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ATN welcomes joint Australia-China research fund

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** has welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Gillard of a joint Australia-China research fund to support cooperative research between Australia and China.

An agreement witnessed this week in China by the Prime Minister and Chinese Premier Wen will see the *Australia-China Science and Research Fund* begin operation in the financial year 2011/12. Both Australia and China will contribute \$9m to the fund over three years to support cooperative research efforts.

ATN Chair, Professor Jeanette Hacket, said the research fund is practical recognition by the Australian and Chinese Governments of the importance of cooperative research between the two countries.

“The ATN is at the forefront of Australia-China cooperative research with the recent signing of an agreement with the International Strategic Technology Alliance of Chinese universities to establish a *Joint Australia-China Nanoscience Laboratory* in Suzhou, China,” Professor Hackett said.

“The Joint Laboratory will be an international hub for research with a focus on the application of nanoscience to solve global problems in the area of health and medicine, the environment and renewable energy. Importantly it will offer significant partnering opportunities for Australian researchers and PhD students – who really will be the engine room of our nation in the future.

“Strategic government support, such as the joint fund, provides an impetus to such ventures and also acts to leverage the strong trade and cultural links between Australia and China into the development of technologies benefiting both countries,” Professor Hackett said.

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