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The Joint Lab of International Cooperation on Food Safety Launched for Construction

As one of the new joint labs of international cooperation, the Jiangnan University Joint Lab of International Cooperation on Food Safety is officially launched for construction. Thanks to high-level, multiple international cooperation and exchange, the lab will enormously enhance the nation's capacity of ensuring food safety while providing core technological support in protecting core competitiveness of the food industry of China and maintaining the diet standards for civic health. Also, it will safeguard the nation's interests of export and national image and help local brands go global, providing necessary support in implementing the "One Belt, One Road" Initiative. While ensuring the food safety and facilitating the going international of food safety system, it will help the food industry to realize the "Internet + Health" transformation which shifts the focus from quantity to quality and bring about strategic change of food safety guarantee from the passive to active mode of safety protection.

Source: Science and Technology Daily, Feb. 22, 2016

Shanghai (Zhangjiang) - Boston Business Park Project Launched in the U.S.

On Feb. 26, 2016, the opening ceremony of the Boston-based business park of Zhangjiang New High-tech Industrial Zone of Shanghai was held in the hall of state government of Massachusetts in the United States, signifying the formal launch of the Shanghai (Zhangjiang) - Boston Business Park Project. This project will provide an overseas base for "going-global" and "bringing-in" of China's S&T innovation and emerging industries, exploring the new mode of cooperation for S&T innovation between China and the United States.

The construction of the Shanghai (Zhangjiang) - Boston Business Park not only conformed to current model of S&T advancement and industrial development, but also met the trend of innovation strategy of both China and the U.S. in economic development, said Mr. Wang Zhigang, Secretary of CPC Leading Group and Vice Minister of MOST during the opening ceremony. The strong collaboration of the two high-tech innovation centers of Shanghai and Boston will exert an enormous and positive impact on development of the two areas or even the two countries, global S&T progress, technological innovation and industry upgrading. According to Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker, this new business park project will integrate an array of advantageous resources of Massachusetts and China and link businesses and investors from both sides, creating jobs and promoting economic growth in Massachusetts while providing great opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation in R&D and innovation.

Source: Science and Technology Daily, Feb. 28, 2016

South Asia/South East Asia-Oriented S&T Innovation Centers Launched in Yunnan for Construction

As an important move of Yunnan Province in science and technology innovation, China's South Asia/South East Asia-Oriented S&T Innovation Center Program was launched in Yunnan for implementation, so as to advance overall national diplomacy through S&T innovation and enable the province to integrate itself into the nation's "One Belt, One Road" Initiative and Yangtze River Economic Belt strategies.

As scheduled in the "12th Five-year Plan", the Ministry of Science and Technology's Yunnan-based China-South Asia Technology Transfer Center, China-ASEAN Innovation Center, and China-South Asia S&T Partnership Program were all officially launched while other significant events have been held in Kunming, including The First China-South Asia Technology Ministers Conference, China-South Asia Forum on Technology Transfer and Collaborative Innovation, and the Yunnan Tour for South Asian/South East Asian Nations' Consular Officials working in Southwest China.

The Program claimed that by 2020, Yunnan would be basically built into a S&T innovation center of China oriented to South Asia and South East Asia.

Source: Science and Technology Daily, Feb. 4, 2016

Accelerate Building of Mass Innovation Space for Transformation and Upgrading of Real Economy

On Feb. 22, 2016, the Ministry of Science and Technology held a video conference on accelerating the building of mass innovation space for transformation and upgrading of real economy, with a view to encouraging the science community to engage in innovation and entrepreneurship for development of real economy and industrial transformation and upgrading. Vice Premier of the State Council, Liu Yandong, offered important instructions to this conference and expressed high expectations on the promotion of social economic development through science and technology innovation. As Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang pointed out at the conference, China's economic development has entered into the New Normal with increasing economic pressure and challenging task of "stabilizing economic growth, promoting reforms, adjusting economic structure and improving people's well-being". It will be urgent to make better use of innovation in science and technology to release new demand, create new supply, and foster new impetus of development. Also, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Yin Hejun, gave a snapshot of the points and policies regarding The Guiding Opinion on Accelerating the Building of Mass Innovation Space for Development and Upgrading of Real Economy, the newly-amended Management Method on New and High-tech Enterprise Accreditation, Law on Facilitating Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements, and policies on R&D cost deduction. Besides, relevant businesses made speeches on tapping the potential of massive innovation to facilitate transformation and upgrading of real economy.

The meeting stressed that quality S&T resources should be channeled for innovation and entrepreneurship through the market-regulated distribution of resources for innovation, promoting development of technology-based innovation and entrepreneurship - this has a big stake in stabilizing economic growth and restructuring at the moment in four points: one, favorable for growth of real economy; two, favorable for industrial transformation and upgrading; three, favorable for helping businesses improve quality and raise efficiency; and four, favorable for innovation and entrepreneurship activities by scientists and engineers.

Source: Science and Technology Daily,
Feb. 23, 2016

Policies and Measures Laid Down to Support Transfer and Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements

On Feb. 17, Premier Li Keqiang presided over a regular meeting of the State Council and listened to report on handling proposals from the "Two Sessions" of 2015. Policies and measures are laid down to support transfer and transformation of scientific and technological achievements in a bid to promote integration of science and technology with economy. It was decided at the meeting that state-run research institutes and universities should be encouraged to shift their research outcomes to enterprises or other organizations through transfer, licensing or investing with the achievement as trade-in, as converted into shares or capital contributions to the investment. They will be entitled to the following favorable policies.

First, these institutions can decide on transfer of their achievements on their own without obtaining approval or reporting for filing purposes. They are encouraged to prioritize transfer to SMEs and support will be given to establishment of professional agencies for technology transfer.

Second, the income from transfer of achievements will belong to such institutions and be used to award researchers for carrying out R&D and transformation of research outcomes. The price for transfer and transactions of scientific and technological achievements should be published according to relevant procedures.

Third, as for the net income from transfer or licensing and the shareholdings or proportion of capital contribution from technology investment, no less than 50% should be appropriated to award relevant personnel for making major contributions to the R&D and transformation of achievements, no less than 50% of the total amount of award should be given to them. In conducting technology R&D and services regarding transformation of achievements, relevant technical personnel should be entitled to award according to laws and regulations. Under the preconditions of fulfilling their duties, leaders of public institutions are no longer held responsible for value change of the transferred achievements.

Fourth, S&T personnel are allowed to engage in transfer of achievements in businesses on part-time basis according to rules and regulations on the condition that they fulfill their full-time job duties, or they can leave their workplace to engage in transfer of achievements with employment relationship being kept for a period of three years by the employer. During such a period of time, such personnel must not suspend the projects of National S&T Program or Fund they have undertaken. Enterprises are encouraged to give incentives to S&T personnel to transform their achievements in the forms of shareholdings award, stock options or project dividends.

Fifth, the transformation of achievements will be included in performance evaluation of research institutes and universities so as to quicken the spread of favorable taxation policies of national innovation demonstration zones in the country. Other fiscal and taxation measures will be explored and improved to give support to transfer of achievements on the part of individuals. Also, science, technology and innovation should play a better role in stabilizing economic growth, adjusting economic structure, and ensuring people's well-being.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily,
February 18, 2016)

Measures Taken to Enforce Law on Promoting Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements

In order to follow up with the Innovation-driven Development Strategy, it is important to enforce the Law on Promoting Transformation of Scientific and Technological Achievements so as to integrate science and technology with economic development, and promote mass entrepreneurship and innovation. It is of great significance to encourage scientific and technological (S&T) personnel from research institutes, universities and businesses to engage in transfer and transformation of achievements. Relevant measures have been taken by the State Council to promote technology transfer from research institutes and universities, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship by S&T personnel, and create a favorable environment for transformation of S&T achievements. In particular, the state encourages SMEs with achievements converted into shares to grow bigger and stronger in the capital market. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Science and Technology should issue relevant policies to exempt state-owned shares, formed through technology-as-capital investment by state-run research institutes and universities, from transfer of shareholdings to national social security fund. Without increasing staff members, the state-run research institutes and universities are encouraged to establish

professional organizations for technology transfer. Aside from fulfilling the full-time job duties, the S&T personnel in state-run research institutes and universities can, with permission of their organizations, transfer achievements to businesses on a part-time basis, or leave their workplace to start businesses with their employment relationship being kept for a period of three years by the employer.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, March 3, 2016)

MOST Releases Information on Transformation and Dissemination of Key Science and Technology Achievements

In order to accelerate the implementation of Innovation-driven Development Strategy and promote the transformation of scientific and technological achievements, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) has worked together with relevant departments to release and update a new batch of advanced, applicable achievements in science and technology. While meeting the needs of industrial upgrading, these achievements call for a workable scale of investment and have a better effect on leading the industry, with focus on key scientific and technological achievements under the national science and technology programs. The present release covers the achievements from the 863 Program, the 973 Program, the National Natural Science Foundation, the National Key Technology R&D Program, the National Major S&T Projects, and the Technology Innovation Fund for SMEs in recent years. There are nearly 500 items of achievements in key areas, including next-generation information, energy, modern agriculture, high-end equipment and advanced manufacturing, urbanization, maritime, resources conservation and ecological rehabilitation, population and health, new materials, and high-tech service industries, etc. Meanwhile, a batch of achievements have been released to provide technological support in key areas, involving prevention of air pollution, water conservation and ecological rehabilitation, energy conservation, emissions reduction and low-carbon development, desalination of sea water, and comprehensive utilization of agricultural waste.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, March 5, 2016)

State Council Builds Platforms for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

On February 3rd 2016, Premier Li Keqiang presided over a routine meeting of the State Council. The meeting made arrangements on building bases of innovation and entrepreneurship, developing mass makerspaces and facilitating the growth of new driving forces. New platforms for entrepreneurship and innovation is to provide cost-effective, comprehensive, and professional services to better deliver the strategy of innovation-driven development, and promote public engagement in entrepreneurship and innovation. Such platforms are expected to unleash society-wide potential for innovation, generate new momentum for the real economy, and create new jobs to offset the overcapacity of production.

To build up the platforms, the State Council outlined three measures. First, based on national innovation demonstration zones and high-tech parks, China is to develop a few pilot innovation platforms at the national-level to lead the rest of the country in establishing location-specific bases of innovation and entrepreneurship. Priority areas include electronic information, high-end equipment manufacturing and modern agriculture. Collaboration is encouraged among leading businesses, companies of

small, medium and micro sizes, research institutions, universities, and makers of all strips. The aim of engaging all those actors is to create mass makerspaces that connect production, academia, research and application in such a way that manufacturing industries could be upgraded and the modern service sector could be further developed.

Second, the government is to provide greater policy support. Spare premises and warehouses are encouraged to be renovated as entrepreneurship-innovation bases or mass makerspaces. Subsidies are granted to partly cover costs from office areas, water and power supply, Internet access, etc. Efforts should be made to attract angel investment and venture capital. Selected financial institutions are expected to easy credit access through mixes of loans and investments.

Third, the government is committed to better delivering tax incentives such as accelerated depreciation of R&D equipment and facilities, and tax reduction based on R&D expenses. Efforts should be made to improve the distribution mechanisms of innovation achievements. Support is granted to research and technical personnel who start their own businesses in innovation & entrepreneurship bases or mass makerspaces. Other preferential policies should also be in place to facilitate their IP application; conversion and application of achievements.

(Source: Science and Technology Daily, February 4, 2016)