

## **Agreement**

### **between Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China on the Joint Support of Sino-German Research Training Groups**

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With the common aim of strengthening the co-operation among universities in both countries in the field of doctoral training, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred as "both Sides") conclude the following agreement:

#### **Article 1**

Both Sides will support co-operation between universities in their respective countries through the joint training of doctoral candidates in the areas of mutual interest, including Life Sciences, Energy Technology, Computer Science and Technology, Materials Science, Business, Commerce and Management Studies, International Law.

#### **Article 2**

For this purpose, universities in each country will

1. agree on joint research and study programs for doctoral training in the context of Research Training Groups (Graduiertenkollegs) or International Research Training Groups. The joint research and study programs are to be based on the excellence of research at the individual research sites as well as the integration of complementary expertise. Two key features are the systematic coordination of bilateral research projects and the joint supervision of dissertations;
2. exchange doctoral students during periods of joint research and training in the partner country;
3. organize joint conferences and symposia on subjects within the field in which they co-operate;
4. exchange information, literature and research outcomes and develop joint research projects;
5. co-operate in other feasible ways for the benefit of doctoral training.

### **Article 3**

Both Sides intend to exchange at the least 20 doctoral students each year, in principle, for a period of up to six months. The appropriate duration of stay must be agreed upon by both the home and host universities.

### **Article 4**

The academic doctoral degree is conferred by the participating students' home universities according to their respective regulations. Joint degrees are possible.

### **Article 5**

The participating universities are responsible for the management and implementation of the joint programs.

Both Sides will give each other timely notice of new initiatives. They will consult and co-operate in advising the initiators on the preparation of their proposals. They are prepared to accept joint or parallel proposals and will strive to co-operate in the course of the decision process.

The establishment and funding of a Research Training Group in Germany or the German part of an International Research Training Group are subject to approval by the German Research Foundation on the basis of its peer review process.

The decision on the Chinese side lies in the Ministry of Education.

### **Article 6**

The sending side will cover the international travel costs of the doctoral students and senior researchers participating in the exchange; the cost of living and research in the host country will be funded by the host. Expenses for joint symposia, workshops, and meetings (including those necessary for the preparation of a joint proposal) will be shared appropriately by both Sides.

### **Article 7**

Both Sides agree that the working language for this Agreement will be, in principle, English.

Signed in Bonn on September 28th, 2003 in two original copies, each in English and Chinese. In case of different interpretations, the English version of this Agreement will constitute the text of reference.

The Minister of Education of  
The People's Republic of China

The President  
of the German Research Foundation of  
The Federal Republic of Germany

