Emerging challenges to international research

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There are MORE potential invasives out there!

The only way to find out is to do research out there.
Good news

• APHIS now issuing permits really fast!
• Forest Service International Programs support an array of collaborations worldwide.
Bad news

- Nagoya Protocol

“.. a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits of the utilization of genetic resources...”

Leaves implementation to National Authorities
- often just on paper
- none, or multiple
- the uncertainty transfers power to regional bureaucrats

Conference of the Parties noted divergence of views of Parties on this matter (2022)

Specimens for identification?

Digital DNA sequence?

“Conference of the Parties noted divergence of views of Parties on this matter (2022)”
Bad news

- Nagoya Protocol
- Anti-China rhetoric

Rubio Warns Florida Universities and State Leadership of Threat of CCP Espionage in Higher Education

MAR 17, 2022

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) sent letters to the presidents of 26 Florida research colleges and universities urging them to be on guard against efforts by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to use research collaboration and education exchange with American academic institutions to advance their malign agenda. This includes their open intent to develop new technologies to overpower the American military in a future conflict.

Additionally, Rubio sent letters to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, as well as Wilton Simpson, President of the Florida Senate, and Chris Sprowls, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, commending them for their work to combat CCP espionage and urging them to continue working to ensure Florida universities are prepared to defend against this threat.

Rubio’s letter follows last year’s enactment of two Florida state laws, HB 7017 and 201523, intended to strengthen security vetting, including for foreign applicants seeking Florida-based research positions. In light of the new legislation, Rubio warned that “Beijing has a history of successful adaptation to changing political circumstances, and the CCP will seize upon these new measures we put in place.”
Bad news

- Nagoya Protocol
- Anti-China rhetoric

“It is clear we face a problem with the PRC recruiting nontraditional agents, such as academics, residing in Florida...”

“Institutional links between universities in Florida and the PRC, including joint research programs, should be discouraged...”
Bad news

- Nagoya Protocol
- Anti-China rhetoric
- Florida law HB 7017 2021

“...prohibits specific agreements between state/public entities and the seven countries of concern (Russia, PRC, Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Syria, and Venezuela)”
Bad news

• Nagoya Protocol
• Anti-China rhetoric
• Florida law HB 7017 2021
• Florida law HB 1523 2021

“... an individual or entity that attempts to steal a trade secret on behalf of a foreign government, will face a third-degree felony, punishable by MORE THAN 15 years in prison”
Bad news

- Nagoya Protocol
- Anti-China rhetoric
- Florida law HB 7017 2021
- Florida law HB 1523 2021

“... an individual or entity that attempts to steal a trade secret on behalf of a foreign government, will face a third-degree felony, punishable by MORE THAN 15 years in prison”

Mention a biocontrol for American invasive pest of trees in China?
Bad news

- Nagoya Protocol
- Anti-China rhetoric
- Florida law HB 7017 2021
- Florida law HB 1523 2021

Collaborators getting concerned

A sentinel garden collaboration one year in the making.

Then silence.

I think FAFU probably could not work on this anymore.
To enable partnerships, we may need to get involved in policy making.