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### Content

A Special Issue on Belt and Road International S&T Cooperation



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## A Special Issue on International S&T Cooperation

### Silk Road of Innovation Thematic Forum of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing

On the afternoon of April 25, 2019, the Silk Road of Innovation Thematic Forum of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held at the National Convention Center in Beijing. The theme of the thematic forum is Collaborative Innovation for Shared Future. The event was sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology and co-sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering and China Association for Science and Technology. Wang Zhigang, Minister of Science and Technology delivered a keynote speech at the forum.



Minister Wang remarked that since President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, especially since he announced the launch of the Belt and Road STI Action Plan, MOST has been conscientiously implementing the action plan and focusing on four areas of S&T people-to-people exchange, joint laboratories, science park cooperation and technology transfer. Thanks to ceaseless efforts of the Belt and Road countries, fruitful outcomes have been made. The Silk Road of Innovation Thematic Forum was included in the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, to keep in line with the trend of globalization and open cooperation and give full play to the critical role of STI in advancement of the BRI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China is a participant and beneficiary of S&T globalization and contributor and leader of extensive innovation cooperation. Greater innovation cooperation for mutual benefit and win-win outcomes represents an important strategic pivot for future

S&T development, and building the Belt and Road into a road of innovation is a specific action for further opening of S&T and sharing of innovation outcomes. Wang Zhigang also raised four suggestions regarding advancement of Belt and Road STI cooperation. First is to stick to opening-up and create a vision of science and technology; second is to uphold partnership and strengthen exchanges; third is to put in place forward-looking layout; fourth is to insist on sharing for universal benefits and improve people's well-being. We need to meet the requirements of other countries, pool elements of innovation and strengthen pragmatic cooperation, to elevate the level of Belt and Road STI development to a new high. MOST and relevant sides jointly issued *the Cooperation Proposal for Silk Road Innovation*, which represents an important approach to advancement of Belt and Road STI cooperation.

WIPO Director General Francis Gurry stressed in the opening ceremony the significance of IP protection in boosting innovation capacity and building a sound eco-system for innovation. Other speakers at the ceremony were Bai Chunli, President of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Li Xiaohong, Chinese Academy of Engineering, Huai Jinpeng, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Secretary of CAST, Yang Wei Hsiung, Secretary for HK Innovation and Technology Bureau, Mohamad Nasir, Minister of Research, Technology and Higher Education of Indonesia, Zdravko Počivalšek, Minister of Economic Development and Technology of Slovenia and Ibrahim Abdurakhmanov, Minister of Innovational Development of Uzbekistan.

In the keynote speeches, more than 20 representatives from governmental bodies, research institutes, think-tanks and enterprises of over 10 Belt and Road countries shared their successful experience and cases in Belt and Road STI cooperation. The closing remarks were delivered by Maksat Tashbolotov, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Soil Improvement of Kyrgyzstan and Zhang Jianguo, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of China and Administrator of State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs.

About 150 delegates from China and 33 countries, regions and international organizations attended the thematic forum. They discussed in a pragmatic and efficient manner on the development direction and approaches to fulfillment of Silk Road innovation, shared experience of cooperation, looked into the future cooperation, talked on the cooperation proposal, raised many valuable viewpoints, opinions and suggestions and reached important consensus.

## Cooperation Proposal for Silk Road Innovation

In order to further strengthen pragmatic STI cooperation, facilitate sustainable economic and social development through innovation and build the Belt and Road into a road of innovation, MOST of China and STI authorities of Thailand, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka reached the following agreements at Silk Road of Innovation Thematic Forum of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation:

1	Explore on building sustainable STI cooperation mode among Belt and Road countries;
2	Strengthen STI cooperation and exchange with the reliance on bilateral and multilateral inter-governmental STI cooperation and dialogue mechanisms;
3	Facilitate S&T people-to-people exchange and extensive exchange and interaction between science communities of all countries;
4	Jointly build labs and work for hi-level research and R&D of common frontier key industrial technologies;
5	Conduct science park cooperation, give play to the role of science parks in pooling resources, guiding development and boosting growth in surrounding areas and facilitate in-depth integration between S&T and industries;
6	Advance technology transfer, strengthen establishment of technology transfer platforms and coordination network and push forward integrated regional innovation development;
7	Encourage participation of enterprises, research institutes, universities and social entities, diversified investment and joint efforts & sharing for mutual benefit and win-win outcomes;
8	Facilitate the establishment of Belt and Road innovation community, enhance the vitality for development and put in place a new regional pattern of innovation cooperation & development.

## STI cooperation becomes a new shining business card of BRI

### I. High, new and cutting-edge technologies become new elements of Belt and Road connectivity

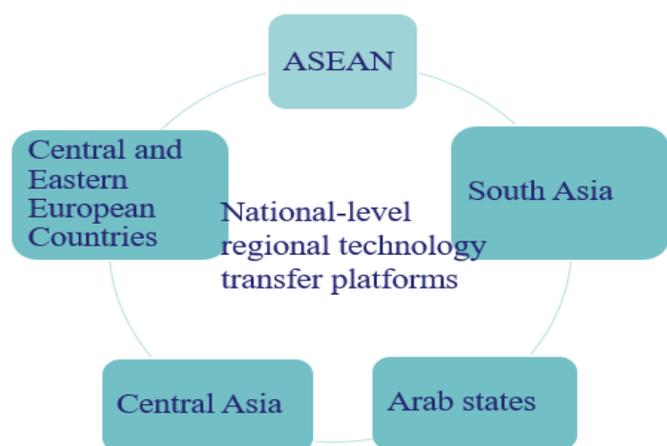
Dr. Kitipong, Secretary General of the National Science Technology and Innovation Office of Thailand said that in the past time Thailand has sent college students to learn from China hi-speed rail technologies and help with cultivating local talents through learning about the knowledge and applying the equipment in the training bases. Under the Belt and Road framework, the two countries have made fruitful innovation cooperation outcomes in eco-agriculture, life sciences, geo-information and space technologies. It is hoped that China can offer more assistance and support in terms of AI and robotics, so as to boost economic and social development through science and technology and join hands for win-win outcomes.

In line with the innovation economy development in Thailand, Huawei set up a STI lab in Bangkok to provide services for SMEs and start-up companies. Alibaba has been involved in the Eastern Economic Corridor, put in place an e-commerce center with Thailand as the center and impact in the Indochinese Peninsula and conducted cooperation with Thai Ministry of Commerce. In the meantime, Chinese enterprise will design and manufacture a broadband communications satellite for Thai Airways International and launch it in 2019. CAS has established the Innovation Cooperation Center in Bangkok, a new platform for S&T cooperation between the two countries. The pragmatic cooperation is entering a new track with new technologies and new economy as the representatives.



## II. Technology transfer serves as a new bridge of Belt and Road cooperation

To give play to the pioneering role of technology transfer and implement more innovation outcomes, China has set up five national-level regional technology transfer platforms with ASEAN, South Asia, Arab states, Central Asia and Central and Eastern European Countries, conducted technology promotion and industrial partnering extensively, supported relevant countries, regions and institutions in building and improving trans-regional and industrial technology transfer markets, and constantly improve the coordination network of Belt and Road technology transfer coordination.



Dr. Cao Kunhua, Head of China-ASEAN Technology Transfer Center remarked that with the reliance on CATTCC China has established working mechanisms of bilateral technology transfer with nine ASEAN countries, successfully held Forums on China-ASEAN Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation for six consecutive times, organized over 70 sessions of technology partnering and demonstration, helped match more than 1,900 projects and contributed to signing of 491 cooperation agreements.

## III. New Belt and Road coordination model created through mutual learning and assistance

As an important country linking the African continent with the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road, South Africa is among the first African countries signing Belt and Road framework agreements with China.

Before the thematic forum, a journalist from South Africa said that as the unemployment rate is very high, Chinese projects in the country will undoubtedly provide more job opportunities for the local people, which is not only conducive to local economic growth but also brings tangible benefits for a larger number of average people.

Mr. Han Long, General Manager of BGRIMM Technology Group said that the PMC company in South Africa used to cause environmental pollution due to backward smelting technologies and over 100 staff would lose their jobs if it is shut down. In 2015, the Group brought super-large floatation and double-side blowing shaft furnace melting technologies to solve the local problems. Thanks to exchanges and cooperation, the Group also learned advanced knowledge and techniques in exploitation and beneficiation, thus improving their STI capacity. Under the framework of BRI, both sides realized sharing of S&T resources and complementarity of each other's strengths.



People along the Belt and Road believe that China is an important engine of global economic development and highly recognize China's S&T strengths and STI capacity.

Today, a new round of scientific revolution and industrial transformation is accelerating across the world. China is not only a player and beneficiary of S&T globalization, but also contributor and leader of more extensive innovation cooperation. China stands ready to join hands with all countries for building the Belt and Road into a road of innovation.

(Source: Ministry of Science and Technology)