



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION  
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH  
BETWEEN  
THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE  
AND  
THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Considering the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the Republic of Chile and the People's Republic of China, signed in the city of Beijing on October 14, 1980;

Considering the agreements of the VIII Joint Commission meeting on government cooperation in science and technology, held in the city of Beijing on November 16, 2010;

Considering the 2010-2013 action plan between the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research of the Republic of Chile and the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, signed in the city of Santiago on December 22, 2010;

Considering the MOU signed between National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research of the Republic of Chile (CONICYT) and the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) in Beijing on August 24, 2012.

With the desire to further strengthen and deepen scientific and technological cooperation between Chile and China;

Recognizing the importance of forging links between the scientific communities of both countries and the promotion and implementation of the development of joint activities for the interaction between research and higher education institutions and industry, with the aim of promoting basic and applied research, innovation and capacity building, between CONICYT and CAS, and the identification of astronomy and astrophysics and its related areas of a main area of cooperation

The National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) of Chile and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”, have approved the following agreement on scientific collaboration in the field of astronomy and astrophysics.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree to the following:

### **FIRST**

The parties agree to establish a collaboration program, which includes a CAS astronomical research center set up in Chile, and a CAS-CONICYT Fund for the development of joint astronomical research (hereinafter referred to as “The Fund”). The Center will be named officially as CAS South America Center for Astronomy (CASSACA), and alternatively, China-Chile Joint Center for Astronomy (CCJCA). The CAS-CONICYT Fund will be implemented and managed according to the guidelines and definitions defined by a Joint CAS-CONICYT Committee. CONICYT shall support the administration of the Fund and follow up on the use of resources but not be directly involved in the CCJCA operation.

### **SECOND**

CAS shall delegate the responsibilities of supporting and implementing the Fund to the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC), which will coordinate with CONICYT to make financial contributions from the Chinese side. CONICYT will also make its contribution to the Fund subject to the resources available in its budget. The Parties shall ensure that the pooled resources of the Fund be used exclusively for the purposes stipulated in this agreement.

### **THIRD**

Each Party shall appoint three representatives to the Joint Committee. One of the representatives appointed by CONICYT will represent the Chilean astronomers. The Joint Committee shall be convened annually and chaired by CONICYT and CAS representatives in alternate years for the allocation of funds. In the eventuality of a tied vote among members of the Joint Committee, its Chair will make the final decision. This committee will be responsible for making guidelines for activities sponsored by the Fund.

### **FOURTH**

The Fund created under this agreement will be used for supporting bilateral collaboration activities in astronomical research, including young astronomers such as post-doctoral

fellows, and other possibilities. The Fund will be administered by CONICYT in consultation with Director of CCJCA and under the supervision of the Joint Committee.

Before the formal implementation of the Fund, NAOC will launch a call in 2013 for postdoctoral fellowship applications in astronomy and/or astrophysics, which will be financed by CAS during this first year. NAOC and CONICYT will jointly make the selection of postdoctoral fellows, who will be supported by the Fund from 2014 once all the legal procedures for its implementation have been fulfilled by the Parties.

**FIFTH**

CONICYT shall give full recognition to CAS in advertisements, public relations and dissemination materials, permanent plaques and credentials related to activities supported by the fund, according to what the Joint Committee finds appropriate. Furthermore, CONICYT will send a report to CAS and NAOC via Director of CCJCA in the first week of December each year on the use of the Fund.

**SIXTH**

This MOU shall take effect when it is signed by the parties and remain in force for five years. No less than three months prior to its expiration, the parties will review its operation and decide whether or not to renew it. Either party may terminate this MOU by giving sixty (60) days' written notice to the other party. In the event of anticipated termination, the clauses of the MOU shall continue to be valid for the activities already started before the termination, until their end.

Done in six original copies: two in Chinese, two in English, two in Spanish, all texts being of equal authenticity.

For and on behalf of the  
National Commission for Scientific and  
Technological Research, the Republic of Chile

  
Dr. Jose Miguel Aguilera  
President



Dated: Sept 24th, 2013

For and on behalf of  
The Chinese Academy of Sciences,  
People's Republic of China

  
Dr. Chunli Bai  
President

Dated: Oct. 4, 2013