

# CN ICIMOD

## Newsletter



Newsletter of the  
Chinese Committee on  
International Centre for  
Integrated Mountain  
Development

# ICIMOD

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FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

## Research

### Scientists and organizational representatives meet to discuss NSFC-ICIMOD collaborative research programme on treeline sensitivity

A kickoff meeting for “Sensitivity of Treeline in Response to Climate Change: Regional Patterns and Local Processes in the Himalaya”, an NSFC-ICIMOD research programme, was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 17–18 April 2017. Principal investigator Shi Peili, professor at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), China, was present at the meeting along with fellow scientist Wang Jinniu from the Chengdu Institute of Biology (CIB). Peili delivered the welcome remarks along with David Molden, Director General of ICIMOD. Eklabya Sharma, Deputy Director General of ICIMOD, was also present. Other participants included Nakul Chettri, Wu Ning, Yi Shaoling, and Ruijun Long from ICIMOD.

Wu Ning spoke briefly about the NSFC-ICIMOD programme. This was followed by Shi Peili’s presentation on the project details, the annual work plan, and expected achievements. Sub-project presentations were made by

Ram P Chaudhary from Tribhuvan University, Nepal; Dinesh Bhujyu from the Nepal Academy of Sciences and Technology; Ishwari D Rai from the Wildlife Institute of India; and Wang Jinniu from ICIMOD. Research posters were used in some of these presentations.

The scientists and organizational representatives reached a primary agreement on the long-term cooperation mechanism and the construction of a mountain tree line research network through deliberations made over the course of the meeting. They also discussed staff exchange and the potential for organizing an international workshop for participants from China, India, and Nepal.

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) are funding 12 projects through a partnership that aims to promote and strengthen scientific collaboration between Chinese scientists and scientists based at ICIMOD to conduct basic research on topics relevant to the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH). The NSFC-ICIMOD research programmes are being conducted collaboratively by scientists in the HKH.

*left:* Group photo of kickoff meeting participants  
*right:* Shi Peili presenting on the NSFC-ICIMOD programme







Koshi River Programme workshop

## Workshop on NSFC-ICIMOD programme “Cascading Adaptation of Rural Livelihood to Changing Environment in the Koshi River Basin” held in Chengdu, China

The NSFC-ICIMOD funded study, “Cascading Adaptation of Rural Livelihood to Changing Environment in the Koshi River Basin” is hosted by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE) and the Chengdu University of Information Technology in China. A workshop with the programme in focus was organized in Chengdu, China on 21 February 2017.

All Chinese members of the project participated in the February meeting. Principal investigator, Fang Yiping delivered a keynote presentation on the background, significance, working plan, and expected achievements of the programme. Deng Wei and Xiong Donghong, sub-project principal investigators, made presentations titled “Action Plan on Water Resource Usability and Livelihood Adaptation Research” and “Effect of Water Hazards on Agriculture in Koshi River Basin”, respectively.

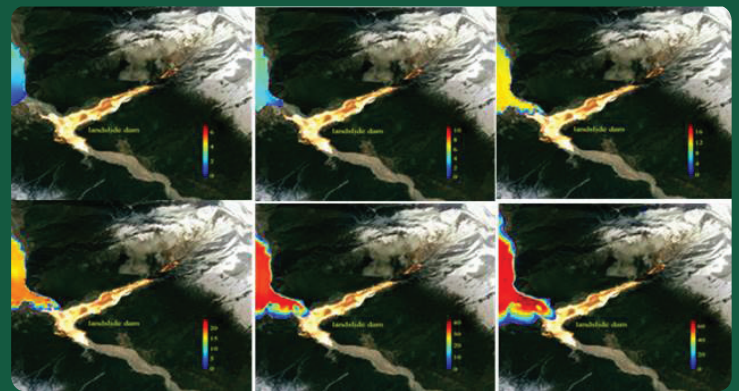
The scientists and institutional representatives agreed on organizing an international workshop in the future. A field trip along the Koshi River with ICIMOD and Nepali partners will also be organized later in 2017. Wu Yanhong from the Chinese Committee on ICIMOD (CNICIMOD) secretariat suggested that the project pay more attention to interdisciplinary research, with both the natural and social sciences in focus. He also suggested that efforts be made to secure additional international projects to extend the research being carried out through this seed project.

## NSFC-ICIMOD programme on quantitative prediction and risk assessment of mountain hazards in the Tibet Plateau making progress

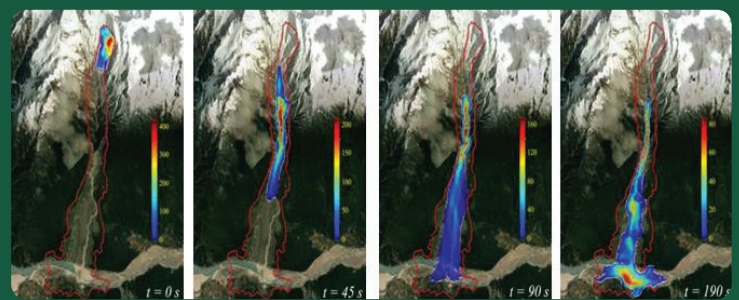
Since it was first launched in January 2017, the NSFC-ICIMOD programme, “Quantitative Prediction and Risk Assessment of Mountain Hazards in the Tibet Plateau Based on the Analysis of Dynamic Evolution Processes”, has been making steady research progress.

The project is hosted by IMHE with He Siming, a professor at the institute, as principal investigator. Till date, the project has succeeded in conducting a simulation of disaster chain dynamic evolution and a quantitative prediction of disaster situation temporal-spatial evolution. It has also solved the problem of disaster risk quantitative analysis, taking the Yigong landslide chain as an example.

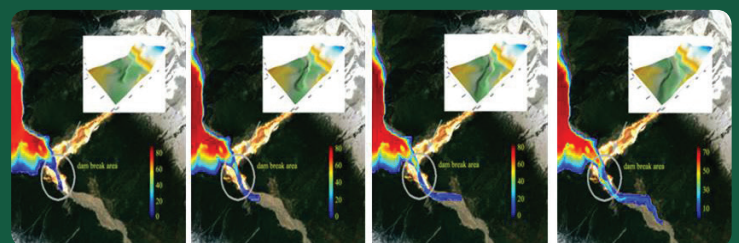
### Simulation of Yigong dammed lake water level increase



### Evolution of Yigong landslide dynamic and simulation of Damand lake formation



### Simulation of Damand lake burst and flood evolution





## First phase of earth surface deformation calculation completed for NSFC-ICIMOD deformation dynamic monitoring and geo-hazard risk assessment programme

In the first half of 2017, the NSFC-ICIMOD programme, "Deformation Dynamic Monitoring and Geo-hazards Risk Assessment along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Based on Temporal Sequential InSAR Technology" completed the first phase of its earth surface deformation calculation. The programme is hosted by Meng Xingmin, professor at Lanzhou University.

Using the temporal sequential InSAR technology to monitor earth surface deformation is more efficient and convenient than using traditional manual single point monitoring in the region considering the complicated geo-environment, geo-hazards, and severe field working conditions of the China-Pakistan Karakoram Highway (KKH). Based on the NSFC-ICIMOD programme, Xingmin's group completed earth surface deformation velocity calculations along the HKH for the 2003–2010 time period.

The team found deformation points distributed along the KKH and in glaciated regions. A working plan has been made to calculate regional deformation velocity by analyzing the latest sentinel data and field data verification.

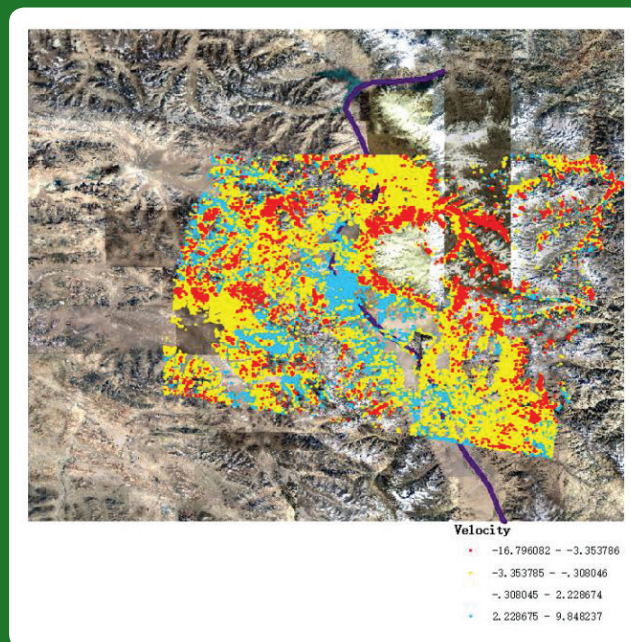
## Field research by NSFC-ICIMOD programme on secondary landslides caused by 2015 Nepal earthquake reveals new findings

A field trip was conducted in the first half of 2017 as part of the NSFC-ICIMOD "Research on Rule of Secondary Landslide Caused by Heavy Rain after 2015 Nepal Earthquake" programme hosted by Xu Chong from the Institute of Geology, China Earthquake Administration.

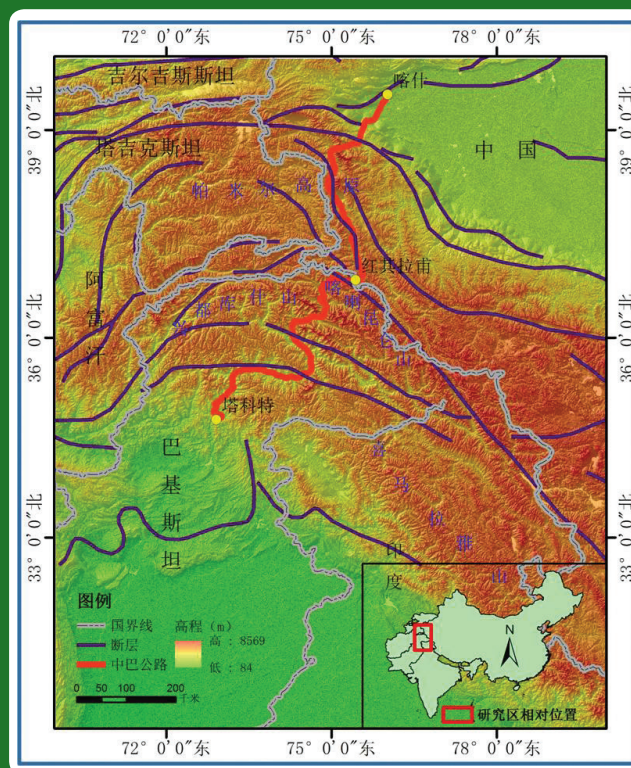
Researchers and scientists travelled along the Araniko Road from Zhangmu Port in China to Kathmandu, Nepal and the Salad Road from Gillon, China to Kathmandu. Their focus was on investigating landslides induced by the 2015 Nepal earthquake. Xu's group made a comprehensive interpretation of these landslides based on pre-earthquake and post-earthquake high resolution remote sensing images. The team made verifications with field trip investigation results and finally concluded that at least 47,200 landslides were induced by the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

Xu emphasized the distinct differences between the landslides induced by the 2015 Nepal earthquake and those induced by the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake. The substantial differences come down to the earthquake faults angles which were different for the Nepal and Wenchuan earthquakes.

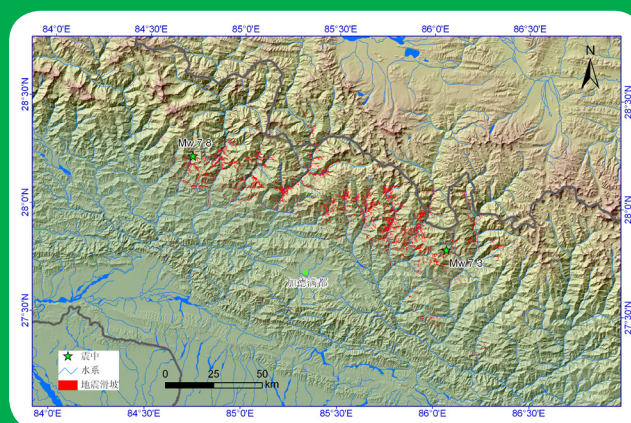
Distribution of deformation velocity



China-Pakistan economic corridor



Landslide distribution map after the 2015 Nepal earthquake







Participants of the workshop on opportunities for transboundary collaboration

## Transboundary collaboration to generate mutual environmental gains for China and Myanmar

Over 50 policy makers, scientists, and protected area managers from China and Myanmar participated in a workshop on “Opportunities for Transboundary Collaboration for Conservation and Development along the Northern Section of the China-Myanmar Border” from 12 to 14 December 2016 in Kunming, China. Institutional representatives from both countries signed a Declaration of Participating Institutions emphasizing the critical need for cross-border collaboration in all levels and sectors across the transboundary China-Myanmar landscape.

The workshop was jointly organized by ICIMOD’s Landscape Initiative for Far Eastern Himalaya (HI-LIFE), the Yunnan Department of Forestry, the Kunming Institute of Botany, and the Southeast Asia Biodiversity Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar.

The objectives of the workshop included exploring opportunities and identifying priority areas for transboundary collaboration for conservation and development along the northern section of the China-Myanmar border that includes Kachin state in Myanmar, and Baoshan and Nujiang prefectures of Yunnan province in China.

The participants focused on the importance of working out policies and measures in both countries to encourage and facilitate local and regional level collaborations and communication. They agreed on a working group, with representative members from all sides, which will work on preparing a proposal for a programme to promote collaboration in relation to achieving the goals set in the declaration.

Among the participants were Wan Yong, Deputy Director General of the Forestry Department of Yunnan Province, China and U Aung Mya, Director of the Forestry Department of Kachin State, Myanmar. Representatives from ICIMOD also attended the workshop.

Under the facilitation the HI-LIFE team, participants from China and Myanmar shared information on biodiversity conservation, and development statuses from both sides of the border. They discussed key areas that need to be addressed through transboundary collaboration, reviewed their past collaboration experiences and lessons, and identified priority areas for further bilateral collaboration in the area.

The three-day workshop provided a good platform for policy makers, scientists, and protected area managers from both countries to discuss issues, opportunities, and challenges related to transboundary conservation and development collaboration. The workshop was organized upon the request of Chinese partners and received positive responses from HI-LIFE partners in Myanmar. The participation of senior officials from both countries greatly increased the relevance of the workshop, the topics discussed during different sessions, and respective national commitments to future collaborations. In the future, HI-LIFE plans to seek similar opportunities to promote Myanmar-India collaboration within the HI-LIFE landscape.

## Himalayan University Consortium growing

Established in 2007, the Himalayan University Consortium (HUC) was approved by the ICIMOD Board of Governors as its sixth regional programme in 2014. In May 2017, the consortium was included in Mountain Knowledge and Action Networks, the sixth regional programme of ICIMOD, in its Medium Term Action Plan IV (MTAP IV) at the 48th Board of Governor’s Meeting.

HUC is still growing, and at present, it comprises 33 full members and 10 associate members. The consortium provides a platform for enhancing collaboration among academic and research institutions in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) and for promoting centers of excellence in areas pertinent to the region. HUC aims to build a dynamic mountain knowledge partnership among its members.

HUC works to ensure its members are actively involved in developing, sharing, and adopting mountain curricula. In addition, HUC offers an exchange programme for students and faculty members for building local capacity to meet mountain challenges in the future.

During the HUC Summit held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2015, the Secretariat of HUC at ICIMOD brought together vice chancellors, rectors, presidents, directors, and heads of existing and potential HUC member universities and institutes in the Hindu Kush Himalaya and beyond to discuss collaborative research, knowledge generation and sharing, and academic

education and capacity building on mountains issues. All the members signed an HUC Charter during the summit.

The HUC Charter provides a platform for new forms of collaboration, underpins the roles and responsibilities of HUC members, and brings new possibilities for local and regional university leaders to improve ways of cooperating for the future of the Himalaya.

In 2016, HUC, in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Science and Technology of India, organized the “International Conference on Mobilizing University Research for Tackling Water, Climate Change, and Adaptation Challenges in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region”, in New Delhi, India. The HUC 2017 Work Plan was put forward during the conference.

## Book on gender issues and climate change adaptation launched in Baoshan

The book launch of HICAP’s new title, “Gender Analysis of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in China with Focus on Yunnan” was held in Baoshan City, Yunnan, China, on 15 March 2017. Many of the case studies presented in this book are based on fieldwork done in Baoshan. Approximately 40 participants from Baoshan government agencies, research institutes, participant villages and the local media attended the workshop, including:

- Policy Research Office of Baoshan City;
- Baoshan City Women’s Federation;
- Baoshan City Meteorological Bureau;
- Baoshan City Agricultural Bureau;
- Baoshan City Forestry Bureau;
- Baoshan City Water Recourse Bureau;
- Baoshan City Library;
- Longyang District Association for Science and Technology
- Baoshan City Social Science Association;
- Baoshan University;
- Baoshan Agricultural Research Institute; and
- Residents of Wangcun Village.

The Deputy Director of Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), Professor Yang Yongping, delivered a welcome speech and praised the accomplishments of the authors who contributed to this book. As the coordinator of HICAP in China, Prof. Yang introduced the HICAP research programme and KIB’s partnership with ICIMOD. He emphasized that women in mountainous rural areas play the leading role to cope with and adapt to climate change in Southwest China, and



Panel members during the launch of *Gender Analysis of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in China with Focus on Yunnan* (below), a new HICAP book



generally assume more responsibility than men. However, despite this increase women’s responsibilities, they are often excluded from the process of policy development and decision making, which affect their daily work. Therefore, it is necessary to encourage and support women to participate in the decision-making processes and practice. More attention is needed to integrate resources, and raise the awareness of gender sensitivity in these formal processes.

Sun Daijiang, one of the editors of the book from the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, provided an introduction to the book. Chapter authors Su Yufang, Ou Xiaou and Zou Yahui also presented their research results.

Mr. Lu Xingyong, a Member of the Standing Committee of the Baoshan Municipal People’s Congress, commented that the book has great social value and significance for relevant policy-making. Mr. Zheng Jiawen, a senior researcher from Baoshan Agricultural Research Institute told the gathering that some traditional crops are no longer suited to current conditions after persistent droughts in Yunnan. Mr. Zheng noted, the government is currently emphasizing agricultural supply side reforms, and the research results contained in the book could be used to improve the impact of the proposed reforms.



# Cooperation and Communication

## CNICIMOD delegates attended 48th ICIMOD Board Meeting

The 48th ICIMOD Board Meeting was held at the ICIMOD headquarters in Kathmandu from 8 to 12 May 2017. Yang Yongping, on behalf of CNICIMOD President Ding Zhongli, attended the Board of Governor's Meeting. Dong Qi from the Bureau of International Cooperation, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Liu Qin from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment IMHE, CAS, which hosts the CNICIMOD secretariat, took up the role of observers in the meeting.

Several vital proposals, regulations, and working reports have been approved, including the "Strategy and Results Framework 2017", "MTAP IV (2018–2020)", "ICIMOD Annual Plan 2018", "ICIMOD Annual Budget 2018", "ICIMOD Audit Report 2016 and Management Response", and "ICIMOD Intellectual Property Rights Policy". Meanwhile, the new Financial President and President of the Board of Governors have been selected.

The CNICIMOD delegates also discussed the agenda of the CNICIMOD-ICIMOD Steering Committee Annual Meeting with ICIMOD's Strategic Cooperation Unit.

## Photo exhibition to celebrate International Mountain Day in Chengdu

A photo exhibition was held in Chengdu, China from 6 to 12 December 2016 to celebrate International Mountain Day (IMD). The event was organized by CNICIMOD and jointly supported by ICIMOD and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). With the IMD 2016 theme "Mountain Cultures: Celebrating Diversity and Strengthening Identity" in focus, the exhibition featured over 40 photos representing beauty in nature and in man-made elements and depicting the ordinary lives of mountain people as seen from unique perspectives.



Photo exhibition to mark IMD 2016

Visitors to the exhibition received flyers introducing ICIMOD and CNICIMOD, mountain research programme papers, DVDs on mountain stories, and other souvenirs such as bookmark and calendars, among others.

## Progress made by Sino-Nepal Joint Research Centre for Geography

The Sino-Nepal Joint Research Centre for Geography (SJRCG) was co-established in 2014 by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Tribhuvan University (TU) through the Science and Technology Aiding Project for Developing Countries funded by China's Ministry of Science and Technology. The progress made in the last three years is as follows:

### 1. Physics-chemistry laboratory construction

IMHE has donated more than 90 instruments and pieces of equipment to a recently constructed physics-chemistry laboratory. This will enable the lab to carry out routine physical and chemical analyses for soil, water, and plants.

### 2. Joint field trip, academic exchange, and technical training

In the past three years, SJRCG has conducted eight joint field trips with 30 researchers from both China and Nepal. There were altogether 12 batches of more than 60 individuals at a

Group photo of representatives at the 48<sup>th</sup> ICIMOD Board Meeting







TU vice chancellor at IMHE



Participants of a technical training organised by SJRCG to facilitate academic exchange

time participating in these exchange visits. IMHE has carried out two training programmes on laboratorial operation skills and management and several training courses on soil erosion monitoring and mountain remote sensing for Nepali researchers.

### 3. Study on utilization of soil-water resources in Nepal

SJRCG has established a resource-environment database with a capacity of over 20 GB for Nepal. It has also completed an analysis of the spatial pattern and temporal dynamics of land cover for Nepal. Furthermore, its research group has simulated and analyzed the characteristics of temporal and spatial distribution related to water resources elements, including temperature, rainfall, and runoff in the Koshi River Basin.

### 4. Study on soil erosion and nutrient loss in Koshi River Basin

A study on characteristics of soil erosion under main land use types such as forest lands and cultivated slope lands in the Koshi River Basin have been identified. The spatial distribution pattern of soil nutrients, including total Nitrogen, total Phosphorus and total Kalium in cultivated slope lands and the impact of soil erosion on soil nutrients have also illuminated. Based on the analysis, corresponding measures to improve soil quality and control soil and water loss were suggested.

### 5. Study on rural settlement and poverty in mountainous areas

An SJRCG study has conducted in-depth analysis of the spatial distribution characteristics, pattern of changes, and driving mechanisms of settlements for central mountainous areas in Nepal. Accordingly, several recommendations have been put forward to improve the livelihoods of local rural households. The same study looked into features of poverty in Nepal and demonstrated the spatial variation of Nepal's integrated poverty. Moreover, the relationship between economic activities and poverty was preliminary assessed.

The study has been highly regarded by Tribhuvan University, Nepal and received attention from the Ministry of Science and Technology, China and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China.

## Belt and Road Initiative

### State Council Information Office acknowledges achievements of CAS in supporting the Belt and Road

Source: [http://www.cas.cn/zt/sszt/roadbelt\\_cas](http://www.cas.cn/zt/sszt/roadbelt_cas)

China's State Council Information Office acknowledged the achievements of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in relation to supporting the Belt and Road (B&R) on 9 May 2017. CAS President Bai Chunli and Director of CAS International Cooperation Bureau Cao Jinghua were spokespersons at the event.

CAS launched the Belt and Road Science and Technology Supporting Initiative when Chinese President Xi Jinping first proposed the Belt and Road Initiative. CAS has been working since 2013 to support B&R through its "talented-platform-project". Some of its highlights include the Science and Education Expanding Project for Developing Countries, the Belt and Road Scientific Cooperation Action Plan, and the Belt and Road Alliance of Science and Technology Organizations.

#### 1. Background of CAS Strategy on the Belt and Road

A strategy called the Science and Education Expanding Project for Developing Countries has been deployed since CAS President Bai Chunli was chosen as President of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in September 2012. The strategy offers a substantial foundation for CAS Strategy on the Belt and Road. The Science and Education Expanding Project for Developing Countries is divided into three sub-projects: Science and Technology Talent Plans for Developing Countries, Plans for Building Overseas Centers for Research and Education, and CAS-TWAS Centers of Excellence.

### 1.1 Science and Technology Talent Plans for Developing Countries

Currently, CAS designs three programmes for developing country fellows, including the CAS-TWAS President's Fellowship Programme, Visiting Scholar Programme for Developing Countries and Science and Technology Capacity Building Programme for Developing Countries. These programs are aimed at capacity building and cultivating more science and technology talents for developing countries.

### 1.2 Plans for Building Overseas Centres for Research and Education

Keeping the demand for science and technology in mind, several overseas centers for research and education have been built or are under construction. Typical examples include the Central Asian Centre of Drug Discovery and Development of CAS (Uzbekistan); CAS Research Centre for Ecology and Environment of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan); Kathmandu Centre for Research and Education, CAS (Nepal); Southeast Asia Biodiversity Research Institute, CAS (Myanmar); CAS Innovation Cooperation Centre (Thailand); China-Sri Lanka Joint Centre for Education and Research (Sri Lanka); China-Africa Joint Centre for Research and Education, CAS (Kenya); China-Brazil Joint Laboratory for Space Weather (Brazil); and South America Center for Astronomy, CAS (Chile).

### 1.3 CAS-TWAS Centres of Excellence

Five CAS-TWAS Centers of Excellence have been designed in parallel to form a multilateral Science and Technology Cooperation Platform for developing international conference, high-influence professional consultation reports, and science and technology talents, including CAS-TWAS Centers of Excellence for Climate and Environment Sciences (ICCES), CAS-TWAS Centers of Excellence for Biotechnology (CoEBio), CAS-TWAS Centers of Excellence for Green Technology (CEGT), CAS-TWAS Centers of Excellence for Water and Environment (CEWE), Centers of Excellence for Disaster Mitigation (SDIM).

## 2. Belt and Road Alliance of Science and Technology Organizations

CAS first proposed the establishment of the Belt and Road Alliance of Science and Technology Organizations at the First International Science Forum of National Scientific Organizations on the Belt and Road Initiative held in November 2016. Twenty-two research organizations from China, Russia, Mongolia, Central Asia, South Asia, and Europe have joined this alliance. The first workshop of the Belt and Road Alliance of Science and Technology Organizations is set to take place in late 2017. The organization's draft charter, its working institutions, and organizational structure are under discussion.

## 3. Science and Technology International Cooperation Action on the Belt and Road

CAS launched the Science and Technology International Cooperation Action on the Belt and Road in early 2016. Its purpose is to boost economic development and harmonize people of all countries along the Belt and Road. Five themes compose the action plan: 1) Belt and Road Alliance of Science and Technology Organizations; 2) International Cooperation Project on the Belt and Road; 3) Technology Transfer Mechanism and Platform on the Belt and Road; 4) Science and Technology Talent Plan; and 5) Overseas Centers for Research and Education.

## 4. Phased Achievements of CAS Supporting the Belt and Road

### 4.1 Integrating advantages in China and abroad to boost collaborative innovation between countries along the Belt and Road

CAS has integrated research resources in China and abroad by way of joint research projects, technology training courses, and joint research centres, among other things, to boost collaborative innovation between China and other countries along the Belt and Road with phased achievements of over 100 top research papers, 12 publications, 17 patents, and an international award, the 2017 Vega Medal, which went to Tandong Yao.

### 4.2 Cultivating Talents for Countries along the Belt and Road

Thanks to the Science and Technology Talent Plans for Developing Countries, CAS has attracted nearly 300 science and technology talents working in China and over 600 students studying in China from countries along the Belt and Road, covering most of the CAS disciplinary.

### 4.3 Science and Technology Transfer

The Central Asian Centre of Drug Discovery and Development of CAS has established a drug industry demonstration base along the Belt and Road. A significant effect has been an increase in jobs at the CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence for Green Technology. Drinking water and water environment security have also improved. The CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence for Water and Environment has been promoting water businesses and a 24-hour integrated anti-hunting technology system has been developed to protect wildlife in Africa.

### 4.4 International Rescue

The CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence on Space Science for Disaster Mitigation conducted an international rescue mission in Nepal when the April 2015 earthquake struck. In Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, the centre helped resolve water quality problems with key water treatment technologies.



#### 4.5 Think Tank for State Consultation along the Belt and Road

A consultation report titled “Biotechnology Competitiveness Analysis in Developing Countries” was released in 2016 by the CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence for Biotechnology. The report marked the first time a science and technology consultation for developing countries and UNESCO was made in a specific high-tech field. It has been reported by many websites like AAAS.

### Joint Communiqué of the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

Source: [www.scio.gov.cn](http://www.scio.gov.cn)

1. We, President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China, President Mauricio Macri of the Republic of Argentina, President Alexander Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus, President Michelle Bachelet Jeria of the Republic of Chile, President Milos Zeman of the Czech Republic, President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, President Almazbek Atambayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Bounnhang Vorachith of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Republic of the Philippines, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Doris Leuthard of the Swiss Confederation, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Republic of Turkey, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan, President Tran Dai Quang of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama of the Republic of Fiji, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of the Hellenic Republic, Prime Minister Orban Viktor of Hungary, Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of the Italian Republic, Prime Minister Najib Razak of Malaysia, Prime Minister Jargaltulgyn Erdenebat of Mongolia, State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Prime Minister Beata Szydlo of the Republic of Poland, Prime Minister and President-elect Aleksandar Vucic of the Republic of Serbia, President of the Government Mariano Rajoy Brey of the Kingdom of Spain, and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, attended



CAS President Bai Chunli

Director of CAS International Cooperation Bureau Cao Jinghua

the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on May 15, 2017 in Beijing. We also welcome the participation of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres of the United Nations, President Jim Yong Kim of the World Bank Group, Managing Director Christine Lagarde of the International Monetary Fund. The Leaders Roundtable was chaired by President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China.

#### General Context

2. We are mindful that the world economy is undergoing profound changes, presenting both opportunities and challenges. This is an era of opportunity, where countries continue to aspire for peace, development and cooperation. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the set of Sustainable Development Goals at its core provides a new blueprint of international cooperation.
3. In this context, we welcome bilateral, triangular, regional and multilateral cooperation where countries place emphasis on eradicating poverty, creating jobs, addressing the consequences of international financial crises, promoting sustainable development, and advancing market-based industrial transformation and economic diversification. We note with appreciation that various development strategies and connectivity cooperation initiatives have been put forward, providing broad space for strengthening international cooperation.
4. We further recognize the challenges that the world economy faces. While it is currently experiencing modest recovery, downside risks remain. The growth of global trade and investment remains tempered, and the rules-based multilateral trading regime is yet to be strengthened. All countries, especially developing ones, still face common challenges of eradicating poverty, promoting inclusive and sustained economic growth, and achieving sustainable development.
5. Noting that the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road (The Belt and Road Initiative) can create opportunities amid challenges and changes, we welcome and support the Belt and Road Initiative

to enhance connectivity between Asia and Europe, which is also open to other regions such as Africa and South America. By providing important opportunities for countries to deepen cooperation, it has achieved positive outcomes and has future potential to deliver more benefits as an important international initiative.

6. We also emphasize the opportunities which can be created by communication and coordination among other global, regional and national frameworks and initiatives for promoting cooperation in connectivity and sustainable development, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Agenda 2063 of the African Union, Ancient Civilizations Forum, APEC Connectivity Blueprint, ASEAN Community Vision 2025, Asia-Europe Meeting and its group on pathfinder of connectivity, Caravanserai Customs Initiative, China and Central and Eastern European Countries Cooperation, China-Europe Land-Sea Express Route, East-West Middle Corridor Initiative, EU-China Connectivity Platform, EU Eastern Partnership, Eurasian partnership based on the principles of equality, openness and transparency, Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, Main Directions for Economic Development of the Eurasian Economic Union until 2030, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Trans-European Transport Networks, Western Balkans 6 Connectivity Agenda, and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.
7. We reaffirm our shared commitment to build an open economy, ensure free and inclusive trade, and oppose all forms of protectionism including in the framework of

the Belt and Road Initiative. We endeavor to promote a universal, rules-based, open, nondiscriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

### Cooperation Objectives

8. We stand for enhancing international cooperation including the Belt and Road Initiative and various development strategies, by building closer collaboration partnerships, which include advancing North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.
9. We reiterate the importance of expanding economic growth, trade and investment based on a level-playing field, market rules and universally recognized international norms. We welcome the promotion of industrial cooperation, scientific and technological innovation, and regional economic cooperation and integration so as to increase, inter alia, the integration and participation of micro, small and medium enterprises in global value chains. Attention should be paid to tax and fiscal policies, prioritizing growth and productive investment.
10. We stand for strengthening physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity among all countries. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and middle-income countries deserve special attention to remove bottlenecks of development and achieve effective connectivity.
11. We endeavor to expand people-to-people exchanges, promote peace, justice, social cohesion, inclusiveness,

Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation





democracy, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and women empowerment; work together to fight against corruption and bribery in all their forms; to be more responsive to all the needs of those in vulnerable situations, such as children, persons with disabilities and older persons; and help improve global economic governance, and ensure equal access by all to development opportunities and benefits.

12. We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through taking urgent action on climate change and encouraging all parties that have ratified it to fully implement the Paris Agreement, managing the natural resources in an equitable and sustainable manner, conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands, protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, combating desertification and land degradation so as to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner.
13. We encourage the involvement of governments, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and citizens in fostering and promoting friendship, mutual understanding and trust.

### Cooperation Principles

14. We uphold the spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, transparency, inclusiveness, equality, mutual learning, mutual benefit and mutual respect by strengthening cooperation on the basis of extensive consultation and the rule of law, joint efforts, shared benefits and equal opportunities for all. In this context we highlight the following principles guiding our cooperation, in accordance with our respective national laws and policies:
  - a) Consultation on an equal footing: Honoring the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law including respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries; formulating cooperation plans and advancing cooperation projects through consultation.
  - b) Mutual benefit: Seeking convergence of interests and the broadest common ground for cooperation, taking into account the perspectives of different stakeholders.
  - c) Harmony and inclusiveness: Acknowledging the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognizing that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development.
  - d) Market-based operation: Recognizing the role of the market and that of business as key players, while ensuring that the government performs its proper role and highlighting the importance of open, transparent and nondiscriminatory procurement procedures.

- e) Balance and sustainability: Emphasizing the importance of economic, social, fiscal, financial and environmental sustainability of projects, and of promoting high environmental standards, while striking a good balance among economic growth, social progress and environmental protection.

### Cooperation Measures

15. We affirm the need to prioritize policy consultation, trade promotion, infrastructure connectivity, financial cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, and we highlight concrete actions, in accordance with our national laws and regulations and international obligations where applicable, such as:
  - a) Pursuing dialogue and consultation in order to build synergies in development strategies among participating countries, noting the efforts to strengthen cooperation in coordinating development of the Belt and Road Initiative with other plans and initiatives as mentioned in Paragraph 6 and to promote partnerships among Europe, Asia, South America, Africa and other regions.
  - b) Conducting in-depth consultation on macroeconomic issues by optimizing the existing multilateral and bilateral cooperation and dialogue mechanisms, so as to provide robust policy support for practical cooperation and the implementation of major projects.
  - c) Strengthening cooperation on innovation, by supporting innovation action plans for e-commerce, digital economy, smart cities and science and technology parks, and by encouraging greater exchanges on innovation and business startup models in the internet age in respect of intellectual property rights.
  - d) Promoting practical cooperation on roads, railways, ports, maritime and inland water transport, aviation, energy pipelines, electricity, fiber optic including transoceanic cable, telecommunications and information and communication technology, and welcoming the development of interconnected multimodal corridors, such as a new Eurasian Land Bridge, Northern Sea Route, the East-West Middle Corridor etc., and major trunk lines to put in place an international infrastructure network over time.
  - e) Maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development by taking into account international standards where applicable, and by aiming at harmonizing rules and technological standards when necessary; fostering a favorable environment and predictability for infrastructure investment by private capital; promoting public-private partnership in areas that create more jobs and generate greater efficiency; welcoming international financial institutions to increase support and investment for infrastructure development.

- f) Deepening economic and trade cooperation; upholding the authority and effectiveness of the multilateral trading system, and working together to achieve positive outcomes at the 11th WTO ministerial conference; promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation; enabling the general public to benefit from trade.
- g) Expanding trade by nurturing new areas of trade growth, promoting trade balance and promoting e-commerce and the digital economy, welcoming the development of free trade areas and the signing of free trade agreements by interested countries.
- h) Advancing global value-chain development and supply-chain connectivity, while ensuring safer work places and strengthening social protection systems; increasing two-way investment, and enhancing cooperation in emerging industries, trade and industrial parks and cross-border economic zones.
- i) Enhancing cooperation in ensuring the protection of the environment, of biodiversity and of natural resources, in addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, in promoting resilience and disaster-risk reduction and management, and in advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- j) Regarding the process of customs clearance, strengthening cooperation on information exchange and on developing mutual recognition of control, mutual assistance of enforcement, and mutual sharing of information; enhancing customs cooperation with a view to facilitating trade including by harmonizing procedures and reducing costs, and in this regard, strengthening cooperation in protecting intellectual property rights.
- k) Jointly working on a long-term, stable and sustainable financing system; enhancing financial infrastructure connectivity, by exploring new models and platforms of investment and financing and improving financial services; assessing the opportunity to better serve local financial markets; and encouraging development-oriented financial institutions to play

an active role and strengthen cooperation with multilateral development institutions.

- l) Contributing to a stable and equitable international financial system; promoting openness and connectivity among financial markets, including through mutual cooperation on payment systems and the promotion of financial inclusion; encouraging financial institutions to establish commercial presence in relevant countries and regions; promoting bilateral local currency settlement and cooperation agreements, and facilitating the development of local currency bonds and stock markets; encouraging dialogue to enhance financial cooperation and fend off financial risks.
- m) Promoting people-to-people exchanges and bonds by deepening practical cooperation on education, science, technology, sport, health, think tanks, media, and capacity-building, including through internships.
- n) Encouraging dialogue among civilizations, cultural exchanges, promoting tourism and protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage.

### Our Vision for the Future

- 16. Our joint endeavor on the Belt and Road Initiative and seeking complementarities with other connectivity initiatives provide new opportunities and impetus for international cooperation. It helps to work for a globalization that is open, inclusive and beneficial to all.
- 17. We reiterate that promoting peace, mutually-beneficial cooperation, and honoring the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law are our shared responsibilities; achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and development, and improving people's quality of life are our common goals; creating a prosperous and peaceful community with shared future for mankind is our common aspiration.
- 18. We congratulate China on successfully hosting the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

**China considers ICIMOD as a valuable platform for increasing scientific exchange and regional cooperation among countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas.**

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