

# Congratulations on Establishment of the Geographical Indication Research Center

Liu, Y. H.

Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, Beijing 100101, China

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Respected leaders, Professor Liu, Chuang, and colleagues,

Congratulation to the Geographical Indication Research Center, the innovative center to be established in the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR-CAS) !

China has a long history, vast territory, diverse climate and soil, as well as profound culture, making its geographical indication resources extremely rich and diverse. These geographical indications as resources can also be called the gifts from heaven and from historical traditions, possessing both the value of natural endowments and the accumulation of human civilization over the years<sup>[1]</sup>.

In the world trade system, geographical indication products have been included in agreements related to intellectual property rights, emphasizing the protection of origin and trademarks. In China, geographical indications have become one of the important intellectual property rights stipulated in the Civil Code, and the system of high-level specialized protection, coordination, and procedural synergy is being accelerated.

Geographical indication products cannot be simply explained as “local specialties”, but have their own special meanings, including: (1) region (geographical area); (2) quality characteristics and stability; (3) the historical accumulation and objectivity of reputation; (4) the integration of nature and culture.

I believe that the first three characteristics of the geographical indications are easier to understand, while the fourth one requires professional knowledge and research to support. For example, the comprehensive geographical environment of the production site, including terrain, climate, seasons, soil, hydrology, etc., as well as the inheritance, adaptation, and product cultivation of the local cultural environment.

The results of these studies can truly make geographical indication products not only known for what they are, but also for the reasons behind them, and truly live up to their reputation, irreplaceable<sup>[2]</sup>. The establishment of the Geographical Indication Research

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**Author Information:** Liu, Y. H., Ministry of Science and Technology of P. R. China, liuyh@most.cn

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Center will fill the gap among science, technology, engineer, management and culture, and takes a big step forward in the work of geographical indication products.

For geographical science as a whole, it must not be isolated from geographical indication products, but should make use of its disciplinary advantages to expand and strengthen things that are beneficial to local people, local economy, and international trade.

Furthermore, the study of geographical indication is also a measure and handle to implement the discipline, to test scientific questions in practice, and to introduce problems encountered in practice into scientific analysis. The development of geographical science depends on the alternation and integration of branch disciplines and synthesis, and depends on the mutual echo between perspectives from global, national, regional and local scales.

I greatly admire the relentless efforts of Professor Liu, Chuang over the years, who has made pioneering and substantial contributions to the geographical indications research<sup>[3-7]</sup>. Her tenacity and dedication have also attracted many scholars to join this team<sup>[8,9]</sup>.

I firmly believe that the center will achieve great success, contributing not only to the development of geography but also to the well-being of society.

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