

# Citizen Innovation: A Post-Schumpeter Innovation Paradigm

Based on the Widespread Innovation Efforts in China

Jin CHEN

(School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China)

## Abstract

This paper systematically reviews the limitation of the dominant producer centric innovation paradigm and the burgeoning of innovation democratization research. Based on the existing theories of innovation democratization and innovation practices in the Chinese context, it introduces a new innovation paradigm—the citizen innovation (CI) paradigm and discusses its theoretical framework and application. Citizen innovation focuses on the democratization of innovation activities carried out by the general public through open collaborative communities with the purpose of creating public goods. Finally, it analyzes the case of citizen science and open source software projects to apply the citizen innovation paradigm in explaining the underlying logic of these practices.

**Keywords:** *citizen innovation; innovation democratization; open collaboration; innovation paradigm*