

Beijing to Be a Global Sci-tech Innovation Hub

By CHEN Chunyou

Beijing was set to become a global sci-tech innovation leader and a preferred working destination for talented and innovative people...

Over the past five years, Beijing has focused on the world sci-tech frontier fields, continuously strengthened basic research, and tackled challenges in the field of key and core technologies.

The winners of national science and technology awards in Beijing accounted for about 30 percent of the whole country. The number of invention patents per 10,000 people is 10 times the national average.

A sci-tech innovation fund of 30 billion RMB was set up and three batches of 60 major application scenarios were released, with a total amount of 19.6 billion RMB.

maintaining an annual growth rate of more than 10 percent.

Beijing has continued to deepen reform of sci-tech systems, and optimized the services to stimulate innovation.

A series of regulations and policies were issued to promote the application of sci-tech achievements and improve the sci-tech environment.

Thanks to implementation of 20 entry and exit policies and 20 new policies for international talent, Zhongguancun attracts and cultivates a group of strategic sci-tech leaders.

In response to the major national needs and national strategic tasks, Beijing introduced measures to support the construction of new world-class R&D institutions in the fields of quantum science, brain science, artificial intelligence, and applied mathematics...

Major sci-tech projects led by Beijing covered all civil projects, with the number and investment ranking first in China.

Beijing promoted the construction of sci-tech facilities, including 12 supercomputing centers, 46 of the world's top 500 supercomputers, and 19 big science infrastructure projects...



The exhibition center of Zhongguancun National Independent Innovation Demonstration Zone. (PHOTO: VCG)

Beijing's key innovation clusters—the Zhongguancun Science City, Huairou Science City, Beijing Future Science Park, and the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area...

The China (Beijing) Pilot Free Trade Zone and the Comprehensive Demonstration Zone for Further Opening up the Service Sector were launched by Bei-

jing's municipal authorities, with a slew of business-friendly policies introduced to deepen the city's opening up to the outside world.

Chen Jining, the mayor of Beijing, said this September at the World Robot Conference that the city will make full use of the sci-tech advantages and talent resources...

Bold Roadmap Drawn Up for China's IPR

By LI Linxu

China has laid out a bold roadmap to build a powerful country in intellectual property rights (IPR).

The roadmap, titled Guidelines for Building a Powerful Intellectual Property Nation (2021-2035), has set a series of goals for IPR.

By 2025, remarkable progress is expected to be made toward building a powerful country in IPR, according to a release jointly issued by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on September 22.

The added value of patent intensive industries and copyright industries shall have accounted for 13 percent and 7.5 percent of China's GDP respectively by 2025.

By that time, the total annual import and export amount of intellectual property royalties is expected to reach 350 billion RMB, and the number of high-value invention patents per 10,000 people is expected to reach 12.

Meanwhile, IPR protection will be more stringent, and social satisfaction on IPR protection will reach a relatively high level in the next five years.

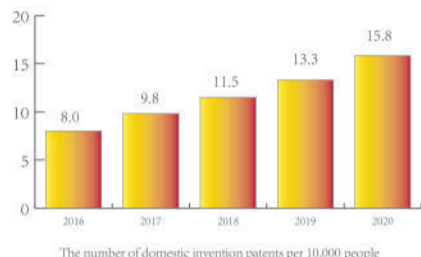
The guideline maps out a number of key tasks including building an IPR protection system that supports world-class business environment, establishing an IPR market operation mechanism that encourages innovation, and stepping up participation in global IPR governance.

To build a powerful intellectual property nation is an important strategic deployment made by the CPC, a necessity for building a modern socialist country, and an important foundation for

constructing a new development pattern, said Shen Changyu, commissioner of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA).

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, China has made historic achievements in IPR protection, and the awareness of the entire society to respect and protect IPR has significantly improved.

The number of domestic invention patents per 10,000 people has reached 15.8 by the end of 2020, quadrupled from 2012.



"In recent years, China has stepped up efforts in an unprecedented way to protect IPR," said a relevant person in charge of CNIPA, adding that the country plans to further boost the level and efficiency of IPR protection.

China would accelerate IPR legislation on emerging industries such as big data, artificial intelligence and gene technology, and enhance international law enforcement cooperation in the field of IPR, according to the guideline.

The roadmap also has set the goals for the next fifteen years. By 2035, China's comprehensive competitiveness in IPR should be among the world's top tier, with the country taking part in the global governance of IPR in an all-round and multi-dimensional way.



Internet Hi-tech Unveiled

A total of 14 world-leading internet sci-tech achievements were unveiled on Sept. 26 in World Internet Conference Wuzhen Summit held in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province.

The applications of the BeiDou Navigation system and the HarmonyOS, were among the released items recommended by a panel composed of nearly 40 internet experts from home and abroad. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

IPR Protection in China: A Step Forward

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Zhou Huiguo, Deputy Commissioner of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), said since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China's comprehensive strength of IPR has grown rapidly and the IPR quality has been continuously improved.

According to CNIPA, China filed 68,720 PCT applications in 2020, leading the world in this field for the second time.

The quick enhancement of China's IPR comprehensive strength offers solid support for the country's economic and social development.

The strengthened IPR capability of China is the beneficiary of the continuously intensified protection of IPR in the country. A series of laws and regulations on IPR, following internationally recognized practices, have been enacted in China since the 1980s, such as the Trademark Law and the Patent Law.

Unprecedented efforts have been made to protect IPR since the 18th CPC National Congress.

Major legal principles for IPR protection have been established in the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China enforced in 2021. The patent law, trademark law and copyright law have been amended, and a punitive compensation system for infringement in line with international standards has been established, offering a strong legal guarantee for strict IPR protection.

In addition, the judicial protection of IPR has been considerably reinforced through the establishment of many local IP courts and the IP court of the Supreme People's Court.

IPR protection and rapid IPR service centers have also been established. In 2020, these centers assisted in 17,000 cases, with a closing rate of 98.3 percent and a closing cycle of 11.6 days.

According to a report by CNIPA, China's social satisfaction on IPR protec-

tion in 2020 scored 80.05 out of 100, highly improved from 63.69 in 2012. Joint venture companies scored 82.41, while foreign-invested companies 81.70. The results suggest that China's achievements in IPR protection have been widely acknowledged by society.

International cooperation on IPR essential

Apart from promoting IPR domestically, China has also been cooperating with other parts of the world.

China is deeply involved in the multilateral affairs under the framework of WIPO, and resolutely maintains the IPR multilateral system. The WIPO Office in China opened in Beijing in July 2014. The Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, the first international IPR treaty named after a Chinese city, entered into force in 2020.

Two High-level Conferences on Intellectual Property for Countries along the Belt and Road Initiative were successfully held in China, and eight cooperation projects have made great achievements, covering IPR protection, review cooperation, basic capacity building, and public awareness enhancement.

China has also been actively promoting in-depth and pragmatic IPR cooperation with the other IP5 countries, the other BRICS countries, ASEAN, and Africa.

The five IP offices (IP5) is a forum set up by the five largest intellectual property offices in the world. The members of IP5 are the European Patent Office, the Japan Patent Office, the Korean Intellectual Property Office, CNIPA, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. In the 14th annual meeting of the IP5, the IP5 offices regarded it necessary to take a long-term perspective on IP and recognized its indispensable role in coping with social challenges.

The BRICS intellectual property offices drafted a cooperation road map in 2013, aiming at enhancing the value of IP and to ensure its contribution to the economic development and growth in member countries.

With the achievements already gained, China is ready to make the next step up.

China's R&D Spending Rises to 2.439 Trillion RMB in 2020

By LI Linxu

China's R&D intensity in 2020, expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP, hit a record high at 2.4 percent, up by 0.16 percentage points from the previous year, according to the latest data jointly released by the National Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Finance.

"The increase in R&D intensity is the biggest jump in recent 11 years," said Zhang Qilong, a statistician at the bureau, adding that the country's R&D intensity has caught up with the average

level of OECD.

The country's total expenditure on R&D rose 10.2 percent from a year ago to 2.439 trillion RMB, according to the data.

"The figure has continued to register double digit growth for five consecutive years," said Zhang, adding that the country's growth rate in R&D spending leads the world.

According to Zhang, the country has become a major force driving the growth of global R&D spending, with an average net annual increment of more than 200 billion RMB during the 13th

A Record High

Five-Year Plan period.

Now, China's spending on R&D is about 54 percent of that of the U.S., ranking No.2 in the world.

Expenditure on R&D by enterprises rose 10.4 percent year-on-year to 1.867 trillion RMB, accounting for 76.6 percent of the total.

The steady increase in corporate R&D spending in key fields has created a favorable environment for making

breakthroughs in key core technologies, said Zhang.

Meanwhile, R&D investment in the hi-tech manufacturing sector reached 464.9 billion RMB, or 2.67 percent of the sector's total operating revenue, up 0.26 percentage points from a year ago.

Investment in basic research reached 146.7 billion RMB, up 9.8 percent year-on-year, accounting for 6.01 percent of the R&D expenditure.

In the next five years, the country's R&D spending is expected to grow by more than 7 percent annually, according to the 14th Five-Year Plan.

China Closer to Top 10 Innovative Economies

By LI Linxu

China is edging closer to top 10 on global list of most innovative economies.

The country climbs two places from last year to 12th, with outstanding scores in hi-tech exports, patents, trademarks and industrial designs, according to Global Innovation Index 2021, released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) on September 20.

The 2021 edition of the index presents the latest global innovation ranking of 132 economies, relying on 81 different indicators.

"This year's index shows us that in spite of the massive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on lives and livelihoods, many sectors have shown remarkable resilience, especially those that have embraced digitalization, technology and innovation," said WIPO Director General Daren Tang.

In its annual ranking of the world's economies on innovation capacity, the index shows that only a few economies, mostly high income, consistently dominate the ranks.

However, selected middle income economies, including China, Turkey, Vietnam and India, are catching up and

The 12th

changing the innovation landscape.

"These emerging economies have been able to successfully complement their domestic innovation with international technology transfer, develop technologically dynamic services that can be traded internationally, and ultimately have shaped more balanced innovation systems," said Soumitra Dutta, former Dean and Professor of Management at Cornell University.

Since 2013, China has moved steady-

ly up the index ranking, establishing itself as a global innovation leader.

Relative to GDP, China's performance is well above expectations for its level of development, and also performs well above the upper middle-income group average in the index.

It ranks 1st among the 34 upper middle-income group economies.

The performance of China is at the frontier of achievement, notably in innovation outputs. The country boasts 19 of the top science and technology clusters worldwide, with Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou and Beijing in the 2nd and 3rd spots, respectively.