Jianhai Xiang

Marine Science & Technology in China: A Roadmap to 2050
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Foreword to the Roadmaps 2050*

China’s modernization is viewed as a transformative revolution in the human history of modernization. As such, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) decided to give higher priority to the research on the science and technology (S&T) roadmap for priority areas in China’s modernization process. What is the purpose? And why is it? Is it a must? I think those are substantial and significant questions to start things forward.

Significance of the Research on China’s S&T Roadmap to 2050

We are aware that the National Mid- and Long-term S&T Plan to 2020 has already been formed after two years’ hard work by a panel of over 2000 experts and scholars brought together from all over China, chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao. This clearly shows that China has already had its S&T blueprint to 2020. Then, why did CAS conduct this research on China’s S&T roadmap to 2050?

In the summer of 2007 when CAS was working out its future strategic priorities for S&T development, it realized that some issues, such as energy, must be addressed with a long-term view. As a matter of fact, some strategic researches have been conducted, over the last 15 years, on energy, but mainly on how to best use of coal, how to best exploit both domestic and international oil and gas resources, and how to develop nuclear energy in a discreet way. Renewable energy was, of course, included but only as a supplementary energy. It was not yet thought as a supporting leg for future energy development. However, greenhouse gas emissions are becoming a major world concern over

* It is adapted from a speech by President Yongxiang Lu at the first High-level Workshop on China’s S&T Roadmap for Priority Areas to 2050, organized by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in October, 2007.
the years, and how to address the global climate change has been on the agenda. In fact, what is really behind is the concern for energy structure, which makes us realize that fossil energy must be used cleanly and efficiently in order to reduce its impact on the environment. However, fossil energy is, pessimistically speaking, expected to be used up within about 100 years, or optimistically speaking, within about 200 years. Oil and gas resources may be among the first to be exhausted, and then coal resources follow. When this happens, human beings will have to refer to renewable energy as its major energy, while nuclear energy as a supplementary one. Under this situation, governments of the world are taking preparatory efforts in this regard, with Europe taking the lead and the USA shifting to take a more positive attitude, as evidenced in that: while fossil energy has been taken the best use of, renewable energy has been greatly developed, and the R&D of advanced nuclear energy has been reinforced with the objective of being eventually transformed into renewable energy. The process may last 50 to 100 years or so. Hence, many S&T problems may come around. In the field of basic research, for example, research will be conducted by physicists, chemists and biologists on the new generation of photovoltaic cell, dye-sensitized solar cells (DSC), high-efficient photochemical catalysis and storage, and efficient photosynthetic species, or high-efficient photosynthetic species produced by gene engineering which are free from land and water demands compared with food and oil crops, and can be grown on hillside, saline lands and semi-arid places, producing the energy that fits humanity. In the meantime, although the existing energy system is comparatively stable, future energy structure is likely to change into an unstable system. Presumably, dispersive energy system as well as higher-efficient direct current transmission and storage technology will be developed, so will be the safe and reliable control of network, and the capture, storage, transfer and use of CO$_2$, all of which involve S&T problems in almost all scientific disciplines. Therefore, it is natural that energy problems may bring out both basic and applied research, and may eventually lead to comprehensive structural changes. And this may last for 50 to 100 years or so. Taking the nuclear energy as an example, it usually takes about 20 years or more from its initial plan to key technology breakthroughs, so does the subsequent massive application and commercialization. If we lose the opportunity to make foresighted arrangements, we will be lagging far behind in the future. France has already worked out the roadmap to 2040 and 2050 respectively for the development of the 3$^{rd}$ and 4$^{th}$ generation of nuclear fission reactors, while China has not yet taken any serious actions. Under this circumstance, it is now time for CAS to take the issue seriously, for the sake of national interests, and to start conducting a foresighted research in this regard.

This strategic research covers over some dozens of areas with a long-term view. Taking agriculture as an example, our concern used to be limited only to the increased production of high-quality food grains and agricultural by-products. However, in the future, the main concern will definitely be given to the water-saving and ecological agriculture. As China is vast in territory,
diversified technologies in this regard are the appropriate solutions. Animal husbandry has been used by developed countries, such as Japan and Denmark, to make bioreactor and pesticide as well. Plants have been used by Japan to make bioreactors which are safer and cost-effective than that made from animals. Potato, strawberry, tomato and the like have been bred in germ-free greenhouses, and value-added products have been made through gene transplantation technology. Agriculture in China must not only address the food demands from its one billions-plus population, but also take into consideration of the value-added agriculture by-products and the high-tech development of agriculture as well. Agriculture in the future is expected to bring out some energies and fuels needed by both industry and man’s livelihood as well. Some developed countries have taken an earlier start to conduct foresighted research in this regard, while we have not yet taken sufficient consideration.

Population is another problem. It will be most likely that China’s population will not drop to about 1 billion until the end of this century, given that the past mistakes of China’s population policy be rectified. But the subsequent problem of ageing could only be sorted out until the next century. The current population and health policies face many challenges, such as, how to ensure that the 1.3 to 1.5 billion people enjoy fair and basic public healthcare; the necessity to develop advanced and public healthcare and treatment technologies; and the change of research priority to chronic diseases from infectious diseases, as developed countries have already started research in this regard under the increasing social and environmental change. There are many such research problems yet to be sorted out by starting from the basic research, and subsequent policies within the next 50 years are in need to be worked out.

Space and oceans provide humanity with important resources for future development. In terms of space research, the well-known Manned Spacecraft Program and China’s Lunar Exploration Program will last for 20 or 25 years. But what will be the whole plan for China’s space technology? What is the objective? Will it just follow the suit of developed countries? It is worth doing serious study in this regard. The present spacecraft is mainly sent into space with chemical fuel propellant rocket. Will this traditional propellant still be used in future deep space exploration? Or other new technologies such as electrical propellant, nuclear energy propellant, and solar sail technologies be developed? We haven’t yet done any strategic research over these issues, not even worked out any plans. The ocean is abundant in mineral resources, oil and gas, natural gas hydrate, biological resources, energy and photo-free biological evolution, which may arise our scientific interests. At present, many countries have worked out new strategic marine plans. Russia, Canada, the USA, Sweden and Norway have centered their contention upon the North Pole, an area of strategic significance. For this, however, we have only limited plans.

The national and public security develops with time, and covers both
conventional and non-conventional security. Conventional security threats only refer to foreign invasion and warfare, while, the present security threat may come out from any of the natural, man-made, external, interior, ecological, environmental, and the emerging networking (including both real and virtual) factors. The conflicts out of these must be analyzed from the perspective of human civilization, and be sorted out in a scientific manner. Efforts must be made to root out the cause of the threats, while human life must be treasured at any time.

In general, it is necessary to conduct this strategic research in view of the future development of China and mankind as well. The past 250 years’ industrialization has resulted in the modernization and better-off life of less than 1 billion people, predominantly in Europe, North America, Japan and Singapore. The next 50 years’ modernization drive will definitely lead to a better-off life for 2–3 billion people, including over 1 billion Chinese, doubling or tripling the economic increase over that of the past 250 years, which will, on the one hand, bring vigor and vitality to the world, and, on the other hand, inevitably challenge the limited resources and eco-environment on the earth. New development mode must be shaped so that everyone on the earth will be able to enjoy fairly the achievements of modern civilization. Achieving this requires us, in the process of China’s modernization, to have a foresighted overview on the future development of world science and human civilization, and on how science and technology could serve the modernization drive. S&T roadmap for priority areas to 2050 must be worked out, and solutions to core science problems and key technology problems must be straightened out, which will eventually provide consultations for the nation’s S&T decision-making.

Possibility of Working out China’s S&T Roadmap to 2050

Some people held the view that science is hard to be predicted as it happens unexpectedly and mainly comes out of scientists’ innovative thinking, while, technology might be predicted but at the maximum of 15 years. In my view, however, S&T foresight in some areas seems feasible. For instance, with the exhaustion of fossil energy, some smart people may think of transforming solar energy into energy-intensive biomass through improved high-efficient solar thin-film materials and devices, or even developing new substitute. As is driven by huge demands, many investments will go to this emerging area. It is, therefore, able to predict that, in the next 50 years, some breakthroughs will undoubtedly be made in the areas of renewable energy and nuclear energy as well. In terms of solar energy, for example, the improvement of photoelectric conversion efficiency and photothermal conversion efficiency will be the focus. Of course, the concrete technological solutions may be varied, for example, by changing the morphology of the surface of solar cells and through the reflection, the entire spectrum can be absorbed more efficiently; by developing multi-layer functional thin-films for transmission and absorption; or by introducing of nanotechnology and quantum control technology, etc. Quantum control research used to limit mainly to the solution to information functional materials. This is surely too narrow. In the
future, this research is expected to be extended to the energy issue or energy-based basic research in cutting-edge areas.

In terms of computing science, we must be confident to forecast its future development instead of simply following suit as we used to. This is a possibility rather than wild fancies. Information scientists, physicists and biologists could be engaged in the forward-looking research. In 2007, the Nobel Physics Prize was awarded to the discovery of colossal magneto-resistance, which was, however, made some 20 years ago. Today, this technology has already been applied to hard disk store. Our conclusion made, at this stage, is that: it is possible to make long-term and unconventional S&T predictions, and so is it to work out China’s S&T roadmap in view of long-term strategies, for example, by 2020 as the first step, by 2030 or 2035 as the second step, and by 2050 as the maximum.

This possibility may also apply to other areas of research. The point is to emancipate the mind and respect objective laws rather than indulging in wild fancies. We attribute our success today to the guidelines of emancipating the mind and seeking the truth from the facts set by the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in 1979. We must break the conventional barriers and find a way of development fitting into China’s reality. The history of science tells us that discoveries and breakthroughs could only be made when you open up your mind, break the conventional barriers, and make foresighted plans. Top-down guidance on research with increased financial support and involvement of a wider range of talented scientists is not in conflict with demand-driven research and free discovery of science as well.

**Necessity of CAS Research on China’s S&T Roadmap to 2050**

Why does CAS launch this research? As is known, CAS is the nation’s highest academic institution in natural sciences. It targets at making basic, forward-looking and strategic research and playing a leading role in China’s science. As such, how can it achieve this if without a foresighted view on science and technology? From the perspective of CAS, it is obligatory to think, with a global view, about what to do after the 3rd Phase of the Knowledge Innovation Program (KIP). Shall we follow the way as it used to? Or shall we, with a view of national interests, present our in-depth insights into different research disciplines, and make efforts to reform the organizational structure and system, so that the innovation capability of CAS and the nation’s science and technology mission will be raised to a new height? Clearly, the latter is more positive. World science and technology develops at a lightening speed. As global economy grows, we are aware that we will be lagging far behind if without making progress, and will lose the opportunity if without making foresighted plans. S&T innovation requires us to make joint efforts, break the conventional barriers and emancipate the mind. This is also what we need for further development.
The roadmap must be targeted at the national level so that the strategic research reports will form an important part of the national long-term program. CAS may not be able to fulfill all the objectives in the reports. However, it can select what is able to do and make foresighted plans, which will eventually help shape the post-2010 research priorities of CAS and the guidelines for its future reform.

Once the long-term roadmap and its objectives are identified, system mechanism, human resources, funding and allocation should be ensured for full implementation. We will make further studies to figure out: What will happen to world innovation system within the next 30 to 50 years? Will universities, research institutions and enterprises still be included in the system? Will research institutes become grid structure? When the cutting-edge research combines basic science and high-tech and the transformative research integrates the cutting-edge research with industrialization, will that be the research trend in some disciplines? What will be the changes for personnel structure, motivation mechanism and upgrading mechanism within the innovation system? Will there be any changes for the input and structure of innovation resources? If we could have a clear mind of all the questions, make foresighted plans and then dare to try out in relevant CAS institutes, we will be able to pave a way for a more competitive and smooth development.

Social changes are without limit, so are the development of science and technology, and innovation system and management as well. CAS must keep moving ahead to make foresighted plans not only for science and technology, but also for its organizational structure, human resources, management modes, and resource structures. By doing so, CAS will keep standing at the forefront of science and playing a leading role in the national innovation system, and even, frankly speaking, taking the lead in some research disciplines in the world. This is, in fact, our purpose of conducting the strategic research on China’s S&T roadmap.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Yongxiang Lu
President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences
Preface to the Roadmaps 2050

CAS is the nation’s think tank for science. Its major responsibility is to provide S&T consultations for the nation’s decision-makings and to take the lead in the nation’s S&T development.

In July, 2007, President Yongxiang Lu made the following remarks: “In order to carry out the Scientific Outlook of Development through innovation, further strategic research should be done to lay out a S&T roadmap for the next 20–30 years and key S&T innovation disciplines. And relevant workshops should be organized with the participation of scientists both within CAS and outside to further discuss the research priorities and objectives. We should no longer confine ourselves to the free discovery of science, the quantity and quality of scientific papers, nor should we satisfy ourselves simply with the Principal Investigators system of research. Research should be conducted to address the needs of both the nation and society, in particular, the continued growth of economy and national competitiveness, the development of social harmony, and the sustainability between man and nature.”

According to the Executive Management Committee of CAS in July, 2007, CAS strategic research on S&T roadmap for future development should be conducted to orchestrate the needs of both the nation and society, and target at the three objectives: the growth of economy and national competitiveness, the development of social harmony, and the sustainability between man and nature.

In August, 2007, President Yongxiang Lu further put it: “Strategic research requires a forward-looking view over the world, China, and science & technology in 2050. Firstly, in terms of the world in 2050, we should be able to study the perspectives of economy, society, national security, eco-environment, and science & technology, specifically in such scientific disciplines as energy, resources, population, health, information, security, eco-environment, space and oceans. And we should be aware of where the opportunities and challenges lie. Secondly, in terms of China’s economy and society in 2050, we should take into consideration of factors like: objectives, methods, and scientific supports needed for economic structure, social development, energy structure, population and health, eco-environment, national security and innovation capability. Thirdly, in terms of the guidance of Scientific Outlook of Development on science and technology, it emphasizes the people’s interests and development, science and technology, science and economy, science and society, science and eco-
environment, science and culture, innovation and collaborative development. Fourthly, in terms of the supporting role of research in scientific development, this includes how to optimize the economic structure and boost economy, agricultural development, energy structure, resource conservation, recycling economy, knowledge-based society, harmonious coexistence between man and nature, balance of regional development, social harmony, national security, and international cooperation. Based on these, the role of CAS will be further identified.”

Subsequently, CAS launched its strategic research on the roadmap for priority areas to 2050, which comes into eighteen categories including: energy, water resources, mineral resources, marine resources, oil and gas, population and health, agriculture, eco-environment, biomass resources, regional development, space, information, advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, nano-science, big science facilities, cross-disciplinary and frontier research, and national and public security. Over 300 CAS experts in science, technology, management and documentation & information, including about 60 CAS members, from over 80 CAS institutes joined this research.

Over one year’s hard work, substantial progress has been made in each research group of the scientific disciplines. The strategic demands on priority areas in China’s modernization drive to 2050 have been strengthened out; some core science problems and key technology problems been set forth; a relevant S&T roadmap been worked out based on China’s reality; and eventually the strategic reports on China’s S&T roadmap for eighteen priority areas to 2050 been formed. Under the circumstance, both the Editorial Committee and Writing Group, chaired by President Yongxiang Lu, have finalized the general report. The research reports are to be published in the form of CAS strategic research serial reports, entitled Science and Technology Roadmap to China 2050: Strategic Reports of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The unique feature of this strategic research is its use of S&T roadmap approach. S&T roadmap differs from the commonly used planning and technology foresight in that it includes science and technology needed for the future, the roadmap to reach the objectives, description of environmental changes, research needs, technology trends, and innovation and technology development. Scientific planning in the form of roadmap will have a clearer scientific objective, form closer links with the market, projects selected be more interactive and systematic, the solutions to the objective be defined, and the plan be more feasible. In addition, by drawing from both the foreign experience on roadmap research and domestic experience on strategic planning, we have formed our own ways of making S&T roadmap in priority areas as follows:

(1) Establishment of organization mechanism for strategic research on S&T roadmap for priority areas

The Editorial Committee is set up with the head of President Yongxiang Lu and
the involvement of Chunli Bai, Erwei Shi, Xin Fang, Zhigang Li, Xiaoye Cao and Jiaofeng Pan. And the Writing Group was organized to take responsibility of the research and writing of the general report. CAS Bureau of Planning and Strategy, as the executive unit, coordinates the research, selects the scholars, identifies concrete steps and task requirements, sets forth research approaches, and organizes workshops and independent peer reviews of the research, in order to ensure the smooth progress of the strategic research on the S&T roadmap for priority areas.

(2) Setting up principles for the S&T roadmap for priority areas

The framework of roadmap research should be targeted at the national level, and divided into three steps as immediate-term (by 2020), mid-term (by 2030) and long-term (by 2050). It should cover the description of job requirements, objectives, specific tasks, research approaches, and highlight core science problems and key technology problems, which must be, in general, directional, strategic and feasible.

(3) Selection of expertise for strategic research on the S&T roadmap

Scholars in science policy, management, information and documentation, and chief scientists of the middle-aged and the young should be selected to form a special research group. The head of the group should be an outstanding scientist with a strategic vision, strong sense of responsibility and coordinative capability. In order to steer the research direction, chief scientists should be selected as the core members of the group to ensure that the strategic research in priority areas be based on the cutting-edge and frontier research. Information and documentation scholars should be engaged in each research group to guarantee the efficiency and systematization of the research through data collection and analysis. Science policy scholars should focus on the strategic demands and their feasibility.

(4) Organization of regular workshops at different levels

Workshops should be held as a leverage to identify concrete research steps and ensure its smooth progress. Five workshops have been organized consecutively in the following forms:

High-level Workshop on S&T Strategies. Three workshops on S&T strategies have been organized in October, 2007, December, 2007, and June, 2008, respectively, with the participation of research group heads in eighteen priority areas, chief scholars, and relevant top CAS management members. Information has been exchanged, and consensus been reached to ensure research directions. During the workshops, President Yongxiang Lu pinpointed the significance, necessity and possibility of the roadmap research, and commented on the work of each research groups, thus pushing the research forward.

Special workshops. The Editorial Committee invited science policy
scholars to the special workshops to discuss the eight basic and strategic systems for China’s socio-economic development. Perspectives on China’s science-driven modernization to 2050 and characteristics and objectives of the eight systems have been outlined, and twenty-two strategic S&T problems affecting the modernization have been figured out.

**Research group workshops.** Each research group was further divided into different research teams based on different disciplines. Group discussions, team discussions and cross-team discussions were organized for further research, occasionally with the involvement of related scholars in special topic discussions. Research group workshops have been held some 70 times.

**Cross-group workshops.** Cross-group and cross-disciplinary workshops were organized, with the initiation by relative research groups and coordination by Bureau of Planning and Strategies, to coordinate the research in relative disciplines.

**Professional workshops.** These workshops were held to have the suggestions and advices of both domestic and international professionals over the development and strategies in related disciplines.

(5) Establishment of a peer review mechanism for the roadmap research

To ensure the quality of research reports and enhance coordination among different disciplines, a workshop on the peer review of strategic research on the S&T roadmap was organized by CAS Bureau of Planning and Strategy, in November, 2008, bringing together of about 30 peer review experts and 50 research group scholars. The review was made in four different categories, namely, resources and environment, strategic high-technology, bio-science & technology, and basic research. Experts listened to the reports of different research groups, commented on the general structure, what’s new and existing problems, and presented their suggestions and advices. The outcomes were put in the written forms and returned to the research groups for further revisions.

(6) Establishment of a sustained mechanism for the roadmap research

To cope with the rapid change of world science and technology and national demands, a roadmap is, by nature, in need of sustained study, and should be revised once in every 3–5 years. Therefore, a panel of science policy scholars should be formed to keep a constant watch on the priority areas and key S&T problems for the nation’s long-term benefits and make further study in this regard. And hopefully, more science policy scholars will be trained out of the research process.

The serial reports by CAS have their contents firmly based on China’s reality while keeping the future in view. The work is a crystallization of the scholars’ wisdom, written in a careful and scrupulous manner. Herewith, our sincere gratitude goes to all the scholars engaged in the research, consultation
and review. It is their joint efforts and hard work that help to enable the serial reports to be published for the public within only one year.

To precisely predict the future is extremely challenging. This strategic research covered a wide range of areas and time, and adopted new research approaches. As such, the serial reports may have its deficiency due to the limit in knowledge and assessment. We, therefore, welcome timely advice and enlightening remarks from a much wider circle of scholars around the world.

The publication of the serial reports is a new start instead of the end of the strategic research. With this, we will further our research in this regard, duly release the research results, and have the roadmap revised every five years, in an effort to provide consultations to the state decision-makers in science, and give suggestions to science policy departments, research institutions, enterprises, and universities for their S&T policy-making. Raising the public awareness of science and technology is of great significance for China’s modernization.

Writing Group of the General Report
February, 2009
Preface

The ocean is the cradle of life, the precious deposits of resources, the hotbed of wind and rain, the channels of trade, and the defence of national safety. Ocean is closely related with major, overall, and long-term issues, such as, safeguard to the interests and the national security, and human survival, the sustainable development, global climate change, and strategically important oil, gas, and metal ores resources and so on. The development and utilization of marine resources and marine environmental security will become a focus of the world’s competitions in national economies and in science and technology. In the future, marine scientific and technological level and innovation capability will be dominated by competition. Since the 1990’s, with the rapid growth of marine economy in the world, marine economy is and will continue to become the world’s new economic growth points, also becomes a strong motive for competing marine resources and re-delimiting the blue territory in all main coastal nations. Since 21st century, in order to respond to new demands and challenges of the situation, coastal countries highly concern in overall the strategic marine realm. The United States, Japan, other countries, and regional organizations are intensifying their adjustments in the ocean or the development with new strategies and policies, and increasing the fund-input into marine science and technology research and development in order to seize the initiative in a new round of international maritime competition.

Ocean plays an irreplaceable role in China’s current and long-term development. As the wealth of valuable resources and the largest space for sustainable development for human society, ocean is particularly important to China—the most populated country in the world with relative shortage of a wide range of strategic resources. Nowadays, under the economic globalization and multi-polarization of world politics, the following issues will certainly become the prior research areas in China: marine rights and interests and national security; investigation and assessment of marine biological and mineral resources; marine environmental monitoring and ecological restoration; regional development and integrated management of coastal zone; ocean circulation systems and climate variability predictions, as well as modern maritime security and so on, which all depend on marine science and technology innovation and progress. As a big marine country, China has 18,000 km of coastline, nearly three million km² of the blue territory in which marine resources are rich. However, compared with the United States, Japan and other marine strong
powers, China’s marine science and technology and marine industries are far behind the requirements of a marine power. China is facing strong challenges to the national marine security and economic, social development, and at the same time, China is facing an excellent opportunity for future development in marine science and technology. How to meet the needs in national strategies, in rapid economic and social development for marine science and technology, how to solve major bottleneck problems and constraints, how to achieve a leap in the development of marine science and technology, and how to construct a marine power, have become the focuses of the whole nation and all communities.

Under the situation, in October 2007, the Chinese Academy of Sciences carried out a strategic research project on the roadmap pictured in China towards 2050 in 18 important areas of science and technology. As one of the 18 fields, the roadmap of marine science and technology development, which is studied by groups of marine experts, is focusing on national needs and major marine science issues, aiming at economic and social development of China’s future strategic needs, looking forward to the forefront of technological development in the world’s oceans, analyzing in-depth the international marine science and technology development, finding seriously some key problems and potential impact on development of marine science and technology in China, forecasting tracks and scenarios of the ocean science and technology development, and drawing the roadmap of China’s development in marine science and technology.

Conducting forward-looking strategic research, is not only demand of the country’s future sustainable economic and social development, but also demand for gradually increasing the capability of independent innovation for building an innovation-oriented country. Therefore, this study is conducted under the guidance of Comprehensive, Coordinated and Sustainable Development—the Scientific Concept of Development, for independent innovation and supportive development in the future; to meet the core needs in the rights, interests, wealth, health, and safety of the nation; to combine national major needs with the forefront scientific development, fundamental research with technical capacity-building, and forward-looking layout with the scientific feasibility; to provide solutions to major marine science and technology issues in China and the world at present and a period of time after; to address the constraints of marine science and technology bottleneck in the development of key technologies; to analyze the relationships among technology, economic, social and political development; to outlook the country needs with breaking through the shackles of the traditional framework for the next 40 years in marine science and technology development; and to clarify the innovation goals of China to 2020, 2030 and 2050 with specific development roadmaps.

Marine science and technology is a variety of disciplines and the complex blend of technologies including physical oceanography, marine geology, marine biology, marine ecology and environmental sciences, marine chemistry, and
marine observation technology. It is not only a large scientific project but also a typical of experimental science, characterized by long development cycle and unpredictability. Multi-disciplinary marine science and technology is not only interrelated, but also has relatively independent sub-areas, each with its own characteristics and special problems, which not only needs a solid foundation of knowledge and application engineering, but also demands for strong support of high-tech. In this study, by considering actual situation of multi-disciplinary marine science and making top-priorities, five topics: marine environmental security, marine ecology and security, marine biological resources, oil and gas and mineral resources are established, taking into account of the sustainable development of other fields in marine science and technology, and thematic reports are formed. On the basis of the sub-areas research results, this general report, a strategic research report on marine science and technology is formulated.

In this study, with methods of integrated research, comparative analysis, bibliometrics, systems analysis, matching forecasts, the experts exchange forum such as seminars and conferences in a number of ways, the hot spots and trends of international marine science and technology developments are analyzed and predicted, trying to grasp the international cutting-edge development and the national urgent needs, envisioning the long-term objectives, strategic needs, and routes of marine science development in China, and putting forwards practical policies and measures.

The basic research process is: expert selection, program design, research objectives and research methods determination, technical line design, project task decomposition, the formation of the first draft of the strategic study, by idea exchange, expert advice, and amend research findings.

Under the guidance of the Strategic Planning Bureau and the Resources and Environment Science and Technology Bureau, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), this project is completed jointly by the Institute of Oceanology, CAS; South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, CAS; Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Sustainable Development, CAS; Institute of Acoustics, CAS; Institute of Atmospheric Physics, CAS; Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources, CAS; Shenyang Institute of Automation, CAS; and Lanzhou Branch, National Science Library, CAS; and so on. In more than a year, the research team, taking full advantage of accumulated wisdom and academic achievement, has organized eight expert seminars, aiming at China towards 2050 on vision, mission and plans in development of marine science and technology, having the relevant issues discussed and forecasted in development path and key areas with a clear roadmap.

In recent years, China has formulated a series of scientific and technological development plans, relevant state departments, universities and research institutes have carried out strategic studies on the development in

During the study, we made reference to many literature and books; however, some materials were got from the Internet, some original source(s) or original author(s) could not be found, it may also have missing contents and incomplete statements, to which apology may be made. We would like to express sincere thanks to all the authors.
# Contents

**Abstract** ................................................................................................................. 1

**Introduction** .............................................................................................................. 5

**1 Major Demands of National Development on Marine Science & Technology** ................................................................................................................................. 9

1.1 Needs from Sustained Economic Development in Marine Science and Technology .............................................................................................................. 9

1.2 Social Development Demand on Marine Science and Technology ............. 16

1.3 Needs in Marine Science and Technology from National Maritime Rights and Interests ........................................................................................................... 20

1.4 Needs in the Marine Science and Technology from Development of Science and Technology ................................................................................................. 22

**2 The International Forefront and Trends of Development in Marine Science & Technology** ................................................................................................................. 24

2.1 The National Marine Development Strategies of World’s Major Countries ................................................................................................................................. 24

2.2 Major International Marine Scientific Research Plans .................................. 32

2.3 The International Trends of Development in Marine Science and Technology ......................................................................................................................... 46

**3 Status and Opportunities of Chinese Marine Science & Technology Development** ......................................................................................................................... 52