MINUTES

The 5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Materials Science and Nanotechnology

Suzhou, China
October 31 – November 3, 2023

The 5th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Materials Science and Nanotechnology (hereinafter - WG on Materials Science and Nanotechnology) was held in accordance with the BRICS STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) Calendar of Activities 2022-2023, approved at the 10th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting on 26 September, 2022, and the STI Work Plan 2021-2024, as well as Minutes of the 4th Meeting of BRICS WG on Materials Science and Nanotechnology 2022.

The 5th Meeting was hosted in hybrid format by the Soochow University and the Institute of Nano & Soft Materials Functional (FUNSOM), Soochow University International Office, Soochow University, P.R. China and was chaired by Prof. Le He.

Besides the working group meeting, two parallel forums (two half days) were be hosted at the same time. A copy of the final Agenda/Program and the List of Participants of the meeting are attached in this document.

Working Group Discussion

1. Update on Materials Science & Nanotechnology Policies and Opportunities for collaboration among BRICS Countries.
2. Update on Network Virtual Center for Materials Science and Nanotechnology. (Nominees as BRICS-NCMSN members, shared facilities, faculty exchange, etc).
3. BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation Framework Programme (Joint Calls and Funding Schemes).
4. Discussion about the joint report on development of Materials Science & Nanotechnology in BRICS countries.
5. Decision on venue for next meeting.
6. Adoption of Minutes.

Results of Discussion

1. The opinion was expressed that the cooperation of universities and scientific organizations within the framework of the BRICS network center is useful and promising, and it is advisable to begin the exchange of scientists and researchers of organizations members of the BRICS-NCMSN.
2. The first members of the BRICS JSC from Russia (8 organizations) and Brazil (Laboratories from Brazilian System of Laboratories on Nanotechnologies – SisNANO-MCTI and Laboratories from National Institutes of Science and Technologies – INCT) have been identified. It was proposed that, by December 31, 2023, the coordinators of the BRICS NCMSN in China, India and South Africa, in agreement with the relevant ministries of their countries, should identify the first members of the BRICS NCMSN.
3. To consider scientific contacts obtained using the NCMSN BRICS as an important stage on the path to fruitful international cooperation between countries.
4. To pay special attention to the development of cooperation in innovation activities, along with scientific and educational ones.
5. The structure and functionality of the developed website of the BRICS NCMSN has been approved. To continue filling out information about equipment and services in personal accounts on the BRICS NCMSN website by all BRICS NCMSN participants from Brazil, India, China and South Africa. Local coordinators will assist the first participants of the BRICS NCMSN in filling out information by March 1, 2024.
6. To include materials science and nanotechnology in the topics of international calls for joint research of the BRICS countries.
7. To stimulate the participation of students, graduate students and young scientists in international scientific schools held in the field of materials science and nanotechnology by members of the BRICS Center for Science and Technology.
8. To held regular scientific conferences and seminars in hybrid format to facilitate the participation of representatives of BRICS countries.
9. To present to the SCMS central office the announcements of upcoming scientific conferences and seminars, as well as student scientific schools, for posting on the BRICS SCMS website by March 1, 2023.
10. To carry out the preliminary work for joint review of the current state and perspectives for research in the field of materials science and nanotechnology in the BRICS countries.
11. The next sixth meeting of the BRICS Working Group will be held in the Ural Federal University, Yekaterinburg, in the fall of 2024 simultaneously with the international conference "Materials science and nanotechnology". The exact dates and location will be determined by the host party after consulting with members of the working group.
12. The heads of the delegations of the BRICS countries noted the success of the meeting of the working group and the international forum on the cooperation of universities with industry and science, expresses its appreciation to China for the amazing organization of 5th BRICS WG Meeting, approved the work of the secretariat of the BRICS JSC and called for the fastest realization of the plans.