

## The Second Belt and Road Forum for Young Scientists and The Belt and Road Innovation and Investment Summit for Global Enterprises Held in Chengdu



The Second Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange was held in Chengdu, China, from 11-12 June, 2025. The representatives from over 100 countries and organizations attended the event. As a side event of the Conference, the Belt and Road Forum for Young Scientists was held on 11 June, hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the People's Government of Sichuan Province, and Chongqing Municipal People's Government, and co-organized by 10 units including ANSO and Department of Science and Technology of Sichuan Province. The Forum aimed to promote extensive and in-depth exchanges on mutually beneficial cooperation between young scientists from China and BRI partner countries.

The Forum commenced with opening remarks delivered by Prof. He Hongping, Vice President of CAS and Vice President of ANSO, Mr. Jin Lei, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee, Director of the Organization Department, Prof. M. Qasim Jan, former President and Member of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Founding Vice President of ANSO, and Prof. Sukit Limpijumnon, President of ANSO and President of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand.

During the keynote speech session, Prof. Cui Peng, Chief Scientist from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), CAS, expounded on "Silk Road:

Disaster, Risk and Management". He introduced the current situation of disasters at home and abroad, as well as disaster prevention technologies, and elaborated on the importance of disaster risk assessment and the possible challenges to be faced in the future.

The thematic speeches session featured three speakers: Prof. Aminjon Gulakhmadov from the Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower, and Ecology (IWPHE), National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan (NAST); Mr. Melkamu Demelash from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR); Prof. Wan Tao from Wuhan Botanical Garden (WBG), CAS. Each of the speakers shared their research and insight into the key fields of sustainable development.

The panel discussion comprised two sessions: "Collaboration in Science and Technology for a Shared and Sustainable Future" and "Career Development and Cross-Cultural Exchange." Each of the panel discussions involved young scientists from different cultural backgrounds sharing their views on the future of scientific and technological collaboration.

On 11 June, Prof. Bai Chunli, Founding President of ANSO, attended the Belt and Road Innovation and Investment Summit for Global Enterprises and delivered a speech. The summit was co-hosted by the Chengdu Municipal People's Government and the Sichuan Provincial Department of Science and Technology, with support from the ANSO Secretariat and the Chengdu Municipal Bureau of Science and Technology. As a side event of the Second Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange, the summit intended to accelerate the transformation of scientific and technological achievements and promote industrial development through global resource integration.

At the event, ANSO officially launched the Alliance of National and ANSO International Innovative Enterprises for the Belt and Road Regions. Centered on "Smart City Technology



Governance," the Alliance seeks to offer systematic solutions for Belt and Road partner countries and serve as a bridge linking laboratory research with industrial application.

## ANSO Research Projects

# ANSO-Funded Projects Endorsed as IDSSD Projects



**2024 • 2033**  
International Decade of  
Sciences for Sustainable  
Development

**IDSSD**, whose full name is the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033), was launched by a UN General Assembly resolution in August, 2023. It was adopted to harness global scientific cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In October, 2023, UNESCO issued a global call for proposals for its programs. Currently, several initiatives funded by ANSO were officially recognized in the current IDSSD selections, highlighting the global scientific community's efforts to accelerate progress toward the SDGs. They are:



The International Program for Sustainable Development of the Aral Sea Region (Aral Sea International Program)



The Association for Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Silk Road Civilizations Development (ATES)



The Global Vegetation Pest and Disease Habitat Monitoring and Risk Forecasting Program



The Integrated Water Safety Management and Projection of Extreme Events in International Rivers in China project



The Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge Services for the Global South and Case Sharing Project



The Mapping Asia Plants Plus (MAP+) initiative

# Visits from & to ANSO Members



## Romanian Academy (RA)

China

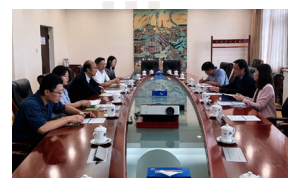
On 19 May, 2025, Prof. Bai Chunli, Founding President of ANSO, welcomed Prof. Marius Andruh, Vice President of the RA, at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing. Prof. Liu Weidong, Executive Director of ANSO and Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of CAS, provided updates on ANSO's latest developments, in the hope of encouraging active engagement with Romanian scientists. Prof. Andruh thanked ANSO and CAS. The meeting aimed to deepen collaboration between ANSO and the RA.



## Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

China

On 11 July, 2025, Prof. Liu Weidong, Executive Director of ANSO and Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), welcomed a delegation from the AIT, at CAS. The delegation, led by AIT President Prof. Pai-Chi Li, sought to enhance collaboration between ANSO and AIT.



## ANSO Delegation Visited Members and Partners in Nigeria, Senegal, and Egypt

From 1-7 July, 2025, a delegation from the ANSO Secretariat, led by Dr. Zhang Shizhuan, Deputy Executive Director, visited Nigeria, Senegal, and Egypt at the invitation of ANSO member institutions to strengthen partnership and explore potential cooperation opportunities.



## The National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA)

Nigeria

In Nigeria, the delegation of ANSO Secretariat visited NASRDA. A meeting was arranged between the delegation and representatives from NASRDA, and hosted by Dr. Rakiya Babamaaji, Deputy Director of the Department of Strategic Space Applications. On behalf of Prof. Dr. Matthew Olumide Adepoju, Director General of NASRDA, Dr. Abayomi Taofik Alaga, Director of the Mission Planning and Data Management Department, extended a warm welcome to the ANSO delegation. Dr. Zhang Shizhuan expressed appreciation for the hospitality and congratulations on the organization of the ANSO-sponsored Regional Training Workshop on Empowering Agricultural Extension Workers for Food Security in West Africa on 1-3 July.



## The National Academy of Science and Techniques (ANSTS)

Senegal

During its mission to Senegal, the delegation visited the ANSTS, a Governing Board member of ANSO. Prof. Mactar Touré, ANSTS President, and his colleagues warmly welcomed the delegation. Prof. Touré underscored the considerable potential for collaborative efforts between ANSTS and ANSO, particularly in joint programs, capacity building, and scientific exchanges.



## The National Research Centre (NRC)

Egypt

ANSO Secretariat met with representatives from NRC of Egypt, both a founding member and current GB member of ANSO, led by Prof. Dr. Wafaa Abdel Rahim, Dean of the Agricultural and Biological Research Institute. During the meeting, NRC showcased its research achievements and contributions to sustainable development. The ANSO Secretariat commended NRC's active participation in ANSO programs and activities. Both sides agreed to strengthen collaboration in key areas, including agriculture, medicine, artificial intelligence, and so forth.





## Opening of UCAS-ANSO-APRU International Summer School on Earth Sciences for a Shared Future



On the morning of 6 July, the 2025 UCAS-ANSO-APRU International Summer School on Earth Sciences for a Shared Future, which lasted two weeks, was inaugurated at the Sino-Danish Center, Yanqi Lake Campus, the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS).

The event was a collaborative activity initiated by ANSO and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), and implemented by UCAS. More than 60 international students

from 37 universities across 25 countries and regions participated in the event.

The ceremony was presided over by Prof. Zhou Yuanze, Vice Dean of the UCAS's School of Earth and Planetary Sciences. Prof. Lin Xiao, Vice President of UCAS, Dr. Yi Zhijun, Deputy Executive Director of the ANSO Secretariat, and Prof. Thomas Schneider, Executive Director of APRU, delivered opening remarks successively.

The event was initiated at a meeting between the Executive Director of ANSO and the Executive Director of APRU in Hong Kong in 2024. After rounds of discussions among ANSO, APRU, and UCAS, this joint event came into reality with the participation and support of several CAS-affiliated institutions. By creating a platform for academic exchange and cross-cultural experience, the summer school helps inject new vitality into cross-disciplinary international cooperation in earth sciences.

### ANSO Workshop

## Satellite-based Monitoring to Enable West African Countries to Achieve Agriculture Resilience: ANSO Cropwatch Workshop Held in Abuja, Nigeria



An ANSO-sponsored workshop entitled "Empowering Agriculture Extension Workers for Food Security: The Role of CropWatch ICP in Enabling Agricultural Monitoring and Stabilizing Food Productivity in West Africa" was successfully held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 1-3 July, 2025. Co-hosted by the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) of Nigeria and the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIRCAS), this event represented the first significant

undertaking after the official launch of the CropWatch Regional Center for West Africa, which strengthens regional cooperation in satellite-based agricultural monitoring.

Distinguished speakers at the opening ceremony included Dr. Rakiya Babamaaji, Deputy Director of the Department of Strategic Space Applications of NASRDA, and Dr. Zhang Shizhuan, Deputy Executive Director of the ANSO Secretariat.

Throughout the workshop, more than 80 participants from China, Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Benin, and other West African nations engaged in in-depth discussions on the CropWatch system, shared case studies, and developed actionable plans for regional collaboration.

The workshop concluded with a strong commitment from all stakeholders to strengthen partnerships and scale up the adoption of CropWatch technology across West Africa, ensuring a more stable and prosperous future for its people.

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