

# “Per aspera ad astra”



Prof. Börner receives China's Friendship Award from Chinese Vice Premier ZHANG Dejiang (right) in 2010.



**Prof. Gerhard Börner**

Pioneer of CAS-MPG collaboration in the field of astrophysics. In 2011 he won the National Award for Cooperation in Science and Technology of the Chinese government, the highest honour bestowed on foreigners.

“*Per aspera ad astra*’. The Latin proverb fits well my experience of 35 years of work in the exchange program of CAS and MPG. In the winter of 1979 my Chinese colleagues and I shivered in cold, unheated rooms in our winter jackets. Now the offices and lecture halls are elegant and modern. The eagerness and high motivation for research have remained the same. Astronomy is not one of the fields of science that has immediate practical applications. But ‘in this ba-

sic science even a young student can make an important discovery which astonishes famous professors’, as one of my students once put it.

It has been a great joy for me to work together with talented young Chinese scientists, and to see them achieve high international recognition. Personal friendships have developed in the course of those 35 years, and the close experience of Chinese culture has enriched my life.” ◀