

CAS Convenes 17th General Assembly in Beijing

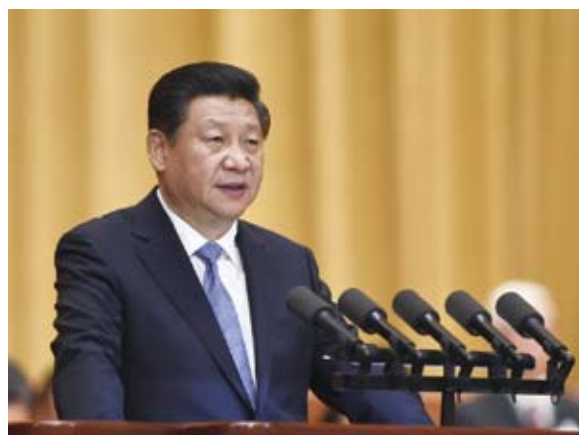
The 17th General Assembly of the Members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences was convened from June 9 to 13, 2014 in Beijing. 572 Members and 16 Foreign Members of CAS participated in the conference.

On June 9, Chinese President XI Jinping addressed the assembly's opening at the Great Hall of the People and urged independent innovation in science and technology in China.

"We should follow the strategy of innovation as an impetus for development. Independent innovation should be the essence of this strategy, and the most urgent thing to do is to eliminate the system and mechanism obstacles to free up the huge potentials of science and technology as the primary force of productivity," he said.

"We shall not dress up our tomorrow in other peoples' yesterdays," he warned. "We cannot always rely on others' science and technology to raise our own technological level."

During the five-day assembly, the participants examined the work report of the Presidium of the CAS



Academic Divisions, identified the major tasks of the Academic Divisions for the next couple of years, and passed revisions on the *By-laws for CAS Members*. Meanwhile, an academic seminar entitled "Addressing Global Challenges – Responsibilities of Scientific Think-tanks" was held, and the Tan Kah Kee Science Awards and Young Scientist Awards 2014 were presented to the laureates.

At the time of the assembly, CAS has a total of 743 Members and 71 Foreign Members. Together they are considered to be the top scientific think tank for the Chinese government.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the 12th General Assembly of the Members of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE). Founded in 1994, CAE today boasts a total membership of 802.



TKK Science Awards and Young Scientist Awards 2014

The awarding ceremony of the Tan Kah Kee (TKK) Science Awards and TKK Young Scientist Awards for 2014 was held in Beijing on June 11 during the 17th General Assembly of CAS Members.

This year's laureates of the TKK Science Awards are:

WANG Enge, professor of Peking University and winner of the TKK Science Award in Mathematics and Physics for his work on microscopic structure and property of liquid and solid water in confinement;

LIN Guoqiang, researcher of the Shanghai Institute of Organic Chemistry, CAS and winner of the TKK Science Award in Chemistry for his method innovation on studies of chiral chemistry;

XU Guoliang, researcher of the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences, CAS and winner of the TKK Science Award in Life Sciences for his work on the role and mechanism of DNA oxidation in epigenetic regulation of mammalian development;

WU Guoxiong, researcher of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, CAS and winner of the TKK Science Award in Earth Sciences for his work on the impacts of dynamic and thermodynamic forcing of Tibetan-Plateau on Asian summer monsoon onset and climate formation;

YOU Xiaohu, professor of Southeast University and winner of the TKK Science Award in Information Technical Sciences for his work on capacity-approaching transmission and distributed radio network for broadband mobile communications;

SHEN Baogen, **HU Fengxia** and **SUN Jirong**, researchers of the Institute of Physics, CAS and co-winners of the TKK Science Award in Technological Sciences for their work on the discovery of La(Fe,Si)₁₃-based magnetocaloric materials and study on related scientific problems.

This year's laureates of the TKK Young Scientist Awards are:

SUN Binyong, researcher of the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, CAS and winner of the TKK Young Scientist Award in Mathematics and Physics for his work on infinite dimensional representation theory of classical groups;

LIU Lei, professor of Tsinghua University and winner of the TKK Young Scientist Award in Chemistry for his work on protein chemical synthesis;

WANG Jun, researcher of the Beijing Genomic Institute and winner of the TKK Young Scientist Award in Life Sciences for his work on gut microbial gene catalogue and its relationship with the type 2 diabetes;

LI Xuelong, researcher of the Xi'an Institute of Optics and Precision Mechanics, CAS and winner of the TKK Young Scientist Award in Information Technical Sciences for his work on "matrix decomposition for big visual data analysis";

ZHENG Hairong, researcher of the Shenzhen Institutes of Advanced Technology, CAS and winner of the TKK Young Scientist Award in Technological Sciences for his work on acoustic manipulation and elastography imaging system.

The awards were conferred on the winners by Chinese Vice Premier LIU Yandong, CAS President BAI Chunli and CAE President ZHOU Ji.

Scientific Think-tank Cuts Administrative Interference

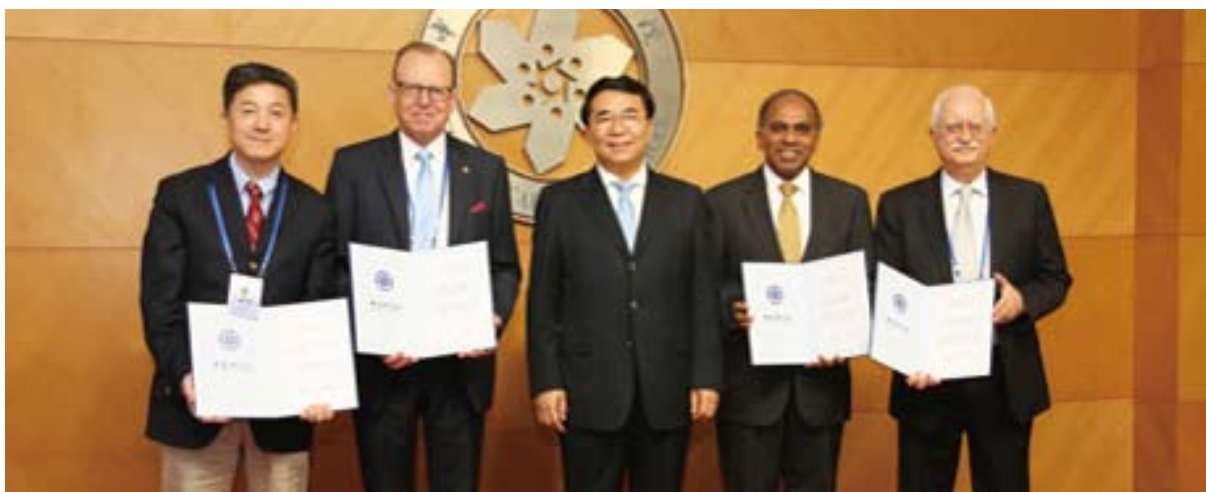
The Chinese Academy of Sciences has redrafted its charter to cut administrative interference in its operation.

The amended *Bylaws for CAS Members* was ratified during the academy's biennial general assembly in June 2014.

The new bylaws modified its previous edition, put



Laureates of the TKK Science Awards and the TKK Young Scientist Awards in 2014.



New foreign members receive their certificates from CAS President BAI Chunli (middle).

forward in 2008, on aspects including the nomination and exit mechanisms of Members by depriving governments, universities and enterprises of their nominating rights. Nominating rights are now limited to incumbent members and academic groups.

The move was intended to ensure that the selection of nominees is based purely on academic grounds. A lot of nominees used to be recommended by government departments, localities or enterprises, with many such nominations driven by the interests of administrators. A scientist with the title of “CAS Member” can bring substantial benefits to his host organization and represents the prestige of his university or institution.

The new bylaws also prescribed that the selection of new Members shall require a vote by the whole academy, rather than by just one of its academic divisions.

As for exit mechanisms, it is now stipulated that if any Member violates scientific ethics or research integrity, they will be “advised to resign”. If the misconduct is so serious as to imperil national interests or break the law, the membership will be revoked.

Established in 1955, CAS has amended its bylaws for eight times by far.

CAS Inducts New Foreign Members

On June 8, CAS held a special ceremony in Beijing to induct its newly elected Foreign Members. Prof. Subra Suresh from Carnegie Mellon University, Prof. Christian Amatore from Ecole Normale Supérieure of France, Prof. Flemming Besenbacher from Aarhus University and Prof. Shoucheng Zhang from Stanford University received their certificates from CAS President BAI Chunli.

They were among the nine world renowned scientists with outstanding contributions to China’s S&T development who were recognized by CAS as its new Foreign Members at the end of 2013.

Others include Prof. Aharon Ciechanover from Nanjing University, Prof. Jacob Palis from the Brazilian National Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics, Prof. C.N.R. Rao from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research of India, Prof. Xiaodong Wang from the National Institute of Biological Sciences in Beijing, as well as Prof. Michael S. Waterman from the University of South California and Tsinghua University. So far, CAS has a total of 72 Foreign Members from across the world. (From Sources)