



U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission

USCC REPORT: Trends in U.S.-China Technology Cooperation
September 11, 2014**USCC Report: Trends in U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation: Collaborative Knowledge Production for the Twenty-First Century?**

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission released a report entitled *Trends in U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation: Collaborative Knowledge Production for the Twenty-First Century?* This report examines 35 years of cooperation between the United States and China in the areas of science and technology (S&T) since the signing of the 1979 U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement.

According to the report, U.S.-China bilateral S&T cooperation has facilitated a complex government-to-government relationship consisting of roughly 30 agency-to-agency protocols and a number of sub-agreements in fields including nuclear safety, agriculture, energy, and environmental protection. The report details how China's engagement with the U.S. on S&T has played a major role in the development of Chinese technology, wealth, and power. The report was prepared for the Commission by Dr. Richard P. Suttmeier, Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, University of Oregon.

In addition to examining a range of bilateral projects and cross-agency cooperative efforts, Dr. Suttmeier's report describes the differing objectives driving scientific cooperation in the United States and China. In contrast to the U.S. approach of utilizing S&T cooperation primarily as a tool of diplomacy, China uses S&T engagement as a component of a national strategy to build scientific capabilities. This has enabled the rapid development of China's S&T capabilities and threatens the United States' status as the world's leading scientific power. The report also identifies some national security challenges, including the transfer of sensitive technology through espionage and other means that have emerged in the context of bilateral S&T cooperation.

The report analyses key trends in bilateral S&T cooperation and makes recommendations for how the U.S. can strengthen its position in the coming years. The trends evaluated in the report include the expanding roles of commercial and academic sectors in the bilateral S&T cooperative partnership, China's growing willingness to take on a greater share of the costs of the relationship, and China's expanding engagement with international and multilateral organizations dealing with S&T. In response to these trends, the report makes a series of recommendations to help the U.S. clarify its objectives for the bilateral S&T relationship in the 21st century. For additional information on these recommendations and the nature of U.S.-China S&T cooperation over the last 35 years, the full report can be read [here](#).

DISCLAIMER: *This report is the product of research performed for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Its release does not necessarily imply an endorsement by the Commission, any individual Commissioner, or the Commission's other professional staff, of the views or conclusions expressed in this report.*

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