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A special issue on Technology Training Program for Developing Countries"

Since 1989, China has started to hold technology training workshops for developing countries. Sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the workshops aim to meet the needs of the country's overall diplomatic work, implement the national science and technology development strategy to help developing countries cultivate scientific and technological talents and promote human resource development cooperation with developing countries. All these will promote bilateral and multilateral S&T cooperation and exchange between China and other developing countries, especially our neighbors. In the past five years, the Ministry of Science and Technology has organized 246 technology training programs in developing countries and trained more than 4,740 participants. In 2018, we will hold 79 international training workshops for developing countries. It is expected to recruit more than 1,500 participants from developing countries. The training covers agriculture, new energy, resource and environment, health care and S&T management etc.

1. International Training Workshop on Fruit and Vegetable Preservation and Cold Chain Technology

On July 11th, the International Training Workshop on Fruit and Vegetable Preservation and Cold Chain Technology was held in Jinan. It was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology, implemented by China Science and Technology Exchange Center and undertaken by Jinan Fruit Research Institute of the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives. The training workshop was attended by 23 students from different agricultural fields in 9 countries including Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mongolia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Iran and Thailand.

During the 20-day training, the trainees studied the techniques of storage and preservation, processing and utilization, and the extraction of functional ingredients of fruits and vegetables through theoretical knowledge training, field visits and skill practices. A representative from Indonesia said that they hoped to truly master the technology of fruit and vegetable preservation through systemic study of the training workshop and apply it as soon as possible after returning to Indonesia, so as to solve the practical problem of rotten fruits and vegetables caused by absence of such technologies.

2. International Training Workshop on Railway Construction Technology

On July 20th, the International Training Workshop on Railway Construction Technology was held in Chengdu. The workshop was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology, implemented by the China Science and Technology Exchange Center and undertaken by China Railway Eryuan Engineering Group Co., Ltd. The training workshop invited 20 participants from six countries including Pakistan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mozambique and Nepal. During the 20-day training, the participants listened to lectures, analyzed specific cases, conducted technical exchange and enjoyed on-site teaching. They learnt about technologies on railway station yard, railway bridge and culvert engineering design and construction, railway tunnel construction, railway subgrade engineering design and construction, railway engineering environmental protection, railway station and complex design, railway communication system and Chinese railway operation management system.

3. New Energy Technology and Application International Training Workshop

On July 27th, the 2018 New Energy Technology and Application International Training Workshop sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology and organized by Institute of New Energy Wuhan was held at Institute of New Energy, Wuhan. 20 professional engineers and managerial staff devoted to new energy attended the workshop. They came from developing countries along the Belt
and Road, including Mongolia, Thailand, Iran, Nigeria, Nepal, Egypt and Pakistan etc.

During the training, experts from Institute of New Energy presented the latest technological development, experience and problems in six new energy fields, namely ground source heat pump, fuel cell, smart grid, biomass, wind energy and photovoltaic power generation. The trainees were also organized to pay site visits to solar energy companies in XiangYang and other places. The trainees spoke highly of the workshop and hoped to take this opportunity to promote further cooperation with Hubei in R&D, promotion and training of new energy technologies.

4. International Training Workshop on Ultrasound Non-invasive Treatment of Tumors

On August 1st, the opening ceremony of the International Training Workshop on Ultrasound Non-invasive Treatment of Tumors was held in Cairo, Egypt. This workshop was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology, organized by China Science and Technology Exchange Center, and jointly undertaken by the Chongqing Science and Technology Bureau, Chongqing Medical University, Chongqing Hi-tech Incubator Center and Egyptian Society of Interventional Radiology.

The 23 participants in the training workshop came from Middle Eastern and North African countries including Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Jordan, Kuwait and Nepal. They participated in the 15-day program covering theoretical knowledge of ultrasound therapy technologies, basic principle simulation experiment of ultrasound therapy technologies and clinical application practice and training of ultrasound therapy.

5. International Seminar on Science and Technology Policies and Management

From July 29th to August 12th, the International Seminar on Science and Technology Policies and Management was held in Beijing and Hefei. The seminar was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology and organized by China Science and Technology Exchange Center and Anhui International Science and Technology Exchange Center. 18 officials and scholars from ten countries participated in the seminar. They came from Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Algeria, Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

The seminar included various content of policy introduction, case study, technical inspection, cultural visit and Q&A session, which deepened trainees’ understanding of China's S&T policy and management experience and enabled them to experience STI development in various fields in China. The students expressed the willingness to be the envoys of S&T cooperation and exchange between their countries and China. After returning to their countries, they will tell people what they have seen and heard in China and strive to pave the way for pragmatic S&T cooperation.

Since 2012, the seminar has been successfully held for seven times, with more than 120 government officials and scholars from S&T authorities in various countries involved. The workshop aimed to deepen the trainees’ understanding of China's S&T and social development and share the STI policy and management experience.

6. International Training Workshop on Energy Internet Operation and Planning for Countries along the Belt and Road

On August 26th, the International Training Workshop
on Energy Internet Operation and Planning for Countries along the Belt and Road was held in Changsha. The workshop was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology and organized by Changsha University of Science & Technology and attended by twenty participants from 12 countries such as Egypt, Sudan, India and Malaysia.

The training workshop focused on power shortage according to different regions and time periods, large-scale abandonment of water, wind, PV energy and grid connection of renewable energy at a large scale in countries along the Belt and Road. Technical training of energy Internet operation and planning was conducted to promote energy security and cross-border power transactions with some developing countries and to put in place independent, cross-national/regional, cross-market and multi-networked energy collaborative management.

7. International Training Workshop on STI Policy and Management for Sustainable Development

From September 10 to 21, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD) jointly held a two-week International Training Workshop on STI Policy and Management for Sustainable Development in Guangzhou. This was the first time that China conducted joint training session with the UN system in the field of STI for developing countries. 13 government officials and policy experts from S&T authorities of South Africa, Thailand, India and Iran participated in the training.

Relevant officials and well-known experts from the Ministry of Science and Technology and other S&T management departments were invited to lecture on topics such as China's overall STI policies, policies and experience in agriculture and environmental governance, and STI policy evaluation and practices. Through introduction of China’s sustainable development experience, the training workshop will help developing countries achieve the 2030 sustainable development goals for common realization of SDGs, give full play to role of the Guangdong-HK-Macao Greater Bay Area as an important platform and hub of the Belt and Road, consolidate and expand the Belt and Road international cooperation network and strengthen the friendly relationship of cooperation and mutual assistance.

8. STI Policy and Incubator Planning Seminar

On September 11th, the opening ceremony of the STI Policy and Incubator Planning Seminar was held in the Optics Valley of China (Wuhan East Lake High-tech Development Zone). The seminar was sponsored by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology and supported by the National Center for Science & Technology Evaluation, Science and Technology Department of Hubei Province and the Administrative Committee of East Lake High-tech Development Zone. The two-week seminar attracted government officials and experts from more than ten UNCSTD member countries such as Ethiopia, Thailand, Iran, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Botswana, South Africa and the Dominican Republic.

Experts and scholars from the Torch High Technology Industry Development Center, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Administrative Committee of East Lake High-tech Development Zone, Wuhan Future Science City, Wuhan Institute of Biotechnology and Wuhan Industrial Institute for Optoelectronic were invited to lecture on the philosophy of establishing national hi-tech zones, and experience and measures in policy innovation, mode exploration, industrial development and enterprise cultivation in the Zone. The participants were organized to pay site visits for implementation of STI policies and incubator development. Their visits to the Optics Valley will not only improve the understanding of STI from theoretic and practical perspectives, but also promote international exchange and cooperation in science park and incubator between Optics Valley and UNCSTD members.