

An 18-year journey to become a leader in genomics

One of China's leading innovators and a world centre in genome sequencing, **BGI IS DEDICATED TO ADVANCING GENOMICS** for the benefit of humanity

Back in 1999, when almost no one was engaged in gene sequencing in China, several Chinese scientists had a vision of making China a leader in the cutting-edge science and technology of genomics. Overcoming all obstacles, these scientists founded BGI. The organization has transformed from being a participant to being a key leader in genomics in less than two decades — BGI performed 1% of the sequencing tasks of the Human Genome Project, undertook 10% of the International HapMap Project, and independently conducted the Yan-Huang Project, which aims to sequence the whole genomes of 100 Chinese individuals.

In March 2013, BGI acquired Complete Genomics, a publicly listed US company special-

izing in whole human genome sequencing, which has enabled BGI to integrate both upstream and downstream gene-sequencing industries. In 2015 and 2016, BGI launched two world-class high-throughput benchtop sequencing systems, BGISEQ-500 and BGISEQ-50, based on its own proprietary technologies.

In January 2011, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) approved the establishment of China National GeneBank (CNGB), entrusting BGI with its construction. After six years of development, CNGB has built up its basic structure and functions, with a biorepository, a bioinformatics data centre, a living biobank, a digitalization platform, and a synthesis and editing platform. The living biobank is designed to be a 'Noah's ark' for

China, preserving the world's genetic heritage through collecting millions of genetic samples of plants, animals and microorganisms.

Devoted to integrating basic research, industrial application and educational practice, BGI has combined its R&D strategies with a unique model for training talent and innovation education. It has also created world-leading platforms for developing and manufacturing high-end equipment, along with advanced technological platforms and data centres for large-scale sequencing, bioinformatics, genetic testing, agricultural genomics and proteomics. By promoting scientific collaboration and providing science, technology and medical services to people of all ages, BGI is committed to facilitating the development of the genomics industry and the biological economy.

Believing that the ultimate goal of genetic research is to benefit every individual, BGI has lived up to its commitment to serve the needs of the public. During the onset of the SARS epidemic in 2003, BGI sequenced the SARS coronavirus in less than 20 hours and donated 300,000 SARS test kits, which were developed within 96 hours, to help prevent and control SARS. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, BGI sent a team of specialists

to Thailand, who conducted DNA identification of thousands of tsunami victims. BGI has also provided disaster relief after the 2008 Wenchuan and 2013 Ya'an earthquakes and helped fight the 2011 *Escherichia coli* outbreak in Germany by sequencing the microbe's genome. It has participated in various public health services, ranging from thalassemia screening and the China Marrow Donor Program to free physical examinations for disadvantaged groups.

BGI's success has set an example for industry innovation. It was ranked fourth in Fast Company's 2013 list of the top ten most innovative companies in China and was selected as one of MIT Technology Review's Fifty Disruptive Companies in 2013. BGI was a corporate winner of the 2014 World Technology Award in Biotechnology from the World Technology Network.

With more than 5,000 employees and businesses covering over 60 countries and regions worldwide, BGI is on the path to achieve even greater success. **Join the journey of BGI and help us make history.** ■

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BGISEQ-500



China National GeneBank