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WEEKLY EDITION

## More Patents Industrialized in 2022

By WANG Xiaoxia

The industrialization rate of effective patents in China reached 36.7 percent in 2022, a record high in the past five years, according to an annual survey issued by China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), the country's top IP regulator, on December 28, 2022.

The rising patent industrialization rate reflects the continuous enhancement of China's ability to support the innovation and development of the real economy through the transfer and transformation of intellectual property rights.

According to the survey data, enterprises play a leading role in the improvement of patent industrialization across the country. For enterprise patentees, the patent industrialization rate was 48.1 percent in 2022, an increase of 1.3 percentage points over the previous year.

Among enterprises, those that are innovation-driven performed better, said Ge Shu, head of the strategic planning department at the CNIPA.

Most notably, the "national intellectual property demonstration enterprises," which is the highest honor awarded by the CNIPA for the creation, application, protection, and management of the intellectual property of an enterprise, saw their patent industrialization rate reach 61.3 percent, said Ge.

## International Cooperation

## RCEP Adds Momentum to Cooperation

Edited by LIN Yuchen

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the largest free trade agreement among the Asia-Pacific nations, is boosting trade and investment through reduced tariffs, adding momentum to cooperation among its member nations.

A recent example of this refers to the pact's entry into force for Indonesia on January 2. The favorable tariffs can now be used by the private sectors under RCEP when importing to or exporting from Indonesia, according to ASEAN.

RCEP would boost trade and direct investment and is expected to increase the country's GDP by 0.07 percent, said Zulkifli Hasan, minister of trade of Indonesia, adding that "We describe this agreement as a tollway to enter the global market, and it is time for Indonesia to storm the international markets."

From January to November 2022, China's trade with other RCEP members amounted to 11.8 trillion RMB, up 7.9 percent year-on-year, accounting for 30.7 percent of the country's total foreign trade volumes.

The export tariff of automobile manufacturer FOTON to Malaysia, for example, has been reduced from 30 percent to 5 percent from March 2022. From January to November 2022, the company exported 13,162 vehicles to RCEP member countries, with the reduced tariff expected to reach 22.15 million RMB. See page 4



Entrance to the conference and exhibition center in Nanning during the China-ASEAN Expo held in September, 2022. (PHOTO: XINHUA)



The 40-day Spring Festival travel rush in China begins on January 7. Passengers are seen at Zhengzhou East Railway Station in central China's Henan province. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

## Editor's Pick

## Sci-tech Vital for Rural Development

By WANG Xiaoxia

The socialist modernization won't be complete without agricultural and rural modernization, according to the outcomes of the annual central rural work conference, which was held from December 23 to 24, 2022 in Beijing. The conference stressed the need to rely on science and technology to accelerate the construction of a strong agriculture sector.

For decades, China has carried out policies and projects to develop agricultural technologies focusing on the urgent needs of rural areas, and encouraged scientists and specialists to seek solutions for the farmers as well as transfer the practical techniques from their laboratories to agricultural production.

**Focusing on core agricultural technology**

The conference agreed it is imperative to make breakthroughs in key and core agricultural technology, be guided by the agricultural sector's urgent needs, focus on fields such as fundamental technologies, core germplasm resources, as well as key agricultural machinery and equipment.

Due to seawater seepage and other reasons, more than 80 percent of the land in the Yellow River Delta is saline-alkali, causing many problems for local people to develop modern agriculture. In recent years, through ecological optimization of land and sci-tech innovation in seed breeding, a variety of saline-tolerant crops with high yields and good quality have grown in saline-alkali land.

To vitalize the seed breeding industry, China earmarked over 5 billion RMB (about 782.5 million USD) during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020) in support of seed production bases. They supply over 70 percent of seeds for crop production and ensure national grain security.

By April 2022, the number of national seed breeding and production bases in China increased to 216. These hubs breed or produce seeds for grain, cotton, oil, and sugar, among others, and can supply over 80 percent of the seeds for the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said.

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## 50%! BDS Appropriate for Global Mobile Phones

By Staff Reporters

Ninety percent of mobile phones in China and 50 percent in the world support the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) service, and products of application service based on BDS have entered the markets in over 120 countries and regions, said Guo Shuren, deputy chief designer of BDS, at a recent press

conference.

Guo said that BDS realized coverage of all types of mobile devices in October 2020 when Apple's iPhone 12 supported the BDS signal.

BDS-2 is China's first space infrastructure that offers free open service to the international community. It has been operating steadily for 12 years and providing service to three billion people.

Though BDS-1 was no longer in operation, there are 45 BDS-2 and BDS-3 satellites now in orbit, and the signal has never broken for the past two decades.

Currently there are 20 BDS satellites offering navigation and positioning services for Beijing, and the planning of traveling routes and arrival times are all calculated based on big data from BDS positioning. See page 4

## Protection Strengthened, Spring Festival Travel Rush Begins

By Staff Reporters

China released its 10th Edition of COVID-19 control protocol on January 7, highlighting vaccination and personal protection.

Released by the State Council joint COVID-19 prevention and control mechanism, the protocol encourages the public, especially the elderly, to get fully vaccinated and take booster shots. It also

stresses good hygiene habits such as washing hands frequently and wearing masks to strengthen personal protection.

Mass nucleic acid testing will no longer be carried out, but antigen or nucleic acid testing will be conducted for relevant people seeking medical treatment and inpatients at hospitals, staff or care recipients at aged care facilities and social welfare institutions, and people at high risk of serious illness in communi-

ties, says the protocol.

It proposes that temporary prevention and control measures should be taken timely, while quarantine measures against people with a COVID-19 infection are dropped, and in accordance with the law to reduce large gatherings as well as the flow of people, to alleviate the impact of the sudden increase of infected people on social functioning and medical resources. See page 4

## Science Popularization Efforts Garner Impressive Results

By LIN Yuchen

China's science popularization campaign funds in 2021 exceeded 18.9 billion RMB, up around 10.1 percent from 2020, according to statistics released recently by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The public sector makes up a major source of the funds, to which municipal governments contributed about 79.49 percent, amounting to over 15.02 billion RMB. The national science popularization funds per capita of 2021 was 4.71 RMB, an increase of 0.54 RMB over 2020.

Expenditure on science popularization activities in 2021 was over 8.38 billion RMB, accounting for about 44.24 percent of the total funds spent.

Among the activities, over 1.03 million science popularization lectures were held, attracting about 3.38 billion audiences in total, up around 108.24 percent over 2020.

Over 726 million people participated in the science popularization contests in 2021, an increase of 294.22 percent compared to 2020.

On the media side, the total broadcasting hours of science popularization radio programs reached 146,000 in 2021, accompanied by 177,500 broadcasting hours of TV programs.

Over 85 million science popularization books and over 88 million copies of science popularization journals were published in 2021. In addition, an enhanced online science popularization network, which included 1,867 websites, 1,669 micro-blog accounts, and 7,949 Wechat public accounts, were all newly created.

The infrastructure construction of venues for science popularization cost over 3.33 billion RMB. Relevant exhibits and facilities cost above 1.93 billion RMB.

The number of sci-tech centers and museums also increased significantly to 1,677 in 2021, up 152 compared to 2020, while the yearly number of visitors to these places was 42 percent more in 2021 than in 2020, reaching over 163 million.

## WEEKLY REVIEW

### China Enters New Phase of COVID Response

Starting from January 8, China managed COVID-19 with measures designed for combating Class B infectious diseases. A new edition of the country's protocol on COVID-19 prevention and control was released one day earlier. The focus of the new phase policy is on protecting people's health and preventing severe cases.

### China Launches New Satellite

China successfully sent a new satellite into space from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan on January 9. The satellite is mainly used for scientific experiments and technical verification.

### New Research Results Achieved by EAST

A new plasma operation scenario Super I Mode was discovered and demonstrated on Experiment Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST). The team from Institute of Plasma Physics, Hefei Institutes of Physical Science of CAS, recently reported the finding in *Science Advances*.

### Emergency Approval for Domestic ECMO Granted

China's first homegrown extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) device has been given emergency approval, according to the National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) on January 5. The NMPA said the performance indicators of the products are on a par with similar foreign products.

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