



Work Review of Academic Divisions over the Past Two Years

Since the 15th General Assembly of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), which took place in Beijing from June 6 to 10, 2010, the Academic Divisions of CAS (CASAD) has achieved fruitful progress in various aspects. By relying on the standing committees of various divisions and all CAS Members, the CASAD Presidium and its special committees have endeavored to promote the advancement of a national think tank on science in a comprehensive way and the sustained development of CASAD and CAS Members as a group. An outline of the CASAD plan for development over the next five years was formulated, making clear its objectives and tasks, and opening up a new perspective for its future work. Consultation for policymaking has improved remarkably. Most of advisory reports have received attention from the central authorities, making significant contributions to the development of a scientific process for national decision-making with a good social impact. The role of CASAD as a leader in academic

development has strengthened remarkably. Its studies on the development strategy of academic disciplines have achieved important results. Academic activities of CASAD were well received by the S&T community for their sound scholarship and foresightedness. With support from CASAD, two academic journals, namely, *Science China* and *Chinese Science Bulletin*, and the Tan Kah Kee Science Award have noticeably improved their quality and social impacts. The development of a science culture has achieved initial success with continuously strengthened science integrity, the prominent role of CAS Members as a paragon of academic and moral excellence, and good progress in S&T ethics studies. Efforts have been stepped up in science education, international partnerships, and improvement of the CAS membership system. In general, CASAD has made a good beginning in the 12th Five-Year Plan Period (2011—2015), laying a solid foundation for its future development.

1. Improve the Quality and Impact of Consultation in Policymaking

Efforts are being made to strengthen the systematic planning of CASAD consultation, placing much importance on the advantages and features of CASAD, the enthusiasm and initiative of CAS Members, and cooperation and exchanges with governmental departments and other think tanks. Its advisory reports have received close attention from national decision-makers. For instance, as a result of a CAS and CAE joint study on aircraft engines and combustion turbines, our recommendation to launch a major project on the topic has been adopted by the government. Suggestions from a recent CASAD study on China's S&T system and policies have been adopted in government policies. Soon after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, CASAD implemented a research

project on scientific issues concerning safety in energy source exploitation and transportation. Its report received directives from State leaders, instructing government departments to carry out follow-up studies with CASAD. The handout series *Suggestions of CAS Members*, which contains recommendations by CAS Members through their own accord, has also attained importance.

In the past two years, CASAD has presented a total of 24 consultative reports and ten editions of *Suggestions of CAS Members* to the State Council or its subordinate ministries, and started 55 new advisory projects. They are concerned with various issues, ranging from sustainable development, such as energy sources and climate change, to the fostering and development of emerging industries with

strategic importance, S&T and education system reform, and people's livelihood. CASAD also extended its advisory services to local governments and businesses, evoking splendid responses. Frequent trips to the South and North

of the Tianshan Mountains, for instance, are undertaken by CASAD with support from the Xinjiang government. This program received high praise from the local governments for its contributions to local socioeconomic development.

2. Pursue Strategic Studies of Disciplinary Development and High-level Academic Activities

Studies on Development Strategy for Academic Disciplines (2011—2020), a project jointly launched by CASAD and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), came to fruition. Thanks to more than 600 experts, including 196 CAS Members, one general report and 19 special reports have been published, attracting enormous attention from the central authorities. Based on these studies, CASAD and NSFC reached a cooperation framework agreement on strategic studies of disciplinary development. With support from standing committees of various divisions, CASAD has started more than 40 research projects on the subject and is pleased with the

initial progress.

CASAD held its second Academic Conference, created a Forum on S&T Frontiers, convened nine symposiums, and ran ten sessions of the Forum on Technological Sciences. The Tan Kah Kee Science Award, jointly launched by CASAD and Bank of China, has increasingly widened its influence, with success in the selection of laureates in 2012, the creation of the Tan Kah Kee Young Scientist Award and the selection of its first winners. With support from CASAD, the quality and international influence of *Science China* and *Chinese Science Bulletin* have been greatly enhanced.

3. Keep on Promoting the Development of Scientific Integrity and Culture

To energetically promote science integrity, CASAD makes unremitting efforts in providing guidance with positive examples and giving full play to role models in academic and moral excellence. Activities were organized to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of QIAN Xuesen (Ch'ien Hsüeh-sên), a famous scientist and pioneer of China's missile and space program, and cooperated in holding a report session on the meritorious deeds of WU Mengchao, founder of China's hepatic surgery and winner of China's top S&T prize. CASAD also promoted success stories of other CAS Members, showing their advanced scientific thinking, high academic achievements and noble sentiment. To further enhance self-regulation, it has revised the *Code of Conduct for CAS Member Election*, and formulated the *Code of Conduct for Nominees and Candidates in the CAS Member Election*. The sense of honor, belonging and responsibility conferred with CAS membership was strengthened through a solemn ceremony in which the newly elected CAS Members received their certificates and signed a *Letter of Commitment*.

With support from the CASAD Program of Science

Culture Development, CASAD published *Biographies of CAS Members* and *Schemes of CAS Members*, and started the journal *Science and Society*, forming a publication series for a National Think Tank — Scientific Culture. In addition, a number of research projects have been kicked off on S&T ethics, scientific value evaluation, the history of CASAD and the history of scientific thinking. To advance science popularization, the objectives of its "Science and China" lecture tours have been more sharply defined, with more attention paid to social utility. The tours cover such topics as financial crisis, scientific development, emerging industries with strategic importance and scientific conduct. To mark the International Year of Chemistry, CASAD held a series of popular science events by teaming up with the Chinese Chemical Society and other organizations. Science forums were held in the Chinese Science Museum on Saturdays, and a Forum on Scientific Thinking and Decision-making was started at the Party School of Hubei Province. Furthermore, CASAD organized popular science and consultation activities by taking advantage of such events as Science Week and the World Expo.



4. Run CAS Member Election Smoothly in 2011 and Strive to Build CASAD into a “Big Home” for CAS Members

CAS Members conducted the 2011 election by faithfully observing the criteria stipulated by *Bylaws for Members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences* and the general interests of the S&T undertakings of the whole country. Sticking to the principle of being scientific, objective, fair and impartial, CAS Members gave due regard to the candidates' academic disciplines, ages, achievements, science integrity and conduct, firmly opposing all unethical behavior. A total of 51 outstanding Chinese scientists and nine foreign colleagues were elected into CAS in 2011.

To build CASAD a “big home” to rally CAS Members, CASAD will abide by the principle of strengthening contacts and promoting friendly feelings through warm-hearted, thoughtful and individually tailored services. We will constantly serve CAS Members in diversified ways and with good quality. It constructed a liaison and service network for CAS

Members and made clear the responsibilities of CAS branches in contacting and serving them. With support from various universities, a service network for all CAS Members has been established. With support from CASAD, a “green channel” has been set up in 10 top-class hospitals in Beijing to provide good healthcare services to CAS Members. Efforts were redoubled to service Senior CAS Members with enormous support for various activities of the Sodality of Senior CAS and CAE Members. In the Division of Chemistry, for instance, Senior Members were organized to participate in various activities concerning CASAD improvement, academic development and consultation. Many Senior Members set a good example in engaging in CASAD's academic and consultative activities. A rule of paying regular visits to CAS Members was also set up to strengthen ties with CAS Members, listen to their opinions, take care of them when needed and help them solve difficulties.

5. Accelerate Development of a Supportive System for CASAD's Management and Research

Facing new situations and tasks, the CASAD Presidium has decided to set up a Science Education and Popularization Committee to strengthen science education and talent training. A Group for International Cooperation and Foreign Members Affairs was also established to enhance the coordination and planning of CASAD in terms of international collaboration, laying a solid organizational groundwork for giving full play to Foreign Members of CAS. According to a decision of the CASAD Presidium, the Standing Committee of the Academic Division of Life Sciences and Medicine is making vigorous efforts toward the establishment of an Academic Division of Medicine. Thanks to its hard work, a consensus has been reached on

this issue. The work will be continued after the meeting.

A supportive system has been established to support studies at CASAD. In line with the objective of developing a national think tank on science, CASAD has set up a number research centers to support research at CASAD by teaming up with CAS institutes and research universities. These centers provide CASAD with literature, information and data for its research in consultation, development strategy for academic disciplines, S&T ethics, and culture development. They also replenish research forces in the field of social, economic and policy studies, greatly upgrading the consultative capacity of CASAD in a comprehensive way.