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The Franco-Chinese Foundation

Born out of the desire shared by France and China to maintain long-term contact in all areas of science, the Franco-Chinese Foundation for Science and its Applications (Fondation Franco-Chinoise pour la Science et ses Applications) was established on the 17th December 2001, under the aegis of the Academies of Sciences of the two countries - the Delegation for Foreign Relations of France’s Academy of Sciences in association with the International Cooperation Bureau of the Western Europe Division of China’s Academy of Sciences.

Its missions, which are all focused on scientific and technical collaboration, have the following objectives:

- to step up the development of research and innovation programmes between France and China,
- to organise and promote events in France or China, relying on its network of correspondents,
- to select the best candidates for the post-doctoral scholarships currently awarded by French companies, regions and towns, and eventually those in China too.

In addition to these scientific objectives, the Foundation also intends to participate in cultural, economic and political rapprochement between France and China. The Scientific Council has a two-year mandate, that may be renewed twice.

Who is the Foundation aimed at?

All those in France and China who want to see closer scientific and technical ties between the two countries. This means:

- French companies with a short- or medium-term interest in the Chinese market and institutions running collaboration programmes with China,
- Chinese companies and institutions who are interested in France,
- Key scientific figures and professors who wish to develop lasting collaboration between the two countries in the fields of education and research
- Students applying for post-doctoral scholarships.

How are the future scholarship-winners selected?

It is the Scientific Council’s job to assess the candidates trying to obtain a scholarship. The shortlist is drawn up in China by members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Academy of Medical Sciences and the top universities. Once the candidates have been interviewed in China by members of the Foundation’s Scientific Council, the final decision is made in France. This same Council follows the progress of the scholarship winners during their stay and after their return to their country of origin. From 2004, French post-doctoral students who want to do their research in China will be able to participate in this programme too.

Who are the Foundation’s main partners?

The Foundation is financed by funds originating from industrial and commercial partners and institutions keen to develop relations with China. The Franco-Chinese Foundation for Science and its Applications also receives moral support from various important people, like former ministers André Bollois, Philippe Douste-Blazy, Chen Zhu (Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) and His Excellency Mr Wu Jianmin, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in Paris until July 2003.

The Foundation is particularly grateful to Mr Raymond Barre and Mr Raymond Forni for their valuable support.

A few of the initiatives taken in 2002 and 2003

- Chen Zhu (Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) and Li Zhiyi were invited to the French Academy of Sciences in January.
- Scholarships were awarded to 6 Chinese post-doctoral students, short-listed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and recruited by the Foundation, following interviews with scholarship candidates conducted in Beijing and Shanghai by Jacques Caen and Gilles Kahn.
- Invitation of 2 Chinese professors from the University of Xiamen, one Professor of Haematology and the other Professor of Mathematics from Tianjin, both authors of a thesis in French.
- Senior reporter from Radio France International (R.F.I.) sent on assignment during President Curien’s visit to Beijing and Shanghai. Two 20-minute magazine programmes about the Foundation were then broadcast on R.F.I.

What are the objectives for late 2003 and 2004?

- To arrange to receive 20 – 30 post-doctoral scholarship winners. This objective should be supported by:
  - the creation of the Sino-French Centre for Life Sciences and Genomics in Shanghai and the Laboratory of Haematology and Angiogenesis in Tianjin,
  - joint laboratories like the LIAMA in Beijing,
  - the Laboratory of Catalysis in Dalian,
  - the highly-respected laboratories collaborating in France and in China on the Advanced Research Programme (A.R.P.).