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Finding Aid - European Biotechnology Node for Interaction in China (EBNIC)

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Summary information

Repository:	Archive of the European Molecular Biology Organisation
Title:	European Biotechnology Node for Interaction in China
Reference code:	EBNIC
Date:	1984-2001 (creation)
Physical description:	7 boxes of paper material.
Physical storage:	Box: 258
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Administrative history / Biographical sketch

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) was founded in 1964 by a group of leading European scientists to strengthen research in molecular biology and foster collaboration across Europe. Its establishment was closely linked to the creation of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC, 1969), which provided intergovernmental support for EMBO's activities. EMBO promotes excellence in the life sciences through initiatives such as the election of distinguished researchers to its membership, the awarding of fellowships and grants, and the organization of scientific meetings, workshops, and training courses. In 1974, EMBO played a central role in establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), an intergovernmental research institution. Today, EMBO continues to support life scientists at all career stages and advocates for science policy across Europe and beyond.

Scope and content

Materials related to the EBNIC program proposed and coordinated by EMBO from 1984-2001. Towards the end of the 90s, EMBO decided to expand the geographical range of its activities, as a means of developing relationships between European scientists and their peers outside of the EMBO area. With China's inclusion as a partner in the development of the 5th European Framework Programme, and with what the EMBO council considered to be EMBO's insufficient attention to the area of Biotechnology, EMBO decided to initiate the EBNIC program. EBNIC began its operations in February 1998, funded by the EU-

INCO (international cooperation program). Initially funded for 3 years, it represented an effort to promote wider interest among European academic and industrial biotechnologists in working with their Chinese counterparts.

Both a European and Chinese management team were established to oversee activities and define the mission of the program. Frank Gannon acted as coordinator. A start-up meeting of the management group was held in mid-February 1998 in Brussels, during which the date, venue, and draft agenda for the first annual meeting of the European Node were agreed upon during this meeting. The topics to concentrate on were chosen based on the relevant findings of the DGXII representatives in the mission that visited China in preparation of the EU-China Science & Technology Cooperation Agreement established in 1998.

The first general meeting of EBNIC was held on 27th April 1998 in Heidelberg. The results of this meeting were the enlargement of the management group, and the selection of topics for joint workshops.

At a later meeting, on the 15th of June 1998 in Beijing, these topics were finalized, and workshops on “Diagnostics today and tomorrow” and “host-pathogen interactions” were held in November 1998 in China and January 1999 in Italy, respectively.

Subsequent workshops, lectures, and scientific visits were organized under EBNIC’s program, a website hosting a database of potential collaborators was established, and annual meetings of interested European scientists and industries were held.

At the end of the 3-year program, funding for EBNIC-2, intended to be EBNIC’s successor, was not accepted and the program was terminated. However, EMBO subsequently set up its World Programme (now Global Activities), to continue its work building collaboration between European scientists and external partners.

Notes

Arrangement

These materials are arranged at the collection level.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Scientific Programme (subject)