



PRESS RELEASE

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UK green energy experts visit Tsinghua University to build partnerships in energy innovation

A group of ten prominent academics from the UK are visiting Tsinghua University today in order to build new partnerships in energy research.

The visitors are from the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA), a partnership of eight research-intensive universities from the Midlands region of the UK. These include the universities of Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham and Warwick, and also the British Geological Survey. Together they are working to develop new low-carbon energy technologies and solutions.

ERA is the biggest energy research partnership in the UK, with government and industrial funding of £180m to develop new energy research facilities, laboratories and large-scale demonstration projects.

The event at Tsinghua University - the UK-China Green Energy Innovation Forum - is supported by the British Embassy and Tsinghua University. It forms part of the UK government's Green is GREAT campaign, which is a commitment by the British government to promote partnerships across the world that can help to fight climate change.

The UK-China Green Energy Innovation Forum also builds upon the Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen Research and Innovation, which was signed between Beijing-Tsinghua Industrial R&D Institute of Tsinghua University and the University of Nottingham (one of the ERA partners) in July 2019.

The academics from ERA will be discussing a range of topics at the UK-China Green Energy Innovation Forum at Tsinghua University, exploring collaboration opportunities in a number of research areas. These include:

- Wind Energy and Compressed Air Energy Storage

- Artificial Intelligence and Smart Energy
- Decarbonising transport from cars to freight vehicles
- Viability of emerging energy technologies
- Energy integration
- Thermal energy storage for heat, power and mobility
- Hydrothermal carbonisations: wet waste to solid biofuels
- Electro-chemicals and liquid salts

During the day, Professor Martin Freer, Director of the Energy Research Accelerator will also be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Qinxian Jin, Director of the Beijing-Tsinghua Industrial R&D Institute (a part of Tsinghua University). The MoU states that the two parties intend to work together in future to undertake research together, organise seminars and academic meetings, explore the commercialisation of technologies and undertake academic and student exchanges.

Professor Qinxian Jin, Vice Secretary General of Tsinghua University and Director of Beijing-Tsinghua Industrial R&D Institute, said: "UK-China relations have entered a new golden era. Collaboration leads to a win-win situation. We are delighted to co-organise this event with the UK Embassy Beijing and ERA. Tsinghua University has remarkable research achievements and in the fields of clean energy, the energy internet, fuel cell vehicles, etc. This is a very good opportunity to improve the understanding of each other's academic and industrial capabilities, and we look forward to exploring practical ways in which we can collaborate together for mutual benefit."

Professor Martin Freer, Director of the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA), added: "The UK China Green Energy Innovation Forum, supported by the British Embassy and Tsinghua University, provides an exciting collaborative opportunity for ERA and our China partners. We are honoured that Tsinghua University has generously agreed to host this special event.

"I am also delighted that we are signing a memorandum of understanding between ERA and the Beijing-Tsinghua Industrial R&D Institute. We are all very much looking forward to finding out more about the exciting research taking place here at Tsinghua University, and exploring the many ways in which we can work together in future to develop new and innovative green energy solutions."

Frances Hooper, Science and Innovation Counsellor for the British Embassy commented:

“Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing our planet, and it is vital for the UK and China to work together to develop clean energy solutions to tackle this issue.

“The Green is GREAT campaign provides a platform to come together and identify opportunities to collaborate. It’s fantastic to see such a range of excellent research represented from the UK on this mission, and we look forward to seeing exciting collaborations with Tsinghua and other Chinese partners in the future.”

The visitors from Energy Research Accelerator comprise of ten academics and five business development specialists. Together they are travelling to three cities – Beijing, Nanjing and Hangzhou over the week, to meet with business people, academic partners and representatives from government who have an interest in green energy.

The aim of the visit is to meet with representatives from government, energy companies and academic organisations with an interest in renewable and low-carbon energy. ERA is particularly interested in building partnerships which could result in joint R&D projects or commercial collaborations.

For more information about the Energy Research Accelerator, visit www.era.ac.uk

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Notes to Editors

The Energy Research Accelerator (ERA)

ERA consists of the partner universities of Aston, Birmingham, Cranfield, Keele, Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Warwick, and also the British Geological Survey (BGS). ERA aims to harness the Midlands’ combined research excellence and industry expertise to play a critical role in tackling some of the biggest challenges facing the UK.

ERA’s priorities are focused in the areas of Energy Transformation, Energy Storage, Energy Integration and End Use Energy Demand.

Funded by the UK government through Innovate UK, an initial capital investment of £60m, has secured additional industrial co-investment of £120m.

About Tsinghua University

The campus of Tsinghua University is situated in northwest Beijing on the site of the former imperial gardens of the Qing Dynasty, and surrounded by a number of historical sites.

As one of China’s most prestigious and influential universities, Tsinghua is committed to cultivating global citizens who will thrive in today’s world and become tomorrow’s leaders. Through the pursuit of education and research at the highest level of excellence, Tsinghua is

developing innovative solutions that will help solve pressing problems in China and the world.

About the British Embassy in Beijing

The Embassy of the United Kingdom in Beijing (or British Embassy, Beijing) is the chief diplomatic mission of the United Kingdom in the People's Republic of China. It is one of Britain's largest overseas embassies. The current Ambassador is Dame Barbara Woodward.

About Green is GREAT

Climate change is the most serious threat facing our world. Our planet needs action and it needs it right now. Green is GREAT is the UK's government national campaign in China.

The UK-China Green partnership is helping to tackle climate change, and through Green is GREAT activities we are deepening this partnership to create even wider impact.

The first phase of Green is GREAT campaign focuses on three distinct strands of work: Green Finance, Renewable Energy and Marine Plastics.

Since September 2019 around 20 events have been organised across China and there are still many more to come.

Watch this space and follow #绿色地球英有你# to find out about how we can work together to tackle the effects of climate change, and what you can do in your daily lives to help. Every effort counts!