



Memorandum of Understanding between NSFC and DFG concerning Small to Medium-Sized Cooperative Networks

The Agreement on Cooperation between the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) was signed on March 25, 1988.

NSFC and DFG, hereafter referred to as the Parties, have concluded the following *Memorandum of Understanding between NSFC and DFG concerning Small to Medium-Sized Cooperative Networks*. It is an amendment to the Agreement mentioned above, and describes appliance of the Agreements article III item a) joint research projects.

Article 1

Outline “Small to Medium-Sized Cooperative Networks”

As a further development of cooperation mechanisms, DFG and NSFC agree to set up an additional cooperation mechanism which is based on the “response mode” principle that characterises the functioning of both funding organisations. The funding instrument will be called “Small to Medium-Sized Cooperative Networks” in which several research groups collaborate closely on an overall topic. It will be based on the principle of a “joint evaluation and separate decision”.

Article 2

Timetable

Proposals will be accepted according to national rules of the two funding organisations. Both organisations will try to harmonize the processing of proposals.

Article 3

Eligible applicants

In China, the principal investigator has to have a basic grant of NSFC. In Germany, the funding instrument is open to all researchers according to the effective rules of the DFG.

Article 4

Applications

Chinese scientists apply for funding in accordance with NSFC's rules and German scientists in accordance with DFG's rules. A spokesperson has to be determined for each side. The spokesperson will be responsible for the coordination of the proposals. Each individual application shall include at least the following appendices (in English):

- **Joint application form in English language; for the Chinese side, a separate proposal in Chinese language is obligatory**
- **Joint abstract** (no more than one page in length)

- **Joint research plan** (no more than 20 pages) according to the joint application form, the Chinese form will be available on the homepage of NSFC
- Project Proposals shall also include
 - a description of the added value to be expected from the collaboration
 - a clear description of the planned research collaboration with responsibilities of both partners
 - a description of the basis of the Chinese-German collaboration
- **Curriculae vitae** for all of the principal investigators of both partners
- **Lists of relevant publications (each up to 10)** of the principal investigators of both partners

The duration of each project will be three years at maximum.

Article 5

Evaluation

The scientific evaluation of the joint research proposals will be organised by both NSFC and DFG preferably in form of a joint evaluation. When joint evaluation is in place, both Parties will jointly agree on experts, who will be recruited and invited by both Parties. English reviews are needed in that case.

The most important evaluation criteria:

- Competence and expertise of the Chinese and German scientists/research teams
- Scientific quality and innovativeness of the joint research plan
- Feasibility of the joint research plan
- Added value to be expected from the Chinese-German research collaboration

Based on the scientific evaluations and consensus reached through discussions or written exchange of the results of a national evaluation, the Parties will agree on the joint projects to be funded.

Article 6

Funding

Based on the scientific evaluations of the joint research proposals and consensus discussion between the Parties (ranking of the projects), NSFC will fund the Chinese research partner and DFG will fund the German research partner. The funding decisions will be made independently in close communication with the respective partners but based on the mutual agreement, according to the Parties' respective rules, regulations and practices.

Article 7

Reporting

Reporting on the projects shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures of the Parties. Joint reports are expected three months after termination of the project in English language.

Article 8

Intellectual Property Rights

The Parties encourage scientists and their institutions to enter into agreements to ensure the effective protection and correct distribution of intellectual properties resulting from projects funded under this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 9

Miscellaneous

Each Party covers its own administration costs, unless otherwise jointly decided.

In the case of mutual visits of scientists, the visiting scientist will cover international flights and the host will provide the local accommodation together with a daily maintenance allowance and domestic travel costs.

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the availability of funds in the budget of the Parties and the applicable laws and regulations of their respective countries. This Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up in English and all documents and notices and meetings pertaining to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be in English. This Memorandum of Understanding may only be amended by a document signed by both Parties and identified as an Addendum to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 10

Term of this Memorandum of Understanding

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding shall remain until further notice, unless either Party terminates it earlier by giving six months written notice. This Memorandum of Understanding has been enacted in duplicate, one for each Party.

02 October 2014

On behalf of National Natural Science
Foundation of China (NSFC)

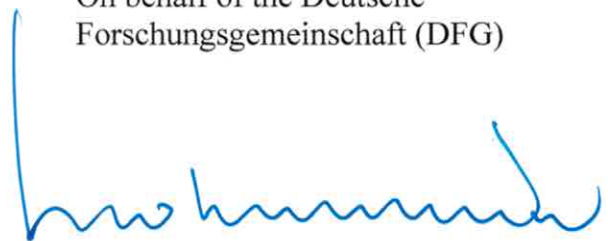


Professor Dr. Yang Wei

President

02 October 2014

On behalf of the Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)



Professor Dr. Peter Strohschneider

President