

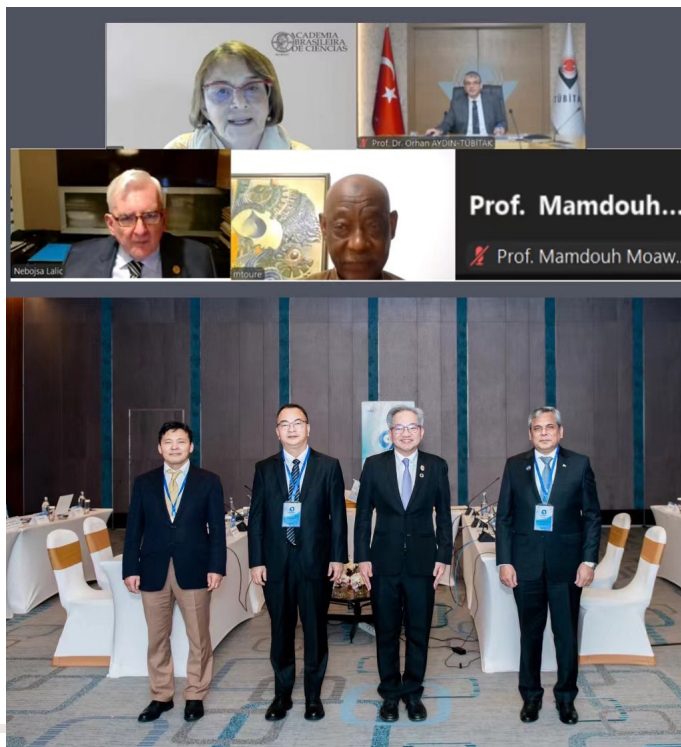
Alliance of National and International  
Science Organizations for the Belt and Road Regions

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## The 9<sup>th</sup> ANSO Governing Board (GB) Meeting Held in Thailand



On 11 December, the 9<sup>th</sup> ANSO Governing Board (GB) Meeting was successfully held in Bangkok, Thailand, both on-site and online. Representatives from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC), the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (MAS), the National Academy of Science and Techniques of Senegal (ANSTS), the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), and the National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt, were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Sukit Limpijumngong, ANSO President and President of NSTDA, and co-chaired by Prof. HE Hongping, ANSO Vice President and Vice President of CAS. Prof. Helena Bonciani Nader, ANSO Vice President and President of ABC, delivered her remarks via a pre-recorded video message.

During the meeting, several key documents were reviewed and discussed, including the ANSO Progress Report 2024, the List of ANSO Membership Applications, the Proposal on Amendments to the ANSO Statutes, the Proposal on the Modification of ANSO's Vision and Mission, and the Draft Regulations on the Use and Management of ANSO's Name, Logo,



and Internet Domain. Among the key outcomes of the meeting, nine membership applications were endorsed, and will be submitted to the next General Assembly (GA) for approval. Additionally, amendments to the ANSO Statutes were endorsed, and modifications to ANSO's Vision and Mission were also approved, both of which will be refined further and submitted to the next GA. The Draft Regulations on the Use of and Management of ANSO's Name, Logo, and Internet Domain was approved to promote ANSO's global branding and safeguard intellectual property assets.

Discussions during the meeting emphasized ANSO's progress in 2024. Notable achievements included an increase in membership to 77 organizations from 52 countries, successful participation in 15 international events, and a continued focus on South-South cooperation and global food security through programs like CropWatch-ICP. The substantial results in scholarships, fellowships, and funded research projects, and the conference program were reported in detail, highlighting ANSO's strong commitment to capacity building and fostering global partnerships. The GB agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> GA will take place in Beijing in late October 2025.

Throughout the discussion session, all GB members shared their insights, commended the ANSO Secretariat's efforts, and offered valuable feedback on the agenda items under consideration. Prof. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria,



Executive Director of COMSATS, elaborated on the importance of fostering regional exchanges and cooperation to address shared challenges and advance sustainability efforts. Prof. Nebojša Lalić, the Secretary General of SASA, invited members to participate in and support the World Conference on Science and Art for Sustainability, to be held in Serbia in September 2025, as a flagship event of the UN International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development.

Prof. Sukit Limpijumnong, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the GB members for their unwavering dedication to ANSO's vision of fostering global collaboration in science, technology, and innovation. Prof. HE Hongping, reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to supporting ANSO through both financial and institutional resources. Prof. Helena B. Nader, commended ANSO's critical role in fostering collaboration globally. Newly appointed GB representative and President of TÜBİTAK, Orhan Aydin, emphasized TÜBİTAK's commitment to ANSO's mission and expressed readiness to collaborate on scientific and technological initiatives that align with ANSO's goals.

The 9<sup>th</sup> GB Meeting reinforced ANSO's role as a global platform for scientific cooperation and set the stage for further collaborative efforts and initiatives in the coming year.

Cyprus, Serbia, and Romania



# ANSO Strengthened Scientific Ties with Cyprus, Serbia, and Romania



In an outreach initiative, Prof. BAI Chunli, Founding President of ANSO, led a delegation on a visit to Cyprus, Serbia, and Romania from 22 August to 31 August, at the invitation of prominent local institutions.



## Expanding Networks in Cyprus

During their time in Cyprus, the delegation met with representatives from the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy. Prof. BAI introduced ANSO and expressed hope to involve local scientific institutions and universities in the network. Mr. Georgios Komodromos (Acting Permanent Secretary) and his colleagues welcomed the delegation, offering insights into the Cypriot science landscape and agreeing to support ANSO in expanding its collaborative efforts.

The delegation also visited the Geological Survey Department of Cyprus to explore potential collaboration. Prof. Christodoulos Hadjigeorgiou (Director) expressed strong interest in ANSO's work and commitment to deepening practical cooperation. The delegation also witnessed the signing of the second-term Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and the Institute of Geology and Geophysics (IGG), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) by Prof. Hadjigeorgiou and Prof. ZHAO Liang, Vice Director of IGGCAS.



### Strengthening Partnerships in Serbia

In Serbia, the delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation (NITRA). Attendees included Prof. Miroslav Trajanovic (State Secretary), Prof. Marina Sokovic (Assistant Minister for Science), Dr. Ivana Vukasinovic (Assistant Minister for International Collaboration), Prof. Nebojša Lalić (Secretary General of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA)), etc. The discussions focused on enhancing Sino-Serbian scientific collaboration

through ANSO. Given that SASA is a Governing Board Member of ANSO, both parties expressed optimism about the Academy's role in amplifying ANSO's influence across the Balkan region.

The delegation also visited the Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" at the University of Belgrade, also an ANSO member. They engaged with Prof. Mirjana Mihailović (Director) and toured the Sino-Serbian Joint Laboratory for Drug Research. Prof. YE Yang, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica of CAS, provided updates on the ANSO-supported programs, including the development of the "Pan-Balkan Alliance of Natural Products and Drug Discovery Associations (PANDA)" and training workshops.

The visit concluded with a meeting at the Institute of International Politics and Economics of Serbia (IPE), with its Director Prof. Branislav Djordjevic and his colleagues. As another ANSO member, the IPE team proposed potential collaborations in international relations studies and workshops. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fostering deeper ties.



### Emphasizing Cooperation in Romania

In Romania, the delegation visited the Romanian Academy (RA), a founding member of ANSO. Prof. Marius Andruh (Vice President) provided an

overview of the Academy's history, main research areas, and its international collaborations. Prof. BAI expressed appreciation for RA's long-standing support to ANSO and emphasized the importance of promoting Romanian researchers to utilize the ANSO project toolbox to enhance exchanges and cooperation.

The delegation also explored research and exchange collaboration opportunities at the Extreme Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics (ELI-NP), meeting with Prof. Victor Malka (Science Director) and his colleagues. This visit was facilitated by the Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Machineries of CAS.

Throughout the trip, the delegation received a warm welcome from local scientific and educational institutions, along with strong support from the relevant institutes of CAS.

Bucharest, Romania



# ANSO Member Romanian Academy Hosted the Sino-Romanian Science Forum



Romanian Academy, the ANSO Member, hosted the Sino-Romanian Science Forum at its auditorium on 15 November 2024.

Mr. HAN Chunlin, the Chinese Ambassador to Romania; Mr. Andrei Hateganu, the Minister from the Asia-Pacific and Latin-America Affairs Department of the Romanian Foreign Ministry; Mr. Marius Andruh, Vice President of the Romanian Academy as well as the representative from ANSO together with over 100 people including the experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Romania Academy and the local public attended the Forum.

The Chinese Ambassador Mr. HAN Chunlin said in his speech that the Sino-Romanian cooperation in scientific research had opened a vast range of prospects in the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the in-depth cooperation between China and the central and eastern European countries. Mr. Marius Andruh indicated that in-depth cooperation in the fields of climate change, artificial intelligence and scientific and technological exchange can be carried out between Romania and China.

During the Forum, experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and the Romania Academy delivered key-note speeches around the three themes covering climate change, artificial intelligence and scientific and technological exchange, and the representatives attending the Forum discussed about the research achievements and the future cooperation orientation.

The activity was jointly organized by the Romanian Academy with the Chinese Embassy to Romania in combination with the anniversary commemorative activities for the occasion of the establishment of the bilateral diplomatic relation between Romania and China. It attracted the multitudinous scientists and the local public for participation, complied with the basic principles of "extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits" as put forward by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and promoted the building of the human community of shared future.

The Romanian Academy, as one of the ANSO Founding Members, will continue to play its important role in the fields of BRI scientific and technological exchange and cooperation.

Budapest, Hungary



# ANSO Representative Was Invited to Attend the 2024 World Science Forum



The 2024 World Science Forum (WSF) was held from 20 to 23 November in Budapest, Hungary. The forum was themed "The science and policy interface at the time of global transformations", and hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Science Council (ISC), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), and the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC). The event brought together over 1,100 participants from more than 120 countries. The Program Manager of ANSO Secretariat, Dr. ZHAO Minyan, attended the forum.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Tamás Freund, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and featured speeches from QU Xing, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, and Tamás Sulyok, President of Hungary.

Following the opening ceremony, Dr. ZHAO introduced ANSO and highlighted the active contributions of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as a member of ANSO in a conversation with Hungarian President Tamás Sulyok.

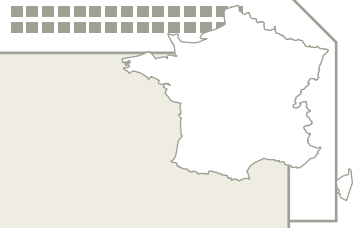
Dr. ZHAO was invited to attend the thematic session on "Education for Sustainable Development" and delivered a keynote speech titled "Advocating for the Inclusion of

Nature Education in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves". During her presentation, she introduced the "Hanma Consensus Initiative" jointly launched in 2023 by ANSO and the Chinese National Committee for Man and the Biosphere Programme (China MAB), as well as the development of nature education in China. She also extended an invitation to global partners to participate in a side event of the Nature Education during the Fifth World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, which will be held in Hangzhou, China, in September 2025.

The representatives attending the thematic session emphasized the importance of addressing development challenges, fostering collaboration in sustainable development education, and paying attention to issues related to women and developing countries.

At the closing ceremony, participants adopted the "Declaration" titled "the science and policy interface at a time of global transformations", aiming to emphasize the critical role of science, technology, and innovation in addressing global challenges.

Paris, France



# ANSO Attended the 2024 International Conference of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO

Invited by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, representatives from ANSO Secretariat participated in the 2024 International Conference of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO, which took place in Paris, France, from 17 to 19 December 2024. This biennial conference convenes over four hundred of UNESCO's NGO partners to discuss significant action plans and to foster cooperation and network development between UNESCO and its NGO partners. This marks ANSO's inaugural in-person participation in the conference since attaining official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status) as an NGO in 2022.

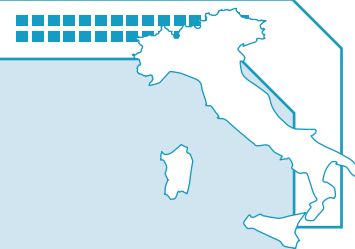
The theme of this year's conference is "Building Capacity for Action." More than 300 NGO representatives from around the world participated in the event. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. QU Xing, UNESCO Deputy Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, and Mr. Nick Newland, Chairperson of the International Conference of NGOs. In his address, Mr. QU specifically mentioned that ANSO and UNESCO are closely collaborating to advance science in developing countries.

The ANSO Secretariat actively engaged in various activities and agenda items of the conference, like discussions of the Youth Working Group Strategic Dialogue and made presentations for the NGO Hub session themed on "Sharing Experiences from around the World", striving to play its role within the framework of UNESCO and to enhance ANSO's visibility and impact at the global level.

Additionally, as a critical outcome of ANSO's active response to the "UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)", the Ocean Decade Manual for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), published by UNESCO, was officially launched at this conference.



Naples & Venice, Italy

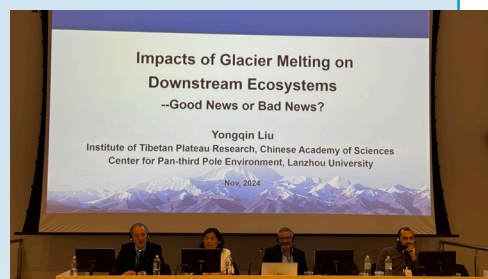


# ANSO Delegation at the 13<sup>th</sup> China-Italy Science, Technology and Innovation Week

From 26 to 28 November, the 13<sup>th</sup> China-Italy Innovation Cooperation Week, hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Italian Ministry of University and Research, was successfully held in Italy. Themed "The value of Science and Technology in addressing the great challenges of our time," the event attracted more than 500 representatives from China and Italy. Dr. ZHAO Minyan, Program Manager of the ANSO Secretariat, led a delegation from ANSO projects to attend the meeting.

This cooperation week has set up seven thematic parallel forums on art and cultural heritage, food production and processing, climate change and biodiversity, disaster risk prevention and control, advanced manufacturing, marine science and polar science, and 61 Chinese and Italian experts gave special reports. Among them, the ANSO project team representatives gave reports at the parallel forums on marine science and polar science, introducing the progress and results of international joint research projects carried out with the support of ANSO. During the event, the ANSO delegation exchanged views with relevant institutions and entrepreneurs to provide more possibilities for China and Italy to explore innovative cooperation.

The China-Italy Innovation Cooperation Week is one of the important scientific and technological exchange activities between the two governments. Since its establishment in 2010, it has been successfully held for 13 sessions. It aims to provide an efficient cooperation and exchange platform for innovation entities such as enterprises, universities, and research institutions of both sides.



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