

Panel discussion EU-China research collaboration, Moderator Bjørn Kaare Jensen, EWA

Monday 13 January 11:40-12:10

Panel members

- Chair: Bjørn Kaare Jensen – EWA, European Water Association
- Prof. Joachim Fettig – TH-OWL – University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Germany
- Prof. Roland Kallenborn – NMBU, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway
- Tao Li – IWA, International Water Association, China

Jensen – How to incorporate China in the Horizon Europe programme? China Europe Water Platform & Indian water partnership will be mentioned in a strategic document for both Horizon and Erasmus+ programmes. Positive for the future.

Panel members introduce themselves and their experience with Chinese collaborations

Joachim Fettig

- First experience in 1990's – EU delegation to Shanghai, applied for projects. Outcome – 1-year fellowship for Chinese experts to Germany
- Since then, collaborations that cover all research areas TH-OWL covers in Germany
- Can now find many research groups in China for our topics
- It is easy to find partners, more difficult to find funding
- TH-OWL is a small university, so happy to participate, but maybe too small to coordinate

Roland Kallenborn

- 25 years of experience of arctic research
- Have worked with several institutions in China
- 3 years of work with HiT as main partner
- Have noticed an increasing interest from China regarding research collaboration the last 7 years
- Most of the collaborations have developed from personal contacts
- Most of the funding is from Norwegian funding agencies
- A close collaboration with China is beneficial for everyone

Tao Li

- IWA
- Water Reuse Conference
- IWA China as a gateway to China – to find partners for collaboration in China (PIANO-project)
- IWA China wishes to facilitate research collaboration
- Chinese specialists are encouraged to participate in expert groups, IWA has 50 research groups related to water, more Chinese participants in managing committees etc.
- China is the biggest market for water research and water
- Ministry of Science and Technology – encourage collaboration, will fund Chinese partners separately

Bjørn Kaare Jensen

- keep pressure on funding agencies to provide funding for EU-Chinese collaboration – goes both ways. China needs access to Horizon-programmes
- Bilateral programs
- Learn so much from the Chinese – a different mindset to European, not as risk-averse as Europeans in terms of technological implementation

Questions from the audience

Q: Vojtech Kouba – How do you measure the success of collaborations?

A: Roland Kallenborn: Mutual trust, amount of joint research projects, publications rates

Q: Torleiv Bilstad – Can you elaborate on difference of mindset between Europe and China?

A: Bjørn Kaare Jensen: Bring home new ideas to move forward, new technological ideas are tested by the Chinese because they have funding, they have a “everything can be done” mindset. In Denmark/Europe it usually has to be known and safe ideas in order to secure funding.

A: Joachim Fettig: IWA Leading Edge conference in Nanjing, same impression as Jensen, no limit in thinking and doing

A: Bjørn Kaare Jensen: suggestions I received in China developed, after a while, into a project application with the Danish Innovation Fund

Johannes Lohaus – SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals

- Collaboration is very important in order to achieve the SDGs

Closing remarks Bjørn Kaare Jensen – important to keep pressure on the funding agencies and Horizon programme committee members, in both EU and China, it is important to continue the research collaborations between Europe and China.