

## FOREWORD TO THE FIRST EDITION OF CHINA LEGAL SCIENCE

China Legal Science, sponsored by the China Law Society and published by China Legal Science Journals Press, is hereby formally founded. This is a significant event for Chinese jurisprudential circles. This Journal will focus on introducing achievements of China's legal construction, publishing Chinese legal research results, and devoting itself to providing a new platform for academic exchanges between China and foreign countries.

It has been 30 years since Deng Xiaoping proposed the reform and opening up policy in China. During these 30 years, China has been undergoing essential changes in every corner of society. Notably, China's legal system has made many achievements which command the attention of the world, such as putting forward the fundamental policy of governing the country in accordance with the law, establishing socialism with Chinese characteristics, enhancing governing capacity of the ruling party, safeguarding human rights, promoting economic development, improving legal environment and judicial justice, conducting administration by law, and strengthening the restriction and supervision of power. In addition to researching and implementing some Western advanced legal theories and systems, China's jurisprudential circle has put forward many legal theories and systems with Chinese characteristics that can solve China's modern issues by keeping a close relationship with China's actual conditions. Today, all these legal theories and systems have become important parts of a socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics. All these achievements tell us that socialism with Chinese characteristics has its own advantages, and the socialist legal theory with Chinese characteristics has its own progressive features and scientific nature. As a part of global legal culture and legal experience as well as spiritual wealth of human society, China's socialist legal theories should be studied and can be shared by different countries. Therefore, at the time of studying other countries' advanced legal cultures, China should also offer our legal construction achievements and legal research results to foreign countries.

Establishing China Legal Science is an important measure to further publicize China's legal construction achievements, show China's research results of legal theories, continue the boom in China's legal research, and promote legal exchanges between China and foreign countries. It is unquestionable that after the establishment of China Legal Science, foreign jurisprudential circles will comprehensively and accurately know the rule of law conditions and the level of legal research in China. In addition, equal and bilateral exchanges between various jurisprudential circles will be improved, and the common development between different cultures and systems will be promoted.

China Law Society (CLS), as the sponsor of China Legal Science, is responsible for guiding the Journal's editing and publishing. CLS was founded in 1949 as a national association of legal scholars, jurists, law practitioners and an academic body of legal sciences. CLS pursues objectives of enriching legal

studies, promoting rule of law and making prosperous material, political and spiritual civilizations. CLS has been actively organizing and mobilizing scholars and jurists with a view toward increasing the prosperity of legal studies in different disciplines, at different levels and across a wide spectrum of legal fields, making great contributions to progress in legislation, justice administration, law enforcement and the popularization of legal knowledge in China. At present, CLS has more than 140,000 individual members and 75 group members, including 32 local law societies at the provincial level and 43 affiliated academies on specific laws and legal issues. In addition, CLS and its affiliated academies have established friendly relations with over 100 legal associations, institutes and law schools in more than 60 countries and regions throughout the world. CLS will provide a perfect operating environment for China Legal Science by sufficiently utilizing its own advantages, coordinating various social resources, and keeping good relationships with foreign legal scholars.

China Legal Science will be published by China Legal Science Journals Press under the guidance of CLS. It should be noted that China Legal Science Journals Press also publishes another legal journal of the same name in Chinese. This Chinese journal was founded in 1984. Today, this Chinese journal has become one of the most well-known legal journals in China and has extensive influence in China's jurisprudential circle. According to the *Annual Report of China Academic Journals Impact Factor* (Social science edition) issued by China Knowledge Resource Integrated Database (CNKI), the impact factor of China Legal Science (Chinese edition) is 3.816, which ranks first among China's legal journals and third among China's social science journals. Moreover, most editors in China Legal Science Journals Press have more than twenty years' editing experience. In addition, China Legal Science Journals Press has published China Legal Science in English for one issue every year since 2001. All these positive attributes will help China Legal Science Journals Press in operating China Legal Science. I really believe that China Legal Science will be run commendably.

At present, there are more than 1,600 English-language legal journals in the world. In order to become one of the well-known legal journals in the world, much work remains that China Legal Science needs to do. I thus put forward below some expectations and specific requirements for running the Journal:

First, the journal must be run on the basis of legal theories and practices with Chinese characteristics. The journal will not develop and make progress without the nourishment of the domestic law soil. If the journal wants to have its own characteristics and style and make contributions to the legal cultures of the world, the journal must be run on the basis of domestic legal construction, emphasize our own history and reality, and "look inside" at a time in which it is common to "look outside". That is to say the journal should scientifically treat China's traditional legal culture by "accepting good and rejecting bad" and sufficiently utilize excellent components of China's traditional legal culture. Moreover, the journal should reflect the actual conditions of the enforcement of China's legal practices and the true level of legal research and

have the courage to analyze problems, summarize experiences actively and cleverly, and provide reliable and qualified research results for foreign jurisprudential circles. After doing this, China Legal Science will make unique contributions to global legal cultures.

Secondly, the journal needs to learn from the foreign advanced experiences of operating English legal journals. At present, there are many well-known English legal journals in the world, such as Harvard Law Review, Columbia Law Review and The Yale Law Journal. As an English-language legal journal founded by a non-English country, China Legal Science needs to learn all successful experiences of running these well-known journals, explore the rules of running legal journals, and formulate our own procedures and rules of running the Journal in accordance with China's realistic conditions.

Thirdly, the Journal should establish long-term objective of founding a world-class academic journal. China Legal Science is not only the first English-language legal journal with a formal publication number in China (Its National Unified Publication Number is CN10-1091/D, and its International Standard Serial Number is 2095-4867), but also the first English-language academic journal that is governed and hosted by an authority at the national level in China. It is thus unquestionable that the journal should shoulder the missions of further publicizing China's remarkable achievements in the construction of its legal system, introducing the research results of theoretical research to foreign countries, contributing to the flourishing of legal research, and promoting legal exchanges between China and foreign countries. As a consequence, in order to achieve all these goals mentioned earlier and promote the influence of the journal in the world, China Legal Science should establish a long-term objective of founding a world-class academic journal, make great efforts to improve the quality of operating the journal, introduce China's legal research to the world via the Journal and make the world understand China's legal research via the Journal.

Finally, I would take advantage of this opportunity to say thank you to the Central Politics and Law Commission of the Communist Party of China, the General Administration of Press and Publication of the People's Republic of China, and other authorities and individuals who give strong support and guidance at the time of operating China Legal Science, and really hope that they can continue to support the Journal in the future. I believe that China Legal Science will become better and better thanks to the concern and support of the social public.

Executive Vice President of China Law Society  
Chen Jiping  
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