

Statement by Chinese Internet Bureau of the Information Office of the State Council on Google's Withdraw

Foreign companies need to abide by Chinese laws and regulations when they operate in China. Google has violated the written promise it made when entering the Chinese market by stopping filtering its searching service and making thinly-veiled accusation against China. This is totally wrong. We are firmly opposed to the politicization of commercial issues.

On January 12, Google made a public announcement without informing beforehand the Chinese government. It claimed that it was attacked by hackers backed by the Chinese government; it was no longer willing to operate filtered searching services in China and was considering withdrawing from the Chinese market. At the repeated requests from Google, the senior officials of the competent Chinese authorities met with the representatives from Google twice on January 29 and February 25 to hear their opinions. This has fully reflected the sincerity of Chinese side. During the discussions, the Chinese officials responded with great patience and in details to the questions raised by Google. The Chinese side emphasized that China still welcomes Google's operation and development in China provided that it abides by Chinese laws. In the meantime, it is up to Google to decide whether it would withdraw its operation. And if it so decides, it must deal with the follow up work responsibly in accordance with Chinese laws and international norms.

The Chinese government encourages the development and popularization of the internet and is committed to the opening up of the internet. In China, online communications and discussion have become increasingly active and e-business is growing rapidly. What has happened shows that China provides a favorable environment for the development of the internet as well as investment activities. China will continue to pursue the opening up policy, welcome the involvement of foreign companies in the development of China's internet sector and will continue to provide good services for their operation in China. The internet sector in China will maintain a sound momentum for fast development.