

Opening Remarks at the 11th China-U.S. Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation

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Dr. Marburger,
Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning!

First of all, let me express, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, our sincere gratitude to Dr. Marburger and the Department of State for inviting us to visit the U.S. We highly appreciate all the efforts made by the U.S. government to organize this meeting. Taking this opportunity, I would like to review the history of China-U.S. science and technology (S&T) cooperation, to introduce the latest trend of Chinese S&T development, and to make proposals for our future collaboration.

Year 2004 marks the 25th anniversary of the Agreement between the Chinese and U.S. government on Cooperation in Science and Technology. In January 1979, Mr. DENG Xiaoping visited the U.S and signed the Agreement with President Jimmy Carter. As the first cooperative agreement signed by the two governments, it established an institutional framework for bilateral S&T cooperation and exchanges, and initiated an important and dynamic area in the bilateral relationship. In the past 25 years, the China-U.S. S&T cooperation has received much attention from leaders of both governments. Despite ups and downs, the cooperation has been developing in general successfully and smoothly on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and reciprocity. We have established a stable, in-depth and enduring mechanism while the cooperation is featured as large-scaled, extensive and fruitful. Moreover, with the promotion, demonstration and encouragement of S&T cooperation between our two governments, semi-official and non-governmental S&T cooperation and exchanges have also experienced considerable development. Today our cooperative activities have reached an unprecedented level. Through cooperation we have completed a great number of internationally top-ranked S&T projects with significant socio-economic values such as Beijing Electron Positron Collider, China Digital Seismology network, etc. The cooperation has also accelerated China's introduction of advanced regime and mature experience in the areas of IPR, nuclear safety, etc. The China-U.S. S&T cooperation has helped the Chinese science community to keep track of the latest S&T development in the world. It has facilitated our absorption of advanced R&D management methods and promoted the open-up in the realm of S&T. Moreover, the bilateral cooperation in global issues such as climate change, earth observation, oceanography, environmental protection, infectious diseases and energy will profoundly influence the livings of peoples in two nations. Historical evidences tell us that S&T cooperation leads to trade and economic collaboration at times. We believe that our cooperation has facilitated the development of S&T and socio-economic progress in both nations. It also promoted bilateral trade and the living standards of our peoples, and made outstanding contribution to the stability and enhancement of bilateral relationship. The S&T cooperation, along with trade and economic collaboration, has become an important component of bilateral relations.

These successful 25 years since the signing of the Agreement seemed to have passed so quickly. The global political and economic maps have undergone remarkable changes.

With the rapid advancement of S&T and accelerated process of globalization, S&T has become a driving force in promoting socio-economic progress. With the improvement of socialist market economy, the S&T activities in China, including structure and mode, have experienced a thorough transformation. To help our U.S. colleagues and friends further understand these changes and their influence, I would like to briefly introduce China's *scientific viewpoint of development* for enhancing the national innovation capacity to *build a well-off society in an all-round way*, and the work on *the National Medium and Long Term S&T Development Plan*.

The next 15-20 years will be a pivotal era for China's industrialization and modernization. The goal of building a well-off society in an all-round way is an ideal held by 1.3 billion Chinese people when they are pursuing happy lives. It also guides and stimulates passions of all Chinese people to build a modernized country. However, the Chinese government and people fully realize that it is an arduous mission for China to realize this magnificent goal since we face a variety of constraints including huge population, insufficient resource and energy owned per capita and fragile eco-environment. Consequently, the Chinese government proposes the scientific viewpoint of development which is people-focused, comprehensive, concerted and sustainable. We refuse to follow the traditional road to industrialization featured by high consumption of resource and heavy pollution. Instead we plan to build an innovative nation. Our pattern of economic growth will be transformed from factor-driven to innovation-driven. S&T advancement will serve as a built-in engine for socio-economic development while innovation will be popular phenomena of the whole society. The increase of our national wealth will rely on institutional innovation and S&T innovation.

The scientific viewpoint of development has a strategic significance in guiding China's S&T development, which is reflected in the following 3 aspects:

-First, S&T development is for the people. We will take it as a important objective to improve the scientific quality of the citizens and develop modern human resources, and will make endeavor to meet the basic S&T needs of the public, try to realize that all the members of the society can equally share the benefits brought forth by S&T progress and enjoy new opportunities for development so that S&T can be outreached in the people and bring welfare to the people in a real sense.

-Second, S&T development is of the people. Based on China's basic national conditions and the principle of meeting the increasingly surging material and spiritual demands of the public, we should seriously face a series of key bottleneck-nature constraints and challenges derived from future sustainable socio-economic development, and rely on S&T innovation to promote the concerted development of the economy, the society and the mankind.

-Third, S&T development is by the people. We will take actively fostering, employing, stabilizing and attracting talents as one of the most important objectives in S&T development, establish an incentive mechanism in which talents will emerge and their intelligence will be used to the maximum, and fully inspire the wisdom and innovative potential of the S&T professionals and all the labors of the society.

Since June 2003, the Chinese government has initiated the drafting of National Medium and Long Term S&T Development Plan. It covers strategy, goals and milestones, guidelines, priority tasks for S&T development in China from 2006 to 2020. We have decided that China 's future S&T development plan will be carried out in the following key areas:

-First, keep track of the latest development of basic science and cutting-edge high technologies to promote sustainable innovation capacity. We will stably develop disciplines of basic research and cross-disciplines. Free research driven by curiosity will be combined with research driven by governmental goals. We highly emphasize the long term value of science and try to realize the coordinated development of basic research and applied research.

-Second, develop a batch of key technologies to strengthen overall national competitiveness. Technologies related to energy, water resource and environment protection will be prioritized to remove bottlenecks which hinder the national economic development. Our policy will center on acquiring independent IPRs to promote the international competitiveness of information industry. We will significantly strengthen our support to the R&D and application of bio-technology to underpin food security, optimize structure of agro products and improve human health of our people. Moreover, the innovative integration of information technology, new materials and advanced manufacturing technology will serve as the core of our efforts to promote independent innovation capacity in manufacturing industries.

-Third, implement a batch of selected programs which focus on high-tech products and projects with strategic implication. These programs will make breakthroughs in key technologies which will result in leap-frog development of productivity.

-Fourth, reinforce the buildup of National Innovation System and enhance comprehensive national innovation capacity. China will strengthen the construction of national public-sponsored R&D platform and infrastructure to support S&T innovation and its industrialization for the whole society. A sound environment will be created to accelerate the industrialization and communalization of high technologies.

To safeguard the successful fulfillment of goals set in the National Medium and Long Term S&T Development Plan, the Chinese government will adopt an active S&T policy while drastically increase public expenditure on R&D. We will improve R&D infrastructures and modify the national innovation system to make it more conducive to S&T innovation. Meanwhile, we will actively expand our open-up policy, and participate in international S&T cooperation. The Chinese government fully realizes that no country is an island in the context of rapid S&T advancement and accelerated globalization process. The S&T advancement as well as socio-economic development in one country could not be separated from extensive international exchange and collaboration. The wide employment of information technology and implementation of international mega-science projects have enabled scientists to cooperate with their foreign partners effectively and conveniently, and to share R&D resource and managerial experience in time. China will firmly keep to the open-up policy and Chinese scientists will unhesitatingly participate in international cooperation.

Distinguished delegates,

We are delighted to review the latest progress made in the past two years. In the 10th Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), 7 priority areas were identified while joint projects were initiated. Projects in areas of agricultural S&T, new energy and clean energy technology, and Summer Institutes in China made satisfactory progress.

Meanwhile, relevant agencies in both countries have conducted effective cooperation in

accordance with protocols and MOUs signed under the Agreement. The 11th JCM has set 8 topics, among which include follow-ups of issues raised at the last meeting and new domains of mutual interests. Through discussion, we hope that both sides will take concrete measures to strengthen our cooperation in priority areas such as basic research, energy, environment, agriculture, health, S&T policy and management, etc. It will be highly appreciated that both parties could nominate focal points and start up substantial cooperation including demonstration projects to keep the momentum of our collaboration. China is willing to open our national research plans to the U.S. on the basis of equality, mutual-benefit and reciprocity. Moreover, we propose to jointly organize a High-level S&T Policy Forum to promote policy exchange. We also hope to expand the diversified the forms of exchanges between young scientists from both countries.

Although China-U.S. science and technology cooperation has developed successfully and smoothly in general, there still exist shortcomings and difficulties. At times, non-scientific factors impede normal implementation of the cooperation and exchange. The restrictions imposed by the U.S. side on cooperation and trade with China in the high-tech area act as a barrier to the expansion of our cooperation. Although situation of Chinese scientists obtaining U.S. visa has been improving recently, it still heavily influence bilateral S&T cooperations and exchanges. Many Chinese scientists lose confidence in cooperating with their U.S. partners due to the visa difficulties, which is neither in China's interests nor in U.S.'s. Moreover, the coordinating mechanism for co-funding joint activities is still far from perfect. An effective mechanism to jointly fund activities has not yet been establish. To solve the existing problems, both sides need to understand the role of the cooperation and its mutually beneficial nature from a long-term and strategic perspective. We should further establish and improve mutual trust, eliminate the negative impacts of non-scientific factors on this cooperation. It is also imperative to strengthen the S&T ties in various areas in an effort to bring welfare to peoples of the two nations.

Undoubtedly, the achievements generated by China-U.S. S&T cooperation deserve a celebration. As the world's largest developing country and largest developed country respectively, China and the U.S. are highly complementary in their economies while the cultures of the two countries have distinctive features. The scale and quality of the S&T cooperation does not match the growing demands in both countries. The potential for such cooperation is far from being fully exploited while the prospects in this regard are promising. As major powers, China and the U.S. share important responsibilities and obligations for world peace, stability and prosperity. Despite different histories, cultural traditions and social systems, both countries are committed to find ways to improve the quality of life for their citizens. S&T is a key vehicle to achieve these goals while China-U.S. cooperation in S&T will work towards the realization of these goals. I am confident that by our joint efforts, China-U.S. cooperation in S&T will achieve more fruitful results and play a more important role in bilateral relations.

Finally, I wish the 11th China-U.S. Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Technology Cooperation a great success!

Thank you for your attention