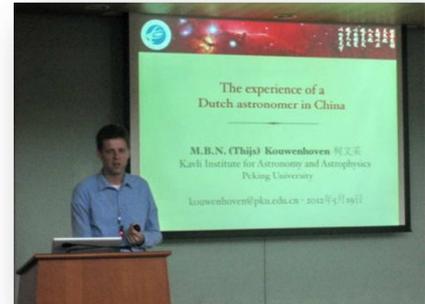


## Colliding galaxies and Dutch astronomers at the Holland Science Lecture



Saturday 19 May, Chinese researchers with close links with the Netherlands attended the first Holland Science Lecture organized to celebrate the 40 years of diplomatic relations between China and the Netherlands. The event was organized by the PhD alumni Chapter of NANC and the Netherlands Embassy in Beijing and was held in the Kavli Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (KIAA) at Peking University. The event attracted researchers mainly from the Chinese academic community and partly from industry.

After a short welcome by the Science Attaché of the Netherlands Embassy, Xiong Xiangjun, coordinator of the Holland PhD alumni chapter, explained about the plans of the informal Sino-Dutch network of researchers. Interested Chinese researchers are welcome to join and initiate more information exchange and activities in one of the many working groups which focus on specific research disciplines, such as medical and life and medical sciences, social sciences, environmental sciences etc.

Prof. Richard de Grijs, the Dutch associate director of the KIAA gave an energetic and sometimes shocking lecture about the 100 billions of stars and galaxies that exist around us. Using exciting audio-visual materials, he guided us through different galaxies and confirmed that a collision with planet earth is a reality, although this might take place in 3 billion years from now. His lecture showed us the value of astronomical research for a better understanding of the history and future of our planet and the importance for developing new technologies.

Another Dutch Professor Thijs Kouwenhoven, who is appointed as a fulltime Bairen Professor at the KIAA, introduced several famous Dutch astronomers, like Kuipers and Kapteyn, who set standards in modern-day astronomy. He also surprised the audience with the fact that the Dutch spectacle maker Hans Lipperhey from Middelburg invented the first telescope in 1608 which was revolutionary for the development of Dutch astronomy worldwide.

He closed his entertaining lecture with sharing his experiences at the Kavli Institute and stressed that KIAA's intelligent students and the international research environment attracted him to China. Although many things still need to be improved, such as the passive attitude of some students and administrative burden and salary level of faculty, he enjoys his experience in China. These topics also invited a lively

discussion with the audience on educational reform and training of the future researchers of China. After the lectures lively discussions on astronomy and Sino-Dutch research were continued during the networking reception on the roof terrace of KIAA.

For more details about the Sino-Dutch researcher network, please contact Xiong Xiangjun ([xiongxj@gmail.com](mailto:xiongxj@gmail.com)), [Website](#).

## 记中荷学者交流会系列讲座活动：星系的碰撞

5月19日，数十位与荷兰学术界保持长期联系的中国学者喜聚一堂，出席了为庆祝荷中建交40周年所举办的科学讲座活动：“星系的碰撞”。本次活动由荷兰校友会博士分会与荷兰驻华大使馆共同承办，北京大学科维理天文与天体物理研究所(KIAA)协办。出席嘉宾大多来自中国学术界，也包括部分工业界人士。

活动首先由荷兰驻华使馆科学专员 David Pho 先生致辞。随后，荷兰校友会博士分会主席熊向军先生向来宾介绍了中荷学者交流会的工作规划，并鼓励有志之士共同参与到博士分会的各分学科项目工作中来，如生物医药科学，社会科学，环境科学等等。

本次讲座分为两节。首先，科维理天文与天体物理研究所荷兰籍副所长 Richard de Grijs 教授以“星系的碰撞”为题，为观众们带来了一场精彩绝伦的讲座。De Grijs 教授以图文并茂的方式带领大家遨游星空，并阐明了地球有可能在30亿年后与其他星球相撞这一科学推理。他的讲座同时揭示了天文学研究在人类科技进步中的重要地位。

随后，科维理天文与天体物理研究所荷兰籍“百人计划”教授 Thijs Kouwenhoven 为观众们介绍了若干著名荷兰天文学家，如现代天文学奠基人 Kuipers 和 Kapteyn，并向大家揭示了一个鲜为人知的事实：世界上第一台望远镜由荷兰制镜人 Hans Lippershey 于1608年发明，并革命性地推进了荷兰天文学在全世界的推广。Kouwenhoven 教授同时向大家表明：科维理天文与天体物理研究所接触的学生与优质的国际科研环境，是他来到中国开展科研工作的初衷。虽然中国的许多状况仍有待改善，如部分学生学习态度被动、文化障碍、教工收入不高，但是他在这里工作得十分愉快。Kouwenhoven 教授的话题同时引起了一场有关中国科研教育改革的热烈讨论。科学讲座落幕后，中荷两国学者来到研究所天台，就荷中学术交流的深入展开进行了卓有成效的探讨。

想要获得更多中荷学者交流会信息，敬请联系熊向军先生 ([xiongxj@gmail.com](mailto:xiongxj@gmail.com))

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