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Professor Zhihong Xu
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Dear Prof Xu

Thank you so much for your letter of 10 January, which I have received via Professor Alison Smith. I am most grateful to you for your very kind wishes, and I will also ensure your thanks are passed on to Professor Richard. She will remember with great warmth the visit of you and your wife to Cambridge in 2009.

We greatly value our growing links with the leading universities of China and the newer and still developing alliances with the institutions of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Of special note among these has been the length and depth of our engagement with Peking University over the years. I hope in my period as Vice-Chancellor to re-affirm and strengthen these relationships, both the well established and the newer.

I would, therefore, like to wish every success to Dr Qi Cheng's forthcoming delegation visit in developing the CCJC tripartite research alliance between CAAS/CAS, the Cambridge Department of Plant Sciences and the John Innes Centre in Norwich. It is exactly the kind of strategic partnership we are seeking to foster and I am delighted that it has arisen out of the BBSRC UK-China programme through which Professor Smith has been working with a range of front-rank Chinese institutions, including your own.

I look forward to the possibility of our paths crossing before too long.

Best wishes

L K Borysiewicz

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