

Yamaguchi Univ.

# Intellectual Property Management at Universities in Inland China

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## Outline

- Introduction
- Intellectual Property in Coastal and Inland Areas
- Examples of IP Activities in Inland Universities
- Conclusion

## Introduction

- After China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in December 2001, intellectual property (IP) activities gained a much higher profile in Chinese universities
- Recently, IP rights education has become important because of growing foreign pressure on China to protect IP rights
- The recent growth in Chinese technology means that IP management is likely to be more important in the future

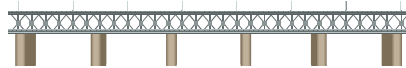


## Coastal areas are well known ...

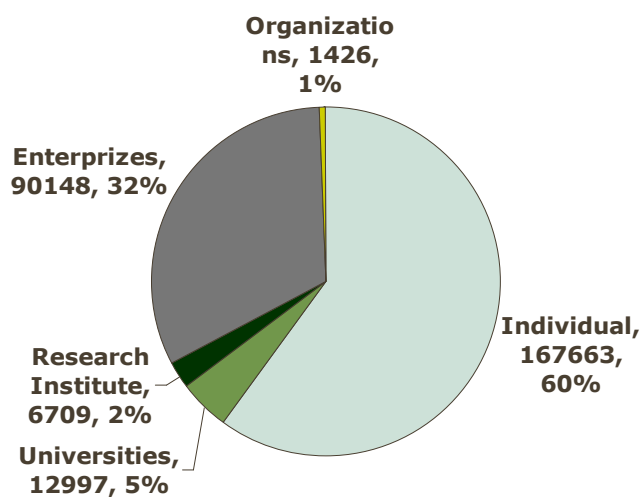
- IP management at well established universities, which are mainly located in the coastal areas, is well publicized by the press
- E.g. the results of patent applications submitted by the top ten Chinese universities are published annually by the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)
- E.g. Tsing Hua, Zhejiang, and Shanghai Jiaotong universities are high on the list
- In contrast, little is known about IP management at inland universities

## Investigation in inland China

- From September to December 2005, we were commissioned by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to investigate IP education and management at universities in inland China
- We visited universities in various parts of inland China, such as Chongqing, Sichuan, Hubei, Yunnan, Jiangxi, and Guangxi, and interviewed the universities' staff

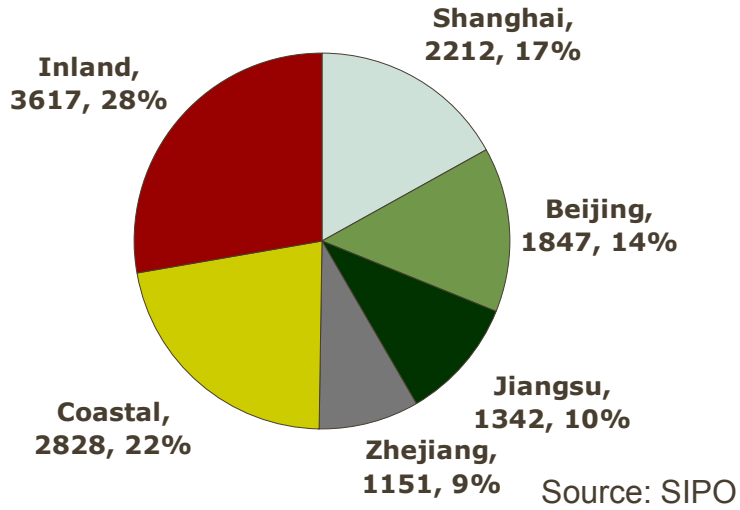


## Shares of patent applications in 2004

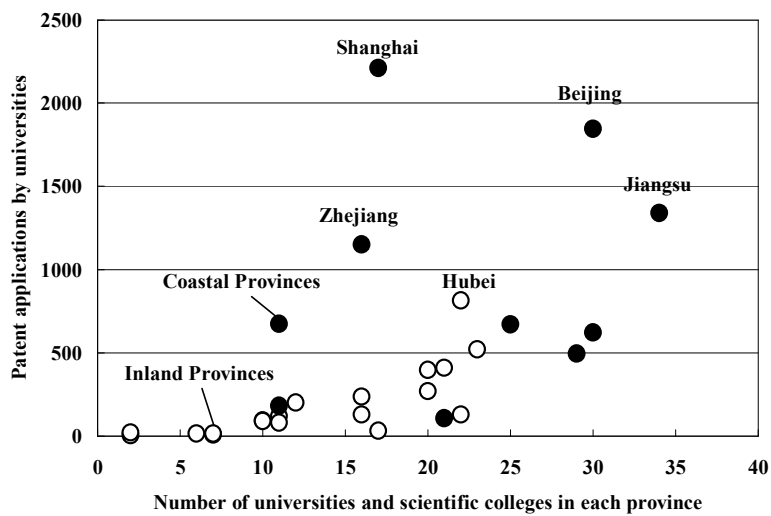


Source: SIPO

## Patent applications by universities in each province in 2004



## Number of universities vs. patent applications by universities



## Importance of IP management in Chinese universities

- The Ministry of Education evaluates universities on the basis of the number of patent applications, as well as the number of published research papers
- The national and provincial governments use these two measures to decide whether to support a research projects
- Some universities use the results of patent applications to evaluate their staff

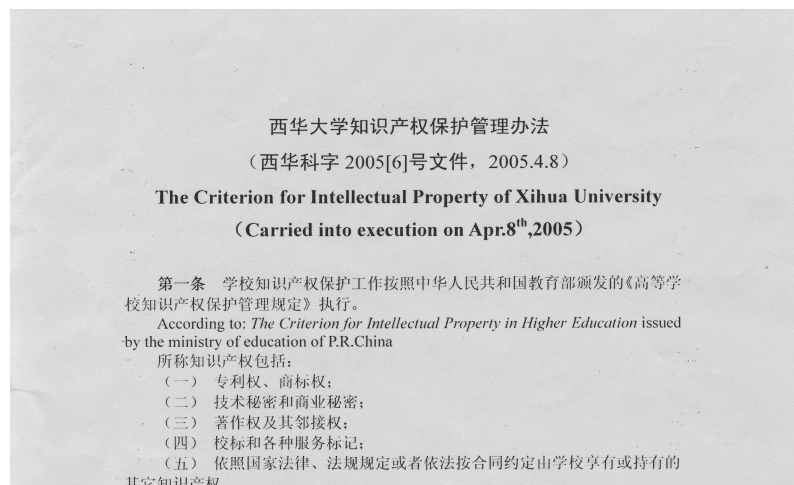
## Ranking of Chinese universities in terms of all patent applications in 2004

1. Zhejiang University (Zhejiang)	875
2. Shanghai Jiaotong University (Shanghai)	829
3. Tsing Hua University (Beijing)	762
4. Fudan University (Shanghai)	355
5. Tianjin University (Tianjin)	327
6. Harbin Institute of Technology (Heilongjiang)	271
7. Southern Yangtze University (Jiangsu)	264
8. South China University of Technology (Guangdong)	238
9. Nanjing University (Jiangsu)	236
10. Huazhong University of Sc. & Tech. (Hubei)	221
18. Wuhan University of Technology (Hubei)*	176
49. Kunming University of Sc. & Tech. (Yunnan)*	60
50. Shenyang Pharmaceutical University (Liaoning)	57

## IP management policies and activities at inland universities

University A (Hubei)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The university promote IP management to its faculty</li> <li>▪ Training of patent attorneys will begin under the faculty of law in near future</li> <li>▪ The university apply patents and pay the costs</li> <li>▪ The university sells licenses to enterprises instead of the inventors</li> <li>▪ The number of annual patent applications is over one hundred</li> </ul>
University B (Hubei)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Patents are applied by the inventors (teachers and researchers) privately</li> <li>▪ The university only logs the number of applications as its R&amp;D achievements</li> <li>▪ The number of annual patent applications is less than ten</li> </ul>
University C (Sichuan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Patents are applied by the inventors (teachers and researchers) privately and the university helps the application procedure</li> <li>▪ The number of annual patent applications is more than ten</li> </ul>

## IP policy of a university



### Criterion for Intellectual Property

## Discussion

- IP management in most inland universities is limited
- This may be related to lack of knowledge about IP law and to a lack of researchers' interest in IP creation
- Researchers in any country tend to perceive IP management as being the work of the legal system
- This tendency is especially strong in China
- However, successful IP management requires not only legal knowledge but also management skill and experience in research and development

## Discussion 2

- To raise the IP activity level, management of technology (MOT) education, which has recently been introduced into Japanese universities, is needed for teachers and researchers in inland universities
- Moreover, to keep the researchers motivated to apply for patents, financial aid and an evaluation system is also necessary

## Conclusion

- With the exception of a small number, inland universities are much less active in IP management than coastal ones
- This may be caused by a lack of interest in IP amongst researchers as well as a lack of awareness of the IP process
- Introducing MOT education for teachers and researchers is one possible solution
- Also, introducing the financial aid and an IP evaluation system is a good way to keep researchers motivated to apply for patents