

**ACTION PLAN
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

The Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (hereinafter referred to singularly as "the Party" and collectively as "the Parties"),

CONSIDERING the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation in the economic and social development of both countries;

RECOGNIZING that both countries have strong complementarity in science and technology, and a good foundation for cooperation in priority areas of mutual interests;

ON THE BASIS of equality, mutual benefit and other recognized values and principles of international academic cooperation;

IN ACCORDANCE WITH the terms of this Action Plan and other obligations under international law, taking into account national laws and regulations and relevant policies;

IN LINE WITH the Bilateral Agreement signed on November 5th, 2008 in Beijing on China-Norway Cooperation in Science and Technology, and building on the experiences from the previous Action Plan, signed on August 17th, 2017 in Oslo;

Have jointly drawn up this Action Plan on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (hereinafter referred to as "Action Plan") as follows.

Article I. Objectives

This Action Plan is aimed at:

1. Promoting cooperation in science, technology and innovation and strengthening industry-academic-research collaboration, to develop scientific excellence and capacity to promote long-term institutional cooperation;
2. Strengthening links and promoting knowledge transfer between research organizations and industries in both countries;
3. Improving the research and innovation capacities of research organizations, enterprises and universities of both countries, making optimal use of existing resources;

4. Collaboration under this Action Plan shall build on existing China-Norway science, technology and innovation agreements. It will not preclude other bilateral or multilateral cooperation activities in these areas in which each Party may take part.

Article II. Modes of Cooperation

Both parties will encourage and promote collaborative modes as follows:

1. Joint research, technological development and innovation, with the aim of fostering the competitiveness and innovation capabilities of both China and Norway, considering the long-term visions of both countries;
2. Establishment of joint labs or research centres in areas of common interest and the building of a stable and lasting partnership among research organizations, universities and enterprises of both countries through research cooperation and academic exchanges (i.e. researchers and staff) and, where appropriate, teaching and training activities in connection with such research collaboration;
3. Multilateral cooperation, including cooperation within the European research and innovation activities, including Horizon Europe.

Article III. Priority Areas for Cooperation

The priority areas of this Action Plan are:

- finding solutions to global challenges, for instance in the fields of Environment, Climate and Low-Emission Societies; Health and Care; Agriculture; and Food Safety and Food Security;
- achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for instance related to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger); SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); and SDG 14 (Life below water);
- other areas jointly agreed through the Joint Committee during the term of the Action Plan.

Article IV. Implementation and Financial Arrangements

1. Collaborative activities undertaken under this Action Plan will be jointly financed by both Parties through negotiation in line with specific agreements reached by both Parties in consideration of available funding and specific conditions.
2. Implementation of collaborative activities under this Action Plan shall be subject to the availability of funding and personnel and the applicable laws and regulations in each country. The Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of China are the implementing agencies.
3. The implementing agencies will jointly explore and propose ways to implement projects within the areas listed in Article III under this Action Plan.

Article V. Intellectual Property Rights and the Use & Disclosure of Information

Both Parties will give due consideration to the protection and the distribution of intellectual property and related proprietary rights resulting from the collaborative activities under this Action Plan. Intellectual property rights (IPR) will be protected in conformity with the respective national laws, rules and regulations of the Parties and with other international agreements signed by both Parties.

Article VI. Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

1. This Action Plan shall enter into force on the date of signing and remain in force until December 31st, 2027. Either Party may terminate this Action Plan by giving a six months' prior notice in writing to the other Party.
2. The termination of this Action Plan shall not affect the implementation of on-going activities, projects and/or programs which have been agreed upon before the date of the termination of this Action Plan.

Done in Oslo on April 17th, 2024, in Norwegian, Chinese and English, all texts being equally authentic. In case of differences in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Dai Gang
Director General

FOR THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH



Anne Line Wold
Director General