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International Research and Training Center  
for Science and Technology Strategy  
under the Auspices of UNESCO

国际科学和技术战略  
研究与培训中心

# ***CISTRAT 2024*** ***Annual Report and*** ***2025 Outlook***

International Research and Training Center  
for Science and Technology Strategy  
(CISTRAT)

# CISTRAT 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Outlook

In 2024, International Research and Training Center for Science and Technology Strategy (CISTRAT), in accordance with the requirements for Category II Institutions/Centers by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and under the guidance and support of the CISTRAT Governing Board, carried out international science and technology collaborations and trainings. A summary of CISTRAT annual work in 2024 and outlooks for 2025 is as follows.

## I. Work of 2024

In 2024, CISTRAT aligned with 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 and the objectives of the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development, and engaged in providing quality education, participating in open science, addressing climate change, promoting gender equality, and establishing global partnerships.

### 1. Conduct training workshops on capacity building for scientific and technological innovation

**CISTRAT carried out S&T policy training workshop for developing countries in Asia and Africa, empowering their capabilities and system development in scientific and technological innovation.** In 2024, the 11th CISTRAT International Training Workshop on STI Policy Research and Method was held, with the theme of scientific and technological innovation and digital transformation. The workshop enrolled international trainees from S&T management departments or research institutions in countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Timor-Leste, and invited 10 Chinese and foreign experts to deliver the lectures. The courses covered an overview of China's development on digital economy, AI governance, STI systems and policy tools, digital transformation, and national innovation systems. Trainees conducted field visits to Didi (A mobility transportation platform in China), National Museum for Modern Chinese Scientists (MMCS), Xiong'an New Area and Shijiazhuang City in Hebei Province.



**CISTRAT attended the 6th African Science, Technology and Innovation Forum.** Delegates engaged in discussions and exchanges with African counterparts on China’s experience in promoting the spirit of scientists, integrating science and education, and strengthening scientific and technological innovation to promote educational equality.



## 2. Participate in academic dialogue and research on open science

**Engaged in research and drafting of documents on open science, and actively joined relevant initiatives.** CISTRAT participated deeply in the research and drafting of Initiative on International Cooperation in Open Science launched by China, Brazil, South Africa and the African Union, promoting global STI outcomes to benefit the Global South more extensively. We also attended the Xiangshan Science Conferences academic symposium on Status and Trends of Open Science, and co-signed the Xiangshan Initiative for Implementing Open Science with experts present. The research report highlights the importance of fostering a culture of open data sharing as a crucial element within the broader innovation culture.

**Organized and participated in conferences and forums on open science actively.** CISTRAT co-hosted the seminar on “Measuring Open Innovation and Ecosystem” with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Experts from the University of Oxford, WIPO, Institutes of Science and Development in Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASISD), University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), and CASTED presented on topics such as the measurement of open innovation and ecosystems at the national level, the measurement of open innovation ecosystems in research institutes and universities, and future innovation trends and the IP ecosystem in global main countries, discussing China’s future scientific and technological innovation and high-quality development. We participated in the China OA Week 2024 themed on “Open Science Action – Building an Innovative and Inclusive Future” and the 19th Trilateral Science and Technology Policy Seminar between China, Japan and South Korea, delivering presentations on open science.



### 3. Conduct research on scientific and technological innovation in response to climate change

**Strengthened the capacity building for achieving the carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals through scientific and technological innovation.** We attended a training program on sustainable development driven by technology under the carbon peaking and neutrality blueprint in Singapore, and conducted in-depth research in relevant Singaporean institutions and tech-enterprises. Delegates exchanged ideas with scholars, entrepreneurs, and government officials to learn about Singapore's experiences and practices in green development, including organizational structures, operational mechanisms, building design, smart city, and the utilization of solar and clean energy.



**Carried out research on clean energy and low-carbon development, and compiled thematic reports.** We analyzed the current difficulties and challenges on clean coal utilization, energy transformation, and enterprise green transformation in China and the world, summarized international experiences, and proposed solutions.

### 4. Promote gender equality in scientific and technological innovation and conduct relevant research

**Conducted research on women's participation in scientific and technological innovation.** CISTRAT analyzed the current status of women's involvement in scientific research and decision-making in green development as well as digital transformation, and proposed policy recommendations to promote equal participation of women and to leverage new technologies for high-quality development.

**Delivered presentations on female researchers at forums and conferences.** At the 10th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, we delivered a speech titled “China’s Policy Practices in Supporting Female Scientists”, introducing the current state of women in S&T talent teams in China, the challenges women face in the field of research and innovation, sharing China’s policy practices and effectiveness in promoting gender equality, and issuing an international collaboration to promote gender equality in scientific research and innovation. At China Petroleum Pipeline College, we gave a presentation on “Uplifting the Professional Skills of Women in the Digital Transition”.

## **5. Consolidate and expand the cooperation network to strengthen global partnerships**

**Maintained communication and contact with UNESCO and National Commission of the PRC for UNESCO (referred to as “the National Commission”).** We communicated with the Division of Science Policy and Basic Sciences of UNESCO, UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia, and the National Commission, exchanging views on promoting collaboration between UNESCO and CISTRAT on S&T policy, actively playing the role of CISTRAT, and forming a work plan.

**Advanced the operation of the cooperation network under the frameworks of the Belt and Road Initiative, the BRICS cooperation mechanism, G20, etc.** We organized the Belt and Road Initiative Seminar in 2024 Pujiang Innovation Forum with the Shanghai Institute of Science & Technology Management on the theme of “High-Quality Construction of the Belt and Road Joint Lab”. We also invited experts from Belt and Road countries such as Ghana, South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia to exchange experiences and discuss future prospects in STI collaboration and the construction of joint lab. Experts provided insights and references for quality improving, perfecting the Belt and Road S&T cooperation mechanism, and promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road initiative. CISTRAT participated in the 2024 Brazil-China STI Dialogue, exchanged ideas with Brazilian experts in technology foresight, agricultural science and technology, and enterprise innovation. CISTRAT also hosted visits from Vietnam, Brazil, and other countries, discussing science and technology planning and policy formulation, science and technology finance, and S&T talent training, and explored new channels to strengthen STI cooperation.



**Connected with the science and technology management departments, institutions, or experts from developing countries to expand CISTRAT cooperation network.** We invited Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, the founder and chairman of the Eco Science Foundation (ECOSF) and a recipient of the Chinese Government Friendship Award, to visit and give a lecture on “The Importance of Scientific Communication and Attitude”. We also implemented the productive outcomes from the Beijing Summit of Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, promoting the Belt and Road Initiative and China-Africa S&T collaboration, establishing the intention to sign an MOU with the African Union NEPAD, and exploring future collaboration possibilities with African Union members. Through participating in the International Symposium of Category II Institutions/Centers under UNESCO in Natural Sciences, we communicated with representatives from 34 Category II centers in 23 countries in the field of natural sciences during the session, expanding the CISTRAT international cooperation network.

## II. Outlook for 2025

In accordance with the terms of the renewed agreement, CISTRAT will leverage the role of the Governing Board, fulfill its responsibilities, strengthen training exchanges with developing countries, carry out joint research, establish partnerships, and strive to enhance its capability and level of participation in UNESCO's work in 2025.

First, we will conduct training on S&T strategies and policies for developing countries, particularly those in the Belt and Road countries and African nations. We will host the 12th international training workshop which will focus on AI capacity and carry out online exchange and training for capacity building.

Second, we will continue the agreement renewing process for the new term. We will submit the renewal intention to the National Commission and UNESCO, and be well prepared for UNESCO's evaluation and other processes.

Third, we will engage in academic exchanges and joint research in the field of S&T policy. Under UNESCO's International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, we will organize and participate in academic research and discussions on S&T policy, and to strengthen collaborations with domestic and international peers on AI, open science, climate change, etc.

Fourth, we will continue to expand cooperation network. CISTRAT will actively carry out cooperation and exchanges with other Category II centers and STI think tanks globally. We will deepen exchanges and cooperation with organizations and institutions such as the African Union NEPAD and the Egyptian National Research Center, and expand the network of Category II centers and the Belt and Road STI think tanks.





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