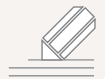


ANSO Held the 8th Governing Board Meeting (Special) Online



On 3 June 2024, the 8th Governing Board (GB) meeting (special) of ANSO was held online, bringing together leaders and representatives from all nine GB member organizations.

The meeting was presided over by Prof. Sukit Limpijumng, ANSO President, who is the President of the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand. Prof. Helena Bonciani Nader, ANSO Vice President and President of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC), chaired the rest of the meeting when Prof. Limpijumng had to leave.

Prof. Limpijumng acknowledged the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)'s appointment of Prof. ZHANG Yaping, Vice President of CAS to serve as Vice President of ANSO on behalf of CAS. Prof. ZHANG expressed his appreciation to CAS President Prof. HOU Jianguo for entrusting him with this important position in his speech and promised to provide continued support for ANSO's development. Prof. ZHANG announced that CAS had appointed Prof. LIU Weidong, Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS to serve as the new Executive Director of the ANSO Secretariat.

Prof. Limpijumng expressed his appreciation to CAS and proposed to hold the 9th GB meeting in Thailand, which was agreed upon by all GB members.



The GB members reviewed the ANSO Progress Report and the Memorandum on the Administration of the ANSO Secretariat presented by the Executive Director Prof. LIU. A representative from NSTDA proposed the dates of the 9th GB meeting and themes for a parallel science session.

The general discussion focused on the future development of ANSO and the arrangement of the next GB meeting. Participants also provided suggestions on how to enhance communication among the GB members.

ANSO Collaborative Research CropWatch

CropWatch-ICP Regional Center Launched to Enhance Agricultural Resilience in West Africa



From 2 to 5 July, the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIRCAS), the Alliance of National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO), and the National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria (NASRDA) jointly hosted a landmark workshop on advanced crop condition remote sensing monitoring. The event, aimed to enhance agricultural resilience and food security in Nigeria and West Africa, witnessed the inauguration of the first overseas center under the CropWatch Innovation Cooperation Program (CropWatch-ICP) in the region.

This new Regional Center for West Africa is set to play a pivotal role in promoting smart agriculture and resilient farming practices through satellite remote sensing technology. The center will serve as a hub for monitoring, evaluating, and demonstrating sustainable agricultural practices while providing capacity-building training to regional countries. By leveraging China's successful experiences in addressing food security, the center aims to empower West African countries to enhance their crop monitoring capabilities and support food security goals.

At the opening ceremony, WU Yirong, Director-General of AIRCAS, and GONG Haihua, Director of the Asia-Africa Division of the Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS, underscored the significance of the CropWatch global crop monitoring platform, which enables rapid acquisition and analysis of crop condition information to support food security decision-making, and expressed hope that the training offered during the workshop would enhance the

crop monitoring capabilities of Nigeria and other African nations, improving resilience to natural disasters and promoting agricultural diversification and sustainability.

Nigeria's Minister of Innovation and Science and Technology, Uche Geoffrey Nnaji, received WU and his delegation during the event. Uche Geoffrey Nnaji stressed that the establishment of the CropWatch-ICP Regional Center for West Africa would strengthen bilateral cooperation in data sharing, technical exchange, and talent cultivation.

The official unveiling of the regional center was jointly conducted by WU and Nigeria's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Innovation and Science and Technology, Esuabana Nko Asanye. Esuabana Nko Asanye highly commented the efforts of AIRCAS and other partners for making Nigeria the regional host country for the African crop monitoring center. NASRDA Director Matthew Adepoku pledged strong support for the center's development, ensuring that satellite technology would play a critical role in enhancing food security and promoting agricultural development through international cooperation.

The workshop included a training session on the CropWatch system and the CropWatch Cloud platform. The platform can provide real-time crop monitoring services, enabling technical personnel from various countries master and use advanced data processing and index calculation tools for better agricultural policies and food security.



CSTD & ANSO Participated in CropWatch-ICP Progress Meeting



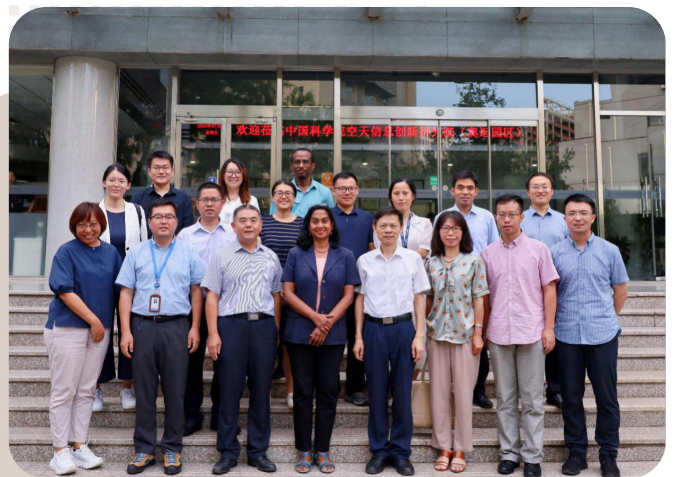
On 26 July, CropWatch-ICP, supported by ANSO, held a progress meeting at AIRCAS. Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics of UNCTAD, Mr. ZHANG Shizhuan, Deputy Executive Director of the Secretariat of ANSO, Prof. WU Bingfang, head of the CropWatch team, and other representatives participated in the meeting.

Mr. ZHANG addressed that CropWatch-ICP empowers developing nations with enhanced capabilities in crop monitoring, fostering sustainable and resilient farming practices, which is integral to China's food market decisions, annual import and export planning, and disaster response. He expressed the willingness to forge stronger ties between ANSO and international bodies such as UNCTAD and CSTD, to search for collaborative solutions to a more resilient agricultural future.

Mr. Letu Husi, Leader of the Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth of AIRCAS, introduced works of in the Key lab on remote sensing technology innovation and earth observation technology development. He said that CropWatch is an essential component of the Key lab and strongly endorsed the efforts of the CropWatch team to foster international collaboration.

Ms. Shamika introduced the mandate of CSTD and works. She highly commended the important role of the CropWatch platform in contributing to the Zero Hunger SDGs. She also expressed appreciation for the establishment of the West Africa Regional Center of the CropWatch-ICP in July and expected that its results will be exhibited at the annual conference of CSTD in 2025. She thanked ANSO, the Ministry of Science and Technology, CAS, and AIRCAS for their support to UNCTAD and looked forward to deeper cooperation in more areas.

In the discussion session, participants engaged in an in-depth exchange of views on how to further integrate remote sensing technologies in support of global agricultural monitoring. The discussion covered not only cooperation at the technical level but also policy recommendations, financial support, and capacity building.



ANSO-PAS-QAU Workshop : "Experimental and Ethical Considerations in Non-Human Virus Research"



Taking into account the Balochistan's unique ecological and socio-economic context, a three-day workshop on "Experimental and Ethical Considerations in Non-Human Virus Research" was held from 3-5 August, 2024, at the University of Loralai (Balochistan) and Bolan University of Medical & Health Sciences (BUMHS), Quetta, Balochistan, which was organized by the Alliance of the National and International Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions (ANSO) in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, Pakistan. The workshop discussed diagnostics and research experiments, effective strategies for mitigating the risks associated with viral transmission and outbreaks, ultimately protecting the health and well-being of both humans and animals in the region.

The inaugural session commenced with a welcome address by Professor Dr. Ehsanullah Kakar, Vice Chancellor of the University of Loralai, who emphasized the importance of the workshop in addressing the experimental and ethical considerations in non-human virus research. The Chief Guest Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Kibzai (MPA) graced the occasion with his presence and highlighted the significance of the workshop in the context of advancement of the Loralai University. He emphasized the need for continuous conferences and workshops to spread precious knowledge to our youngsters and he also appreciated that the University structure is rapidly improving in a very short time and hope will improve further, and this great change will change the society. The

Guest of Honor, Dr. Khalid M, Iraqi announced a collaborative initiative between the University of Karachi and Loralai University, aimed at driving improvement and development through joint conferences and knowledge sharing. This partnership will facilitate mutual growth, enhance research opportunities, and foster a dynamic academic environment. Through cooperation, both institutions will leverage their expertise and resources to achieve greater heights in education and innovation.

A panel discussion was held on "Non-Human Viruses Pose a Future Threat?" moderated by Dr. Liaba Achakzai. The awareness session and panel discussion were part of the "ANSO-PAS-QAU workshop on Experimental and Ethical Considerations in Non-Human Virus Research" held from 3-5 August at Balochistan (University of Loralai and BUMHS). This workshop was organized by the Alliance of the International Science Organizations (ANSO) in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS) and Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, Pakistan.

The ANSO-PAS workshop (3-5 August, 2024, Loralai & Quetta) fosters collaboration and provided critical training to enhance the region's preparedness for emerging viral threats. The event highlights the importance of a unified, scientifically-informed approach to managing viral infections, ensuring the health and safety of vulnerable communities in Pakistan's northern regions and beyond, through collective efforts and molecular expertise.



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