



# THE ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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Dear Professor Fan

I am writing as President of the Royal Statistical Society as I understand that The Academy of Mathematics and System Sciences at the Chinese Academy is to establish a Center for Statistical Research and that you are to be the first Director.

On behalf of the Royal Statistical Society I congratulate both you, personally, and the Academy.

High quality statistical science plays a key role in any modern industrial society. Statistics are used throughout commerce and industry as the basis for planning and decision making. It is vitally important that such uses are based upon statistics derived using sound methods. Similarly high quality statistics are a cornerstone of policy development and good public administration at all levels of government. Statistics that monitor economic and social development are based upon statistical methods that continually need to be upgraded and developed further as Society itself changes.

For all of these uses a strong programme of statistical research is essential and I congratulate the Academy on establishing the Centre. I feel sure that under your direction it will have a strong impact and will help to promote improved statistical methods and hence higher quality statistics throughout China. I understand that you will be particularly focussed on cross-fertilisation of ideas and methods across different disciplines. It is certainly the case that developments in important areas such as communications, genetics and biotechnology more generally provide important areas where cross-fertilisation can be very rewarding.

Finally I congratulate you on your appointment. You have an international reputation in statistical research and serve the profession well as editor of the Annals of Statistics. As a winner of the COPSS award you certainly have the reputation and ability to shape the future directions of statistical research at the Center and, on behalf of the RSS I wish you every success.

Yours sincerely

D Tim Holt  
President of the Royal Statistical Society