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5th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting Held in Hangzhou



On July 18, the 5th BRICS Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting was held in Hangzhou, China. The attendees included Wan Gang, Minister of Science and Technology of China, Huang Wei, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of China, Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology of South Africa, Álvaro Toubes Prata, Vice-Minister of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications of Brazil, Trubnikov Grigorij, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Russia, Baldev Raj, Director of National Institute of Advanced Studies of India. The theme of the Ministerial was “Leading through Innovation & Deepening Cooperation”. The Ministerial has brought about many important outcomes on STI policy exchange, special area cooperation, joint funding of multilateral R&D projects, youth innovation and entrepreneurship, young scientist exchange and science park cooperation. At the press conference attended by BRICS ministers, a series of documents were released, including *the Hangzhou Declaration*, *BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation* and *the BRICS STI Work Plan (2017-2018)*.

Minister Wan Gang introduced the outcomes of the Ministerial, remarking that a number of important consensuses have been reached and fruitful results have been made. First, the meeting further consolidated the mechanism of BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting, issued *the Hangzhou Declaration*, and reaffirmed the significance of innovation dialogue and STI cooperation for innovation-driven development, global economic vitality and sustainable development. In line with *the BRICS MOU on Inter-governmental STI Cooperation*, the Ministerial further strengthened the cooperation mechanism and reached more consensuses. BRICS countries agreed that innovation represent one of the major engines of global sustained development and play a crucial role in facilitating economic growth, supporting employment and entrepreneurship, advancing structural reform, boosting productivity and competitiveness and tackling global challenges. BRICS countries have taken effective and pragmatic actions to strengthen STI cooperation, funded the first group of multilateral R&D projects and launched the second group; furthered STI people-to-people exchange; conducted innovation policy and strategy exchange, formulated long-term cooperation plans against common challenges, built a community of common destiny and contributed to realizing SDGs. Second, the Ministerial emphasized the concept of “cooperation action comes first”, formulated and approved the BRICS STI




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Work Plan and will promote multi-area and all-level deployment and actions. We will strengthen innovation cooperation including public-private partnership; encourage BRICS cooperation in technology transfer and transformation, and set up platforms of industry-academia-research synergy; establish youth innovation and entrepreneurship partnership, and support STI investment and cross-border investment; support cooperation between STI talents, especially young scientists and young entrepreneurs, and share the best practices in innovation and entrepreneurship; highlight open science, shared research infrastructure and mega-science project cooperation; continue to support the role of women in STI activities. Third, the Ministerial decided the South Africa hold the 6th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting and the 8th BRICS STI Senior Officials Meeting, and continue to further the mechanism of BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting.

With 42% of the world population, 18% of global GDP, 17% of global R&D investment and 27% of science papers published on international journals, BRICS countries represent an important force in global STI cooperation. As a critical multilateral mechanism, BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting is playing an increasingly marked role in global innovation governance. As the chair this year, China highly valued the Ministerial, shared STI policies and best practices, and decided to continue strengthening and utilizing the high-level cooperation mechanism, so as to jointly write a new chapter of BRICS STI cooperation.

(Source: MOST, July 18, 2017)



Minister Wan Gang Meets with South African Science Minister

On July 17, 2017, Minister Wan Gang met with South Africa Minister of Science and Technology Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor who came to China for the 5th BRICS STI Ministerial in Hangzhou, exchanging views with each other on furthering STI cooperation. They also reached consensus on a number of issues.

Minister Wan Gang spoke highly of the fruitful outcomes in STI in recent two years, remarking that China-South Africa STI cooperation has become a role model of South-South cooperation and China-Africa cooperation. Minister Wan said that the two sides have conducted pragmatic and efficient cooperation under the China-South Africa High-level People-to-people Exchange Mechanism, and introduced the development of hi-tech zones and innovation & entrepreneurship activities of the young. He pointed out that the two sides will further cooperation in scientists & engineers exchange, joint research center, science park and SKA, which will bring tangible benefit to both peoples by giving full play to the supporting role of STI in economic and social development.

Minister Pandor agreed with Minister Wan in saying that STI cooperation is an important component of China-South Africa High-level People-to-people Exchange Mechanism. South Africa will work with China to further cooperation in all areas, and jointly explore new development mode of mutual benefit and win-win outcomes under bilateral and multilateral mechanism like BRICS.

(Source: MOST, July 18, 2017)



Vice Minister Huang Wei Meets with Vice-Minister of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications of Brazil >>>

On July 17, Vice Minister Huang Wei met with Álvaro Toubes Prata, Vice-Minister of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications of Brazil, who came to China for the 5th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting in Hangzhou.

Vice Minister Huang said that bilateral cooperation boasts strong complementarity and huge potential for development. The two sides have conducted fruitful cooperation in space technology, agriculture, husbandry and forestry under the inter-governmental cooperation mechanism of Sub-committee on Science and Technology of the China-Brazil Hi-level Cooperation Committee and China-Brazil Hi-level Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation. Vice Minister Huang proposed that the two countries focus on building platforms, setting up joint labs, strengthen industry- academia-research cooperation in science parks for the benefit of the two peoples.

Vice Minister Prata spoke highly of the achievements China has made in STI, and expressed the willingness to strengthen bilateral S&T cooperation with China under bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

(Source: MOST, July 18, 2017)



2nd BRICS Young Scientist Forum Held in Hangzhou

On July 12, the 2nd BRICS Young Scientist Forum sponsored by MOST and organized by Zhejiang University was held in Hangzhou. There were three technical sessions respectively on bio-medicine, material and energy and one on STI policy. Over 100 young scientists from BRICS countries participated in those events. Mr. Ye Dongbai, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of MOST said that young people play an indispensable role in STI. As they are the future and hope of the nation, BRICS countries all highlight development of the young. “In this sense, closer exchanges among BRICS young scientists is of great pragmatic significance to STI and sustained economic & social development of the BRICS.”

The Forum raised a number of suggestions for future development, which included establishing country-guided, department-led and organizer-enforced cooperation platform, and conducting various forms of S&T cooperation; jointly holding academic meetings, thematic forums and S&T exhibitions; setting up joint labs and international research institutions; mutually dispatch young scholars for exchanges and visits; provide platforms for the translation of research findings and usher in a cooperation model integrating politics, industry, research, academia and finance.

(Source: MOST, July 14, 2017)

BRICS Delegates Visit Hangzhou Hi-tech Zone (Binjiang)

On July 19, delegates for the BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting paid a site visit to the Hangzhou Hi-tech Zone (HHTZ--Binjiang). Established in 1990, the HHTZ manages 3 sub-districts and 59 communities with a permanent population of 330,800. Since its establishment, HHTZ has been sticking to the four strategies of “leading through industrial development, driven by innovation, city-industry integration and livelihood first”, ranking No.1 in the comprehensive evaluation of S&T progress among Zhejiang counties (cities and districts). In 2016, with constantly enhancing comprehensive strengths, HHTZ saw its GDP increase by 14% to 90.14 billion yuan and annual growth rate in recent five years reach 12.1%. Its gross fiscal revenue stood at 23.537 billion yuan and local fiscal revenue 12.537 billion yuan, up by 17.7% and 18.6% respectively.

In their visits, the delegates learned that the HHTZ boast the following features:

**Optimized
industrial
structure**

HHTZ has always been devoted to high and new tech industry development, blazing a trail of industrial development with outstanding and characteristic dominant industries. Centering on indigenous innovation, network security and smart manufacturing, HHTZ has put in place a whole industrial chain of network information technology industry, built an information economy (smart economy) industry worthy of hundreds of billions of yuan, produced a large number of industrial leading enterprises like Alibaba, H3C, HIKVISION, SUPCON, Focused Photonics Inc., and set up Internet plus industrial clusters in e-commerce, smart connectivity, smart Internet of Things, smart medical care, smart security & protection and smart environmental protection. HHTZ is ranking among the top in the country in terms of e-commerce, digital video monitoring, broadband access equipment, IC design, software and animation. In 2016, the turnover exceeded 420 billion yuan.

BRICS Delegates Visit Hangzhou Hi-the Zone (Binjiang)

Strong innovation capacity

HHTZ has implemented the IP strategy to underpin the innovation-driven development, and facilitated the building of national IP demonstration zone and national experimental zone of patent navigation industry. In 2016, HHTZ had an R&D expenditure of 12.2 billion yuan, 13.9% of its GDP and 10% of the whole province; the patent application reached 14,245, a year-on-year increase of 62.38% and the discovery patent application ranked No.1 in the province. Designed as a big incubator, HHTZ featuring diversified investment portfolio, specialized management and targeted services was home to 18 tech enterprise incubators at or above municipal level and 20 makers' spaces, with 1.3 million m² for incubation and makers' activities. HHTZ has put in place an innovation industry chain from STI to the translation of research findings, industry development and brand cultivation and an entrepreneurship model from incubation to massive growth and industrialization and from macro- and small-sized enterprise to gazelle enterprise to industrial leader.

Quick pool of talents

HHTZ has adopted a path of developing projects with talents and attracting talents through projects. By 2016, the HHTZ attracted a total of over 4,900 overseas returnees who built up 990 companies. In recent years, over 20,000 college students found jobs here, and more than 50% of the employees held bachelors' degree or above. Expenditure for livelihood accounted for 90% of the general public budget expenditure. The supporting facilities have been provided to the talents.

High level of intensive development

By accelerating urbanization and allocating good public resources, HHTZ improved the carrying capacity for high-end industrial talents and hi-tech enterprises, thus steering a path of high-quality business selection and intensive & efficient urban development. HHTZ has upheld the concept of energy-saving, intensive and efficient use of land, worked to achieve infinite development with finite space, increased the plot ratio of urban industrial projects to 3.0, and built a new city of modern science and technology. As it has been persistent in advancing reform on land conservation and intensive use, HHTZ was awarded by the Ministry of Land and Resources the National Demonstration County (District) of Land Conservation and Intensive Use.

BRICS Delegates Visit Hangzhou Hi-the Zone (Binjiang)

Flexible systems and mechanisms

HHTZ has facilitated reform and innovation of systems and mechanisms by resolving problems. HHTZ put in place two rounds of “1+X” industry support policy system, so as to offer greater differentiated support to industries of varied types, enterprises at different development stage and platforms with different functions. In the recent five years, 22,249 enterprises have been newly registered. HHTZ has streamlined the approval procedure of innovation investment projects and shortened the initial period by 9 months, which have effectively expedited investment in industrial projects. In the past five years, 92 new projects were put in place. In 2016, 15 industrial projects were started, 40 renewed and 22 completed.

The Belt and Road Initiative has brought huge room of overseas development for a large number of domestic enterprises. The overseas investment from HHTZ--Binjiang has made its presence in 29 countries and regions in Central Asia, South Asia and Europe. Thanks to the Initiative, enterprises from HHTZ--Binjiang have invested in 101 projects valuing at 2.656 billion dollars in countries along the Belt and Road.

The delegates of the Ministerial paid visits to Alibaba and Hikvision, listening to reports on introduction of their companies.

Alibaba has not only had the vision of globalization since its inception, but also built platforms for closer international trade and business ties like TMall International, Aliexpress and Yidatong. IT has enabled enterprises home and abroad to realize the dream of buying products of the world and selling products to the world. Almost all its businesses are trying to go international, including e-commerce, finance, logistics, cloud computing and culture & entertainment. The delegates highly appreciated the development of Alibaba.

Hikvision is a provider of IOT solutions and data operation services with video as the core, offering services in security, visualized management and big data. In 2016, Hikvision had a turnover of 31.924 billion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 26.32% and 21.4% of global market share. It has for six consecutive years ranked the first in iHS global video monitoring market. The delegates were very interested in the various types of monitoring products, intelligent robots and AI video recognition technologies, and Minister Pandor from South Africa exchanged views with the Chinese staff in terms of their AI technologies.

(Source: Binjiang District S&T Bureau, July 19, 2017)

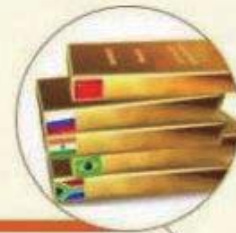
History of BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting >>>



On February 10, 2014, the 1st BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Minister Wan Gang, head of the Chinese delegation, briefed on the latest progress of China's innovation-driven development strategy.

On March 18, 2015, the 2nd Ministerial was held in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil.



The then Vice Minister Cao Jianlin led the Chinese delegation, introducing the relevant policies and measures of China in implementing the innovation-driven development strategy, advancing S&T system reform and integrating STI with economic and social development.



On October 28, 2015, the 3rd Ministerial was held in Moscow, the capital of Russia.

The then Vice Minister Cao Jianlin led the Chinese delegation, delivered a keynote speech, introduced China's STI policies and important trends, and reviewed the progress of BRICS STI cooperation mechanism over the previous year.

History of BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting >>>

On October 8, 2016, the 4th Ministerial was held in Jaipur, India.



The then Vice Minister Hou Jianguo led the Chinese delegation, and expressed the willingness and suggestions on further cooperation in joint research, innovation & entrepreneurship and young scientist forum.

☆ Declarations issued

For example, during the 1st Ministerial held in Cape Town, South Africa on February 10, 2014, the *Cape Town Declaration* issued after the meeting reaffirmed the significance of further BRICS pragmatic cooperation and expressed the willingness to implement the initiatives of the BRICS Summit on STI cooperation.

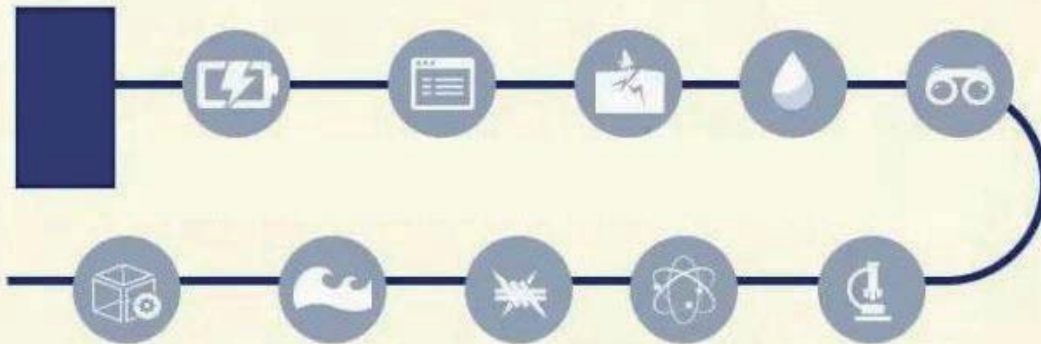


The Brasilia Declaration at the 2nd Ministerial, *Ufa Declaration* at the 3rd Ministerial and *Jaipur Declaration* at the 4th Ministerial confirmed 19 priority areas of cooperation, including policy and project information exchange, innovation advancement & technology transfer, new & renewable energy, energy efficiency, medicine & bio-tech, science park & incubator, geospatial technology & its application, space & aeronautics, outer space exploration, astronomy and earth observation, food security and sustainable agriculture.

History of BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting >>>



Based on progress over the previous years, BRICS STI cooperation mechanism has become increasingly mature. At present, the STI cooperation has made tangible progress in areas of platform building, STI policy exchange, young scientist exchange, joint funding of multilateral R&D projects in ten prioritized special areas, and forums and cooperation in relevant fields.



The 10 prioritized special areas are new & renewable energy and energy efficiency, ICT and high-performance computing, natural disaster prevention and monitoring, water resource and pollution treatment, astronomy, bio-tech & bio-medicine including human health and neuroscience, photonics, material science including nanotech, marine and polar science, and geospatial technology and its application.

(Source: <http://www.stdaily.com/>, July 16, 2017)



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