Note on the English edition of *Illustrations of Bamboos in China*

As the first intergovernmental, international organization headquartered in China, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) has established itself as a leading platform for South-South cooperation on bamboo and rattan resources. Since it was founded in 1997, INBAR has been actively promoting the conservation of bamboo and rattan resources and the sustainable development of bamboo and rattan industries worldwide, in close collaboration with the Chinese government.

China is famed as the “kingdom of bamboos”, ranking at the top in the world in terms of bamboo variety, area and stock volume. In this country, the use of bamboo enjoys a long history, laying the foundation for today’s highly-developed bamboo industries, and the Chinese people attach a cultural significance to the plant of bamboo, which could all be a source of inspiration for INBAR’s other member states.

In 2020, led by Prof. JIANG Zehui, Co-Chair of INBAR Board of Trustees and Director General of the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR), ICBR’s research team on bamboo germplasm resources produced the Chinese edition of *Illustrations of Bamboos in China*. The book offers taxonomical knowledge and high-definition images of common bamboo species in China and some introduced species and showcases their characters for classification and identification purposes. The book’s accurate, precise and detailed descriptions, plentiful photographs and hand-drawn, coloured diagrams make it academically, artistically and practically valuable.

To serve the purpose of science popularization and present to the world China’s abundant bamboo resources, INBAR is now partnering with ICBR in the publication of the English edition of *Illustrations of Bamboos in China* and hopes that it could be a useful reference for bamboo taxonomists and bamboo enthusiasts across the world.

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