

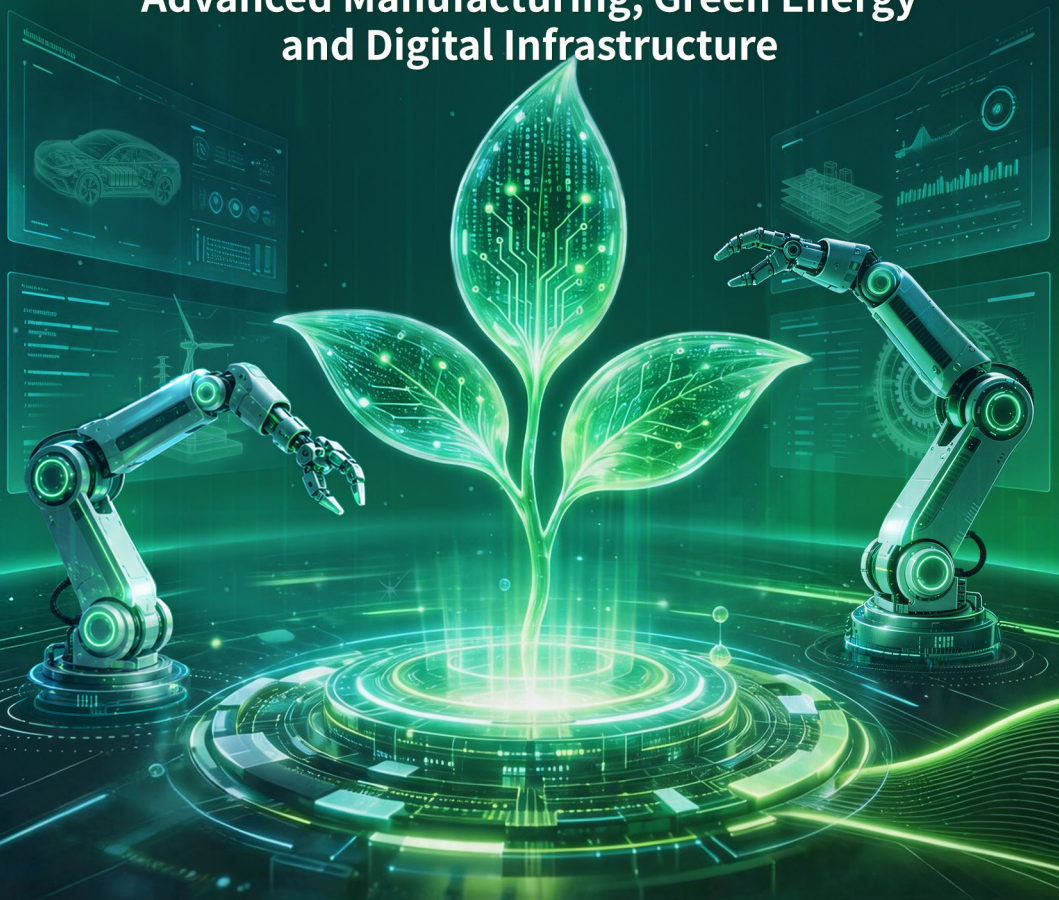


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CAST Newsletter

**CAST and ADWM Deepen Cooperation in
Advanced Manufacturing, Green Energy
and Digital Infrastructure**



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Headlines

CAST and ADWM deepen cooperation in advanced manufacturing, green energy and digital infrastructure

On May 26, 2026, CAST President Wan Gang met in Beijing with a delegation from the Academy of German World Market Leaders (ADWM). The two sides exchanged views on enhancing ties between the Chinese and German scientific communities and deepening bilateral cooperation in industrial technology and innovation. Luo Hui, Director-General of the CAST Department of International Affairs, also attended the meeting.

Wan Gang noted that China and Germany are important partners in trade, science, and innovation, with small and medium-sized enterprises serving as a cornerstone of bilateral economic and techno-

logical cooperation. He expressed hope that both sides would expand collaboration in advanced manufacturing, green energy, and digital infrastructure; promote mutual learning and people-to-people exchange between the scientific communities of the two countries; strengthen the foundation of China-Germany friendship; and contribute to the sustained and healthy development of the China-Germany comprehensive strategic partnership.

The German delegation highly commended China's achievements in digital transformation and new energy vehicles. They also introduced the development of Germany's hidden champion enterprises and expressed strong interest in expanding cooperation with China. The delegation reaffirmed its willingness to strengthen exchange with China's scientific and industrial communities and deepen

practical collaboration with Chinese universities, research institutions, and enterprises to foster innovation together.

(Source: Official website of CAST)

CAST holds review meeting on side events at 11th STI Forum

On June 17, 2026, CAST held a review meeting in Beijing on the side events it organized during the 11th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum). Luo Hui, Director-General of the CAST Department of International Affairs, attended the meeting and delivered remarks. Representatives of the CAST-UN Consultative Committees shared their experience in organizing the side events and outlined future work plans, while the head of the CAST-UN Consultative Affairs Office

presented a summary of the outcomes.

During the 11th STI Forum, CAST made full use of its special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It coordinated and mobilized its consultative committees to participate actively in the forum and organized a series of side events. These events showcased Chinese perspectives and solutions from multiple angles, attracting more than 3,000 experts, scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from around the world. They helped build broad consensus and generated recommendations to advance sustainable development.

The meeting emphasized that CAST's UN consultative work should remain focused on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other issues of shared concern to the international community, while contributing

Chinese wisdom through concrete actions. It called for upholding the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits; advancing the implementation of the Global Development Initiative; building international public goods and cooperation platforms that benefit the Global South; fostering greater openness, trust, and cooperation within the international scientific community; and contributing to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

(Source: Official website of CAST)

ECBAP participates in Global Future Higher Education Summit



Participants at the summit

On June 6, 2026, the Global Future Higher Education Summit was held in Shenzhen under the theme “A New Ecosystem for AI-Driven Industry—Academia Collaborative Talent Development.” The summit brought together more than 200 representatives from international organizations, governments, universities, and industry across 32 countries and regions to discuss the current state, opportunities, and challenges of higher education transformation in the digital and intelligent era, and to explore new pathways and models for AI-driven industry-academia collaboration in talent development.

Gong Ke, Chair of the African Engineering Capacity Building Program (ECBAP) Task Force under the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), was invited to speak at the summit. In his remarks, he introduced ECBAP, a joint initiative launched by CAST, WFEO, UNESCO, and other partners. He emphasized that capacity building for engineers is a critical link between educational transformation and sustainable development. He called for closer international collaboration in engineering education, professional training, standards harmonization, and policy coordination, while harnessing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence to reshape the educational ecosystem and cultivate future-ready engineering talent for global sustainable development.

During the summit, the ECBAP International Programme Office held

a working meeting with the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI). The two sides exchanged views on the co-development of online learning resources, collaboration on digital learning platforms, the cultivation of young engineering talent in Africa, and strengthening the global network for innovation in higher education.

(Source: Official WeChat account of WFEO ECBAP)

Academic Exchange

IHFCA and South African delegation discuss hydrogen cooperation



Delegations from IHFCA and the South Africa in a group photo

Recently, Wang Ju, Secretary-General of the International Hydrogen Fuel Cell Association (IHFCA), held a working meeting in Beijing with a delegation led by H.E. Paul Shipokosa Mashatile, Deputy President of South Africa. The meeting resulted in several practical cooperation agreements. The two sides agreed to deepen collaboration in four key areas: advancing green hydrogen demonstration projects in the transport sector, jointly developing international hydrogen standards, strengthening industrial tech-

nology cooperation and talent development, and establishing a regular cooperation mechanism. Leveraging the IHFCA's global industry network, the partnership aims to support South Africa in becoming a leading hub for hydrogen development in Africa.

Deputy President Mas-hatile emphasized that South Africa attaches great importance to the development of its hydrogen industry and regards green hydrogen as a key pathway for participating in the global energy transition and achieving low-carbon, sustainable development. He noted that the country possesses unique advantages for building a complete hydrogen value chain, spanning hydrogen production, equipment manufacturing, and end-use applications. He also expressed South Africa's desire to establish a long-term, stable partnership with IHFCA, drawing on international best practices to acceler-

ate the commercialization of its hydrogen industry.

(Source: Official website of IHFCA)

23rd World Congress of Soil Science focuses on soil and shared future for humanity



Group photo of the participants of WCSS 2026

From June 7 to 12, 2026, the 23rd World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS 2026), jointly hosted by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the Soil Science Society of China (SSSC), was held in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. Under the theme "Soil and the Shared Future for Humanity," the congress featured more than 130 parallel sessions, nine thematic sessions, and five workshops. It also included a range of supporting events, such as entrepreneur sessions and a soil science exhibition, providing a professional platform for soil scientists from around the world to exchange ideas and share research findings.

The congress highlighted a strong commitment to international collaboration. Yowhan Son, a member of the Korean Academy of Science and Technology and professor at Korea University, expressed optimism about strengthening two-way academic exchange between China and South Korea. He noted

that the two countries have significant potential for cooperation in food security, carbon sequestration, and emissions reduction, and proposed establishing a long-term mechanism for faculty and student exchange. Michael L. Thompson, former President of the Soil Science Society of America, praised China's rich diversity of soil resources and its rapidly advancing research capacity. He observed that China and the United States possess highly diverse yet complementary soil conditions, and that regular exchange and reciprocal visits could help raise the level of soil science research in both countries. Bruce Lascelles, IUSS President-Elect, identified soil-water interactions, soil biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture as shared global priorities. He also predicted that soil science would become an increasingly important focus of global attention over the next five to ten years.

(Source: Official WeChat account of VOC)

International Awards

CHOISE team with Chinese scientists wins Royal Society of Chemistry award



The CHOISE team wins the 2026 Faraday Horizon Prize

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) recently announced its 2026 Prizes and Awards. The CHOISE team, comprising researchers from nine institutions, including the National Laboratory of the Rockies in the US, the University of Utah, and Duke University, has been awarded the 2026 Faraday Horizon Prize.

Several Chinese scientists were among the members of the CHOISE team. They include Lyu Haipeng, Associate Professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Zhai Yaxin, Professor at the School of Physics and Electronics, Hunan Normal University; Chen Xihan, research fellow and Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Energy Engineering, Southern University of Science and Technology; Wang Jingying, Associate Professor at the School of Physics, Sun Yat-sen University; and

Pan Xinbo, an engineer at Favored Tech in Jiangsu Province.

The CHOISE team created a new class of chiral semiconductors that unify control of spin, charge, and light within an electronically active material system. Their work introduced chiral semiconductors into the field of spin optoelectronics, establishing a new research paradigm and enabling control of electron spin without the need for magnetic fields or magnetic materials.

(Source: Official WeChat account of the China Centre for International Science and Technology Exchange)

Chinese Academy of Engineering member Xu Jianmin receives 70th IMO Prize



Xu Jianmin (second from left) receives the 70th IMO Prize

On June 24, 2026, local time, Xu Jianmin, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, received the 70th International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize in Geneva, Switzerland, where he also delivered a prize lecture.

The IMO Prize is one of the highest honors in the

global meteorological community. Presented annually, it recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to meteorology, hydrology, and geophysical sciences worldwide.

Xu has pledged to donate the full amount of the prize to establish the MAZU Scholarship, which will recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the application of Fengyun meteorological satellites, early warning capacity building, and the joint development of MAZU, China's contribution to the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative. The scholarship aims to support an international cooperation platform based on joint development and shared benefits and to promote the wider adoption of MAZU in more countries. MAZU is currently deployed in seven countries and provides cloud-based services to users in more than 40 countries,

contributing Chinese expertise to global efforts in meteorological disas-

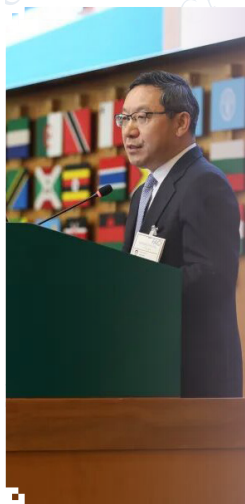
ter risk reduction.

(Source: Official website

of the China Meteorological Administration)

Scientist Profile

Zhang Ganlin shares China's soil governance experience at FAO Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



Zhang Ganlin is a fellow of the Soil Science Society of China and a research fellow and doctoral supervisor at the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences. He has long been engaged in soil geography research, conducting systematic studies on the formation, evolution, classification, distribution, and sustainable use of soil resources. His major contributions include identifying key thresholds in the formation and evolution of China's soil types and developing classification and diagnostic criteria tailored to China's soil resources, providing an important scientific basis for the precise management and sustainable use of soil resources. He also overcame key technical bottlenecks in digital soil mapping under complex natural and anthropogenic conditions, leading the development of China's first national high-resolution soil information grids. In addition, he developed an integrated modern soil survey system centered on digital soil information and combining soil classification, mapping, and inventory.

Zhang Ganlin delivers a keynote address at FAO

From June 17 to 19, 2026, local time, the 14th Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was held in Rome. Zhang

Ganlin, recipient of the 2025 Glinka World Soil Prize, was invited to deliver a keynote address at the opening ceremony entitled "The Art of Balance: Integrating Soil Productivity, Resilience, and

Carbon Sequestration." It marked the first time a Chinese scientist had delivered a keynote address at the UN's premier platform for global soil governance in this capacity.

Building a national soil database through decades of field research

China's soils are exceptionally diverse and complex. They exhibit both latitudinal zonation, spanning temperate to subtropical regions, and vertical zonation, ranging from lowland basins to the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau. Vast arid regions in northwestern China, together with the uplifted plateau landscapes, have given rise to an extraordinary diversity of soil types. Developing a comprehensive understanding of these soils is therefore fundamental to their effective management and sustainable use.

By 2001, the upper-level framework of the Chinese Soil Taxonomy had been established. However, achieving precision management and utilization of soil resources required a much more refined classification system.

"Just as plants are classified into kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species, soils also have a hierarchical classification system," Zhang explained. "The soil series is the most fundamental classification unit and provides the basis for precision soil management."

In 2008, Zhang launched the National Soil Series Survey and the compilation of the *Soil Series of China*, bringing together more than 400 researchers from 26 universities and research institutes across the country. The project marked China's first systematic nationwide survey of soil series, with researchers establishing comprehensive records for representative soil types throughout the country. To address the long-standing lack of classification criteria tailored to China's soils, Zhang and his team repeatedly refined and field-tested their method-

ology in diverse regions. In 2013, they established China's first diagnostic criteria for soil families and soil series, filling a major gap in the country's lowest-level soil classification system.

The project ultimately produced the 30-volume, 17.6-million-character *Soil Series of China*, creating the nation's landmark archive of soil series and establishing an authoritative reference for soil research, resource management, and practical applications.

Sharing China's soil governance experience on the global stage

At the 14th GSP Plenary Assembly, Zhang Ganlin highlighted China's latest advances in soil science from three perspectives. First, he noted that the global soil carbon pool is approximately three times larger than the atmospheric carbon pool, underscoring its pivotal role in

the global carbon cycle. Second, he emphasized that the goal is not simply to maximize carbon sequestration, but to achieve a dynamic balance among soil productivity, resilience, and carbon storage while safeguarding food security and soil health. Finally, as chief technical leader for China's Third National Soil Survey, Zhang shared progress in synthesizing the survey's findings, noting that they could serve as a valuable reference for global soil governance.

During the discussion session, Zhang introduced China's systematic efforts to protect black soils and improve the quality of cultivated land. Between 1980 and 2011, the organic carbon content of China's topsoil increased by an average of 4.34 tonnes per

hectare. These achievements have enabled China to steadily enhance its soil carbon sink while producing enough food to feed nearly 18 percent of the world's population using just 8 percent of the world's arable land.

Zhang's participation in the plenary assembly reflects the remarkable progress of soil science in China over the past century. The country has established a quantitative soil classification system, while Zhang's team has surveyed nearly 10,000 representative soil profiles and compiled the landmark *Soil Series of China*. In recognition of his pioneering contributions to digital soil science, Zhang was elected Chair of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII) under the

FAO in 2025. He also received the Glinka World Soil Prize for his groundbreaking work in soil classification, soil surveying and mapping, and soil resource assessment.

Reflecting on the award, Zhang remarked that the prize represented "a new seed," reminding researchers that scientific advances must ultimately be translated into effective policies and practical action. Through international platforms such as the GSP, China's systematic experience in soil governance is being transformed into knowledge and solutions that can be shared globally, providing scientific and technological support for the Belt and Road Initiative and South-South cooperation.

(Source: people.com.cn)

Upcoming Conferences

10th Asian Conference on Artificial Intelligence Technology to convene in Chongqing



To promote international academic exchange and technological collaboration in artificial intelligence across the Asia-Pacific region, and to provide a platform for researchers, scholars, and industry professionals working in AI-related fields, the 2026 Asian Conference on Artificial Intelligence Technology (IEEE CIS ACAIT 2026) will be held in Chongqing from October 30 to November 1, 2026. The conference is hosted by the Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence (CAAI) and co-sponsored

by the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society (IEEE CIS). Researchers, scholars, and industry professionals from around the world are invited to join the conference to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and advance innovation.

For more information, please visit the conference website: <https://2026.acaitconf.com/>.

(Source: Official website of CAAI)



For more information about the CAST Newsletter, please visit <https://voc-gj.cast.org.cn/>.

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