

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

and

Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation & Danish Universities

## Preamble

1. Noting the strong track record of collaboration between Chinese and Danish researchers and seeking to add value to the Chinese and Danish societies through the exchange of knowledge, technology and talent, the Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS), the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Danish universities agree to jointly develop a Sino-Danish Center (SDC) for Education and Research located at the Yanqihu campus of GUCAS in Beijing.

## Concept

2. *Research.* The SDC would provide a platform for jointly undertaking research activities and exchanging scientific staff between China and Denmark. It is expected that Chinese and Danish researchers at the center would collaborate on joint research projects including the design of experiments, analyses and interpretation of data as well as the publication and commercialization of research results.

3. *Graduate Education.* The SDC would provide doctoral and master's programs developed in close collaboration with researchers working at the center. The main teaching language will be English. All educational programs should be based on the latest knowledge in relevant scientific fields and employ teaching methodologies that encourage creative thinking, interdisciplinary approaches and innovation. Moreover, it is envisaged that close ties will be developed with Danish companies in China and local businesses in order to combine theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience.

4. *Training.* The SDC would – on a smaller scale – provide training programs to Chinese and Danish companies wishing to upgrade the skills of their workers and managers. These programs would be offered on a commercial basis.

## Scientific focus of the center

5. The center would span several areas of research and training, but would be non-comprehensive in its approach. The objective is to select scientific areas where Chinese and Danish scientific communities have complementary strengths or significant potential.

6. The collaboration between GUCAS and Danish universities will constitute the backbone of the center. At the same time, the SDC would be an open organization that maintains linkages with other institutions and research groups in the Chinese innovation system.

7. It is envisaged that the center on initiation would focus on about five scientific areas selected within the following fields: (a) Clean energy, climate and environment; (b) Health, biotechnology and life sciences; (c) Nanoscience and nanotechnology; (d) Information communication technology; (e) Agricultural and food technology; (f) Business, social sciences and innovative teaching

8. For each selected area a Danish and Chinese principle investigator (PI) would take the lead in developing the research agenda and the educational program in close collaboration.

From the Danish side all universities where relevant would be encouraged to contribute to each field in order to draw on several positions of strength.

9. The issue of IPR will be regulated in the partnership agreement.

### **Awarding of degrees**

10. Students at the center would be awarded double degrees. GUCAS would provide a diploma similar to that of its regular students. From the Danish side the degree will be awarded by the Danish university taking the lead in the specific scientific field at the center.

11. For all completed coursework students would be awarded academic credits in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The objective is to create good opportunities for transferring credits and studying a semester in Denmark or another European country.

### **The center's physical infrastructure**

12. The parties have mutually agreed that an SDC building will be constructed as a center for scientific research and education on GUCAS' Yanqihu Campus. Additional agreement shall be signed after detailed issues are negotiated on both sides.

13. The building would contain the administration of the programs, seminar rooms and a lecture hall, offices for researchers and lecturers, and temporary accommodation for selected international guest scientists. Students and staff at the center would be given access to GUCAS' general facilities including dormitories, the infirmary and canteens.

14. If Danish researchers are stationed in China as part of this agreement before the SDC building is finalized, GUCAS would seek to make available the needed office space and teaching facilities in the Beijing area.

### **Management of the center**

15. The center will form part of GUCAS and would be run in accordance with the overall strategic management of the institution. No legal status will be awarded to the center. Nonetheless, the center would have some degree of independence to develop an international research and educational environment in conformity with both Chinese and Danish academic traditions.

16. The center would be managed by a joint managerial committee. The committee will ensure representation of each selected scientific area and could be composed of Chinese and Danish researchers of high international scientific standing.

17. The day-to-day management of the center would be the responsibility of a principal director from GUCAS aided by a Danish executive director who should be a scientist of international standing.

### **Scale of the center's operations**

18. When fully operational, the center's total scientific staff in full-time equivalent is expected to be approximately 100 researchers and lecturers. Danish universities would be responsible for providing approximately half of the required staff.

19. Around 15 PhD students are expected to be linked to each of the selected scientific fields. Hence, the center would have a total doctoral enrollment of about 75 PhD students.

In addition, each master's program is expected to have an annual intake of 20-30 students, implying a total M.A. enrollment of 200-300 students.

### **Financing the center**

20. The SDC's realization will be contingent on significant cash and in-kind contributions from both Danish Universities, the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and GUCAS/CAS.

21. The parties aim for a balanced financial model where the Chinese and Danish side will finance an equal share of the SDC's total operating expenditure.

22. The SDC's educational activities will be fully financed by GUCAS and the Danish partners. Both sides would contribute to a basic level of funding for research activities at the center. Moreover, external research funding will be necessary from both Chinese and Danish sources.

### **Time line**

23. The objective of the co-signers is to conclude a partnership agreement by March 2009. This agreement would specify the SDC's initial focus in research and education identified with the involvement of relevant researchers in Denmark and China.

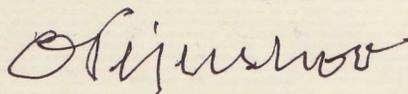
24. It is the intentions of the co-signers to launch research activities and PhD education in 2009 and master's education no later than 2011.

### **General provisions**

25. This Memorandum of Understanding expresses the clear intent of the co-signers but does not obligate GUCAS or the Danish side to go forth with the project.

26. The process ahead is subject to the approval of the Danish Parliament and the Chinese authorities.

27. This document is written in English and Chinese language, and both versions are equally valid.



Signature on part of the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation & the Danish universities

Ole Fejerskov  
Pro Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs, University of Aarhus; Special Secretary and Advisor to the Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation on co-operation with China

Date: Oct. 23, 2008



Signature on part of Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

Deng Yong  
Chairman of University Council  
Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences

Date: Oct. 23, 2008