

A Consensus among EU and China on GIES and Education

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The 9th Joint Management Committee Meeting of the China Denmark Research and Education Center in Denmark, and the dialogue between EU and China scholars on Geographical Indications Environment & Sustainability (GIES) was held from May 27 to June 3, 2024. A consensus on methodology and technology on GIES and its application had been reached.

The GIES methodology and technology was developed by Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR-CAS). A delegation from IGSNRR-CAS participated the joint meeting. They were: Professor Wang, Shenglin, lead of the delegation and Deputy Director General of IGSNRR-CAS, Professor Wang, Zhenbo, Director of Department of Education, Professor Song, Xianfang, representative in the cooperation on water and environment between China-Denmark, Professor Liu, Chuang, GIES team leader in Science and Technology, Professor Liang, Tao, in water and environment and Ms. Li, Limin, secretary of the GIES initiative.

1 The 9th Joint Meeting of China Denmark Research and Education Center

The 9th Joint Meeting of China Denmark Research and Education Center was held in Copenhagen, Professor Morten Laughesen, Executive Director of the China Denmark Research and Education Center chaired the meeting (Figure 1). Mr. Qin, Jie, representative of the Chinese Embassy in Denmark, Mr. Mikkel Leihardt, Director of Higher Education and Science and Technology of Denmark, Mr. Henrik C. Wegener, President of the University of Copenhagen, Mr. Thomas Bjørnholm, Department of Natural Sciences of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences, Mr. Zhou, Qi, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and President of the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences delivered their speeches at the opening ceremony. They highly credited the China Denmark science and education cooperation and achievements of China Denmark Research and Education Center over the

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years.

Under the theme of Green Transformation—Opportunities for China-Denmark Cooperation, scholars from China and Denmark conducted discussions and academic exchanges in the following five subgroups: water and environment, nanoscience and technology, life sciences, social sciences, and food safety and health. Professor Wang, Yanfen, Vice President of the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dr. Guo, Zhengtang, Director of the Earth Science Department of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Professor Tan, Weihong, Director of the Hangzhou Medical Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as well as more than 120 Chinese scholars from the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Beijing Genome Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (the National Bioinformatics Center), the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, the Research Center for Biological Environment, the Institute of Biophysics, the Center for Excellence and Innovation in Brain Science and Governance Technology, the IGSNRR-CAS, Jinan University, Copenhagen University of Denmark, and Aarhus University).

At the academic seminar in the field of water and environment, Professor Peter E. Holm, Professor Wang, Shenglin and Professor Wang, Zhenbo summaries the China-Denmark cooperation during the last year. Following the Framework Foundation of China-Denmark Cooperation—China Denmark Green Joint Work Program (2023–2026), Professor Wang reported the progress of graduate enrollment, training, and international academic exchanges of IGSNRR-CAS. Afterwards, both sides held academic discussions on water and environmental issues and cooperation further (Figure 2).

The main topics discussed include:

- (1) Land aquatic environment and its management.
- (2) Solutions for urban groundwater management.
- (3) Progress in research on terrestrial ecosystems.
- (4) Innovation of research methods and solutions.

Through discussion, both sides unanimously agreed to have an implementation action roadmap of the China-Denmark Green Joint Work Plan (2023–2026), which was jointly formulated by the ministers of China and Denmark in November 2021 based on the China Denmark Science Research and Education Center. Key areas of cooperation include: (1) climate and energy; (2) environment and water resources; (3) green shipping and green maritime technology; (4) improving the quality and sustainability of food and agriculture; (5) improving public health; (6) strengthening



Figure 1 The 9th Joint Meeting of China Denmark Research and Education Center



Figure 2 Photo of the academic seminar on water and environment in China-Denmark cooperation

economic relations; (7) science and technology. The IGSNRR-CAS, Copenhagen University, Denmark and Aarhus University reached a consensus on cooperation on GIES (Figure3, 4).



Figure 3 Professor Peter E. Holm from the University of Copenhagen, convener of the “Water and Environment” group at the China-Denmark Research and Education Center in Denmark



Figure 4 Professor Song, Xianfang, Convener of the Chinese side of the “Water and Environment” group at the China-Denmark Research and Education Center.



Figure 5 The delegation visited the Copenhagen Climate Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme

May 30, 2024, the IGSNRR-CAS delegation visited the Copenhagen Climate Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Figure 5). Dr. Chen, Zhuolun, Dr. Xu, Xiaozhen, Dr. Gao, Jingjing, and Ms. Zhang, Xinyi from UNEP participated the meeting. Dr. Chen, Zhuolun said that the Copenhagen Climate Centre of UNEP expressed his great interest in climate change studies in China and the implementation of GIES, which could balance environment and development. A common understanding for the cooperation was made on global climate change, model construction, data sharing, sustainable development, and GIES cases.

2 Academic Seminar of the IGSNRR-CAS and Ghent University in Belgium

May 31, 2024, the academic seminar of IGSNRR-CAS and Ghent University in Belgium were held in Ghent University. Professor Isabel van Driessche (Figure 6), Dean of the School of Sciences at Ghent University, Mr. Andries Verspeeten, Director of International Cooperation, Professor Philippe De Maeyer (Figure 7) of Department of Geography and Fellow of the Belgian Academy of Sciences, Professor Peter Goethals of Department of Animal and Water Ecology at the School of Biological Science and Engineering, Professors Haosheng Huang, Amaury Frankl, Kwinen van Weverberg, Alain De Wulf, Veerle van Eetvelde, Maite Dewinter, Marc De Batist, and postdoctoral and doctoral students from the Department of Geography, attended the meeting (Figure 8). Ghent University had established international program, a number of students from China was increased year by

year. In 2023, there were 888 students from China, accounting for two-thirds of



Figure 6 Isabel van Driessche, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences at Ghent University at the seminar



Figure 7 Professor Philippe De Maeyer, academician of the Belgian Academy of Sciences at the seminar

the total international students in the university.

Professor Philippe De Maeyer, the Associate Chief Editor of the *Journal of Global Change Data & Discovery* and the *Digital Journal of Global Change Data Repository* and Co-Chair the GIES Task Group of the Data Committee of International Science Council had a very good cooperation with Professor Liu, Chuang in these activities. Professors Wang, Shenglin and Philippe De Maeyer of Ghent University had extensive exchanges with each other in the field of international mapping, GIS artificial intelligence, global change and sustainable development, especially in GIES. Both agreed to further develop scientific and technological cooperation in the areas of geographical indication products and habitat standards, information sharing, and artificial intelligence applications within the framework of the EU-China Geographical Indication Agreement (Figure 9).

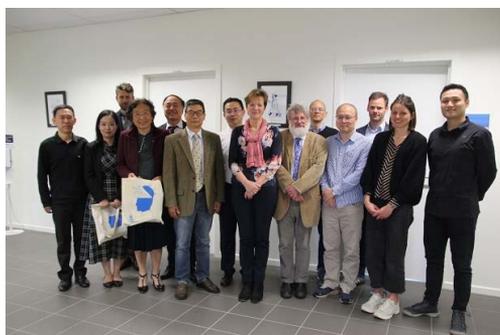


Figure 8 Group photo of the joint meeting at Ghent University, Belgium



Figure 9 Professor Wang, Shenglin, and Professor Isabel van Driessche reached a consensus on the cooperation between IGSNRR-CAS and Ghent University on GIES and education

3 Dialogue between IGSNRR-CAS and the Department of Agricultural of EU

The IGSNRR-CAS delegation invited the Department of Agriculture of EU in the afternoon of May 31. Ms. Raimondo Serra, Representative of Asia Pacific Affairs, and Mr. Georges

Henry Carrard, Officer of China Affairs of the Department of Agricultural of EU and Professor Philippe De Maeyer jointed the meeting (Figure 10, 11).

Professor Liu, Chuang introduced how geographical sciences and big data and internet of things technology promoted the implementation of the EU China GI Agreement. She said that in order to implement the EU China GI agreement, IGSNRR-CAS launched the GIES (Geographical Indications Environment and Sustainability) 2021–2030 initiative with open science principles, and created a GIES package. The 17 GIES cases and best practices from China were successful made during the last three years, some of them were listed at the EU China GI Agreement. Professor Philippe De Maeyer introduced the progress of cooperation between Ghent University and China. He pointed out that promoting the implementation of the EU China GI Agreement was important part of the cooperation in Ghent University. Ms. Raimondo Serra and Mr. Georges Henry Carrard said the GIES methodology was a highlight of the EU China GI Agreement implementation, they appreciated IGSNRR-CAS contributing to the Agreement implementation and will make arrangement to enhance S&T cooperation between EU and China.



Figure 10 Photo of EU-China GI Agreement meeting on science and technology



Figure 11 Group photo of EU-China GI meeting on science and technology

A detail work plan for implantation of the EU-China GI Agreement in science and technology was discussed on June 1st at Ghent University, including the agenda for GIES technology transformation and capacity building in 2024 and 2025.