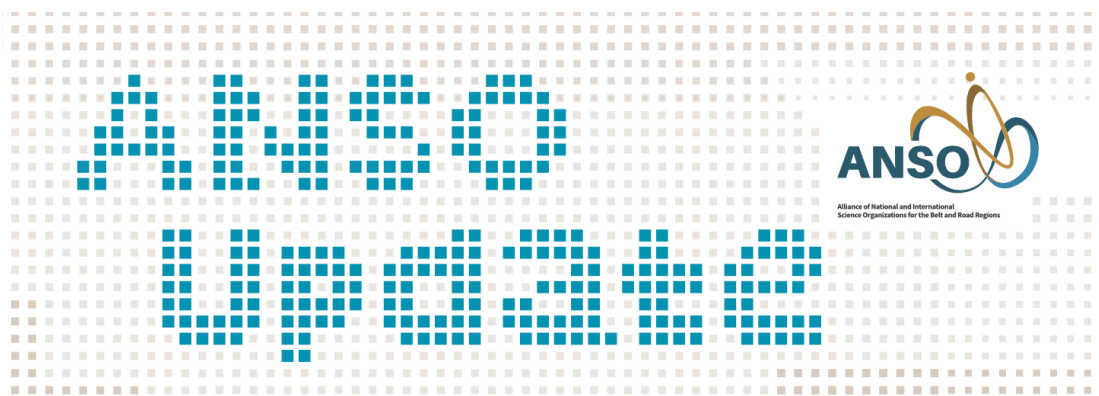




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ANSO in UNCCD COP17

At the invitation of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), ANSO participated in the 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the UNCCD in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, as an Official Observer. During COP17, ANSO organized three side events and released the ANSO Dryland Sustainable Development Initiative and two science reports, highlighting the role of science, technology and international cooperation in combating desertification and promoting sustainable development.



Side Events Organized

◆ August 18 | China and Mongolia Joining Hands for a Green Future

The side event “Science, Innovation, and Partnership for Combating Desertification: China and Mongolia Joining Hands for a Green Future”, organized by the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) Foundation and co-organized by ANSO and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), brought together experts and representatives from China, Mongolia and international

organizations to discuss desertification control and cross-border ecological cooperation.

Prof. LIU Weidong, Executive Director of ANSO, Acad. Avid Budeebazar, Vice President of MAS, and Dr. YANG Biao, Secretary-General of SEE, delivered opening remarks. Speakers highlighted the shared dryland challenges faced by China and Mongolia and the potential for closer cooperation. Keynote presentations showcased practical experience in desertification control, ecological restoration, and the use of big data, remote sensing and AI for land degradation monitoring.

The panel discussion brought together representatives from UNDP, WMO, ADB and MAS to explore research priorities, climate resilience, financing, and restoration of forest and dryland ecosystems. The discussion underscored the importance of linking scientific knowledge with practical action and strengthening cross-border cooperation.



◆ August 24 | STI for Rangeland Restoration and Combating Desertification

ANSO, together with MAS, the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), and the University of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (UMAS), organized the side event “STI for Rangeland Restoration and Combating Desertification” in the COP17 Blue Zone. Experts discussed the practical value of ANSO’s newly released science reports and ways to advance multilateral scientific cooperation under the ANSO Initiative.

Opening remarks were delivered by Prof. LIU Weidong, Acad. Demberel Sodnomsambuu, President of MAS, and Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Adviser to the President of Uzbekistan on Environmental Issues. Dr. Barron Joseph Orr, Chief Scientist of the UNCCD Secretariat, delivered closing remarks.

The expert panel agreed on the importance of expanding research networks, sharing monitoring data,

scaling up technology transfer, fostering youth exchanges, and coordinating multilateral activities to support sustainable dryland development.



◆ August 24 | Green Technology for Sustainable Rangeland and Livelihood Systems

The third ANSO side event, “Green Technology for Sustainable Rangeland and Livelihood Systems”, was held in the COP17 Green Zone. Co-hosted by ANSO, MAS, XIEG, UCAS and UMAS, the public-focused event brought together researchers, government officials and business representatives from several countries to discuss practical approaches to combining rangeland restoration with livelihood improvement.

The discussions highlighted the importance of science and technology in responding to livelihood-related challenges and implementing the five-action framework of the ANSO Dryland Sustainable Development Initiative. Experts and local representatives shared restoration practices and identified challenges requiring scientific and technological solutions.

The round-table discussion brought together experts from China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Japan and Mauritania. Participants proposed practical solutions and expressed support for establishing mechanisms for continued cooperation and exchange under the ANSO Initiative.



Initiative Released

ANSO Dryland Sustainable Development Initiative Released at UNCCD COP17

On August 24, Prof. LIU Weidong, Executive Director of ANSO, officially released the ANSO Dryland Sustainable Development Initiative: Multilateral Collaboration and Science Empowerment at COP17. Jointly developed by international experts and supported by ANSO members, the Initiative has attracted the participation of nearly 100 experts and partners.

The Initiative identifies key priorities for dryland sustainable development, including stronger regional cooperation, science-based governance, the use of digital technologies and AI, engagement of local communities and youth, and diversified financial support. It calls on international organizations, research institutions, civil society and other stakeholders to build partnerships and apply science and technology to advance sustainable development in dryland regions.



UNCCD COP 17

ANSO Dryland Sustainable Development
Initiative:
Multilateral Collaboration and Science
Empowerment

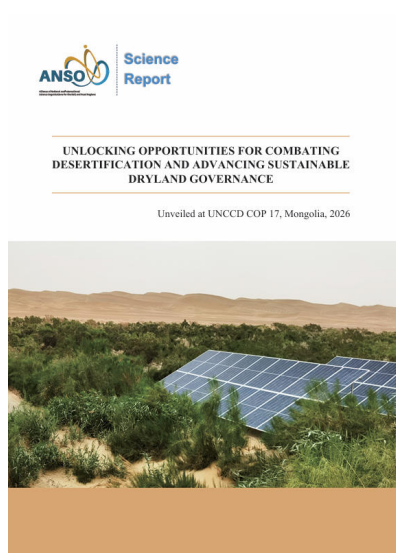
(Launched in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on August 24, 2026)

ANSO Science Reports Released

ANSO released two science reports at COP17: *Unlocking Opportunities for Combating Desertification and Advancing Sustainable Dryland Governance* and *Eurasian Grassland Change and Sustainable Development*. The reports bring together international expertise and provide scientific evidence and practical references for sustainable land management and desertification control.

Developed by ANSO in collaboration with XIEG, *Unlocking Opportunities for Combating Desertification and Advancing Sustainable Dryland Governance* examines governance practices from different regions and emphasizes closer links among scientific research, policymaking and management, as well as long-term ecological resilience.

Developed by ANSO in collaboration with UCAS, *Eurasian Grassland Change and Sustainable Development* assesses major degradation pressures facing the Eurasian Grassland and presents replicable restoration practices. The report provides scientific support for regional adaptive management and further cooperation on sustainable grassland development.



[ANSO International Network]

ANSO-ATES International Symposium on Silk Road Civilization and Environmental Change Held in Istanbul

The ANSO-ATES International Symposium on Silk Road Civilization and Environmental Change was held on 15–16 August at Istanbul University, Türkiye. Jointly organized by ANSO and partners from Asia and Europe, the symposium brought together more than 40 experts to examine climate change, environmental change and civilizational evolution along the Silk Road.

The opening ceremony was moderated by ATES (the Association for Trans-Eurasian Exchange and

Silk Road Civilizations) Co-Chair Prof. CHEN Fahu from ITPCAS. On behalf of the organizers, he extended a warm welcome to all the participants and noted that the symposium marked an important step in the implementation of the ATES Science Plan 2025–2030, moving from scientific planning toward program implementation.

Across four thematic sessions, experts discussed human migration, food and agricultural transitions, climate and environmental change, and knowledge and cultural exchange across Eurasia.

On the second day, participants identified three priority research topics and agreed on a preliminary roadmap and work plan for 2027–2028. The symposium establishes a foundation deepening the joint research on human-environment interactions, strengthening international scientific cooperation across Silk Road regions, and advancing the development of a global platform for Silk Road interdisciplinary research.



【CAS-ANSO Conference Program】

ANSO Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Green Development for CPEC Held in Pakistan

The ANSO-CPJRC-COMSATS International Training Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Green Development for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held from 18 to 22 June in Islamabad, Pakistan, with financial support from the CAS-ANSO Conference Program. More than 80 participants from Pakistan and other Global South countries took part.

Jointly organized by CPJRC (the China-Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Sciences), COMSATS (the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South), the UNESCO Chair on Mountain Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience, and ANSO-DRR (the Alliance of International Science Organizations on Disaster Risk Reduction), the workshop focused on disaster risk governance, climate change adaptation and green development.

As an endorsed activity of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033), the workshop combined lectures, case studies and practical training on disaster risk assessment, early warning, digital disaster management, climate action and low-carbon development.

The opening ceremony brought together representatives from UNESCO Office in Pakistan, CPEC the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Embassy of China in Pakistan, CPJRC, COMSATS, Quaid-i-Azam University, and ANSO.

Experts from China and Pakistan shared approaches and practical experience in mountain hazard monitoring, early warning, digital disaster reduction, ecological restoration and climate adaptation. Participants also took part in a dedicated session introducing ANSO and its capacity-building initiatives.

The workshop strengthened professional capacity and created opportunities for future collaboration among participating countries. It further demonstrated ANSO's role in promoting South-South cooperation and capacity building for for Global South countries.



Progress Meeting of CAS-ANSO Co-funding Research Project Held at the Institute of Zoology, CAS

The progress meeting of the CAS-ANSO Co-funding Project “Identification of antibiotic resistance profile on manure-treated agricultural and native grazing soil in Mongolia” (CAS-ANSO-CFRP-2024-08) was held on May 26 at the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The meeting brought together the Chinese and Mongolian project teams and representatives of the ANSO Secretariat.

The project teams reviewed progress in soil sample collection, microbiological experiments, gene identification, and soil analysis, and discussed plans for the next phase of research. The participants also exchanged views on antibiotic resistance characteristics and resistance gene distribution across different soil ecosystems in Mongolia.

This project aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, focusing on environmental health, sustainable agricultural development, and ecological security. By investigating the characteristics of antibiotic resistance and the distribution of related genes across diverse soil ecosystems in Mongolia, it aims to provide scientific support for the sustainable development of animal husbandry and agriculture, and contribute to the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.



ANSO at the Thailand–China Education Fair 2026

On 22 July, ANSO participated in the Education Fair of the Thailand–China Cooperation Expo 2026 in Bangkok, with support from the Chinese Academy of Sciences Innovation Cooperation Center Bangkok (CASICCB).

ANSO introduced the CAS-ANSO Scholarship and postgraduate opportunities at UCAS (the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences) and USTC (the University of Science and Technology of China). The booth attracted hundreds of students, teachers, and parents from Thailand and across Southeast Asia, who showed strong interest in ANSO scholarships and research opportunities in China.

The participation further raised ANSO's profile in Thailand and the broader region, helping connect more outstanding young talents with international scientific education and research opportunities.



ANSO Announcements

◆ Release of ANSO Annual Report 2025

The ANSO Annual Report 2025 has been released. The report highlights key developments in international scientific collaboration, global partnerships and sustainable development through science and technology over the past year.

Read Online:

https://www.anso.org.cn/publications/ANSO_Report/202606/P020260630556984004872.pdf

◆ Results of the 2026 CAS-ANSO Scholarship

The evaluation process for the 2026 CAS-ANSO Scholarship, including the ANSO-CAS-TWAS/UNESCO Scholarship, was completed in June. Official documents will be issued by UCAS (the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences) and USTC (the University of Science and Technology of China) to awardees.

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