

# A Preliminary Study of China's Statistical Information Consultancy in the 21st Century

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With the fast development of science and technology in the 21st century, the world is increasingly being informationalized, and economy is being transformed from the traditional industry-based economy to knowledge-based economy. Meanwhile, the global economic integration trend is imposing new challenge to China's information technology, so it is time to bring the development of our statistical information consultancy (hereinafter referred to as SIC) into our agenda.

## **1. Market economy requires the development of SIC**

### **a. Exploitation and utilization of statistical information resource is necessary for nation's macroeconomic management**

Under the market economy, the nation has shifted its direct control over the economy to an indirect one, which requires it to reinforce and perfect its macroeconomic management. A macro-control would be impossible without accurate and punctual statistical information. Statistics sector forecasts the development of the national economy and assists in the national economic policy-making. On the other hand, statistical information also serves as a tool to supervise and monitor the proper implementation of all the economic policies.

### **b. The information era has imposed new challenges to the SIC**

Information technology is growing rampantly today. Statistical information, as part of the IT, plays a major role in this process. Statistical information sector must grasp the chances, take advantage of its possession of information network, meet the challenges, and form an industrialized operational structure and economy of scale by establishing an open-style service network.

### **c. SIC provides important reference for enterprises in their decision-making**

In an information era, an enterprise needs to possess a wide range of accurate information. But this information is hardly available through an enterprise's own channels. It must rely on the professional assistance of the statistical information sector.

## **2. Ways of development for SIC**

SIC development must be based on our national conditions, be market-oriented. It must actively open up the market and expand its scope. Besides serving the nation's macroeconomic management, it can also provide high-quality, high-efficiency and paid service to the grass-root businesses and the general public.

### **a. Paid service to businesses, relevant institutions and the general public**

SIC features paid service, with the market rather than government authorities as its main clientele, and profitability as its goal.

### **b. Combination with other statistical institutions to achieve economy of scale**

SIC must create an open-style service network, which means government-controlled statistical institutions must join hands extensively with civil ones.

## **3. Guarantees to accelerate the SIC growth**

### **a. Perfecting the relevant regulations to ensure the quality of statistics**

In the market economy, there is a great deal of cheating on statistics driven by profits, which hurts the

policy-making and macro-control of the country, and causes great losses to the economy. Thus a strict legal system is absolutely necessary to discipline the SIC activities.

#### **b. Arming the SIC sector with modern technology**

For its advantages generally known, computer is essential in the statistics data processing. But we have to admit that computers are not fully used in our country's statistic sector as they should be.

#### **c. Training high-quality statistical personnel**

The growth of SIC cannot live without talents. SIC is a knowledge-intensive industry and requires its workers to master wide range of knowledge, including economics and computer.

#### **d. Standardizing statistical information**

Currently the statistical systems vary from sector to sector and from business to business. So it's necessary to standardize the statistical system to ensure uniform statistical information.

### **4. Creating a diversified, open-style SIC structure on the basis of statistical structural reform**

#### **a. Creating information centers to combine its statistics and information service**

To meet the demand of market economy, statistics should be transformed to commercialized or semi-commercialized information service center. It can actively provide service to other circles.

#### **b. Developing civil statistical institutions**

These market-oriented institutions, because of their different ownership from state ones, enjoys such advantages as better efficiency, more flexibility and broader coverage. Thus it is necessary to make favorable policies and create a good environment to encourage their development.

#### **c. Nurturing a statistical information and consultancy market, and strengthening its administration**

It is necessary to break regional blocs and monopolies and achieve combined operations. Government authorities need to reinforce their administration of various statistic consultancy institutions.

### **5. Problems to attend to in the course of SIC growth**

#### **a. To streamline the relationship between the statistical authorities and SIC institutions**

Enterprises should be independent from governments in operation, but governments should exercise scientific administration over enterprises.

#### **b. To consolidate administration and create an effective regulating and encouraging system**

There must be an organic combination between centralized administration and decentralized operation, between responsibilities, power and profits, and between encouragement and regulation.

All in all, in a market economy, the key for a better development of the SIC is to push it to the market at an accelerated pace. And to meet the requirements of a market economy, we must enlarge our scope of service and face the society and market actively. Through our service to the general public and the more valuable information we provide to the society, we can better serve the purpose of our economic development.

### **SOMMAIRE**

L' AUTEUR DE CET ARTICLE A FAIT UNE ÉTUDE PLUS APPROFONDIE SUR LE FUTUR DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA CONSULTATION D'INFORMATION STATISTIQUE, DISSERTÉ LA DIRECTION ET LE PROCÉDÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA CONSULTATION D'INFORMATION STATISTIQUE, ET LES PROBLÈMES QUI DOIVENT ÊTRE RÉSOLUS PENDANT LE DÉVELOPPEMENT, L'AUTEUR A EXPRIMÉ DE PLUS SON AVIS QUE LA STRUCTURE DE LA CONSULTATION D'INFORMATION STATISTIQUE DOIT ÊTRE MULTILATÉRALE, OUVERTE, EN COMBINANT LA RÉFORME DU SYSTÈME DE LA CONSULTATION D'INFORMATION STATISTIQUE, SON AVIS À QUELQUES SENS RÉFÉRANT POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA CONSULTATION D'INFORMATION STATISTIQUE CHINOISE.