

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the People's Republic of China (here and after referred to as "the Parties")

Desiring to further promote the close and friendly relations existing between their two countries, and being aware of the rapid expansion of scientific knowledge and of its positive contribution in promoting bilateral and international cooperation;

Wishing to broaden the scope of scientific and technological cooperation through the creation of a productive partnership for peaceful purposes and for their mutual benefit;

Affirming their commitment to further strengthen cooperation in the fields of science and technology;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

The two Parties agree to promote development of cooperation in such areas of science and technology as may be mutually agreed for peaceful purposes on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. These areas shall be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of each country.

Article II

Forms of the cooperative activities under this Agreement may include:

- (a) Meetings of various forms, such as those of experts, to discuss and exchange information on scientific and technological aspects of general or specific subjects and to identify research and development projects and programmes that may be usefully undertaken on a cooperative basis;
 - (b) Exchange of information on activities, policies and practices concerning research and development;
 - (c) Visits and exchanges of scientists, technical personnel, graduate students, scholars or other experts on general or specific subjects;
- and
- (d) Other forms of cooperative activities, such as the establishment of joint R & D centers, as may be mutually agreed.

Article III

Implementing arrangements setting forth the details and procedures of the specific cooperative activities under this Agreement shall be subject to applicable laws and regulations of each country.

Article IV

1. For the purpose of effective implementation of this Agreement, the two Parties shall establish a Joint Committee, the functions of which shall be:
 - (a) Exchanging information and views on scientific and technological policy issues;
 - (b) Reviewing and discussing the cooperative activities and accomplishments under this Agreement; and
 - (c) Providing advice to the two Parties with regard to the implementation of this Agreement, which may include identification and proposition of the cooperative activities thereunder and encouragement of their implementation.
2. The Joint committee shall meet alternately in the Kingdom of Norway and the People's Republic of China at mutually agreed times.
3. Contacts relating to the functions of the Committee during the inter-sessional periods shall be conducted by organisations that the two Parties deem fit.

Article V

1. Scientific and technological information of a non-proprietary nature arising from the cooperative activities under this Agreement may be made available to the public by either Party through customary channels and in accordance with the normal procedures of the participating agencies.
2. The two Parties shall give due consideration to the protection and the distribution of intellectual property rights or other rights of a proprietary nature resulting from the cooperative activities under this Agreement and shall consult with each other for this purpose as necessary.

Article VI

1. Implementation of this Agreement shall be subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to the applicable laws and regulations of each country.
2. Costs for the cooperative activities under this Agreement shall be borne as may be mutually agreed.

Article VII

1. This Agreement should function as a basis for the scientific and technological cooperation between the Parties or their participants upon the date of signature.
2. "Participants" means any individual or entity, including, inter alia, the Parties' scientific and technological organizations and agencies, private persons, undertakings, research centres, universities, university colleges, subsidiaries of Norwegian and Chinese entities, or any other form of legal entity involved in cooperative activities.

Article VIII

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Research Council of the Kingdom of Norway and the State Commission of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China signed in 1996 shall be replaced by this Agreement on the date of the signature thereof.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prejudice other agreements between the two Parties, existing at the date of signature of this Agreement.

Article IX

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature thereof. It shall remain in force for two years and will be automatically extended for another two-year period and will thereafter be renewed accordingly.
2. Either Party may notify the other in writing of its wish to terminate the Agreement six months prior to the expiration of the ongoing two-year period the Agreement.
3. The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the carrying out of any project or programme undertaken under this Agreement and not fully executed at the time of the termination of this Agreement.

Done at Beijing on November 5, 2008, in duplicate in the Norwegian, Chinese and English languages, the three texts being equally authentic. In case of differences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Norway

Tora Aasland

For the Government of
the People's Republic of China

[Signature]