

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
31 May 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: World Expo

REFERENCE: Written Question—Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: BI-128

Has the Department been involved in contributing to the Government's participation at the World Expo in Shanghai?

If yes, what has been the nature of the involvement – including in respect of the cost and the number of staff assigned to work on it.

ANSWER

Academies program (4 workshops and major events) estimated at less than \$242,000.

As part of the Australian pavilion's Business Program at Shanghai Expo, the Department is coordinating delivery of "*Partners for a Better Future: Australia-China Science and Technology Week*" ('Science Week'; 2-6 August 2010), a series of high level science workshops in thematic areas of importance to both countries such as Astronomy, climate change, biotechnology and food and production and nanotechnology and its impacts.

Workshop participation is targeted at eminent Australian and Chinese scientists and researchers and key Australian and Chinese government officials. The program also includes two agency MOU signing ceremonies, a network launch and a reception to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Australia-China science and technology treaty agreement.

Science Week is aimed at acknowledging the strength and importance of the bilateral science and technology relationship and promoting Australia's science and technology capacity. The program has been developed in close consultation with the leading Australian and Chinese science agencies.

The Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering will be using funding from the International Science Linkages program to deliver the program. Costs include travel for Australian experts, transport, accommodation, technical visits and some Chinese participant costs.

These figures are exclusive of in-kind contributions made by a number of key science agencies in Australia and China involved in events in support of Science Week.

Final figures will be available after Science Week.

Departmental costs are estimated at \$248,234.

To support Science Week some printing and display material will be developed including banners and a commemorative book highlighting Australia-China collaboration in science and technology.

One full time Departmental staff member has been assigned to coordinate the program for four months. Two short term staff have been contracted for up to three months to assist with final preparations. The Department's Beijing based staff has also provided two months of on the ground assistance. Departmental Officers will attend Science Week to ensure appropriate high level bilateral government representation in all activities and in particular, the 30th anniversary reception. In addition a range of government side meetings will be convened during Science Week.