

# Tsinghua: Building a global network

By SONG PING  
AND ZHANG ZHAO

A ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of Tsinghua University was held on April 24 in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

In addition to university leaders, well known scholars and government officials, executives from globally renowned enterprises including Toyota, UTC, General Motors, MHI, Siemens, Veolia, Boeing, Toshiba, Intel, P&G, Hitachi, Sony, IBM, Microsoft, BP and SK attended the ceremony and an evening reception the night before.

International R&D cooperation is "one of Tsinghua's most important tasks", said university Vice-President Kang Kejun in a keynote speech at the reception.

"Tsinghua wants to have many high-level, cutting-edge partnerships and exchange programs with the world's leading universities, research institutes and multinational companies," said Kang. "By doing this, we

can improve the research capacity of our university and broaden the horizons of our students."

"With principles of mutual benefits and profit sharing, we value international cooperation on technologies as an important strategic tool. And we have already achieved some fruitful results," he added.

Tsinghua began its modern participation in international academic exchanges in the late 1970s. In the early years, it was just exchange of information when it sent its scholars to study abroad and take part in international academic conferences.

Partnerships in technology research started in early 1990s, but at the beginning, it was only small scale projects such as calculation work, software design and testing.

In 1999, Tsinghua marked a milestone when it signed 130 international contracts with a combined value of 100 million yuan (\$12.1 million at the



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Executives of foreign companies visited an exhibition of Tsinghua University's scientific and technological achievements on April 24.

time).

The international technology cooperation fund at Tsinghua grew at an average rate of 18.6 percent over the last decade to hit 284 million yuan last year.

Tsinghua has now established research partnerships with more than 50

renowned universities including Yale, Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Imperial College, Technical University of Munich and the University of Tokyo.

It also has close ties with leading enterprises, such as Toyota, MHI, UTC, Boeing, General Motors, Siemens,

P&G, Veolia, Bayer Health-Care Pharmaceuticals and BP.

Its global cooperation network provides exchanges with leading scholars, engineers and businesspeople from around the world on many subjects including energy, the environment, materials and life sciences.

## Three decades of international research cooperation

By ZHANG ZHAO

More than three decades of international R&D cooperation has now matured and brought abundant results to Tsinghua University.

With its strengths in engineering, environmental studies and life sciences, the university has cooperated

on projects in more than 30 countries and regions including the United States, Japan and Germany.

It also has established partnerships with 110 of the companies on the Fortune 500 list.

Tsinghua and MHI jointly initiated a platform in 2003 for extensive inter-disciplin-

ary R&D cooperation.

Another such partnership is the Tsinghua-Toyota Research Center established in 2006 that develops new energy, new materials and solutions for automobile safety.

Another joint workshop is the Tsinghua-UTC program co-hosted by the univer-

sity and the US-based United Technology Corp that focuses on the energy efficiency and safety of buildings.

The Tsinghua-Siemens program begun in 2008 works to develop the latest technologies, with each partner using its own resources and information networks. The partnership then trans-

forms the breakthroughs into products and promotes them to the market.

A number of overseas companies now fund research at Tsinghua. P&G's funding, the first of its kind, began in 1999 to aid scholars in many Tsinghua departments including biology, chemistry and computer science.

educationspecial

### MULTINATIONAL ACCOLADES

**Takeshi Uchiyamada, executive vice-president and representative director, Toyota Motor Corp**

Best wishes on the 100th anniversary of Tsinghua University! I believe that joint research



between Tsinghua and Toyota will not only make our vision and ideas come true, but also contribute to the prosperity of China and the world as well. We'll continue such efforts along with Tsinghua for a better society.

**Reinhold Achatz, corporate vice-president, Siemens AG**



The development of Tsinghua University reflects Chinese people's great spirit of persever-

ance and hard work over the past century. The cooperation between Siemens and Tsinghua University, the two great institutions both strong in technology and innovations, not only helps speed up commercialization of research results, but also enhances the R&D capabilities of both. We sincerely hope that this kind of mutually beneficial cooperation patterns will pave the way for further cooperation with more universities in China in the future.

**Alan Taub, vice-president of Global R&D, General Motors**

General Motors congratulates Tsinghua University on its 100th anni-



versary. Tsinghua has been an important center of education in China and a driver for research and new technology development globally. GM appreciates our long-term partnership with Tsinghua University and wishes it continued success over the next 100 years.

**Michael McQuade, senior vice-president for science and technology, United Technologies Corp**

United Technologies is pleased to team



with world-renowned leaders at Tsinghua who share the commitment to solving the world's largest and most critical challenges through scientific exploration and cooperation. I look forward to our joint efforts in the future and on behalf of UTC extend our best wishes to Tsinghua on your first 100 years of excellence.

**Ichiro Tai, senior executive vice-president, Toshiba Corp**

As China's premier university, Tsinghua and its many and distinguished alumni have long contributed to the development of Chinese society. At Toshiba, we are proud of our 20-year collaborative relationship with the university and of the many positive achievements from our joint research.

We look forward to reinforcing our strategic partnership with the university. Together we will seek to produce advances that contribute to a better quality of life, and bring them to market.