

Witness the Growth



Prof. Dr. Thomas A. Trautner (first left) sits as a member of the international evaluation commission for the first two leaders of the Junior Research Groups in Shanghai.



Prof. Dr. Thomas A. Trautner
 Director (em.) at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Berlin, member of the first international commission for the selection and evaluation of Max Planck Independent Junior Research Groups at the Shanghai Institute of Cell Biology (now part of the Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology under the Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences).

“I participated within the CAS/MPG cooperation in the introduction of Independent Junior Research Groups at institutes of the CAS. This activity is among the most delightful and successful experiences of my scientific life. The establishment of this scientific instrument in China was determined by its scientific success in the MPG – constantly underlined by Uli Schwarz – and the groundbreaking readiness of the leadership of the CAS to pursue novel avenues of scientific organisation.

During the three selection seminars for possible candidates between 1995 and 2000 I became convinced of the high mo-

tivation of Chinese candidates – often from foreign laboratories – to return to China for work. I also realized to my pleasure the development of the students in the audience of our seminar sessions from initial shyness to communicativeness to critical scientists. I am convinced that the Independent Junior Research Groups represented a crucial element towards China’s reputation of today as a leading country in the world in the fields of epigenetics and genomics.

Next to the scientific aspect the personal contacts in China represented a great pleasure – often resulting in still existing friendships.” ◀