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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 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Outlook

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

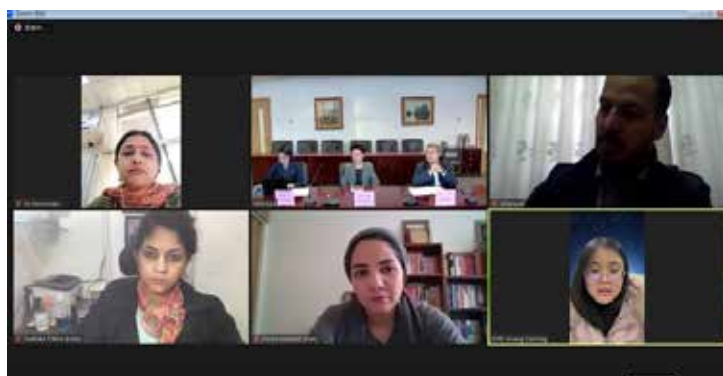
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In 2023, International Research and Training Center for Science and Technology Strategy (hereinafter referred to as “CISTRAT”), based in Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED), carried out international science and technology cooperation in accordance with the requirements of the renewal agreement signed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST). In line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda, CISTRAT did training and research on quality education, gender equality, climate change, open science, and global partnerships, which could be summarized as follows:

I. Work of 2023

1. Host training on science and technology policies for developing countries

In 2023, the 10th CISTRAT International Training Workshop on STI Policy Research and Method was held through the online platform of CASTED. Fourteen experts from Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Beijing Academy of Science and Technology, Shanghai Institute for Science of Science, the Administrative Center for China's Agenda 21, Kuaishou, Aliyun and other entities were invited to give lectures. The training workshop enrolled international participants from Pakistan, Iran, India, Romania, Nigeria and Cambodia, and provided courses on topics including international cooperation on climate change, science and technology finance, Global Innovation Index, science and technology system reform, science and technology evaluation system, strategic emerging industries, science and technology talent management, science and technology for poverty alleviation, and foreign exchanges on science and technology, etc.



We provided a lecture in the “Seminar on STI Policy and Strategy for Cuban”, a foreign aid training program of the Ministry of Commerce, PRC, and taught the trainees about the Chinese government’s STI planning and management system, as well as China’s STI strategy and development.



2. Focus on the integration of sustainable development and STI

The 18th Trilateral Science and Technology Policy Seminar themed “Sustainable Development and Scientific and Technological Innovation” was successfully held. The seminar brought together experts from China, Korea and Japan who exchanged views on key issues such as “Measuring the Current Developments of STI Activities”, “R&D and Human Resource Developments”, “STI and Economic Growth”, “STI Foresight and Future Societal Vision”, and “Open Science and Digital Transformation”.



We carried out international exchanges on clean energy and climate change. We attended the 7th China-UK Forum on Innovation and Development and delivered a keynote report on “Priorities and Cooperation Potentials in China-UK Clean Energy Technology Development”. It was pointed out that clean energy technology has become an important driving force in tackling global climate change. China and the UK attach great importance to energy technology development and enjoy enormous potential in cooperation on offshore wind power generation, hydrogen energy and carbon capture and storage technologies. We also put forward suggestions on strengthening China-UK cooperation in the energy field. We participated in the “China-UK Science and Technology Forum”, elaborated on the importance and necessity of China-UK science and technology cooperation in clean energy, conducted in-depth analysis of the complementarity and potential of the technologies and markets between China and the UK in three fields, namely offshore wind power generation, hydrogen energy and carbon capture and utilization, and put forward suggestions on strengthening China-UK science and technology cooperation in clean energy from the perspectives of basic research and commercial cooperation.



We attended the “BRICS Seminar on STI Policy and Foresight” hosted by South Africa, and delivered keynote speeches on technology foresight policies for developing countries and international science and technology cooperation policies to address major challenges of mankind.

3. Promote gender equality

In the keynote speech of the Summit on Female Scientists of 2023 Pujiang Innovation Forum themed “Exploring Boundlessness, Linking to the Future”, we introduced the construction of China’s open innovation ecosystem and the role female scientists will play in the future;



In the “2023 Women Science and Technology Innovation Pioneer Forum”, we interpreted the current practice and impact of China’s policies supporting the development of female scientific and technological talents, and put forward opinions on the direction and trend of future policies. Liu Dongmei, Secretary-General of CASTED, won the award of “Women Science and Technology Innovation Pioneer”;



In the “Women in STEM in Asia Pacific Discussion” hosted by UNDP, we introduced the participation of Chinese women in the field of STI, as well as China’s policies supporting the development of female scientific and technological talents in recent years;

In the Chinese panel discussion of the EU multilateral talks on “Gender Equality and Inclusiveness”, we discussed issues including the effect of China’s policies on promoting gender equality in scientific research in the field of STI in recent years;

In the “2023 Women Engineers Forum of CSEE”, we made a keynote report themed “Interpretation of Policies Supporting Female Scientific and Technological Personnel to Play a Greater Role in STI”, sharing the background, significance, implementation, social impact and controversy of these policies;



We contributed to the *Tutorial Book for the Outline of Women’s Development in China (2011-2020)*, providing articles like “Why should we vigorously cultivate female S&T talent” and “Why should we put forward the new goals to promote the development of female talents and improve the vocational skills of female workers”;

We recorded a video course of “Gender Equality Assessment of STI Policy” for All-China Women’s Federation (ACWF) to explain the background and necessity of carrying out this assessment in China, and introduced China’s practice of gender equality assessment of STI policy by taking the gender equality assessment from the *Specific Measures to Support Female S&T Talent to Play a Greater Role in STI* as an example.

4. Participate in academic dialogue and research on open science

We held the Belt and Road Seminar of the 2023 Pujiang Innovation Forum Belt and Road Seminar themed as “Create an Open Innovation Ecosystem, and Embark on a New Journey to Build the Belt and Road into a Road of Innovation”. International experts from Brazil, South Africa, Malaysia and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as domestic experts from CASTED, Qianxun SI, CICC Global Institute and other entities were invited to give keynote speeches. Member of the governing board, Professor Ana Célia Castro delivered a keynote speech. The seminar revolved around the connotation and cases of open innovation ecosystem, practical experience and achievements of the construction of the Belt and Road into a road of innovation, which provided inspiration and reference for expanding international scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation, optimizing the international scientific research environment, creating an open innovation ecosystem, and promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road.



We participated in the “Workshop on Open Science” organized by the EU and introduced China’s open science practice and related policies to other participating countries; conducted policy research and wrote policy consulting reports on open science; built a cooperation network on open science research and strengthened exchanges with all stakeholders in this regard.

5. Consolidate and expand the cooperation network and strengthen global partnership

Hu Shaofeng, Director of the Division of Science Policy and Basic Sciences of UNESCO, Ezra Clark, Chief of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Section of UNESCO, and Ai Sugiura, Programme Specialist for Natural Sciences of UNESCO Beijing Office visited CASTED. The two sides exchanged views on promoting cooperation in STI policy between UNESCO and CASTED and giving full play to the role of CISTRAT.

Yoslan Nur, Head of the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector (a.i.) at the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya, visited CASTED and discussed to strengthen scientific and technological exchanges with, and promote assistance and training to African countries.



We co-hosted the 2023 Top-level Science and Technology Clusters Forum with WIPO Office in China.



Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Founding Chairman of ECOSF of Pakistan, and member of CISTRAT governing board visited CASTED. The two sides exchanged views on the current situation and prospects of STI cooperation between China and Middle East countries, the flow of global STI talents and other issues.



Brazilian delegation led by Ana Célia Castro, Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, and member of CISTRAT governing board visited CASTED for exchange on topics such as technology foresight and its application in national S&T development planning, S&T finance policy, ethical governance of artificial intelligence, as well as China-Brazil S&T collaboration.

We participated in the “First International Forum on Higher Education” hosted by UNESCO Office Beijing and the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia and made a video speech.

II. Outlook for 2024

In 2024, CISTRAT will follow the mandate of UNESCO, earnestly fulfill its responsibilities in accordance with the terms of the renewal agreement and the spirit of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, actively strengthen training, exchanges, joint scientific research and partnership with other developing countries, and strive to enhance the ability and level of the Center's participation in UNESCO's work.

First, we will carry out training on science and technology strategies and policies for developing countries, especially Belt and Road countries and African countries, and hold the 11th international training workshop offline.

Second, we will participate in the 2024 plenary meeting of UNESCO Category II Centers and the meeting of Category II Centers of National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, further carry out cooperation and exchanges with other international and domestic Category II centers and STI think tanks through field study and academic exchanges, and expand the cooperation network of Category II centers and the Belt and Road STI Think Tank Network. We will prioritize the research and support on our cooperation with African countries.

Third, we will cooperate with relevant departments to prepare for the new round of agreement renewal.

Fourth, we will upgrade CISTRAT's Chinese and English website, present CISTRAT as a professional and international center, and make it an important window to support China's foreign scientific and technological cooperation and assistance.



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