

ANSO's Action on COVID-19 Vaccine Development

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge effect on our lives, economy and society since early 2020. Providing safe, effective and affordable vaccines has become a priority task for scientists and medical companies around the world. Based on awareness of the importance of international cooperation in vaccine development, especially the value of ANSO members and member countries cooperating, the ANSO Secretariat started to explore the possibility of cooperation with international partners on jointly conducting the Phase III clinical trial of a recombinant protein vaccine being developed by CAS and the Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co., Ltd., the vaccine developer from very early on. Due to the big efforts committed by the ANSO Secretariat in bridging and communications, 16 webinars were organized and held between the scientists and experts of the Institute of Microbiology, CAS and the Zhifei Longcom and the officials, scientists and experts from Chile, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Brazil, South Africa, Ghana, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan in the discussion

and exploration of a possible cooperation in jointly conducting the Phase III clinical trials of the vaccine. Thanks to the strong support of the Minister of Innovation and Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the efforts of many individuals, the Zhifei Longcom started the Phase III trial in Uzbekistan on December 10, 2020. So far, the trial has involved over 5000 subjects in Uzbekistan. At the same time, the ANSO Secretariat also sought support and contributions from the Pakistan Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Sciences of Ecuador to promote the trial cooperation there. The ANSO Secretariat is very grateful to all institutions and individuals involved in assisting the phase III clinical trial of this vaccine, hoping it will become a public product for global good.

ANSO is very keen to be of an active role in assisting tackling the current pandemic through facilitation of international science and technology cooperation. We look forward to working with more members, partners and countries on developing vaccines and drugs to address the current crisis in 2021.

New Year's Greetings from the ANSO President

At the end of 2020, ANSO President Prof. Chunli Bai delivered his New year's wishes to the ANSO Family. Prof. Bai expressed his appreciation for the support and contributions to ANSO from all members and partners. He summarized the major areas of progress by ANSO as being contributions to anti-epidemic cooperation, think tank networking and capability building, etc. Prof. Bai expressed how much he is looking forward to the reunion of ANSO members and partners at the next ANSO General Assembly in 2021.



Accelerating Global Poverty Alleviation Through Science and Technology Innovation



As one of the notable associations of ANSO, the Alliance of Poverty Reduction and Development (APRD) held its Inauguration Ceremony and the International Conference of Global Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in Lincang, China on 16-18 Nov.

Welcome speeches were given at the event by Prof. Chunli Bai, President of ANSO, Dr. Shamika Sirimanne, the Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mr. Romain Murenzi, the Executive Director of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). More than 200 representatives from over 20 countries and regions all over the world participated in the conference online and on site.

International experts from different disciplines indicated that the establishment of APRD will help achieve both the UN SDGs of No Poverty and Zero Hunger, and provide a good opportunity for developing countries to help each other by laying a solid foundation for long-term cooperation in poverty reduction efforts. The experts encouraged APRD to create new paths of poverty reduction and focus on the common challenges and major demands in priority countries and regions.

International Symposium on Ecological Restoration and Management of the Aral Sea



The International Symposium on Ecological Restoration and Management of the Aral Sea (24-25 Nov.) was held by the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), Chinese Academy of Sciences and the National University of Uzbekistan, and was co-organized by ANSO.

There was strong attendance at the symposium online and on site, including Prof. Chunli Bai, the president of ANSO, Mr. Ibromkhim Abdurakhmonov, Minister for Innovative Development of Uzbekistan, Dr. Jusipbek Kazbekov, First Deputy Prime Minister of Karakalpakstan Republic of Uzbekistan, Ms. Jiang Yan, Chinese Ambassador to Uzbekistan and more than 200 government officials, heads of international organizations, experts and scholars from more than 30 countries and regions, including China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Belgium, Germany, Austria, South Africa, Kenya, South Korea, India and the United States. Prof. Bai sent a letter of congratulations which was read by the Executive Director of the ANSO Secretariat, Prof. Jinghua Cao.

The Aral Sea issue has received much attention from relevant UN organizations and the international community, and became one of ANSO's major priorities. In order to strengthen the Aral Sea's ecological environmental protection, participants from across the world showed great willingness to work together to conduct joint scientific research and dialogue, and exchange experiences on the Aral Sea issue, to join together to find scientific solutions.

ANSO Scholarship for Young Talents Open for 2021 Application

On November 27th 2021, ANSO released the 2021 Call for Application for its scholarship program. Currently, the program supports 300 PhD candidates and 200 Masters students pursuing education at the University of Science and Technology of China, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) and CAS institutes. A few changes have been made to the application procedure. All details can be found in the recent Call:

<http://www.anso.org.cn/programmes/talent/scholarship/>

ANSO Training

Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IUE-CAS) and The Belt and Road Alliance of Urban Environmental Health (hereafter the Alliance), an association under ANSO, co-organized a training course on sustainable development and environmental health in Xiamen, China during November 30th to December 5th. More than 10 top scientists were invited to give both online and on-site lessons. Around 1,700 trainees, mainly from Asia and Africa, participated this training course.

Academician Yongguan Zhu delivered a speech at the opening ceremony providing a warm welcome to the participants. Prof. Zhu expressed his hope that the training course would bring benefits in sustainable urban development. He emphasized that the current pandemic is a demonstration of the need for people to work together to fight against uncertainty in the future. The training course will be a platform for prompting friendship and collaboration, and also for sharing expertise and experience in developing sustainable cities.

The B&R Training Course of Sustainable Development and Environmental Health Held Online and On-site



International Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Service in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Held Online



The International Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Service in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was held online (9-11 Nov.) with the support of the

Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC), and ANSO.

Prof. Qasim Jan, Vice-president of ANSO and then President of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Prof. Ailikun, Assistant Executive Director of ANSO Secretariat, and others, were invited to attend the opening ceremony and give welcome speeches. The training covered 14 topics and attracted 180 trainees from 11 countries, including Pakistan, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Mongolia and Nigeria.

This training not only enhanced knowledge and ability in disaster risk reduction, but also promoted efficient data sharing in the region. The workshop also facilitated the international cooperation along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.



The Award for International Scientific Cooperation of CAS in 2020



Dale Sanders

United Kingdom

Recommended by
CAS Center for Excellence
in Molecular Plant Sciences
(CEMPS)



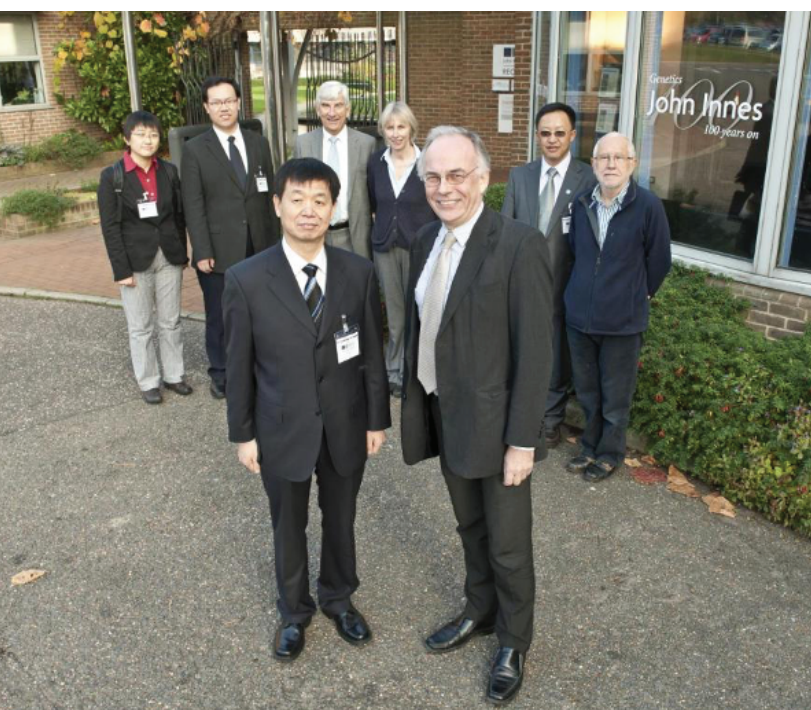
Professor Dale Sanders is a world-famous plant chemist, a member of the Royal Society and the Council of the Royal Society, and Director of the John Innes Centre (JIC), UK. He is a leader in the field of plant ion signalling and mineral nutrition.

Professor Sanders has been cooperating with CAS for more than ten years, and has made important contributions to scientific and technological development and talent training in the fields of plant and microbial sciences. Professor Sanders, is the senior editor of CAS's periodical Molecular Plant (MP) and his positive advice and help has made MP a well-known journal in the field of plant science.

After serving as the Director of the JIC, Professor Sanders actively sought to deepen scientific and technological cooperation with CAS. His commitment directly contributed

to the establishment of the "CAS-JIC Centre of Excellence for Plant and Microbial Science (CEPAMS)". As an important member of the board of directors of the joint center, he put forward important guiding suggestions on the Centre's development plan and research direction. Driven by his efforts, CEPAMS is rapidly becoming a substantial Sino-UK joint research platform with an international vision and outstanding goals.

Professor Sanders has devoted a lot of effort to China-UK scientific and technological cooperation and has played an irreplaceable leadership role in promoting cooperation. He used his personal influence to facilitate multiple active interactions between political leaders and senior officials in China and the UK, effectively strengthening the multi-level scientific and technological cooperation and partnership between China and the UK.



"As I look forward, I see a really bright future for UK-China research collaboration and considerable scientific success for CEPAMS. We must all ensure that our work together strengthens the scientific excellence of both nations."

—Dale Sanders

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