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Content

2017 National Science Popularization Statistics Issued by MOST

Development of China's Science Popularization Policies

National Science Day over the Years



Over the past 40 years since reform and opening-up, the undertaking of science popularization has made a historic leap from voluntary moves to massive, concrete and well-organized activities. In recent years particularly, the country have been giving great prominence to science popularization, as they regard improving people's scientific literacy as a basic social undertaking. Thanks to the action plan for improving people's scientific literacy, the rate of scientific literacy has increased gradually from 1.62% in 2005, 3.27% in 2010, 6.20% in 2015 to 8.47% in 2018.



I. 2017 National Science Popularization Statistics Issued by MOST

Recently, MOST issued the 2017 National Science Popularization Statistics. As shown by statistics, good outcomes have been made in terms of implementation of *the Law on Science Popularization*, *13th National Five-year STI Plan*, *13th Five-year Plan on Science Popularization and Innovative Culture Development*, relevant knowledge about *China's Civic Scientific Literacy Benchmark* has been popularized, civic scientific literacy has been markedly improved and the initiative for S&T activities has been constantly aroused. We have witnessed a sound development momentum of science popularization across the country.

1. Expenditure for science popularization increases steadily and the government is the main fund supplier

In 2017, a total of 16.005 billion yuan has been raised for science popularization, a year-on-year increase of 5.32%. The government allocated 12.296 billion yuan, 76.82% of the total, which is 0.66 percentage point higher than 2016. Per capita expenditure for science popularization reached 4.51 yuan, an increase of 0.03 yuan compared with 2016.

For the construction of science popularization venues, 3.741 billion yuan has been allocated, 10.54% higher than 2016.

2. Science popularization facilities boom rapidly and the number of visitors keeps increasing

There are a total of 1,439 science popularization venues in the country, 46 more than the year 2016. Among them, 488 were S&T venues and 951 were science museums, up by 15 and 31 respectively compared with 2016. Every 966,000 people in China owned one science popularization venue. 63.0175 million people visited the S&T venues, a year-on-year increase of 11.61%. 142 million people visited the science museums, a year-on-year increase of 28.85%.

3. Full-time staffs play a greater role and the share of docents is bigger

In 2017 there were 227,000 full-time staffs for science popularization in the country, 3,500 more than the year 2016. Among them, 31,200 were full-time docents, 2,300 more than the year 2016 and 13.74% of the total full-time staffs. MOST has for many years organized national competition for illustration of science popularization, which highlighted the important role of full-time docents. 14,900 were science popularization writers, 800 more than the year 2016 and 6.57% of the total. There were 1.5675 million part-time staffs for science popularization, 61,400 fewer than the year 2016. However, the actual number for each month has been 1.8978 million, up by 2.33% compared with 2016.

4. Research facilities are opened in a quicker pace and resource for science popularization is becoming richer.

An increasingly large number of research institutes and universities have become open to the society through organizing science popularization activities, becoming an important component of China's resources in science popularization. In 2017, the research institutes and universities open themselves to the society. 8,461 such entities held science popularization activities, a year-on-year increase of 381. There were 8.7865 million visitors, a year-on-year increase of 1.77%.

5. Science popularization activities are conducted extensively and loved by the public.

The science popularization activities with the science week as the representative has produced extensive social impact. In 2017, 771 million people attended those activities of various kinds, an increase of 6.30%

compared with the year 2016. 146 million audience were attracted to attend 880,100 lectures. 101 million participants were involved in 48,900 competitions. 702,100 people took part in 2,713 international exchange activities.

6. Way of dissemination becomes increasingly diverse.

A total of 112 million science popularization books of 14,100 kinds have been published nationwide, accounting for 1.21% of total publication in 2017. A total of 491 million science papers have been published, 89,700 hours of programs have been broadcasted through TV and 73,700 hours of those through radio. In 2,570 science popularization websites, there were 1.3671 million articles of all kinds, 49,700 videos and a total of 921 million visitors. In 2,065 Weibo accounts, the 664,500 articles of all kinds had 4.409 billion pageviews. In the 5,488 Wechat official accounts concerning science popularization, the 874,900 articles of all kinds had 694 million pageviews.

The work of national science popularization statistics was conducted by the Department of Overseas Intellectual Resources and organized by Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China. The statistics covered 31 provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) and Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps and 30 central and State Council departments. This was the most authoritative basic government data with the widest coverage and richest content. A total of 65,300 questionnaires have been collected.

II. Development of China's Science Popularization Policies

In 2002

the Law on Science Popularization was promulgated.

The Law on Science Popularization was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the 9th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. This is China's first law on science popularization. The law makes a clear stipulation of science popularization from legal perspective, identifying its role and responsibilities and obligations of the government and social entities. This is a milestone in our history of science popularization, exerting a direct influence on the development of science popularization and profound impact on S&T development, especially the prosperity of science

popularization. Since then, the concept that science popularization and STI are of equal importance has been deeply rooted in people's minds and become a social consensus.

In 2006

the Outline of the National Scheme for Scientific Literacy (2006-2010-2020) was issued.

The State Council issued *the Outline of the National Scheme for Scientific Literacy (2006-2010-2020)*. It states that we should make great progress in S&T education, dissemination and popularization by 2020, put in place a well-established system for organization & implementation, infrastructure development, safeguards and monitoring & evaluation, and ensure that the civic scientific literacy should increase markedly to reach the level of major developed countries in early 21st century.

In 2016

the State Council promulgated the 13th National Five-year STI Plan was issued

In 2016, the General Office of the State Council confirmed that MOST, MOF and Publicity Department of CPC should lead and the Organization Department of CPC and other 20 departments join the efforts in formulating *China's Civic Scientific Literacy Benchmark*. A monitoring indicator system of *the National Scheme for Scientific Literacy (2006-2010-2020)* should be set up and the work of civic scientific literacy survey and science popularization statistics should be conducted regularly, so as to provide measuring tools and guidance for improvement of civic scientific literacy.

In 2016, the State Council promulgated *the 13th National Five-year STI Plan*, which stipulates that we should strengthen science popularization and innovation culture development. Efforts should be made to implement the civic scientific literacy campaign and improve the overall literacy level of the country; strengthen the construction of science popularization infrastructures, promote IT application in science popularization and facilitate the development of science popularization industry; make research facilities of all kinds more open to the public, including universities, research institutes and enterprises; carry forward the science spirit, enhance research integrity, strengthen interaction with the public and foster entrepreneurship and innovation culture featuring respect for knowledge, upholding of creation and pursuit of excellence.

In 2017, MOST and the Publicity Department of

the CPC jointly formulated *the 13th Five-year Plan on Science Popularization and Innovative Culture Development*, which identifies the guidelines, goals, priorities and measures for science popularization and innovative culture development during the 13th five-year plan. It is a special plan and guideline for science popularization and innovative culture development in China.

III. Previous National Science Days

2010	Theme: Save energy resources, protect eco-system and ensure safety & health
2011	Theme: Save energy resources, protect eco-system, ensure safety & health and facilitate innovation & creation
2012	Theme: Save energy resources, protect eco-system, ensure safety & health and facilitate innovation & creation
2013	Theme: Protect eco-system and build a beautiful China
2014	Theme: Innovative development and common action
2015	Theme: Fulfill dreams through S&T and embrace a smart life
2016	Theme: Innovation realizes dreams and S&T leads the future

(Source: MOST)