

Intellectual property, an issue at the heart of commercial and technological collaboration between Belgium and China

AWEX and Wallonia-Brussels International, together with OWIN - Open Worldwide Innovation Network and Coway, the innovation arm of Tsinghua University dedicated to help overseas companies to land in the Chinese market are working hand in hand to enhance the cooperation between Belgium and China. In that context, the Zhongguancun Science Park, the First High-tech park in China, gives us the honour to be part as privileged partner of the organization of the Sino-Belgium IP & Business Exchange Forum in Beijing, China which will be attended by the HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium, Representative of His Majesty the King, on 19th November, 2019 in the frame of the Belgian Economic Mission.

Any company or university wishing to collaborate with China will one day face the issue of intellectual property and technology transfer.

On the Belgian and Walloon side, some figures from the agency in charge of IP management in Wallonia, Picarré:

- Number of patent applications filed in Belgium since 1/1/2017 by Belgian applicants: 1.254
- Number of these requests extended to China: 149 (or 11.9%)
- Number of European patent applications (EPOs) filed by Belgian applicants: 2,152 (2017), 2,360 (2018)
- Number of these extended applications in China: about 10% or 200 each year

At the level of the universities of Wallonia-Brussels:

- The 6 universities of Wallonia-Brussels file about 50 patents a year, and designate China in 10 to 25% of cases

- No university has an actual license in China, but some spin offs have trade agreements with Chinese companies. For example: Zentech (infant screening tests), Eurogentec (biotechnology), Delphi, Genetics, Ovizio, Fytofend (biopesticide for rice cultivation), Stone assistance.

On the Chinese side, impressive structures such as the Zhongguancun Science Park, considered as the "Silicon Valley of China" and which houses in its buildings the offices of Google, Intel, Oracle, ... demonstrate the strength and greatness of the Chinese ecosystem, and consequently, all the opportunities that could be seized for Belgium.

Tuesday's event will host Hou Yun, Deputy Director of the Administrative Committee of Zhongguancun Science Park and Dr. TAN, President of Coway.

Beijing, 17 November 2019

A panel will then be organized to cross good practices and success stories on the Belgian and Chinese sides.

Finally, it is worth remembering that the idea of tackling this subject is mostly related to the close collaboration formed since 2013 between AWEX (the Walloon Export and Trade Agency) and the Technology Transfer Office COWAY which has his offices at the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing. This partnership was established between AWEX, Coway and Texas A&M who founded together the global open innovation network, OWIN[®], later joined by WBI as an associate member.