Message from the General Chair

Welcome to the Fourth International Conference of on Cooperation and Promotion of Information Resources in Science and Technology (COINFO 2009). COINFO conferences have been organized by the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC) in collaboration with Chinese and overseas universities. This, the fourth COINFO conference, is organized in collaboration with Tsinghua University (China) and the University of Southern Queensland (Australia). As the Director of Centre for Resources Sharing Promotion at ISTIC, I would like to use this opportunity to introduce ISTIC.

ISTIC was initiated in October 1956 as a national scientific and technical information service institute directly under the Ministry of Science and Technology. Main areas of activities include scientific and technical (S&T) information analysis and policy research; S&T document services oriented toward various innovation entities; diffusion of new technologies and management of advanced S&T service platforms; training and further education of information professionals; management of some learned societies; and book publishing. In addition, ISTIC shoulders the important mission of maintenance and development of the National Engineering and Technology Library.

In the past 50 years, ISTIC has made significant contributions to the development of China’s science and technology and the prosperity of scientific and technical information enterprises. As a scientific and technical information research institute at the national level, ISTIC has enjoyed a great reputation at home and abroad. Many of its research achievements and important projects have won awards at national, provincial, or ministerial levels. Meanwhile, ISTIC has taken an active part in international cooperation and academic exchanges. It is a member of several international organizations and programs such as UNESCO’s Information for All Program (IFAP). ISTIC also undertakes international projects in the fields of scientific and technical documentation, basic research of information science, and human resources development. In addition, it has established stable cooperation with the major documentation and information organizations of many countries, including the USA, Germany, Canada, Japan, and Korea, hence, acting as a window for China to conduct international cooperation and exchanges in the information field.

In the years to come, ISTIC will bring into full play its four leading advantages in organizational management, operational mechanisms, business activities, and human resources, and strive to become one of China’s first-class institutes and also a renowned organization worldwide. It will forge new centers: a scientific and technical information management and service center, an academic research center for scientific and technical information, and a training center for information professionals. These centers will contribute toward social harmony and the implementation of the strategy for the invigoration of China through science, technology, and education.
I also want to use this opportunity to encourage all participants to submit project proposals related to the ISTIC areas of interest. We are ready to study these proposals and make efforts to establish research collaboration with recognizable universities and research institutions at both national and international levels.

On behalf of the COINFO 2009 Organising Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome the delegates to this conference and hope their stay in Beijing is pleasant and memorable.

Professor Peng Jie
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