

# The Emerging Chinese Space Program and NASA's Strategic Direction



**Presentation for  
The National Academies**

**Committee on NASA's  
Strategic Direction**

*Dr. Gregory Kulacki  
Union of Concerned Scientists*

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# China and NASA's Strategic Direction

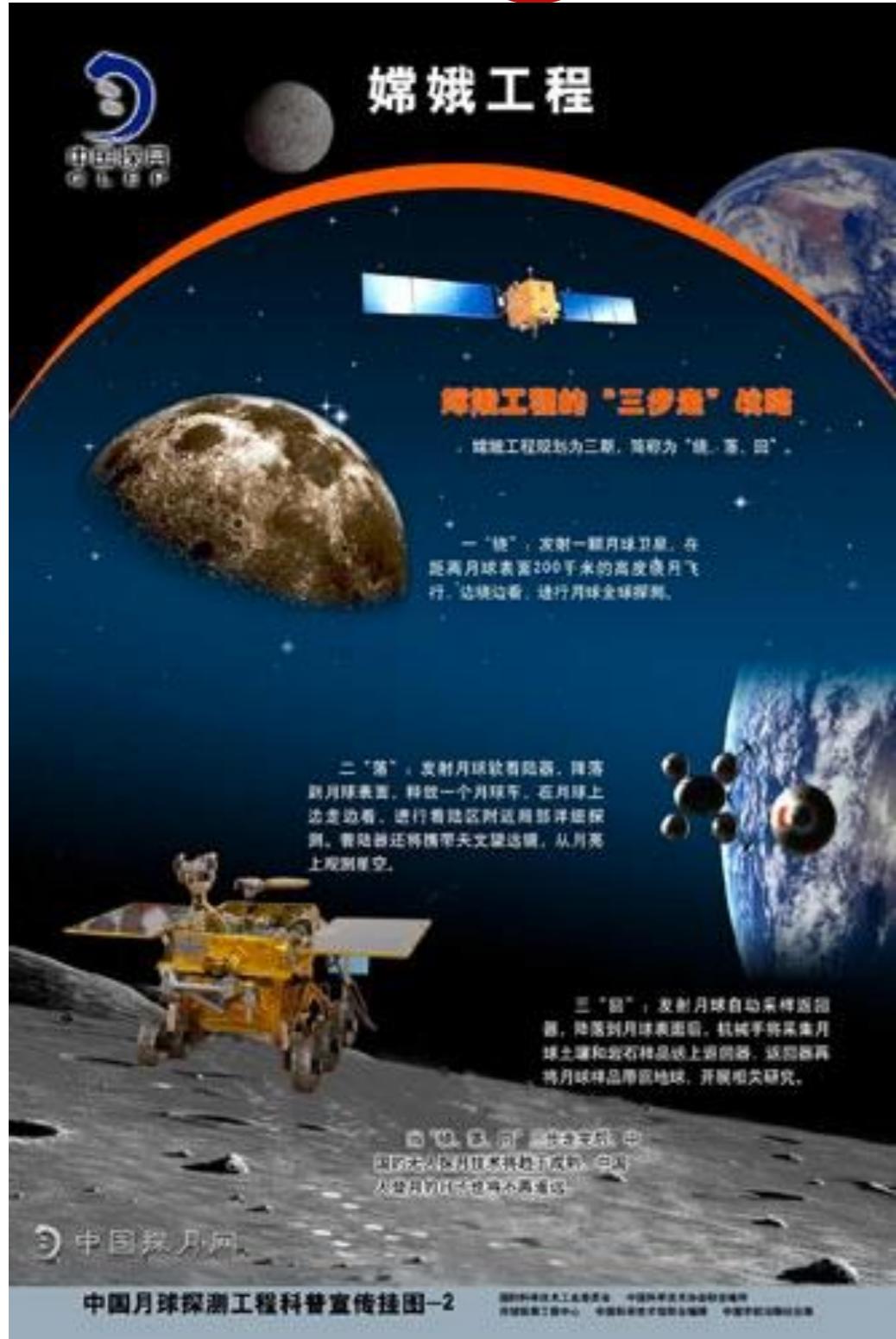
China has been a follower not a leader.

China's objective has been to avoid falling too far behind, not to equal or overtake leading space-faring nations.

Chinese investments in space, authorized in 1986, focused on goals similar to six objectives in 2011 NASA Strategic Plan.



# China and NASA's Strategic Direction



**China has never approved plans or funding for a human lunar mission.**

**China's has only recently initiated feasibility studies for a future human lunar mission.**

**Chinese policy-making process suggests thousands of experts and scores of institutions will be involved in a lengthy debate before approving a human lunar program.**

# China and NASA's Strategic Direction



**Chinese space community is not hostile to the United States, despite antagonistic U.S. behavior and policy.**

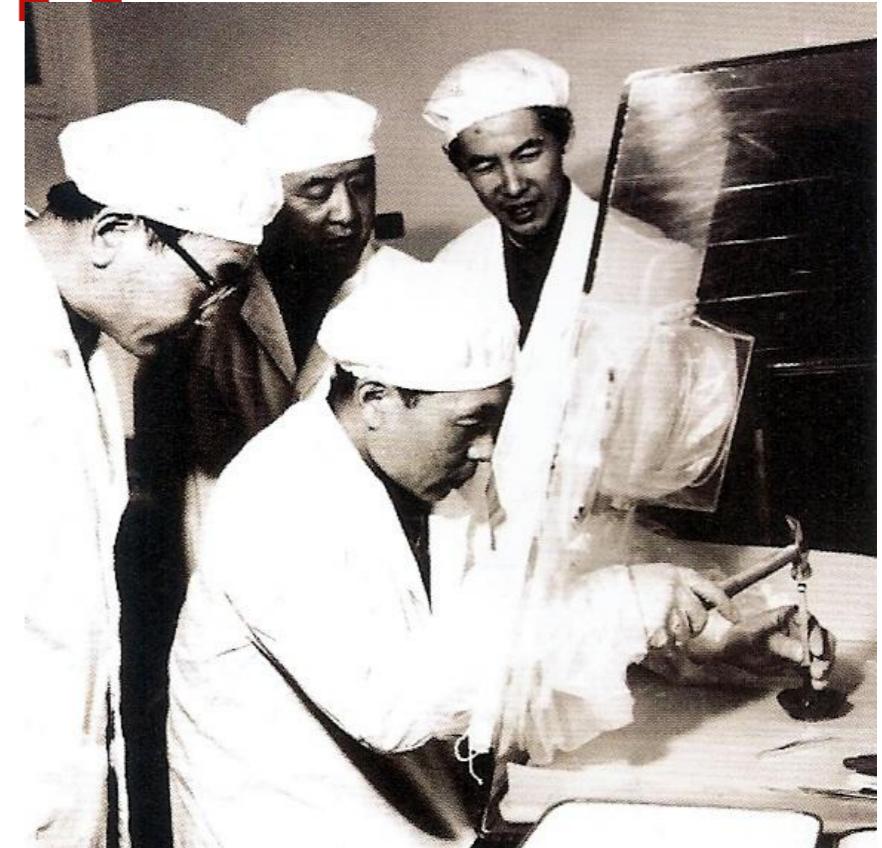
**Chinese political leadership strongly prefers international cooperation, though space leadership is inclined to oppose cooperation with the United States.**

# China and the U.S. Strategic Direction

Chinese space policy is not  
determined by, dominated by, or  
controlled by the Chinese military.

General Armaments Department of  
the PLA serves an administrative,  
not an executive function in  
Chinese space organizational  
hierarchy.

Most project funding is determined  
by standing committee composed  
of scientists and engineers.



China and NASA's

# Strategic Direction



Current U.S. policy towards cooperation with China is uniformed, misguided and counterproductive.

Discussion should begin with influential, retired Chinese space scientists and engineers, not bureaucrats.



Cooperation and exchanges should place heavy emphasis on education and public relations.

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