Agreement between NSFC and DFG on support of Sino-German joint interdisciplinary research programs (SG-JIRP)（“中德跨学科重大合作研究项目” in Chinese/“Sonderforschungsbereich / Transregio” in German）

On the basis of the “Agreement on Cooperation between the National Natural Science Foundation of China and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft” as executed on July 19, 2004, the

National Natural Science Foundation of China NSFC (hereinafter referred to as “NSFC”) with its address at 83, Shuangqing Road, Haidian District, Beijing, 10085, P.R. of China

and the

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (hereinafter referred to as “DFG”), with its address at Kennedyallee 40, 53170 Bonn, Germany,

hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Parties”, agree to support Sino-German joint interdisciplinary research programs as follows:

Definition

This program, established by NSFC and DFG, will be a platform for scientists from both countries to conduct interdisciplinary joint research. Groups of researchers at a limited number of research institutions, based at one principal location in China and one principal location in Germany, can combine their expertise, agree on a common research topic, identify common research goals and submit joint proposals to the Parties for funding, within the spheres of competence of the Parties, to undertake ambitious long-term research at an internationally competitive level, promote interdisciplinary cooperation, and advance young researchers. For the researchers in China, the regulations and procedures of the NSFC are applicable. For the researchers in Germany, the regulations and procedures of the DFG program “Collaborative Research Centre / Transregio” are applicable.

The Parties agree to take joint responsibility for the evaluation of proposals by peer review, and separate responsibility for the funding of the participating researchers in their country. The funding period runs for four years, with the possibility of maximum two extensions. In addition, the following guidelines for the joint support of SG-JIRP apply.

Preparation of Pre-proposals

The Parties shall encourage researchers in China and Germany interested in the implementation of a SG-JIRP to inform them in the early stages of planning and to define coordinators for the Chinese and German side, and to make use of the following forms of cooperation to prepare their joint proposal:

(1) exchange of researchers,
(2) joint seminars,
(3) joint individual projects,
(4) joint workshops for the preparation of proposals for SG-JIRP, based on the “Agreement on Cooperation between the NSFC and DFG” (July 19, 2004). Also “Sino-German Cooperation Groups” supported by the “Sino-German Centre for Research
Promotion” can be suitable elements of the preparatory phase. The Parties shall give advice based on their regulations and procedures.

When a group of researchers in China and Germany has agreed to a common research program, they may submit their initiative as a joint pre-proposal to the Parties, including an outline of the joint research plan and the type and extend of funding required, information about the institutional background, outlines for the individual contributions of the participating scientists, and their curriculum vitae and lists of publications. The parties shall consult each other and the coordinators on issues such as eligibility for funding, the suitable form of cooperation, and the further processing of the initiative.

If the Parties agree to proceed, they will organize a joint workshop in Germany or China, including representatives of the applicants, the Parties, and additional scientific experts as jointly nominated by the Parties, for the presentation and discussion of the scientific merits of the pre-proposal and its suitability for a SG-JIRP. The results of this workshop, based on the advice given by the scientific experts, will be summarized in minutes jointly agreed upon by the Parties.

Based on these results of the workshop, the Parties shall consult each other and jointly decide if the formulation of a full proposal will be admitted, and will inform the coordinators about this decision.

**Preparation of Full Proposals**

If the Parties agree to proceed, the researchers or their research institutions may submit a joint full proposal, based on their respective regulations and procedures. In particular, the full proposal shall contain detailed information on the joint research plan, the institutional background, the individual contributions of the participating scientists, the level and procedures suggested for the Sino-German cooperation, and the level of support requested.

**Evaluation and Decision Procedure**

If the Parties agree to proceed, the full proposal shall be evaluated in the framework of a site visit at either the principal Chinese or the principal German location. The Parties will jointly nominate the international independent review panel and organize the site visit. The advice given by the review panel shall be summarized in minutes jointly agreed upon by the Parties.

The Parties take separate funding decisions through their responsible decision-making bodies, following their respective regulations and procedures, based on the scientific quality of the proposal as described in the minutes of the review panel meeting. The SG-JIRP can be established only if the Parties both take a positive decision and agree on the first time period of funding.

During the last year of a current funding period, the applicants may be invited to submit a renewal proposal for the next funding period. For renewal, a pre-proposal will not be required.

For the nomination of the scientific experts participating in the joint workshop and the review panel for the evaluation of the full proposal, the guidelines of the Parties for conflict of interest are applicable.
Intellectual Property Rights

The Parties encourage researchers and institutions to enter into agreements to ensure the effective protection and correct distribution of intellectual properties resulting from research funded under this agreement.

Miscellaneous

In addition to the joint support of SG-JIRP as described above, other procedures for parallel support of cooperation between researchers funded by the DFG in Germany and the NSFC in China will be possible. In particular, the Parties may support the coordination of research programs, exchange of researchers and joint workshops between researchers based on individual agreements.

Executed in Beijing on April 11, 2005

For the National Natural Science Foundation of China

For the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

CHEN Yiyu
President
NSFC

Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker
President
DFG