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Professor Jianqing Fan, Director  
Center for Statistical Research  
Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science  
The Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Beijing 100080, China

Dear Jianqing:

I am writing to warmly congratulate the Chinese Academy of Science on the establishment of the “Center for Statistical Research” in its Academy of Mathematics and System Sciences, as well as your appointment as its founding director. I am also writing to congratulate my colleagues and friends, Professor Jun Liu and Professor Qiwei Yao, for their appointments as the center’s associate directors.

As you know, Statistics, as a scientific discipline, is undergoing a rapid evolution and expansion, with applications in virtually every discipline that is considered scientifically mature. The amount of data, and more generally, quantitative information, generated everyday, exceeds, by many orders of magnitude, the number of qualified statistical researchers and users. Undoubtedly, the need in China will be increasing exponentially in the foreseeable future given the many “catching-ups” China needs to do in order to achieve and maintain competitive status on both the world economy and technology stages (e.g., the tremendous need of bio-statisticians once China establishes a rigorous drug approval system similar to U.S.’s FDA). It is therefore exquisitely timely to establish a center at the Academy to foster serious and systematic statistical research and statistical education in China. Evidently, the center will also serve as a much needed bridge to the statistical world outside China, where there are many distinguished statisticians, Chinese or not, who are more than willing to help China become a leading nation in statistical research and literacy – it is hard to envision in this information age a more worthy contribution by a nation to mankind’s civilization than the one of increasing the quantitative literacy of its citizens, for which statistical research and education is absolutely crucial.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to offer my congratulations, and I look forward to the center’s bright future under your leadership.

With best wishes,

Xiao-Li Meng  
Professor and Chair