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Announcement of Opportunity for China-Chile Joint Research Fund 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The China-Chile Joint Research Fund has been implemented since 2015, and had successfully awarded a total of 4 projects involving China-Chile collaboration in astronomical research. This opportunity is provided based on the principles established in a 2013 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the National Commission of Scientific and Technological Research of the Republic of Chile (CONICYT), and the more specific guidelines described in a recent (2015) Agreement between the National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC), the Chinese Astronomical Society, the Chilean Astronomical Society (SOCHIAS) and CONICYT (attach the Joint committee agreement). For logistic reasons, the 2016 Joint Research Fund is delayed for about 1 month compared to the previous year, but will otherwise proceed as usual. Now we would like to invite research proposals that involve China-Chile collaboration in astronomical research from both Chinese and Chilean astronomy communities.

Funding requests for research projects proposed based on a collaboration including astronomers from both China and Chile will be considered. The PI of the proposal must be from either country, and the subject can be in any area of astronomical research, including observations, instrumental development, and theory. Duration of each project should be 2 years in maximum. The funding request may include costs of academic activities such as travel for observing and meetings, as well as small equipment purchases (such as filters), but not regular office supplies. There can be support for summer students or visitors, but not regular salaries for faculty or postdocs. The standard rate of overhead can be included as compensation of the administrative support of the host institution of the PI.

The proposals will be evaluated by a committee of experts consisting of both Chinese and Chilean astronomers, based mostly on the scientific merit and originality, and the potential contributions to the development of astronomy in the two countries. The Joint China-Chile Committee (JCCC) will rank the proposals, according to the evaluation by experts. Additional factors to be considered include the feasibility of the project, and the competence and track record of the scientific team. The final budget of approved proposals will be subject to a CASSACA review for feasibility. The PI should obtain the consent of his/her host institution in the form of an official consent letter, and will need to sign a contract with CASSACA before the grant is awarded. The expected funding level per project is approximately \$75,000 USD per year on average.

All proposals must include the following essential elements:

- 1) Proposal cover page, including:
 - a) Project title and abstract (<1000 words).
 - b) Area of Research (e.g. Planets, Stars, Interstellar Medium, Galaxies, Cosmology, Instrumentation).

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- c) Names of project PI and Co-Is and their institutions.
 - 2) Scientific Justification (less than 8 single-spaced pages, including text, graphics, tables and references).
 - 3) Implementation Plan of research including project duration (one or two years).
 - 4) Itemized budget requested for the project (for each year if it is multi-year).
 - 5) CV of the PI(s), a list of currently supported research programs, and a list of publications relevant to the proposal.

All proposals should be submitted electronically to CASSACA's Santiago office at cassaca@qq.com, and will be acknowledged after the deadline. The deadline of submission is **October 21th, 2016**. Inquiries can be directed to Dr. Jiasheng Huang, Chief Scientist of CASSACA, at jhuang@nao.cas.cn, or Dr. Wei Wang, Deputy Director of CASSACA, at wangw@nao.cas.cn.