

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



Wednesday March 4, 2009

NSW and China to team on scientific research projects

The NSW Government will today sign an agreement with China to collaborate on joint scientific research projects including the modern development of traditional Chinese medicine.

Minister for Science and Medical Research Jodi McKay said the *China-NSW Collaborative Research Program* will bring together NSW and Chinese scientists in research areas including biotechnology, proteomics and traditional Chinese medicine.

"Today's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the China-NSW Collaborative Research Program is an important step in the longstanding relationship between NSW and China," Ms McKay said.

"Both parties bring world class scientific expertise and knowledge to the partnership and together have the potential to achieve great economic, social and environmental outcomes."

NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer Professor Mary O'Kane welcomed the new program and noted that it has the potential to build on existing collaborations with China as well as assisting in establishing new relationships.

China will be represented at the MoU signing by Dr Jianlin Cao, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Peoples Republic of China and Mr Shan Hu, Consul General of the Peoples Republic of China in Sydney.

Ms McKay said NSW is well placed to work with China in this area following the establishment of a National Institute for Complementary Medicine in Sydney and a Joint Academic Chair in Traditional Chinese Medicine between the University of Western Sydney and the University of Sydney.

Ms McKay said the NSW-China Collaborative Research Program will see NSW and China each contribute the equivalent of \$500,000 Australian dollars for the first round of the program starting this year.

"Joint NSW and China research teams will be invited to take part in a competitive bidding process for funding which will target research projects that are of strategic interest to both countries," Ms McKay said.

"Research projects can include partners from other countries but the primary partners must be from NSW and China.

"NSW tertiary institutions, Cooperative Research Centres, Australian Research Council Centres of Excellence, businesses, industry groups, and research

organisations headquartered in NSW could all be eligible for funding through this program.”

Ms McKay said the NSW-China Collaborative Research Program will build productive alliances and opportunities for researchers in both countries while helping NSW and China attract research & development investment and promote innovation.

The MoU is supported by the NSW Government's Department of State and Regional Development and China's Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Media Contact: Hayley Thomas 0427 299 446