

# Considerations about Chinese E-commerce legislation

**June, 2015 University of Bologna**

Researcher of Alibaba group

Associate Director of Policy and Law Committee of Chinese

E-business Commission

Ala Musi



# BACKGROUND

A few days ago, The queen of the Internet, Mary Meeker, the KPCB company issued a Report:

1995, The world's top 15 Internet Co,13/15 are American, the other are one Canada,one Germany.

2015,11/15 are also American. But the 4/15 are all Chinese company.

Third is alibaba, sixth is tencent, eighth is baidu, eleventh is jingdong.

The three company born in 1999, jingdong born in 2005.

Then, what' s happen in china in the 15 years.



# BACKGROUND

产业 军事 报告 可研 商计 规划 调研 娱乐 图库 更多

## 全球互联网上市公司排名 (按市值排名)

1995年12月

Company	Home Country	Market Cap. (\$MM)
1 Netscape	USA	\$5,415
2 Apple	USA	3,918
3 Axel Springer	Germany	2,317
4 RentPath	USA	1,555
5 Web.com	USA	982
6 PSINet	USA	742
7 Netcom On-Line	USA	399
8 IAC / Interactive	USA	326
9 Copart	USA	325
10 Wavo Corporation	USA	203
11 iStar Internet	Canada	174
12 Firefox Communications	USA	158
13 Storage Computer Corp.	USA	95
14 Live Microsystems	USA	86
15 iLive	USA	57
Total Market Cap of Top 15		\$16,752

2015年5月

Company	Home Country	Market Cap. (\$MM)
1 Apple	USA	\$763,567
2 Google	USA	373,437
3 Alibaba	China	232,755
4 Facebook	USA	226,009
5 Amazon.com	USA	199,139
6 Tencent	China	190,110
7 eBay	USA	72,549
8 Baidu	China	71,581
9 Priceline.com	USA	62,645
10 Salesforce.com	USA	49,173
11 JD.com	China	47,711
12 Yahoo!	USA	40,808
13 Netflix	USA	37,700
14 LinkedIn	USA	24,718
15 Twitter	USA	23,965
Total Market Cap of Top 15		\$2,415,867

@KPCB

Source: Morgan Stanley, Capital IQ, Bloomberg  
Note: Market capitalizations are as of May 22, 2015 and December 31, 1995, respectively

6

用户对内容的掌控明显提升 - 1995年至2015年

# BACKGROUND

I think, The major reason are the seven:

- 1、 China join the WTO since 2001;
- 2、 Per capita GDP of China exceeded 1000 dollars; Consumption began to upgrade, which happened in 2003.
- 3、 Online payment after 2005 began to spread, such as Alipay.
- 4、 Private logistics courier company gradually become the main logistics.  
The state-owned logistics companies such as China post can not meet the market demand
- 5、 After the 2008 financial crisis China factories major from foreign trade to domestic trade.need new sales platform
- 6、 The government has generally adopted a relaxing control measure. Such as tax, business registration, license, platform responsibility, financial services, etc.
- 7、 China's second and three line citys, rural areas, towns, there is a huge consumer demand has not been met,even now.



# BACKGROUND

In McKinsey Co. advisory report in 2013, The four points of the electronic commerce of China and the United States are compared.

The results may be similar to Europe:

- 1、 High proportion of trading platform transactions.
- 2、 Electronic technology companies engaged in e-commerce rather than business enterprise e-commerce.
- 3、 C2C get the Large proportion.
- 4、 The majority is physical products, such as shoes, not virtual products and services.

These have decided the form and pattern of the electronic commerce in China today, With greater creativity and social influence.

These are why the four companies were able to rise so rapidly in the twenty years.



# BACKGROUND

Further more, in the last five years, this great situation has been further developed. Mainly in:

- 1、 Chinese smart phones and mobile Internet rapidly spread.
- 2、 Support policy upgrade and deepen. One is the Internet PLUS policy, which is the most popular word in China now. Another is policy to encourage innovation.
- 3、 O2O Rapid development, such as taxi software, Internet Banking, online meal ordering, online medical treatment.

**Yu E Bao**, which founded in February 8, 2014. At that time, ninety-nine percent of people do not know it. But now, ninety-nine percent of people know Internet Banking and **Yu E Bao**.

- 4、 Various applications start to integrate, For example, Cloud Computing, Big Data, Logistics Network, Smart City, Wearable Devices, Smart Home.

Great opportunities are showing, According to Jack Ma, Alibaba only completed a maximum of thirty percent of their task. This is to say, when they complete, they will exceed Apple.



# BACKGROUND

But the problems that we are facing in the law are also obvious and noticeable.

- 1、 The legal responsibility of the trading platform is not clear in many cases.
- 2、 The government is not adaptive to the management of such a large and active market. In particular, a virtual market. For example, at the beginning of this year, State Administration for Industry and Commerce and Alibaba made a big conflict incident.
- 3、 The lack of adequate specification of the competition between the electronic commerce enterprises or in the trading platform, such as the famous war between the 360 and QQ company.
- 4、 There is a huge contradiction and friction between the e-commerce enterprises and the traditional industries in the competition, traditional industries give government big press.
- 5、 There are many legal gaps, some new legal subjects and objects can not be protected in the existing laws.



# BACKGROUND

In this way, in the next ten years, in addition to the electronic commerce law, China also need to legislate many laws:

Information security law, Personal information protection law, Credit law, Internet banking law, Internet management related laws.

Next, I will still focus on the introduction of this has been started in Oct. 2013, is expected to form the first draft, in the end of this year, the e-commerce law legislation.



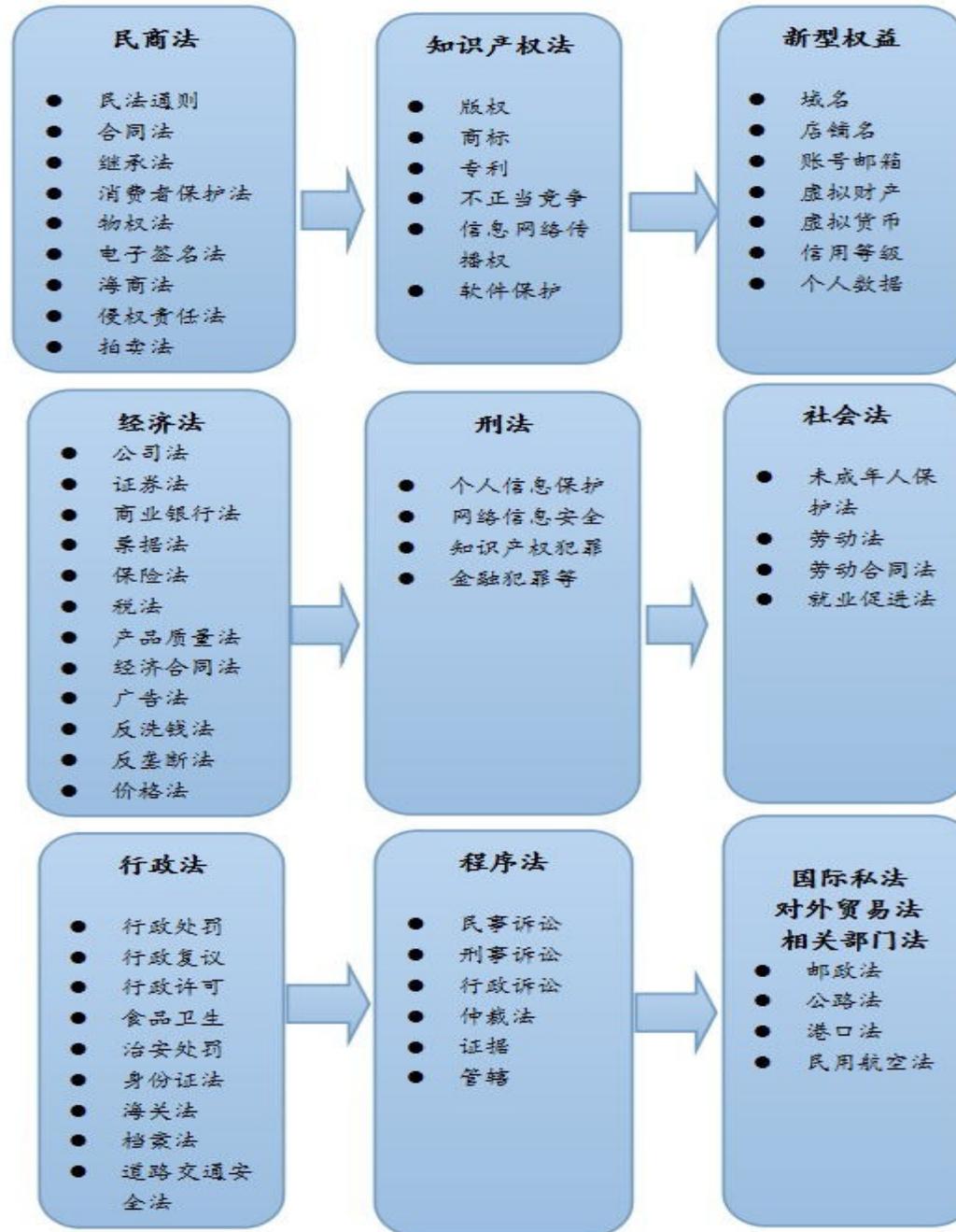
**Four pictures about Chinese E-commerce legislation**

**Three principal advices about legislation**

**Three advice for the international Internet governance**



First picture  
about Chinese  
E-commerce  
legislation :  
**Picture of  
relevant laws**



So many laws are relevant to E-commerce, almost all of the laws, we separate these into two kinds:

Law with strong relevance: general rule of civil law, Contract Law, Law of Electronic Signature, tort liability law, product quality law, Law on Protection of the Rights and Interests of Consumers, food safety law and so on.

Law with weak relevance: inheritance law, maritime law, law on protection of Minors, labour law and so on.

In this way, the task for us is easier.

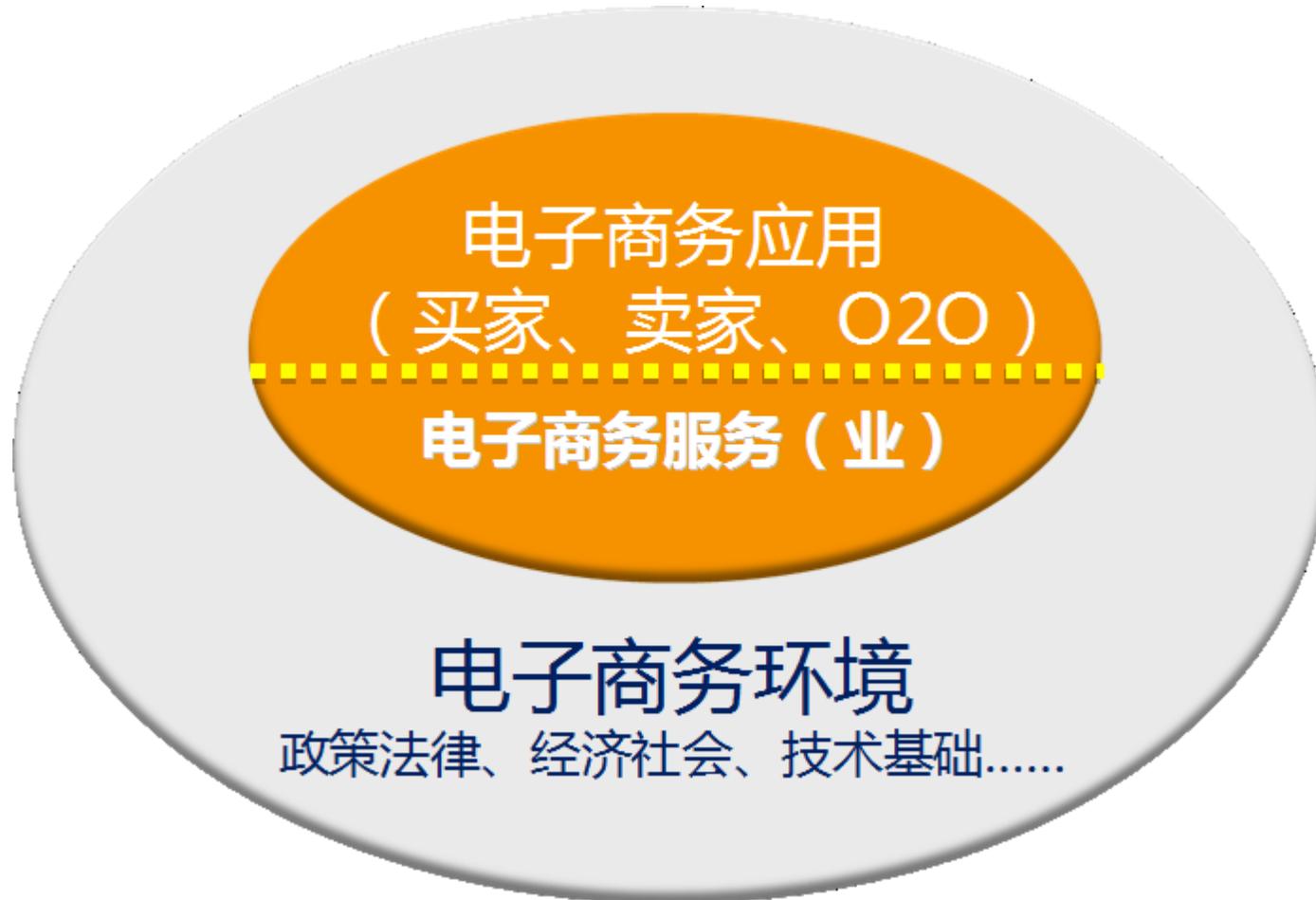
Second picture about Chinese E-commerce legislation :  
**Picture of E-business legislation' s system, this system formed before the legislation:** We classified then to six scopes: website management, information flow, fund flow, safeguard and maintenance rights, special field of E-commerce. About 500 regulations and department regulations, local regulations.

## 电子商务法

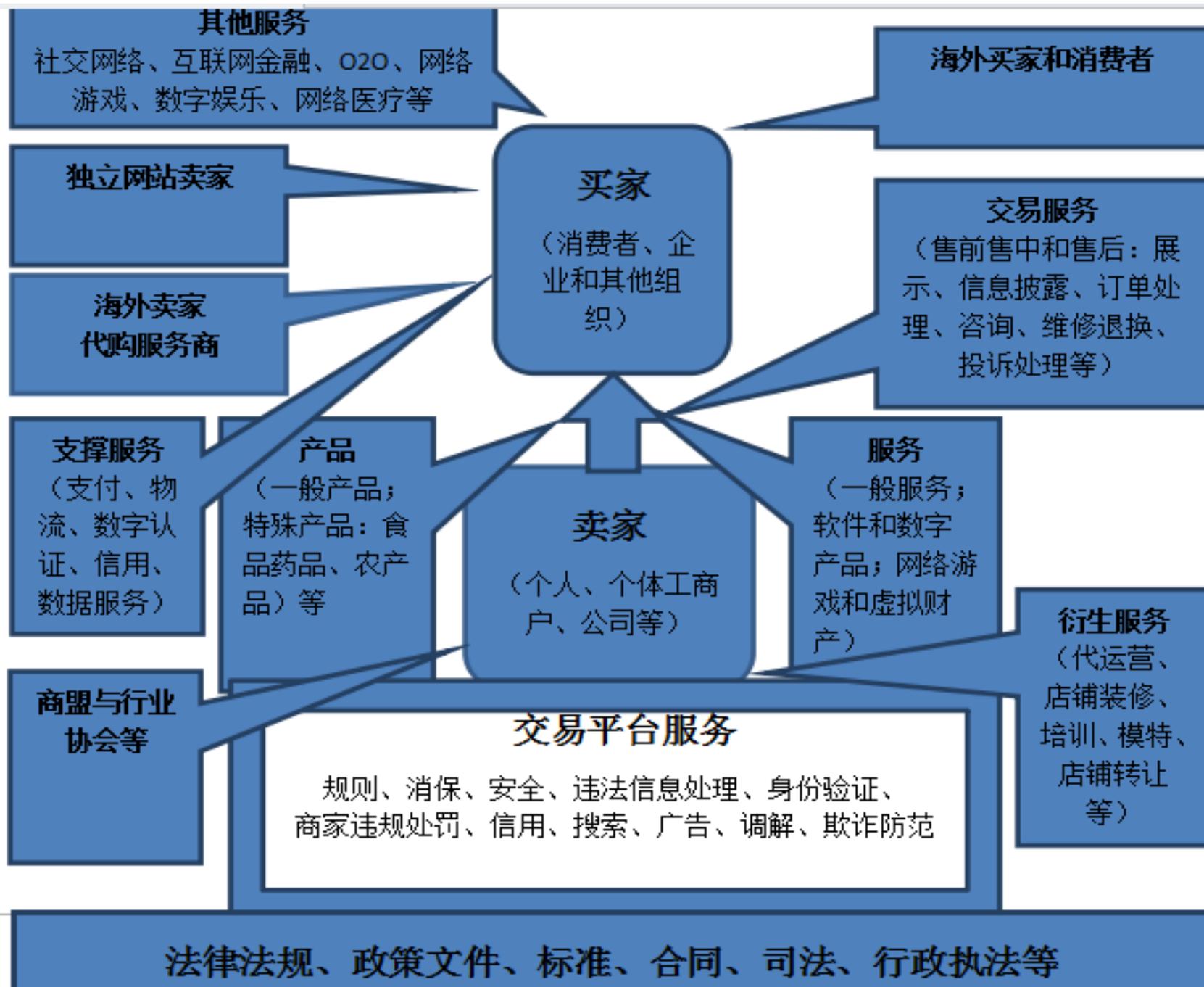
**商流：**《电子签名法》、工商总局《网络交易管理办法》、商务部《第三方电子商务交易平台管理办法》、《杭州市网络交易管理办法》、深圳市关于可信交易环境的系列规定，《上海市促进电子商务发展规定》等

网站管理	信息流	资金流	物流	保障、维权、 调解、仲裁	特定领域 电子商务
《互联网IP 地址备案 管理办法》  信息安全的相关 规定	《互联网 信息服务 管理办法》  个人信息保护的 相关规定	《非金 融机 构支 付服 务管 理办 法》等	《快递 市场 管理 办法》 等	《消费者权益保 护法》 《侵权责任法》 《仲裁法》等中 的部分条款	《食品安全法》、 《广告法》、 《对外贸易法》 等中的部分条款

The third picture about Chinese E-commerce legislation: **The componet of the E-commerce ecosystem:** application, service, environment



# The map of the E-commerce services



**subject concluded** : seller, buyer, trading platform, main service provider, **derivative** service provider, purchasing website, overseas' seller and buyer, independent website, product producer, server ;

**behavior concluded** : trading service, third-party board service, main service, derivative service, purchasing service , on-line service

**Therefore, the difficulties of E-business come from mainly two aspects:**

**First, facing plentiful new main parts, subjects and behavior, different to off-line trading.**

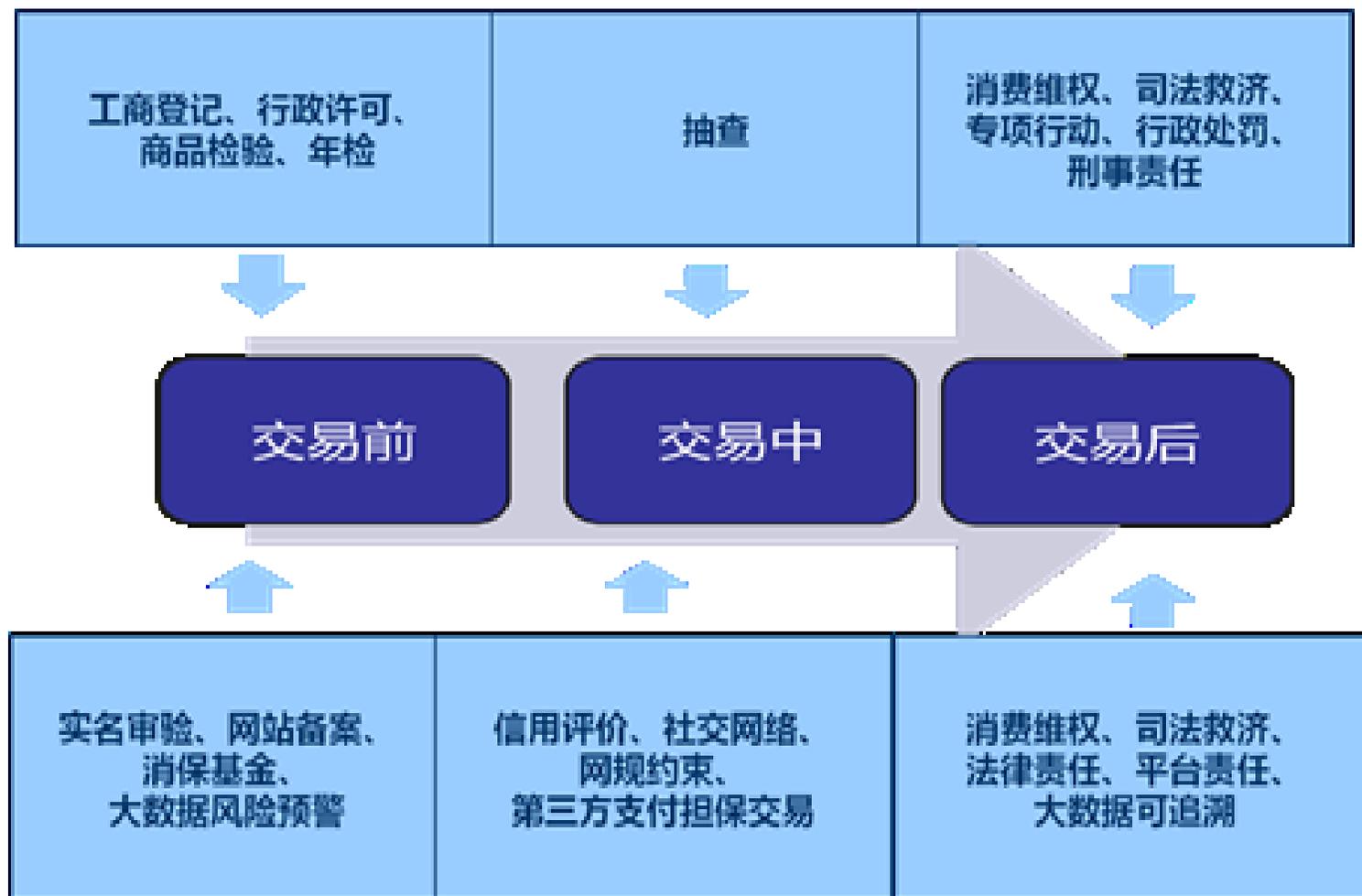
New subject: trading platform, purchasing, websites

New object: Including many custom-made product of C2B, on-line games and virtual property.

New service: Including third-party board service, purchasing service, some main service and derivative service

**Second, E-business' complexity mainly shows on the complexity and diversity of trading relationship.**

Fourth picture about Chinese E-commerce legislation : **Compare between management of on-line and off-line**



**Managements on-line are more various.** Such as, Taobao has the rules about dock point, “lock in a small room” , limit the number of new online product, which is hard to realized off-line.

**Managements on-line distribute more balance.** However, managements off-line concentrate more on after-trading than before-trading and during-trading; basing on transparent information and trading record, on-line management can bring many measures which work even before anything bad happens.

**Management on-line is all-round.** Managements off-line are always just about seller but not about the buyer; but there are also credit record of buyer online.

# The first proposal for the principles of legislation

## **Persist in the problem-oriented policy and base on practical issues**

This means, the legislation cannot solve all the E-commerce problems. We only resolve the things that can be figured out.

Now we have only one year, but the arguments are more than common views.



# The second proposal for the principles of legislation

## **Be clear of the boundary with other laws and legislations**

E-commerce Law regulates issues in E-commerce field that are peculiar and urgent and E-commerce Law should have its own genes, characteristics and fields. For example, issues like promoting development, eliminating legal obstacles, upgrading of governance of the government, regulating existing rules into laws, clarification of platform responsibility, promoting cross-border E-commerce and dispute settlement mechanism should be stressed.

Thus, we can avoid conflict with other laws in execution. To solve these interlinked problems, we should mainly rely on making amendments on relevant laws rather than solely depending on E-commerce Law.

Based on these considerations, issues like consumer protection in E-commerce, Internet unfair competition, tax revenue of E-commerce, personal information protection, electronic payment and E-commerce credit are mentioned, but these issues are not covered in separate chapters.



# The third proposal for the principles of legislation

## Encouraging exploring governance innovation is the only way to improve governance

The first, in this highly innovative and active e-commerce market, we need to depend on innovative ideas and means, Internet thinking, and big data technology to solve a lot of new governance problem and then achieve the transformation and upgrading of governance. The supervision which can match with e-commerce - the distinct form of business - must be based on using internet to manage internet and governance innovation and must be in e-government form.

We cannot simply use old ideas to solve problems. For example, "one office site with multiple licenses" was strictly forbidden, but in 2010 the market administration bureau in Shenzhen boldly broke up the regulation, permitted e-commerce enterprise applying for one site with multiple licenses.



The second, e-commerce management puts emphasis on social governance, instead of making government the only dominant force. It depends fully on platform, network operators, internet users and professional institutes. It also adapts new methods such as credit system and big data technology to carry on dynamic governance.

The third, the supervision of e-commerce emphasize that the logic of "seeing is believing" must be unreliable. We need to abandon the thoughts that atomic must be more reliable than bites and that face-to-face audit is more trustworthy than online audit. These thoughts violate the non-discrimination principle established by international e-commerce legislation.



The forth, the character of e-commerce governance is more afterwards principle, and due supervision principle, in order to achieve the transformation from management to governance and service.

Disorder is not certainly bad. Chaos is disorder, but it is also the most vital one. We need to take full advantage of ecology concept to govern e-commerce. Disturbing the order does not necessarily mean breaking laws and rules, and we only need to stop it timely when it damages legitimate interests. Some unreasonable order is ought to be broken.



# The three advice for the international Internet governance

1、 We can 't use our normal conception and logic to understand and govern internet. The internet just like a mirror. It let we see ourselves and our society. But these are opposite. The onceptions are not clear,the logic is not reasonable,the experiences are not useful next time,the facts are all broken up.When you ask the four companies what is their experience to success, they must reply youthe same answer,no experience is the most impaotant experience.I think it's similar to jurisprudence and governance.

2、 The identity verification are two parts: who am I, which one is me.The second question is more difficult. The keywords of verification "wich one is me" is the method cannot be delivered to others anyway. It bind with the certain human unique correspondence. Such as iris, not the password and CA.

3、 The new problem is more and more human will be instead in internet. The machine and software will have their own ideals. These happen rapidly than we imagine, these problems should be more concern.



**Your comments and criticism are greatly welcomed!**

**Thank you!**