The Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) was founded in 1999 through the re-organization of the Institute of Geography (established in 1940) and the Commission for Integrated Survey of Natural Resources (established in 1956). Its mission is to be: an innovation base for geographical sciences and natural resources research with an international reputation; a decision supporting unit for national regional sustainable development; and a geographical education center of excellence.

Research in the IGSNRR covers Physical Geography, Human Geography, Geographical Information Science, Ecology and Environmental Science, Agricultural Economics, and Natural Resources Research. The State Key Laboratory of Resource and Environment Information System is one of the earliest national laboratories. It was founded in 1985. The institute also owns two CAS key laboratories and two CAS research centers. The Agricultural Police Center of the CAS has been developed into a key unit to support national governmental decision making on agriculture and rural development in China. The IGSNRR is also known for being one of the China’s most prominent centers for geo-science data sharing. Now, it is composed of seven divisions with 26 research departments.

The research organization is staffed by nearly 1,500 people. There are 560 permanent staff members, 300 contract researchers and more than 600 postgraduate students. Its research is led by about 100 professor-level scholars, among whom, eight are CAS or CAE members. Fourteen have been named the “National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars”. There are 22 young scholars who have been granted the CAS “Hundred Talents Program.” In addition, the institute houses two CAS “Innovation Research Groups.”

As an institute with a history of more than 60 years, it has produced a lot of prominent research such as the national physical regionalization plan, and national physical atlas, etc.. Since 2000, the institute has carried out a series of state-supported key projects and made significant research contributions to the fields of natural resource management, eco-environmental protection, integrated land management, sustainable development, and the development of resource and environment information systems. The research output of the institute has been widely recognized. The IGSNRR has won 45 high-level academic awards, including 13 national awards, 26 provincial or ministerial awards and six society-sponsored awards. The number of research articles, books and consulting reports have been increasing annually. In 2008 alone, the institute published more than 190 research articles in SCI/SSCI journals. Since 2000, the IGSNRR has submitted more than 120 consulting reports (or evidence-based policy briefs) which have been adopted by the central government of China.

The IGSNRR has also developed close links with about 50 institutions and organizations across...
the world and signed more than ten cooperative agreements. For example, the institute has been named as a cooperative R&D base for the International Human Dimensions Program on global environmental change. This makes it one of 33 cooperative R&D bases endorsed by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology in 2007 for this work. In recent years, academic exchanges and cooperation have mainly focused on land use and land cover change, integrated water resource management, carbon cycle and ecosystems, urbanization and sustainable development, agricultural policy and geoinformation. There are more than ten regional offices of international organizations or global programs established, as well as a series of joint research centers (run collaboratively with partners in other countries).

The IGSNRR published ten periodical journals covering geographical sciences and natural resource research. *Chinese National Geography* is one of the most popular journals in the Chinese market. Its English version and Japanese version are also welcomed abroad.
INGSNRR Library

As the biggest professional library on geographic and natural resources sciences in China, it was founded on December 29th, 1999 based on the merger of two libraries of two former CAS institutes: the Institute of Geography (IOG) and the Commission for Integrated Survey of Natural Resources (CISNR).

The present library possesses an area of 1,100 square meters and subscribes more than 92 kinds of foreign academic journals, 330 kinds of Chinese journals, and 18 types of newspapers. It also possesses a collection of more than 30,000 copies of back numbers about geography and natural resources dating back to the 1920s, 45,000 volumes of Chinese books, 42,000 foreign books, 16,000 ancient books, over 4,800 kinds of newly published chorography, 70,000 volumes of unpublished materials, 25,000 topographic maps, 5,600 sets of specific maps, and 620,000 sheets of aerial photographs. Through the library, six foreign full-text databases and 10 foreign abstract databases can be accessed online. In addition, the editorial office of the bibliographic journal of the Chinese Geographical and Resources Abstracts (CGRA) is based in this library.

Besides performing general functions of collecting, borrowing, reading and exhibiting, the library has strengthened its capacity building on characteristic literature collection. It has formed a basic collecting system for academic books, focusing on literature and information on geographic sciences, natural resources and geo-information science, and taking geography, natural resources, ecology, environment, macro-economics, regional development and research as the priority areas. It is now capable of providing abundant digital resources, network services and other network resources of websites in both Chinese and English.

Overview of IGSNRR, CAS