Global partners key to further hi-tech growth

By ZHAO SHIJUN

Known as China’s “Silicon Valley”, Zhongguancun in northeastern Beijing is famed as a technological hub, but it still needs international cooperation to become a model park with global influence, said Zhao Fengtong, Party secretary of Haidian district.

Zhao is also a standing committee of the Communist Party of China and Party secretary of the administrative committee of Zhongguancun Science Park.

“Improvement of the overall innovation environment is the key to further hi-tech growth. Global partners key to further hi-tech growth”, Zhao said. Zhao thinks it is also important to attract more multinational companies, and talent from other countries to help Zhongguancun become a first-class park. At the same time local enterprises should be encouraged to expand globally so they can acquire experience and new skills by operating in international markets.

Lenovo is an example of a local firm successfully going global. In 2004, Lenovo purchased IBM, becoming the third-largest PC manufacturer in the world. In 2008, it joined the list of Fortune 500 companies.

We’d like to learn from the intelligence and experiences of experts, industry insiders and other science parks in the rest of the world to help us plan, design, construct and operate the Zhongguancun Science Park,” Zhao Fengtong, Party secretary of Haidian district.

The Zhongguancun Science Park — the core park — and a number of industrial zones and parks outside of the Haidian district.

Improvement of the Zhongguancun innovation model park will provide a better base for local enterprises.

It will make it a more exciting place to visit for people in Beijing and will help the country improve its innovation capacity,” said Zhao.

We’d like to encourage international cooperation in this process. In this way we can learn from the intelligence and experiences of experts, industry insiders and other science parks in the rest of the world to help us plan, design, construct and operate the Zhongguancun Science Park as well as we can,” he added.

Over the past 20 years the Zhongguancun Science Park has formed links and partnerships with other science parks around the world and international companies. “We have benefited a lot from their experience,” said Zhao.

Before the current park was established, the area was the Beijing New Technology Experimental Zone. In his role as vice-director of the zone, Zhao attended the International Association of Science Parks’ (IASP) annual conference in Canada in 1993.

A milestone in cooperation was reached in 1995 when an IASP conference was held in Beijing.

High-flying forum

Brilliant thinkers and high-profile figures came to contribute to discussions at the Zhongguancun Forum held last November, in an example of international cooperation that Zhao hopes to see continue.

Government officials, scientists, and economists from dozens of countries including China, the United States and France offered suggestions for Zhongguancun innovation and new skills by operating in international markets.

World-leading ideas and information will help Zhongguancun become a science park with international standing, Zhao said. Zhao thinks it is also important to attract more multinational companies, and talent from other countries to help Zhongguancun become a first-class park.

“In this way we can improve our innovation capacity and foster entrepreneurship, government policies and building a system for innovation. Famous Chinese economist Justin Lin, who is also the vice-president and chief economist of the World Bank, stressed the importance of the proper environment and government policies in the development of industries.

Famous Chinese economist Robert Klondike told the forum that society should create a favorable environment to encourage innovation and foster entrepreneurship, including mature regulatory, oversight and intellectual property laws.

At the same time local enterprises should be encouraged to expand globally so they can acquire experience and new skills by operating in international markets. Lenovo is an example of a local firm successfully going global. In 2004, Lenovo purchased IBM, becoming the third-largest PC manufacturer in the world. In 2008, it joined the list of Fortune 500 companies.

A double-helix DNA sculpture called simply is the symbol of Zhongguancun.