On 9th September, the first “Westlake Forum”, as hosted by Oxbridge Jiangsu-Zhejiang Alumni Association was launched successfully in Zhejiang University. The forum attracted prestigious professors from the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, Zhejiang University, University of Science and Technology of China and other universities, to talk on two futuristic and forefront topics dividing into two panels: “The Future of Biomedical Science” and “The Era of Quantum Technologies”.

There are two factors contributing to the topic selection of this year’s forum. Firstly, on 1st July 2017, China’s first law on traditional Chinese medicine — The Traditional Chinese Medicine Law of the People’s Republic of China came into force. The law is a milestone in the development of Chinese traditional medicine industry which raises the global impact of traditional Chinese medicine and provides a “Chinese approach” to solve worldwide health service problems; Secondly, in the field of quantum technology, China took the lead in launching the world's first quantum satellite, making China walking ahead of the rest in the quantum communications industry.

The Future of Biomedical Science

As an important part of Chinese traditional culture, Chinese medicine remains a controversial topic in academia. However, after the Chinese pharmaceutical chemist Youyou Tu won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering artemisinin, the Chinese government has since then speeded up its support to Chinese medicine.

Dr. Tai-ping Fan, senior lecturer at the Angiogenesis and Natural Products Laboratory, the University of Cambridge, and a devoted supporter of the research and popularization of Chinese medicine, delivered an in-depth talk on the forefront research on Chinese medicine and its progress. He also introduced the on-going international research in the field related to Chinese medicine.

According to Dr. Fan, Chinese medicine enjoys a long history in the West. Dating back to the 16th century, before Li Shizhen, one of the greatest Chinese medical doctor, pharmacologist, herbalist and author to the Compendium of Materia Medica was born, herbalist has already been unlisted as one of the occupations in Britain. Henry VIII also thought highly of herbal research. Furthermore, next year in 2018, a celebration of Li Shizhen’s five hundred birthday will be held at the National Botanic Garden in the UK. Dr. Fan also informed the audience that, by far, 66 proprietary Chinese medicines have been approved by the European Pharmacopoeia.

Professor Xuebing Dong, Vice President of the Regional Coordination Research Center, Zhejiang University, whose main research interests lie in “the Belt and Road Initiative” and the development of western part of China, pointed out that Chinese enterprises, when seeking for overseas development, would face problems such as low-degree of internationalization, lacking cooperation in direct oversea investment. Also, the financing channels of SMEs are narrow, their financing costs relatively high, their cross-cultural integration ability weak, and the intermediary service agencies do not bring their specialty into full play. Professor Dong also encouraged the Association to continue serving as a platform for the communication between China and Britain, to unite the alumni and gather Oxbridge resources, and to use scientific innovation as the driving force to create a community of shared future for mankind.
The Era of Quantum Technologies

Being one of the inventors of quantum cryptography, Artur Ekert, Professor of Quantum Physics at the University of Oxford, has been exploring over the past two decades the way how quantum science and cryptography could integrate with each other.

Quantum technology, a field carrying automatically the attribute of "black technology", as a matter of fact, is closely associated with people's daily life. In this era of the Internet, more and more people are paying attention to the protection of personal privacy. All of our network communications, e-commerce, e-government, e-finance, personal information, etc., require to go through a process of being encrypted.

Professor Ekert told the audience that, presently conventional information security is only based on how difficult are the mathematical problems. Professor Chaoyang Lu, fellow at University of Science and Technology of China and a member of the world's first photon quantum computer research and development team, elaborated the unique charm of quantum mechanics. The audience was mostly impressed by Lu's mention that, the "Seventy-two Metamorphoses" of Sun Wukong in the Journey to the West were similar to the uncertainty of quantum mechanics, while Sun’s “Split Body Technique” and his magical “flip-over cloud” revealed the characteristics of quantum superposition and entanglement.

China's Most Dynamic Oxbridge Alumni Community

Min LI, the Foreign Affairs Director of Zhejiang University addressed in the forum: “Being the world's leading universities, Oxford and Cambridge, together in the past few hundred years, have made remarkable achievements in fields such as teaching, researching and social development; while Zhejiang University, despite of its shorter history, has always adhered to the principle of “seeking truth”, and as a result has cultivated a large number of well-known scientists, cultural gurus, entrepreneurs, as well as elites and leaders in all sectors of society. Zhejiang University was honored as “Oriental Cambridge” by Joseph Needham, a famous British scholar who is also a Cambridge alumnus...Students of Zhejiang University, together with Oxbridge students, shall resolve “to ordain conscience for Heaven and Earth; to secure life and fortune for the People; to continue lost teachings for past sages; to establish peace for all future generations”, and also, to contribute to the development and promotion of science and technology, as well as the well-being of the society.

The Association’s mission is to establish a platform which will strengthen the bond between Oxford and Cambridge alumni, stimulate a mutual development, integrate resources, enlarge the influence of the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge, link together the technological experts of Oxford and Cambridge with enterprises in Zhejiang and Jiangsu provinces, as well as assist in the economic transformation and upgrading of these area. The Association has been duly authenticated by both universities, and is now recognised as the official Oxbridge alumni association in China’s Jiangsu-Zhejiang region. Up to now, the Association has attracted more than 500 Oxford and Cambridge alumni from Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces.
As an essential offline event of the Oxbridge Jiangsu-Zhejiang Alumni Association, the Westlake forum aims at stimulating further communication and achieving close cooperation between Oxbridge and Jiangsu-Zhejiang region. Thanks to the generosity of and strong support from the local alumni, the forum is open for the public completely free of charge. This year’s forum has attracted more than 350 participants, of which 57.6% are Oxbridge alumni, 42.3% are people from more than 30 public listed companies specialised in biomedical and computer technology, Zhejiang University and industrial investment companies. Moreover, around 63% of the participants hold a master’s degree or a higher degree.

Acknowledgement to Members of the Preparatory Committee of the Forum (sorted alphabetically according to the member’s surname):

Beite LIANG, Fangbo LIAO, Binxin RU, Junxiao SHEN, Andi TAO, Libei WU, Shuying WANG, Linpeng XI, Xiaofeng XU, Yangyi ZHEN, Zhongwen ZHANG

Profiles of the Forum Speakers (sorted alphabetically according to the speaker’s surname):

Prof. Xuebing DONG, Vice President of the Regional Coordination Research Center, Zhejiang University. His main research interests are “the Belt and Road Initiative” and the development of western part of China.

Prof. Artur EKERT (Dphil in Physics, Oxford), currently a Professorial Fellow in Quantum Physics and Cryptography at the University of Oxford. His research extends over most aspects of information processing in quantum-mechanical systems, with a focus on quantum cryptography and quantum computation. Ekert and colleagues have made a number of contributions to both theoretical aspects of quantum computation and proposals for its experimental realisations. For his discovery of quantum cryptography he was awarded the 1995 Maxwell Medal and Prize by the Institute of Physics and the 2007 Hughes Medal by the Royal Society. He is also a co-recipient of the 2004 European Union Descartes Prize. In 2016 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Tai-Ping FAN (Cambridge), is a senior lecturer at the Angiogenesis and Natural Products Laboratory, the University of Cambridge. His main research interests cover vascular pharmacology, angiogenesis, immunopharmacology, ethnopharmacology, traditional medicine and natural products. With an interdisciplinary approach, he and his collaborators have investigated the cellular and molecular mechanisms of angiogenesis, using omics to discover and optimizing phytochemicals for prevention/treatment of diseases where there is excessive (e.g. cancer, atherosclerosis) or inadequate angiogenesis (e.g. myocardial infarct, chronic wound).

Prof. Chaoyang LU (PhD in Physics, Cambridge), Professor of Physics at University of Science and Technology of China. His main interests lie in quantum computation, solid-state quantum photonics, multi-particle entanglement, quantum teleportation etc. He has published more than 50 papers on top international journals such as Reviews of
Modern Physics, Science, Nature etc. He is also a Young Thousand Talents Program Scholar and Outstanding Youth Scholar (National Natural Science Foundation of China), winning numerous awards and prizes, including the 2017 Fresnel Prize.

Prof. Jingkui TIAN, Vice Dean of College of Biomedical Engineering and Instrument Science, Zhejiang University. He conducts innovative researches in traditional Chinese medicine and biomedical engineering.

Dr. Jing YAN (PhD in Biomedicine, Cambridge), owns 11 years of research experiences in biomedical research & development and management. Her main research interests lie in early Alzheimer disease diagnosis. She holds 6 patents and 1 utility model pattern.