

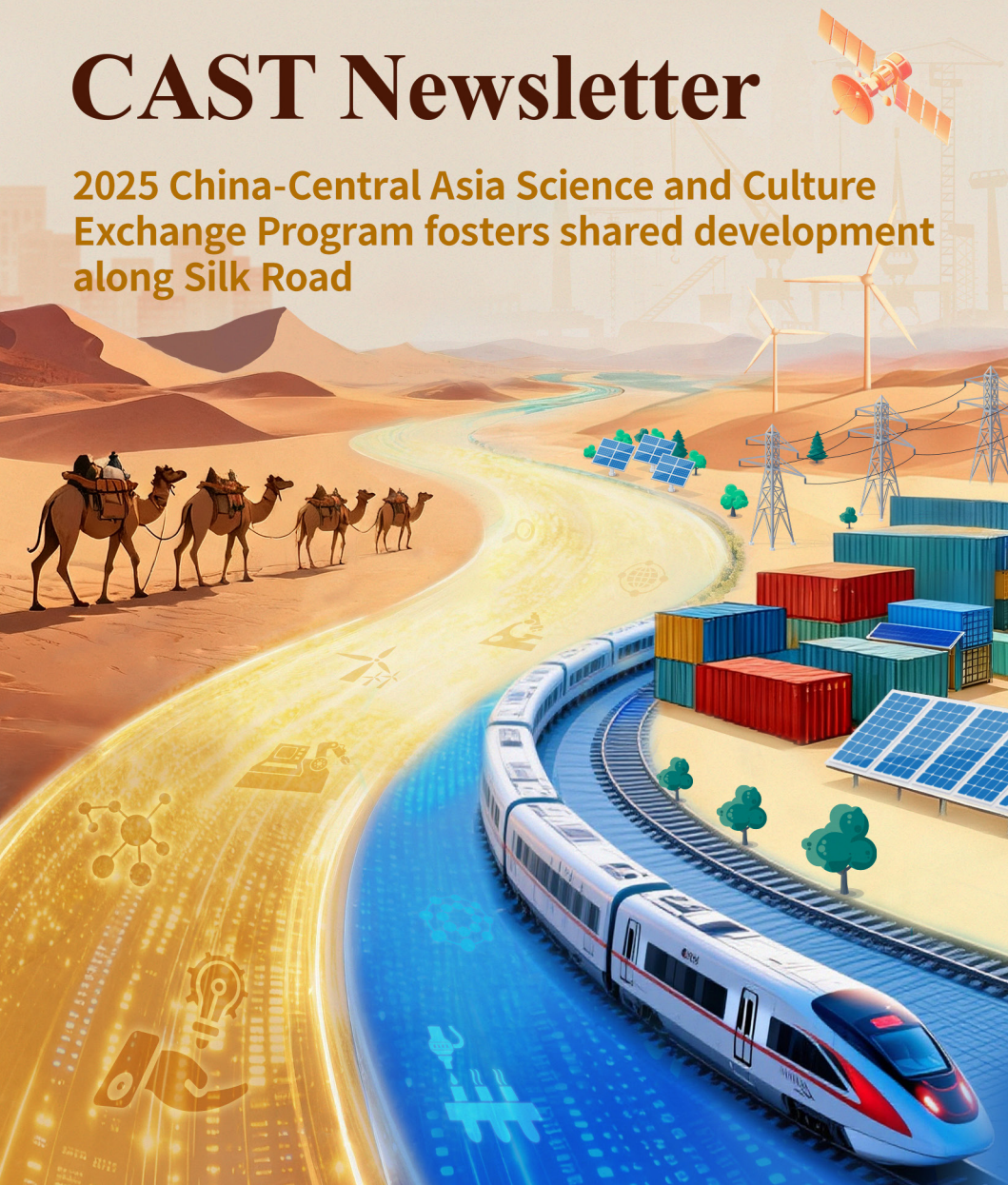


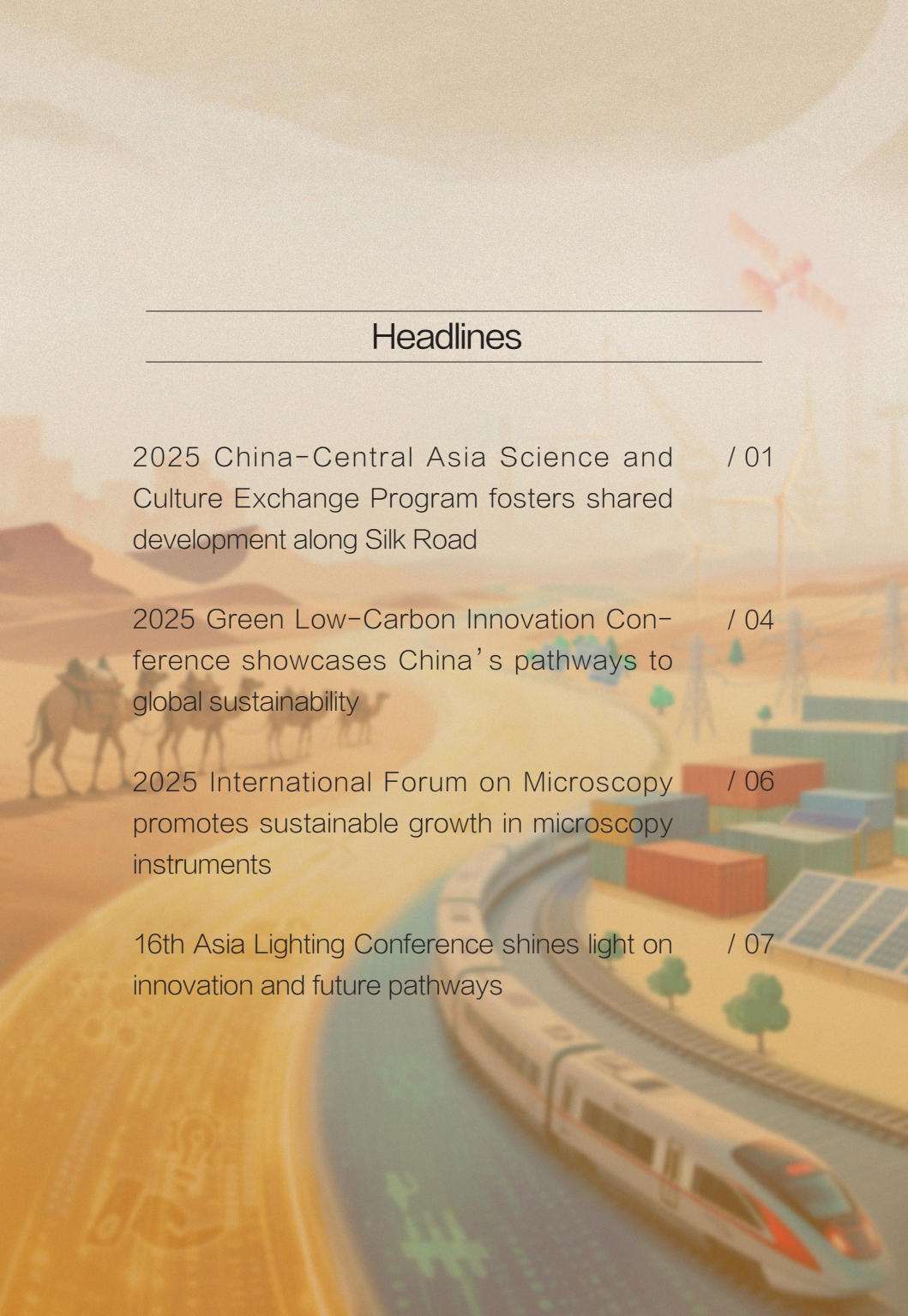
中国科学技术协会
China Association for Science and Technology

No.58
September 2025

CAST Newsletter

2025 China-Central Asia Science and Culture Exchange Program fosters shared development along Silk Road



The background is a stylized, warm-toned illustration representing the Silk Road. It features a winding path that leads from the bottom left towards the horizon. On the left, there are silhouettes of camels and riders. On the right, there are modern elements like a satellite in the sky, wind turbines, and solar panels. The overall style is artistic and conceptual, blending ancient trade routes with modern technology and sustainable development.

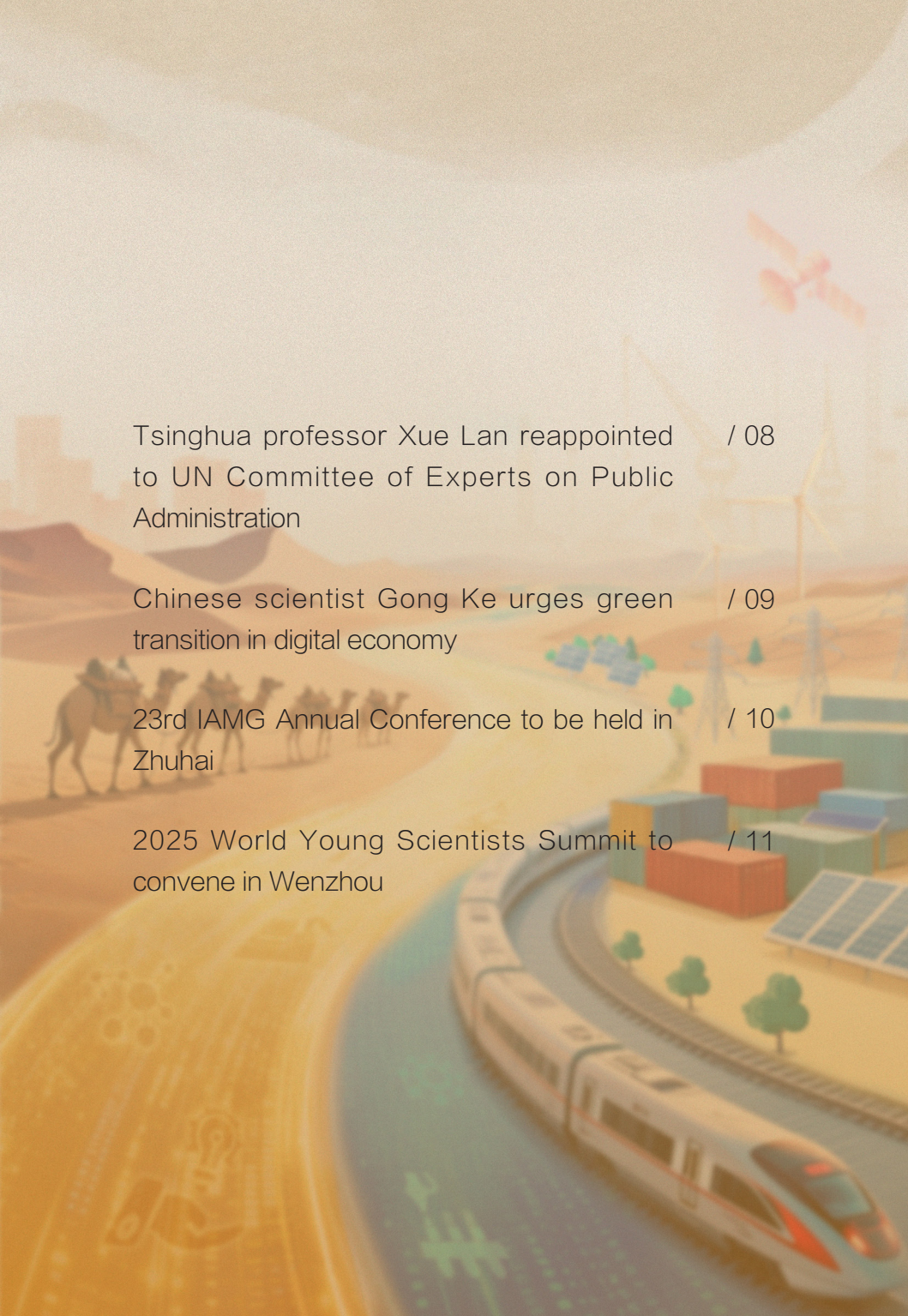
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Headlines

2025 China-Central Asia Science and Culture Exchange Program fosters shared development along Silk Road

On August 20, the 2025 China-Central Asia Science and Culture Exchange Program was launched in Urumqi, Xinjiang. Hosted by CAST, the event gathered around 200 participants, including representatives from international science organizations, universities, engineering and industry sectors, and youth communities from China and Central Asian countries.

Speakers at the opening ceremony included Luo Hui, Director-General of CAST's Department of International Affairs; Wang Chunfa, President of the China Science Writers Association; and Madaliev Umarchon, Corresponding Member

of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, alongside other delegates from regional science and education institutions.

Held under the theme “Pooling the Power of Innovation, Building a Shared Future on the Silk Road,” the program featured four key activities: the China-Central Asia Public Science Literacy Exchange, the China-Central Asia Young Engineers Exchange, the China-Central Asia Young Scientists Dialogue, and the 9th Belt and Road Teenager Maker Camp and Teacher Workshop (also known as the 2025 China-Central Asia Teenager Maker Camp). Together, these initiatives injected fresh momentum into regional science and cultural cooperation and strengthened people-to-people connections.

2025 China-Central Asia Young Engineers Exchange advances Belt and Road energy cooperation



2025 China-Central Asia Young Engineers Exchange
Photo credit: cn.chinadaily.com.cn

From August 20 to 21, the 2025 China-Central Asia Young Engineers Exchange, co-hosted by the Chinese

Society of Engineers (CSE) and the Central Asian Association for Accreditation of Education (CAAAE), took place in Urumqi. The event brought together more than 80 experts and young engineers from China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to explore collaboration in the energy and power sector, with the aim of strengthening engineering partnerships and supporting high-quality Belt and Road development.

Keynote sessions covered topics including engineering capacity building, innovations in high-voltage direct current transmission, and energy and power standardization. Participants also visited TBEA Co., Ltd. and Xinjiang University's Engineering Research Center for Northwest Energy and Carbon Neutrality for technical demonstrations and exchange.

During the event, CSE and CAAAE signed a memorandum of cooperation and launched sustainable career development resources for Central Asian engineering organizations, while sharing lessons from Chinese engineering projects. In addition, the State Grid Corporation of China and the Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering, together with institutions from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, jointly issued a proposal to establish a China-Central Asia regional power standardization organization.

China-Central Asia Young Scientists Dialogue harnesses ideas for greener oasis



2025 China-Central Asia Young Scientists Dialogue

From August 19 to 22, the 2025 China-Central Asia Young Scientists Dialogue, co-hosted by the World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS) and the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was held in Urumqi. Centered on the theme “Young Scientists Silk Road Dialogue: Intelligence for a Greener Oasis,” the event brought together 120 young scientists and representatives from China and Central Asian countries to explore regional innovation and

sustainable development.

Panel discussions covered topics such as “Guardians of the Oasis: An Ecological Dialogue Between Artificial Intelligence and Nomadic Wisdom” and “Oasis of Life: Cultural Reflections on Biodiversity Conservation.”

Participants jointly adopted the *China-Central Asia Science Cooperation for Sustainable Development Urumqi Consensus of Young Scientists*, which outlined three priorities: leveraging science and technology as a driver of progress, accelerating the adoption of future technologies, and establishing long-term safeguards. The consensus also called for creating a China-Central Asia young scientists organization, launching joint regional research programs, and establishing a regular cooperation platform to support collaboration in research,

projects, capacity building, and knowledge sharing for shared growth across the region.

The dialogue was included in the Action Plan of the Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting. It not only provided a practical platform for young scientists from China and Central Asia but also boosted regional innovation networks and sustainable development under the Belt and Road framework.

China-Central Asia Public Science Literacy Exchange opens new chapter in Silk Road cooperation



China-Central Asia Public Science Literacy Exchange

On August 20, the China-Central Asia Public Science Literacy Exchange was held in Urumqi under the theme “A New Chapter in Silk Road Science Popularization: Developing and Sharing High-Quality Science Resources and Services.” The event was co-hosted by the China Science Writers Association (CSWA), the China Research Institute for Science Popularization, the Xinjiang Association for Science and Technology, and the International Center for Science and Technology Cooperation in Kazakhstan. More than 50 experts, scholars, and practitioners from China and Central Asia took part, sharing

strategies to improve public science literacy and strengthen regional collaboration.

Roundtable discussions focused on two key topics: “Regional Integration and Sharing of High-Quality Science Resources” and “Regional Synergy: Innovation in Science Resources and Talent Development.” Participants proposed practical measures, including a regional science popularization database, new cooperation funds, multilingual science communication products, joint talent-training mechanisms, and greater exchange among primary and secondary school science teachers, thereby outlining clear pathways for future cooperation.

With their geographic proximity and shared cultural ties, China and Central Asian countries enjoy a natural foundation for collaboration. This event built a new platform for exchange

and cooperation in science popularization, charting fresh avenues for regional partnership and injecting new momentum into the creation of a closer China-Central Asia community with a shared future.

(Sources: Official website of CAST, official website of XIEG, and official WeChat account of CSWA)

2025 Green Low-Carbon Innovation Conference showcases China's pathways to global sustainability



2025 Green Low-Carbon Innovation Conference

On August 13, the 2025 Green Low-Carbon Innovation Conference was held in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, co-hosted by the China Center for International Science and Technology Exchange (CISTE), the Zhejiang Association for Science and Technology, and other partners. The event brought together nearly 300 representatives, including scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, and investors from international science organizations, leading universities, national societies, and green technology enterprises.

With the theme “Technological Innovation Supporting Green Transformation and Development,” the conference emphasized academic dialogue, industry

collaboration, international exchange, and public participation, providing a practical platform for cross-sector cooperation.

A special seminar, titled “Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains Are Invaluable Assets: Driving Sustainable Development,” examined the global significance of this guiding principle and its scientific foundations. Discussions addressed ecological civilization, accelerating green transformation and upgrading, and enhancing global ecological governance. The seminar also highlighted China’s achievements in advancing sustainable development while calling for stronger international cooperation to build a community of life for humanity and nature, aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Key outcomes of the conference included

the release of the “Building a Green Future” Global Initiative on Green and Low-Carbon Development and the launch of the Starlight Program for technology-based entrepreneurs in Zhejiang (Huzhou). The event also showcased local green transformation achievements and saw the signing of new projects.

Looking forward, the conference will continue to serve as a leading international platform integrating high-level academic exchange and industrial innovation in the green and low-carbon sector, contributing China’s solutions to global sustainable development.

Seminar on “lucid waters and lush mountains” concept highlights ecological civilization and global governance

On August 13, a seminar titled “Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains Are Invaluable Assets: Driving Sustainable Development” was held in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province. Hosted by CAST UN Consultative Office, the event brought together more than 50 experts and scholars from CAST UN consultative committees. Attendees included Luo Hui, Director-General of CAST’s Department of International Affairs, and Erik Solheim, former UN Under-Secretary-General and recipient of the 2023 Chinese Government Friendship Award.

Committee chairs Chen Jun (Land Use Planning and Geographic Information), Gong Ke (Information Technology), Guo Huadong (Disaster Risk Reduction), and Jiao Nianzhi (Sustainable Development of Marine Ecology), among others, addressed the theme of sustainable development. From green transformation and marine ecological governance to the use of Earth big data, they highlighted the scientific value of the “Lucid Waters and Lush Mountains” principle,

its significant contributions, and its practical applications in Huzhou and beyond. They also emphasized the importance of leveraging the UN platform to share the latest innovations, strengthen global scientific exchange, and support the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since obtaining special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council in 2004, CAST has actively promoted China's scientific community in global governance and UN initiatives. This seminar marked another step in deepening international cooperation on ecological civilization, advancing modernization that harmonizes humanity and nature, and putting into practice the vision of a community with a shared future for humanity. During the event, CAST officially launched its UN Consultative Committees on

Land Use Planning and Geographic Information and on Sustainable Development of Marine Ecology.

(Sources: Official website of CAST and people.com.cn)

Academic Exchange

2025 International Forum on Microscopy promotes sustainable growth in microscopy instruments



2025 International Forum on Microscopy

From August 8 to 10, the 2025 International Forum on Microscopy (IFM 2025), co-hosted by the China Instrument and Control Society (CIS) and Harbin Institute of Technology (HIT), was held in Zhejiang Province.

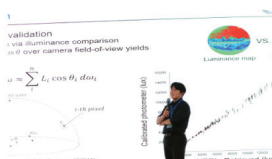
The forum gathered leading scientists, technical experts, and industry leaders from around the world to address major scientific challenges, critical technological bottlenecks, and emerging opportunities in microscopy. Looking ahead to the next five to ten years, participants examined global application needs, indus-

try trends, and development pathways for microscopy instruments. Their insights provided valuable guidance for advancing research and industry, with the shared aim of fostering sustainable growth in the field worldwide.

In a series of thematic sub-forums, experts explored specialized areas including optical microscopy, scanning probe technologies, electron microscopy, and ultrasonic microscopy. Discussions highlighted breakthrough research, persistent technical challenges, and promising technical pathways. Participants also examined new principles, emerging technologies, and directions driven by cross-disciplinary collaboration, while mapping potential breakthroughs and applications expected to shape the next decade of progress in microscopy.

(Source: Official WeChat account of CIS)

16th Asia Lighting Conference shines light on innovation and future pathways



Speakers of the thematic seminars

From August 21 to 22, 2025, the 16th Asia Lighting Conference was held in Chongqing, jointly organized by the China Illuminating Engineering Society, the Illuminating Engineering Institute of Japan, and the Korean Institute of Illuminating and Electrical Installation Engineers, and co-hosted by the China Illuminating Engineering Society and Chongqing University. The conference spotlighted cutting-edge topics such as smart lighting technologies, the impact of lighting on human health, light pollution prevention, and innovations in lighting design. More than 200 delegates from China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and beyond attended.

The conference featured two thematic seminars. The first, “The Role of Lighting to Enhance Well-being,” explored visual comfort across different spectra and circadian rhythm regulation. The second, “Versatile Fusion Lighting: Illuminating Possibilities,” focused

on emerging issues including vehicle-road collaborative lighting and advances in optical materials.

The event concluded with a flag handover ceremony, where Hao Luoxi, representing the Chinese organizing committee, formally passed the conference flag to Yosuke Okamoto, Chair of the Japanese organizing committee. The 17th Asia Lighting Conference will be held at Daido University in Nagoya, Japan, from August 20 to 21, 2026.

(Sources: Official website of CAST and official WeChat account of Chongqing University's School of Architecture and Urban Planning)

International Awards

Tsinghua professor Xue Lan reappointed to UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration

United Nations

E/2025/9/Add.13

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
17 July 2025

Original: English

2025 session

29 July 2024–30 July 2025

Agenda item 4

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Appointment of 24 members to the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Note by the Secretary-General

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/45, the Council is to consider the nomination by the Secretary-General of 24 experts who will serve on the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in their personal capacity for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 August 2025 and expiring on 31 July 2029. The names of the 24 persons nominated by the Secretary-General, together with their biographical information, is contained in the annex to the present note.

ECOSOC document appointing 24 experts to CEPA

On July 30, 2025, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) formally approved the UN Secretary-General's nomination of 24 experts to serve on the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). Among those appointed is Professor Xue Lan of Tsinghua University, Cheung Kong Chair Distinguished Professor of Humanities, Dean of Schwarzman College, Dean of the Institute for AI International Governance, and Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development Goals. Professor Xue has been reappointed to CEPA in his personal capacity for a four-year term running from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2029. He was first appointed to the committee on July 22, 2021.

CEPA, composed of 24 members, meets annually at UN Headquarters in New York. The committee supports ECOSOC's work by promoting the

development of public administration and governance in member states, particularly in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and by assisting with the implementation and review of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(Source: Official WeChat account of CISTE)

Scientist Profile

Chinese scientist Gong Ke urges green transition in digital economy



Gong Ke delivering his keynote speech

On August 13, at the 2025 Green Low-Carbon Innovation Conference, Gong Ke—former President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), Executive Director of the China Institute for New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Strategies (CINGAI), and Chair of the CAST UN Consultative Committee on Information Technology—stressed that while the digital economy has become a key driver of global growth, it must ultimately serve

humanity’s survival and development on Earth. He urged adherence to the *Global Digital Compact* to advance digital and green integration, calling for digital technologies to be prioritized in green applications to prevent the digital economy from turning into a “gray economy.”

Gong highlighted five principles for aligning the digital economy with sustainable development:

1. Keep sustainable development as the ultimate goal. Despite rapid growth in digital economy indicators, the sector must stay rooted in serving humanity’s survival and long-term development, making the UN SDGs its guiding objectives.
2. Green transformation is non-negotiable. Driven by human values, the shift toward green practices is essential. Citing IPCC data on rising global surface temperatures caused by human

activity, Gong stressed that economic and social systems must embrace green transformation to safeguard living conditions.

3. Leverage digital technologies to accelerate the green shift. For example, an AI model developed jointly by a battery manufacturer and a research institute cut screening time by 80%, reduced energy use by 50%, and improved accuracy tenfold. This can boost efficiency, lower the marginal cost of green products, and reduce carbon footprints—using digitalization to advance the realization of the SDGs.

4. Address the hidden costs of energy, materials, and waste. While offering opportunities to reduce emissions, the digital economy also risks becoming “gray” and adding new environmental burdens. Energy consumption from AI large models, computing hubs, and data centers

is rising sharply, posing a significant environmental challenge.

5. Adopt lifecycle-based design for green digitalization. International initiatives are already underway, and China should play an active role in aligning digitalization and green development. Gong called for a full-lifecycle approach in designing technologies and industrial pathways, stressing: “We must take a holistic view of the entire digital lifecycle to realize the coordinated growth of digitalization and green transformation.”

(Source: Official WeChat account of CISTE)

Upcoming Conferences

23rd IAMG Annual Conference to be held in Zhuhai



The 23rd Annual Conference of the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG 2025) will be held in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, October 9-14, 2025. The program includes five short courses, 23 parallel sessions, seven plenary lectures (including five IAMG award lectures), 185 oral presentations, 75 poster presentations, and a roundtable forum. The IAMG General Assembly will also take place during the conference. Participants are warmly invited to attend and explore the latest advances in data-driven discovery in the geosciences.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.iamgconferences.org/iamg2025/>.

(Source: Official WeChat account of CISTE)

2025 World Young Scientists Summit to convene in Wenzhou

The 2025 World Young Scientists Summit (WYSS 2025) will be held in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, from October 24 to 26. Focusing on the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, this year's theme is "Embracing Change: Young Scientists Shaping the Future Together." The program features a plenary session, 11 parallel forums, and a Universal Gravitation π Showcase and Exchange Event.

Registration is now open. Early-bird discounts are available for participants who register by midnight on October 10. All registration will close at midnight on October 20.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.wyss.org.cn>.

(Source: World Association of Young Scientists)

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Editor: Ying Wenqi
Proofreader: Bai Ge
Designer: Zhang Shan

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<http://english.cast.org.cn/>
newsletter@cast.org.cn