

A New CAS Institute under Construction in Western Taiwan Straits Economic Zone

Fujian Province, the starting place of the historic "marine silk road", is located on China's southeast coast, facing Taiwan across the Taiwan Straits. The idea of building the Western Taiwan Straits Economic Zone, mainly covering Fujian Province and the neighboring Zhejiang and Guangdong provinces was proposed several years ago, aiming to integrate the economies, transport, infrastructure, policies of the coastal cities west of the Taiwan Straits for competitiveness, social development, increased and strengthened economic cooperation with Taiwan. Therefore, the establishment of a CAS research institution is thought of great significance by its designers, the CAS and the Fujian provincial government, for the better development of the zone. On June 18, 2010, CAS, Fujian provincial government and Fuzhou municipal



CAS member HONG Maochun now serves as the head of the group on construction of the Haixi Institutes and also the director of the CAS Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter. His research interests include synthesis and property study of inorganic polymer, research on functional nano-materials including nano-molecule and inorganic-organic hybrid materials. Contact: hmc@fjirms.ac.cn





For mutual benefits, First Cross-Taiwan Straits Release Conference on S&T Achievements in LED Industry opened in Fuzhou City in 2011, on which occasion both sides cross the Straits held extensive exchanges.

government signed an agreement to jointly establish CAS Haixi Institutes (which is translated by the editor, not yet the official name of the co-op institution), marking the kicking off of the project.

According to the plan, in the following three years until 2013, other than the present CAS Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter, three new institutes, including Haixi Institute of Material Engineering, Haixi Institute of Advanced Manufacture Technology Integration and Haixi Institute of Power Engineering, and a S&T cooperation and exchange center for both sides cross the Taiwan Straits will be established under the new CAS institution.

The new institution will be geared up for the major national demand, world frontiers in S&T and the needs in S&T of the industries in the Western Taiwan Straits Economic Zone. More than a dozen of research areas will be opened, such as structural chemistry of functional materials, novel energy materials, integration and application of laser technology and advance dynamics, which altogether will include 48 research directions. Other than an original

innovation base, it's expected to grow into a platform for S&T cooperation of the mainland China and Taiwan.

In an inspection to the new institution in the last year, CAS President BAI Chunli emphasized, "located in a high-tech park neighboring the university town of Fuzhou City, Haixi Institutes should promote cooperation with institutes of higher learning both in education and scientific research, and retain top talents from home and abroad with hard efforts." "As always, CAS will provide the best supports for the development of the new institution in terms of policy, program and funds to secure a better future for its construction and management", he added.

In Mar. 2012, on the 10th meeting of the leading group of construction, CAS Vice President SHI Erwei and Vice Governor of the Fujian Province HONG Jiexu respectively suggested key development directions for the new institution. Timeline of the infrastructure construction, cooperation with local industries, rare earth research, joint development of a LED innovation base with Taiwan, and build-up of human resources became their main concerns.