

Exchange Programmes

Science and Technology

Significant advances have been made in scientific and technological cooperation with the PRC since 1973. Canadian scientific and technological missions have visited China with interests in such fields as agriculture, forestry, geology, fisheries, seismology, metrology, economics, oceanography and veterinary medicine to mention but a few. Chinese delegations to Canada have also covered many fields, for instance, petroleum, seismology, surface coal mining, laser research, forestry, fisheries, permafrost, biological insect control, surveying and mapping, and engineering. Though many fields remain to be explored, important exchanges of information have been facilitated by this programme, which is managed by the Department of External Affairs. Increasingly exchanges are being arranged directly between participating institutions rather than through official government channels as had been the case until recently; there are special Memoranda of Understanding, for example, in the fields of agriculture and forestry.

Medicine

Exchanges in the medical area have also been a sector of special interest in Sino-Canadian relations. A delegation from the Canadian Medical Association visited China in 1973, and out of their visit grew a programme of exchange. Under the Bethune Medical Exchange, Chinese doctors have, among other areas, studied neuro-physiology, urology and organ transplantation in Canada while Canadian doctors have studied acupuncture techniques.

Health Minister Begin's visit to China in September 1982 led to the identification of areas of bilateral cooperation in the medical field and included the signing of an agreement to support a twinning arrangement between the University of Toronto and the Sichuan Medical College and discussion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the PRC Ministry of Health and the Canadian Medical Research Council.

Culture and Sports

Culture and sports have also been key parts of the large Canada-Chinese exchange programme. Sports exchanges have included competitions in Canada and China by athletes in table tennis, badminton, basketball, swimming, gymnastics, volleyball, hockey, speedskating and water-skiing.