophy of science
- history of logic
- history of the philosophy of science
- scientific philosophy in general.

Students as well as researchers can apply. Applications are now accepted. See more information [here](#).



Poland: Thesaurus Poloniae - Research on Polish Culture

Thesaurus Poloniae is a **three-month-long Fellowship** of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland. The programme is addressed to nonresidents of Poland who conduct their research on culture, history and multicultural heritage of the Republic of Poland as well as on Central Europe. The second call will be announced between the 31st of May and 15th of June with a **deadline between 30th of June and 15th of July 2015**. [Click here for more information](#).



Poland: Foundation for Polish Science - IDEAS FOR POLAND

The objective of the program is to encourage young, brilliant researchers from all over the world to choose Poland as the place to carry out their research projects submitted for the ERC competition.

The program is designed for people whose previous scientific record demonstrates that they are highly independent as researchers, and warrants that they will conduct world-class quality research.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Details [here](#).

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

The Regional Ministry for Education of Comunidad de Madrid offers 10 fellowships for specialists on advanced research in biomedical imaging. This call is part of M + VISION, a program in collaboration of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and co-funded by the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union.

Initially, the fellowship lasts for **12 months that can be prolonged with a 24-month contract**, provided that there is a host organisation (university, research centre, hospital or firm) based in Madrid that hires the researchers during the second and third year. Host organizations will have a co-financing of up to 57% for hiring the researchers.

The fellowship consists of: Fellowship (first year): 43,000 € / year; Employment contract (second and third year): € 65,000 / year (Employer cost, including social security charges); Research costs: 2.300 € / year; Travel costs: 3.300 € / year

There are **two types of fellowships** depending on the type of mobility that they include: **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.

Who can apply for a fellowship? Researchers in possession of a doctoral degree or with at least four years of research experience FTE who submit a research project idea, who wish to develop their research project in a Spanish host organization

More information for candidates and host organizations [online](#) or at sara.alfonso@madrimasd.org





Switzerland: 10 Innovative Swiss Start-ups Can Win 10 Days Business Development Journey to China

The applications for the second edition of the venture leaders China program are opened. The 10 finalists chosen among Switzerland's most promising startups will win a 10 day business development journey in Shanghai, Beijing and Shenzhen, from October 20th to 30th, 2015.

Founding or managing members of innovative, high-tech, Swiss-based startups ready for export and with a high market impact potential are eligible to participate. Information and application is possible until Monday, **8 June**, 2015: <http://www.venturelab.ch/ventureleaderschina>

UK: International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS)

The International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS) is a UK based funding scheme with the aim is to help scientists add an international dimension to their BBSRC funded research by making and establishing new contacts with international counterparts. The call is currently open and you can apply at any time. More information <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/internationalfunding/isis/>

UK: The Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards programme

NERC, the British Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) are inviting research proposals under a new strategic research programme which aims to increase social and economic resilience in earthquake-prone regions of China by **reducing risks from multiple natural hazards**.

The Increasing Resilience to Natural Hazards in China (IRNHIC) programme will be delivered in this one substantive call for collaborative projects, research partnerships between UK and Chinese scientists.

NERC and ESRC have made available a budget of £2.5m (80% fEC) to fund eligible UK researchers, with matched equivalent funding from NSFC. NERC/ESRC funds will specifically be used to support UK researchers, whilst NSFC funds will support Chinese researchers.

The call is supported in the UK through the Newton Fund which forms part of the UK governments Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment and is only open to Joint UK-China applications. Collaborations under the call will contribute to economic development and social welfare in China, in line with the Newton Fund's aims.



Expressions of Interest are invited for a call under this interdisciplinary programme via email by the **9 June 2015** deadline (full proposals by deadline 20 August 2015). See more information [here](#).

UK: Postdoc Fellowship for ERC grantee on Environment in China

The Department of Sociology at the University of Warwick invites applications for a postdoctoral research fellowship in the field of environmental politics in contemporary China.

The fellowship is funded by the European Research Council (ERC) to work on an interdisciplinary ERC Starting Grant entitled '**Toxic Expertise: Environmental Justice and the Global Petrochemical Industry**' led by **Dr Alice Mah**. The post is available from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter for a fixed-term of 2 years, with the possibility of an extension depending on project needs. See more [here](#).



Global: Human Frontier Science Program Postdoctoral Fellowships



HUMAN FRONTIER SCIENCE PROGRAM

FUNDING FRONTIER RESEARCH INTO COMPLEX BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

HFSP postdoctoral fellowships encourage early career scientists to broaden their research skills by moving into new areas of study while working in a new country.

HFSP fellowships are for three years. Fellows may choose to stay for up to three years in the host country or use the last year of their fellowship to return to their home country or to move to another HFSP member country.

Long-Term Fellowships (LTF) are for applicants with a Ph.D. in a biological discipline, who will broaden their expertise by proposing a project in the life sciences which is significantly different from their previous Ph.D. or postdoctoral work.

Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships (CDF) are for applicants with a Ph.D. from outside the life sciences (e.g. in physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering or computer sciences), who have had limited exposure to biology during their previous training.

The next fellowship submission deadline will be **27 August 2015**.

See more information on the [website of HFSP](#).



5.5 Calls still open

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

EU: MSCA Individual Fellowship

Marie Skłodowska-Curie **Individual Fellowships** are meant to support the best, promising individual researchers from anywhere in the world (applicants must have a PhD by the call's deadline). You can download a [pocket guide](#) to MSCA. There are two types of Individual Fellowships: European Fellowships and Global Fellowships. **Deadline: 10 September 2015.** **EU: The European Respiratory Society (ERS) Fellowships**

Deadline: 31 July 2015. Further information [on this link](#).

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](#).

Estonia: Government Scholarships

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

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: 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](#).

Switzerland: Swiss National Science Foundation: International Exploratory Workshops



Next deadlines: **3 June** and **7 October 2015**. More information [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](#).

Germany: More than 150 open positions for international PhD students, Postdocs and researchers at Helmholtz Centres in Germany

Work at Germany's largest scientific organisation: The Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren currently offer over 150 open positions for international PhD students, Postdocs and researchers in various research fields.

[Here you will find all job vacancies.](#)

China: Faculty Positions at Fudan University

School of Basic Medical Sciences (SBMS) at Fudan University is looking for international scientists, leading talents in their field, senior as well as junior



faculty members. Research Areas: Persistent infection (including HIV, HBV, HCV, TB, etc.), Studies on Emerging / Re-emerging Pathogens, Regional Immunology, Mechanism Studies on Metabolic Diseases, especially on Lipid Metabolism Disorders; Basic Cardiovascular Disease Study, Cancer Biology (immunology, glycobiology, metabolism, microenvironment, tumor marker and multi-drug resistance, etc) and Stem Cell Biology, Neurobiology, Epigenetics study and Medical Informatics

The university will provide highly competitive (negotiable) salary / start-up funds / house allowance and other employee benefits. For more information, please visit [EURAXESS Jobs](#). Deadline **10 July**.

China (Macau) – Academic Positions in the Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences

The Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences (ICMS) is an academic unit of excellence in biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences in the region

The Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences now invites applications at various academic ranks in the following areas: (1) innovative drug discovery, including Chinese medicine, biopharmaceutics, and chemical drugs; (2) functional food research and development; (3) pharmaceutical science and engineering; (4) quality testing; (5) food and drug safety. More information is available on [EURAXESS Jobs](#).

China: One-Hundred Talent Full-professor or Tenure-Track Associate Professor Positions

CAS Key Laboratory of Pathogenic Microbiology and Immunology, Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences invites applications for a number of faculty positions immediately available. CAS Key Laboratory strengths include a biosafety level 3 laboratory facility and the CAS Center for Influenza Virus Research and Early Warning. More information is 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 \(UK\)](#)

7 Events

7.1 EURAXESS Links China recommends

Shanghai: 2015 Asia Pacific Research Intelligence Conference

Asia Pacific Research Intelligence Conference co-organized by **Fudan University** and **Elsevier**, taking place in **Shanghai on June 11 and 12**. The conference will bring together the region's leading Vice Presidents of Research, Research Managers and Research Administrators to share and build upon valuable information in support of long-term research management efforts.

The theme of the conference is “**Building World-Leading Research Universities**” with the aim of examining the evolving expectations, available solutions, measurements and best practices associated with the optimization of research strategies. Some of the key areas that we will be addressing during the 2015 conference include:

1. Creating Research Excellence



2. Building Talent (from students to presidents)
3. From Rankings to Research Assessments
4. Universities in the Global Market – Branding & Reputation Management

Location: **Ramada Wujiaochang Shanghai** (1888 Huangxing Road, 200433 China)

The conference is free-of-charge. To register your attendance, please [follow this link](#).

Click [here](#) to find the event agenda, travel and visa information

Beijing: EU-China thematic Workshop on Industry IoT

The workshop will take place on **6 June 2015**.

Among talks that are on the preliminary agenda there is: Cloud computing, IoT standardization and capability requirements of network infrastructure to support industry IoT. See more information [here](#) on the website of the CHOICE project!

Shenyang: International Summer School on Brain-inspired Computer Vision – BICV 2015

The fifth International Summer School on Brain-inspired Computer Vision will be conducted in the northern city of Shenyang this summer, **27 - 31 July 2015**.

The understanding of brain mechanisms is strongly increasing, through breakthroughs in MRI and optical and functional imaging techniques. Brain-inspired computer vision implements these techniques in efficient and robust algorithms for a wide range of vision applications. They are capable to deal with context, self-organization and learning, big-data handling, and robust pattern recognition. This will be a tutorial master class, dedicated to state-of-the-art techniques in brain-inspired computing. The lectures are combined with interactive computer classes.

Lectures will be given by **Prof. Bart ter Haar Romeny**, international expert professor at Northeastern University in Shenyang, and Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands and **Dr. George Azzopardi**, author of the CORF and COSFIRE contextual models for V1/V4, University of Malta, and University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

The Summer School only charges a low fee for the local expenditures. Attendance is limited to 60 participants. Deadline for registration is **15 July 2015**. See more information on <http://www.bicv2015.org/>





Brussels: A new start for Europe - Opening up to an ERA of Innovation', 22-23 June 2015



Bringing together key players from the fields of research, business and innovation, the conference will address Open Science, the European Research Area, and Innovation. Scientists, innovators, and policy-makers will make up over 500 participants and discuss how Europe can open up to an ERA of Innovation, where ideas will be forged to bring growth and jobs to Europe.

This is an excellent opportunity to network with key stakeholders and decision makers and shape the future of Europe's research and innovation policy.

The conference will take place in Brussels on **22 and 23 June**. To know more and register, click [here](#).

7.2 Upcoming scientific events in Europe and in China

Field	Date	Location	Title (click for more details)
Events in Europe			
Nanotechnologies	10-12 June 2015	Riga, Latvia	EuroNanoForum 2015 Conference
A new start for Europe: Opening up to an ERA of Innovation	22-23 June 2015	Brussels, Belgium	European Commission
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			
EU-China R&I Cooperation	17-18 June 2015	Beijing	INCONTACT



8 Press Review*

8.1 Policy & Papers

Gov't to Continue Subsidies for New-Energy Car Purchases

The central government has announced a plan to continue subsidizing the buyers of new-energy vehicles in a bid to promote the production and use of the autos and cut pollution. ([Caixin](#))

China to cut e-commerce red tape, back entrepreneurship and ease market access

The State Council has pledged to help the development of e-commerce by cutting red tape, supporting entrepreneurship, and easing market access.

New e-commerce guidelines were published in a paper released by China's cabinet – the third time in a week central authorities have promised to nurture the growth of online businesses amid the economic downturn.

The move came as Premier Li Keqiang made a tour of Zhongguancun, Beijing's high-tech business hub, to applaud innovation and encourage entrepreneurship. ([SCMP](#))

Gov't Announces Grand Plans for Cleaning up Nation's Polluted Water

The government's recently released plan for water pollution sets ambitious goals for cleaning up the country's heavily polluted bodies of water, a step forward in a long battle against heavy pollution.

On April 16, the State Council, China's cabinet, unveiled its Action Plan for Water Pollution Prevention and Control, the official roadmap for tackling the worsening water pollution, a source of rising public discontent. ([Caixin](#))

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Made in China 2025 includes focus on robots

A grand plan, dubbed "Made in China 2025" and expected to be rolled out some time this year, will lay out strategies for China to scale up its manufacturing sector in the next decade.

First mentioned by Premier Li Keqiang in the government work report delivered at this year's parliamentary sessions in March, the plan seeks to nurture emerging industries from bio-medicine to advanced equipment manufacturing to maintain China's manufacturing edge.

An official at China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology told Xinhua that the upcoming plan has focused on stimulating indigenous innovation, improving quality and reduce environmental damages, among many other entrenched problems facing the country's manufacturing sector.

Some Chinese provinces have announced ambitious initiatives to replace human workers with robots, as worsening labor shortages have dulled the cost advantage for made-in-China products. It also came as China seeks to remake its manufacturing sector with less reliance on foreign technologies and efficiency gains through the use of industrial internet.

The challenge posed by the lack of technology has become stark as the country's traditional edge is disappearing. Labor costs have risen to the point where multinational firms find it cheaper to shift their manufacturing to southeast Asia. ([China Daily](#)).

Premier Li cheers start-ups at China's Silicon Valley

Pictures of Premier [Li Keqiang](#) holding a cup of freshly-brewed coffee and chatting with young crowds at a start-up cluster in northwestern Beijing went viral online on Thursday, sending another heartening message to China's budding entrepreneurs. In a visit to 3W Coffee, a cafe frequented by young IT engineers for seminars and brainstorming sessions at Zhongguancun, a technology hub dubbed as China's Silicon Valley,

Li listened to youngsters' ideas and stories, and encouraged them in a fresh demonstration of support for entrepreneurship and innovation. "As China is upgrading its growth mode, your stories of striving for success will inspire an innovation-driven and knowledge-based economy," Li said, demanding more moves to eliminate barriers to making innovation a new trend and bringing out the creativity of masses. ([Xinhua](#))



8.2 Voices & opinions



Harnessing the Mekong or Killing It?

... (as) China completed one, then two, and then seven dams upstream, the few hundred residents of Ban Pak Ing saw the Mekong change. The sudden fluctuations in water levels interfere with fish migration and spawning. Though the village has protected local spawning grounds, there are no longer enough fish to go around.

The Mekong begins on the Tibetan Plateau and runs for more than 2,600 miles through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam before emptying into the South China Sea. It's the longest river in Southeast Asia, the seventh longest in Asia, and—most important for the people who live along it—the world's most productive inland fishery. ([National Geographic](#))

Strangled by Ivy

Instead of looking to elite schools for social cache, applicants in China would be better served by focusing on the role of education as a system of knowledge enrichment. (M)any students and parents have a mania for the Ivy League and its ilk. This is especially true in China, a country where people weigh brands and reputation possibly more than anywhere else. ([Caixin](#))

Dutch researcher talks to Xinhua on science and ethics

With a new book, a Dutch researcher Dirk Stermerding and his co-editors from China, India, and Britain, aimed to make a comparative study of the ethical discourses around science and technology as they were expressed between different countries.

"China and India are strong contenders for the production of science and technology," the book's introduction states, going on to note that between them, the two countries account for half of the global population and a quarter of the world's economic output.

In Europe ethic debates focus on potential consequences while in China and India, Stermerding sees a more societal approach.

"In China and India, ethics debates first of all relate to the policy agendas—'aims'—driving science and technology for the sake of societal progress," he explained.

These differences in discourse implicate sets of cultural values, "like affluence and harmony in China," as well as "access and inclusion in India."

In both China and India, the study found that debates around innovation were more likely to ask who a technology was meant to serve, and what societal problems it could hope to address.



"In Europe, we have this notion of science and technological progress as something you should not steer because you can never know what it will lead to," Stermerding said.

For China, the study found there is also a question of autonomy and the prosperity that stands to accompany it following fruitful science and technology policy.

He also saw a growing level of public participation in Chinese ethics debates around science and technology, adding that "a strong and increasingly educated and assertive civil society are changing the rules of policy debates." ([Want China Times](#)).

8.3 Thematic Activities

Health

Key Mechanism That Causes Aging Discovered

Biologists have discovered the key mechanism that causes aging. They are confident that the process can be slowed down or even reversed.

Apparently, the deterioration of a particular set of tightly packed bundles of DNA are responsible for our normal cell functioning. This process largely governs how fast or slow we age. Scientists feel they might be able to manipulate the rate of the degeneration or even reverse it, thereby unlocking some radical new treatments to treat age-related diseases like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's and perhaps offering a "fountain of youth."

It was while studying the underlying causes of Werner syndrome – a genetic disorder that causes affected individuals to age more rapidly than normal – that researchers from the Salk Institute in the U.S and the Chinese Academy of Science made the astonishing and groundbreaking discovery.

People with Werner syndrome contract diseases which are typically reserved for the elderly in their youth. Suffering from cataracts, type-2 diabetes, osteoporosis, and cancer, these unfortunate souls have a very short lifespan and typically die between the ages of 40 and 50. ([Chinese Academy of Science](#))

China Puts New Lupus Drug to Clinical Tests

Chinese researchers are submitting a new drug for lupus to clinical trials, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) said. .

The new drug SM934, a water-soluble artemisinin derivative, has been approved by the China Food and Drug Administration, the country's pharmaceutical watchdog, CAS said, adding that its Shanghai based researchers spent 15 years developing the new drug.

Lupus, technically known as systemic lupus erythematosus or SLE, is an autoimmune disorder that can damage the joints, kidneys, heart, lungs, brain



and blood. It is marked sometimes by a characteristic butterfly-shaped rash on the face. The latest survey showed several million Chinese are currently suffering from SLE. ([Chinese Academy of Science](#)).

Lower Air Pollution, Higher Birth Weight

Exposure to high levels of pollution can have a significant impact on fetal growth and development, according to a recent study published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*. The study found women who were pregnant during the 2008 Beijing Olympics—when pollution levels were reduced by the Chinese government—gave birth to children with higher birth weights compared to those who were pregnant before and after the games. ([Asian Scientist](#))

Food, agriculture & fisheries, biotechnology

Data Reveals A Century Of Spectacular Wheat Yields In China

China's wheat productivity has gone from one tonne per hectare in 1945 to five tonnes per hectare in 2013. Almost 100 years of data on China's wheat yield improvements have been unearthed for the first time by researchers from Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University in China and The University of Western Australia (UWA). Data on more than 1,850 Chinese wheat varieties from the 1920s to 2014 were collected and analysed to better understand the evolution of yield-related traits and to formulate strategies for future breeding. ([AsianScientist](#))



Chinese Biologists Find Key Process to Obtain Adult Stem Cells

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced scientists have discovered a new method for reprogramming and obtaining induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells), or stem cells derived from adult cells.

The latest research by stem-cell biologist Pei Duanqing and his team revealed autophagy, a process in generating iPS, does not play a vital role in reprogramming. Previously, it was believed it did.

Autophagy, or self-cannibalization, refers to a process of cells discarding or degrading cellular components under certain conditions to prevent further damage. It is not only unnecessary for the process, but may hold back it, according to the finding. The scientists believe their findings can help people understand how cell reprogramming affects patients of metabolic diseases such as diabetes or cancer, according to a statement of the CAS.

The latest study was published by *Nature Cell Biology*. ([Chinese Academy of Science](#)).



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Information & communication technologies

Chinese Firm Tests Balloon for a Wireless High

A Chinese aerospace supplier is following the lead of American search engine Google by preparing to test a WiFi transmission system that relies on high-altitude balloons to reach remote areas.

Shenzhen-based and Hong Kong-listed Kuang-Chi Science Ltd. plans to test the balloons in the skies above New Zealand before July, some two years after Google's Project Loon sent 30 balloons sailing into the stratosphere over that country as part of a WiFi service experiment. ([Caixin](#))



China Security Bill Calls for Protecting 'Cyber Sovereignty'

China intends to build a national cyber safety net as part of a sweeping security bill being considered by the country's top lawmaking body.

The provision on "cyber sovereignty" was added to the second draft of the security law, which also stressed the need to safeguard the security of "industries and key areas important to the national economy," according to a text of the document [posted](#) on the website of the National People's Congress. The new proposal, which was reviewed last month by the body's Standing Committee, also adds language about protecting the country from risks to the financial system. ([Bloomberg](#))



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Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies

Chinese scientists use shape-fixing nanoreactor to make a better fuel cell catalyst

Proton-exchange membrane fuel cells (PEMFCs) are lightweight fuel cells being developed for applications in vehicles and portable electronics. One of the biggest challenges facing their development is the need for expensive platinum-based catalysts.

In an effort to lower the cost, Chinese scientists from Chongqing University have in a new study developed a way to synthesize materials with a large number of active sites that also ensures that the active sites are accessible to all of the species (electrons, protons, oxygen, and water molecules, etc.) involved in the reactions. They've done this by synthesizing highly porous carbon nanomaterials, in which the pores act as open channels to transport various species to their particular active sites within the carbon framework. (phys.org).

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Environment (including climate change, conservation and biology)

Scientists Make Novel Attempt to Save Giant Turtle Species

Earlier this month, an international team of scientists, veterinarians and zookeepers gathered at the Suzhou Zoo near Shanghai. Their desperate mission: to attempt the first artificial insemination ever of a softshell turtle, saving the species from oblivion.

"Even if we get just one or two hatchlings, I will be very happy," said Gerald Kuchling, a project leader for the Turtle Survival Alliance, a nonprofit conservation organization. "Even a single one would give hope for the recovery of this magnificent animal. It would be a turn." ([New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com)).

* * *

Energy

China solar expansion needs billions from wary investors

Beijing last month announced a solar installation target of 17.8 gigawatts (GWs) for 2015, up 70 percent on the previous year, to boost the use of renewable energy and prop up China's solar panel industry, the world's largest. Industry



experts say that will entail total investment from big state-owned enterprises and debt-laden private businesses of over \$23 billion, most of it from state banks, and the domestic debt and equity capital markets. Chinese banks, however, remain wary after writing off billions of dollars via a wave of defaults and plant closures in the sector when European demand for Chinese solar products collapsed during the euro zone debt crisis. ([Reuters](#))

China starts building Hualong One pilot nuclear power project

The Hualong One technology indicates China's ascent into the rank of countries with advanced nuclear technology, said Qian Zhimin, general manager of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). Xing Ji, chief designer of Hualong One, said China owns the complete intellectual property rights of Hualong One and the launch of the pilot will help pave the way for China's nuclear power equipment to go global. The Hualong One reactor was jointly designed by two nuclear power giants, China General Nuclear Power Group and CNNC, and passed inspection by a national expert panel in August 2014. ([Xinhua](#))

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Transport (including aeronautics)

Alcatel-Lucent to offer fibre-optic technology for China railway authorities

French telecommunications equipment firm Alcatel-Lucent has secured a contract from the Beijing and Nanning Railway Bureaus in China to upgrade the 'backbone' communications networks of rail lines in China.

Under the deal, the French firm will provide advanced fibre-optic technology for China railway authorities to harness speed of light in train operations.

Alcatel-Lucent's 1830 Photonic Service Switch (PSS), the latest generation DWDM optical solution, will be deployed China railways on Beijing railway bureau's third ring, which connects Beijing to towns and cities via a rail network spanning 623km.

The new solution is expected to increase performance of the communication network with the implementation of 10G-speed technology, and lay the foundation for future 100G services. (railway-technology.com)

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Socioeconomic sciences & the humanities, archaeology & paleontology



Peking Man Tooth Reveals Details of Ancient Humans

Fossils of Peking Man are very rare, as most disappeared during World War II, so it is no surprise that scientists are excited by analysis published on a tooth from a 600,000 year old ancestor of modern man.

The latest issue of "Acta Anthropologica Sinica", featured the findings of Swedish and Chinese scientists.

According to Liu Wu from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the tooth in question is an upper right canine from a Peking Man.

The tooth was fully developed, indicating the individual was between 20 to 40 years old.

Age is revealed by counting dentine incremental layers, Martin Kundrat from the Evolutionary Biology Centre at Uppsala University, Sweden, said. ([Chinese Academy of Science](#))

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Space

China Aims to be First to Land on 'dark side' of Moon

China is planning to land its Chang'e-4 probe on the moon's "dark side", which has never before been explored, Wu Weiren, the chief engineer for China's Lunar Exploration Program told Chinese Central Television.

"We probably will choose a site on which it is more difficult to land and more technically challenging...Our next move will probably see some spacecraft land on the far side of the moon," Wu said.

The "dark" side of the moon is not actually dark — it receives just as much sunlight as the hemisphere that can be seen from Earth.

The reason that the dark, or far, side of the moon, never faces Earth is a phenomenon known as "tidal locking." Over the course of millions of years the Earth's gravity slowed the moon's rotation, matching it to the speed of its orbit. ([Chinese Academy of Science](#))

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People & Higher Education

Chinese Woman Scientist Appointed ABA President



The Asian Biophysics Association (ABA), a scientific organization that promotes biophysics research and education in the region, has appointed its first ever female president.

The new president, Yan Xiyun, is professor of the [Institute of Biophysics](#) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The announcement came whilst she was presiding over the [9th ABA Symposium](#), the largest-scale biophysics conference in Asia-Pacific region. The post will last for three years.

Yan is a specialist in nanobiology, and has counted many achievements and fruits in scientific discovery, technological invention and transformation of scientific and technological results during her career. She is known for having discovered the critical role of a cell membrane molecule, CD146, in blood vessel growth, and developing an antibody for tumor therapy. She has also been highly praised in the fields of nanomaterials and nanoparticles.

The appointment of Yan will lend a greater voice for Chinese scientists in international academia, especially for women researchers engaged in the field—a common wish of all professors at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese people beyond. ([Chinese Academy of Science](#))

Asian Universities Excel In 2015 QS World University Rankings

Universities in Asia have continued to excel, according to the 2015 rankings by the London-based education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The QS rankings are based on the expert opinion of 85,062 academics and 41,910 employers informed the results, alongside the analysis of 17.3 million research papers and over 100 million citations. Singapore's universities have continued to excel academically in this year's rankings.

The next best performer in Asia is The University of Tokyo, which leads regionally in five subjects. It also makes the top 50 globally in 29 subjects and the top ten in six. The University of Hong Kong and Peking University are the third and fourth best performers in Asia, leading in two disciplines apiece and featuring in 33 and 31 tables respectively. Kyoto University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The Chinese University of Hong Kong attain top spot regionally in one subject each. ([Asian Scientist](#))

Scientific invention contest for students launched

Can you imagine driving a wind-powered vehicle, which is made of recyclable materials, for your daily commute from your home to the office?

It may sound unrealistic but a prototype device invented by students competing in the "Solve for Tomorrow" National Youth Scientific Innovation and Experiment Contest suggests that more clean-energy vehicles such as a wind-driven car will be realities in the near future.

The device, invented by a group of students guided by Professor Gao Yunfeng from Tsinghua University, carried a 50kg passenger 10 meters forward,



powered only by two electric fans simulating natural winds at the launch of this year's "Solve for Tomorrow" contest.

Initiated by the China Association for Science and Technology and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, the contest will kick off its third consecutive year in June with high school and college students competing at national preliminaries in five divisions: Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Harbin and Chengdu. ([China Daily](#)).

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Research Infrastructures

WuXi To Build World's Largest Mammalian Cell Culture Facility

WuXi Biologics, a wholly owned subsidiary of WuXi PharmaTech (Cayman) Inc., a R&D capability and technology platform company, has begun construction on a new US\$150 million biologics manufacturing facility in Wuxi city. The new facility to be completed by January 2017 will house fourteen 2,000 liter disposable bioreactors for fed-batch cell culture and two 1,000 liter bioreactors for perfusion runs. The facility will also be built to run advanced continuous or semi-continuous manufacturing processes in addition to traditional fed-batch and perfusion modes. When complete, this new facility will be the largest mammalian cell culture manufacturing facility using disposable bioreactors in the world. It will also be the largest biologics manufacturing facility of any kind in China. ([Asian Scientist](#))

International S&T relations

Chinese Institute to Help Design High-Speed Train Project in Russia

A research institute at China's major railroad construction company will help design a Russian high-speed rail project, a source at China Railway Construction Corp. Ltd. (CRCC) says.

A consortium of China Railway Eryuan Engineering Group Co. Ltd. (CREEC) and two Russian companies won the contract on April 30 to design the 770 kilometer line linking Moscow and Kazan, a city east of the Russian capital. ([Caixin](#))

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About this newsletter



EURAXESS LINKS CHINA NEWSLETTER is a monthly electronic newsletter, edited by EURAXESS Links China, which provides information of specific interest to European researchers and non-European researchers in China who are interested in the European research landscape and in conducting research in Europe or with European partners.

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Editors: Andrea Střelcová, EURAXESS Links China Country Representative

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EURAXESS Links China is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS Links China provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-China and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility.

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