

## WELCOME ADDRESS

On behalf of the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences as well as the organizing committee, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all of you, participating in the 2012 Global Conference of the Regional Studies Association. I believe that your participation will make the conference a great success in promoting academic dialogues and debates among scholars in the field of regional studies all over the world.

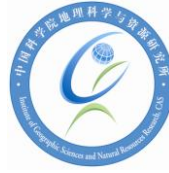
IGSNRR is a leading research institution in geography and natural resources research in China, and regional development study is one of our strengths. We are keen to develop collaborations in various forms with scholars from the rest of the world. I wish that this conference will be a bridge for establishing academic links among all of you.

I sincerely hope that you would not only learn from each other at various conference sessions, but also take this opportunity to learn more about dynamic China and enjoy the Olympic Green, the site of the 29<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games, which is just next to the conference venue. I cordially invite you to visit IGSNRR and join a reception to be held at IGSNRR on June 25, 2012.

Enjoy your stay in Beijing in this beautiful season.



Yi Liu  
Professor and Director,  
Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research  
Chinese Academy of Sciences



## **The Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR)**

The Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) was established in 1999 through a merger of two former CAS institutes: The Institute of Geography (IOG) and The Commission for Integrated Survey of Natural Resources (CISNAR). The former was established in 1940 and the latter in 1956. Both institutes had a long history of distinguished engagement in and contribution to the development of geography and natural resources inventory and research. The merge is part of overall effort by the Academy in establishing a national platform for knowledge innovation.

IGSNRR gives high priority to the research areas of physical geography and global change, human geography and regional development, natural resources and environmental security, geo-information mechanism and system simulation, water cycle and related land surface processes, ecosystem network observation and modeling, and agricultural policies. The institute also has one national key laboratory (Lab for Resource and Environment Information System), three CAS key laboratories (Lab of Regional Sustainable Development Modeling; Lab of Water Cycle and Related Land Surface Processes; Lab of Ecosystem Network Observation and Modeling), and maintains three CAS open ecological research stations and one data service center for resources and environmental sciences, and hosts one industrial center for GIS development.

There are 598 staffs at IGSNRR, including 7 academicians of CAS or CAE (Chinese Academy of Engineering), 14 National Outstanding Young Scientists Awardees (highest honors given to scholars under the age of 45), and 24 young scholars who are part of the “One Hundred Talents Program” of CAS.

IGSNRR has a strong postdoctoral research and training program in geography and ecology. It provides a base for PhD students in all major sub-disciplines of geography and in the related fields of ecology, environmental science, agricultural economics and management. Students pursuing Master’s degree are trained in physical and human geography, ecology, cartography and GIS, meteorology, environmental sciences, agricultural economics and management.

