

NEWSLETTER OF SINO-ECO

August 1, 2000

Editor: Fang Gao

Contributors to This Issue: Wei Fang, Pu Mou, Yude Pan, Quanlu Wang, Jianguo Wu, Changhui Peng, Qinfeng Guo, Junda Lin, Yegang Wu (Contributors' initials are included after subtitles in each section. The editor has made some editing changes).

(From the editor: This newsletter is the first issue of the SINO-ECO 2000-02 term. I want to thank all contributors. A successful and interesting newsletter depends on the contribution of information from all of our members. This first issue works as an introductory example of our future newsletters. Please our members and friends spend 10 or 20 minutes drafting something you think worthy of being published in the newsletter and shared with our members and friends. Best regards to everyone and thank you in advance for your contribution.)

News

1. ESA 2000 Annual Meeting (FG, YP, JW, WF)

Every year, the ESA Annual Meeting may be one of the most important events for our SINO-ECO members. The 2000 ESA Annual Meeting will be held in Snowbird, Utah, from August 6 to 10, 2000. Details can be obtained from <http://esa.sdsc.edu/snowbird2000.htm>.

SINO-ECO members and friends in ecology may be interested in the following occasions during the annual meeting, both of them are scheduled on August 7: (1) 1-5pm, Symposium #11 Urban Ecology: The Eastern and Western Perspectives. Organizer: Dr. Jianguo Wu. (Asian Ecology Section, or AES). Ballroom II, Cliff Lodge. (2) 5-7pm, Asian Ecology Section Business Meeting and Mixer, Aerie Private Dining Room, Cliff Lodge., SINO-ECO Club will have a joint Business Meeting with AES.

Dr. Jianguo Wu, the organizer of Symposium #11 and a renowned expert in urban ecology, is a senior member of SINO-ECO. In fact, Jianguo was one of the three initial coordinators who facilitated SINO-ECO 12 years ago. SINO-ECO members and friends are encouraged to attend Jianguo's symposium and meet him there.

Ms. Wei Fang, a Ph.D. candidate from SUNY at Stony Brook and a member of the steering committee of 2000-02 for SINO-ECO, will attend the ESA Annual Meeting. She will give an oral presentation, entitled "Assessing the impact of the invasive tree *Acer platanoides* on forest communities", at

Oral Session #2: Conservation Ecology.
Sunday, August 6, 2000 8:00-8:15 AM
Magpie Room - Cliff Lodge

Wei welcomes SINO-ECO members and friends to be there in Oral Session #2.

Dr. Jingle Wu, current Chair of Asian Ecology Section, ESA, will organize the AES business meeting after the symposium of the Asian Ecology Section. Dr. Pu (Paul) Mou of Virginia Tech, a member of SINO-ECO's 2000-02 steering committee and a former president of the club, will represent SINO-ECO Club for the business meeting. The SINO-ECO members, especially graduate student friends, are welcome to attend the meeting. Since Wei is the current treasurer of the club, any member or friend who wants to contribute or pay membership due can contact Wei at the time.

2. WRSA 2000 Symposium in Beijing (FG, JL)

The WRSA (The Western Returned Scholars Association, i.e., 海外归国学者协会) will hold a special international symposium from August 8 to 11 in Beijing. The theme of the symposium is "The 21st Century China and Globalization." Again, several SINO-ECO members are major leaders of the symposium. Dr. Yegang Wu is a co-chair of the Scientific Committee. Yegang and Dr. Junda Lin are also members of the Organizing Committee. Junda and Dr. Fang Gao are chairs for two panels on environment and sustainable development. Several other SINO-ECO members will be attending the symposium as well. Junda and Fang are planning a get-together during the symposium with our colleagues and friends in Beijing. If you are interested in the Symposium, please contact either: Yegang at ywu@sfwmd.gov, or Junda at jlin@fit.edu, or Fang at fgao@state.de.us.

For your information: WRSA held its 1999 special international symposium in Washington, D.C. from September 3 to 6, 1999. The theme of that symposium was "The Sustainable Development in the 21st Century China." Several SINO-ECO members participated in that symposium. It was a big success and attracted a lot of attention from scientists and professionals around the world, as well as from US government.

3. AWMA Annual Conference (FG)

The Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) 2000 Annual Conference was held from June 18 to 22 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The international conference was attended by more than two thousand scientists and professionals from all over the world. Many senior USEPA officials also attended the conference and provided up-to-dates about many regulatory issues.

Dr. Quanlu (Michael) Wang from Argonne National Lab, a member of SINO-ECO, chaired a special panel on "Transportation and Kyoto Protocol: Meeting the Challenge." Quanlu and his three panelists, all are renowned experts on greenhouse gas emissions from transportation activities, led a very interesting and in-depth discussion on the topic. It was very encouraging to see that a SINO-ECO member presided a panel in such an important and influential international conference.

Taiwan sent a relatively huge delegation to attend the conference (about 30 delegates). The delegates are from universities, local governments and industries of Taiwan. Some delegates indicate that the air pollution and waste problem are two big issues in Taiwan now. The local governments are eager to find effective ways for control. It was interesting to notice that no

scientists and professionals, nor governmental officials, from mainland China attended this year's annual conference.

4. Third Annual National Integrated Ecosystem Modeling Project Meeting (YP)

Third Annual National Integrated Ecosystem Modeling Project Meeting was held in Raleigh, North Carolina from July 18-20. The project has been run for three years by the USDA Forest Service and aimed to provide research information for the program of U.S. National Assessment of Global Change Impact. It was very surprising to see quite a few Sino-eco club members in the meeting, including Harbin Li, Jiquan Chen, Ge Sun, Changshen Li, Chang Zhang, Hong He and Yude Pan. They reported respectively their researches on the wetland studies, effects of forest practice on carbon budget, wetland hydrology, soil trace gas emissions, coupling of soil chemistry models with forest models, landscape modeling and fire disturbances, and watershed studies and forest inventory data. As Dr. Changshen Li figured out, a few years ago, when he attended some scientific meetings organized by Federal Government, there were not many Chinese colleagues. But now more and more scientists with Chinese background have got involved in Federal Government projects. During the meeting, Sino-eco members had good time dining out together. We also had our member, Dr. Gao Qiong, a recent visiting scholar in Duke University, jointed for a nice dinner together.

5. Carbon Budget Project in China (YP)

The Kyoto Protocol figured out the needs on information of reliable terrestrial carbon budget for setting the strategy of stabilizing atmospheric greenhouse gases. Because forest biomes contain more than 45% of all the carbon stored in terrestrial systems, it is very important to gain reliable estimates of carbon storage and carbon dynamics in forests. Dr. Yude Pan of USDA Forest Service and Dr. Tianxiang Luo of Chinese Ecosystem Research Network (CERN), the two principal investigators of the project entitled "Carbon Storage and Accumulation in Forests of China," have received a \$21,000 research grant from USDA Forest Service for the year 2000. The project plans to run for 5 years and will continuously receive the fund from the Forest Service in the next few year and has the potential to get extra funds from other sources.

Yude will make a trip to China for the project in August 2000. She will spend two weeks in CERN working for the project. She has been invited to give a seminar entitled "Ecosystem-based watershed studies and modeling approaches". She is also planning to meet some SINO-ECO members after the WRSA Symposium. If you need more information, please contact Yude at ypan@fs.fed.us.

6. Recent Trips to the Homeland (WF, SM, QW, PM, CP)

(1) In January 2000, Ms. Wei Fang, a Ph.D. candidate from SUNY at Stony Brook, visited Zhongshan University and South China Institute of Botany, both located in Guangzhou. She gave two presentations entitled "Pitch pine demography and field experiments on factors limiting pitch pine seedlings after fire on Long Island pine barren", and "Biological invasion, a significant component of global change." For more information, contact Wei at weifang@life.bio.sunysb.edu.

(2) In June 2000, Dr. Shili Miao of South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) visited her family in Chongqing. During her stay in China, she also visited Southwest China Normal University (ACNU). At ACNU, she attended three MD students' thesis defense and gave a seminar about wetland ecology and species invasion. After she traveled on Changjiang and visited Three Gorges, she gave two lectures to local city officers about Ecological Restoration along the banks of Three Gorges Dam and in Chongqing City. She also visited Beijing Botanic Institute and China Agricultural University where she met Drs. Xingguo Han and Ming Dong and delivered a lecture on "Wetland Ecology, Species Invasion and Ecosystem Restoration". For more information, contact Shili at smiao@sfwmd.gov.

(3) In June 2000, Dr. Quanlu (Michael) Wang of Argonne National Lab, and Dr. Yegang Wu of South Florida Water Management District, joined a delegation that was organized by Chinese Association of Engineers based in New York to visit Beijing, Tianjing, and Shanghai. The delegation had scientists and professionals in the areas of water pollution, air pollution, and solid waste pollution. With sponsorship of the Chinese General Consulate of New York and City of Beijing, the delegation visited several agencies in each city and gave seminars. Yegang's seminar was on clean water technologies and Quanlu's seminar was on motor vehicle emissions and urban air pollution. For more information, contact Quanlu at mqwang@anl.gov, or Yegang at ywu@sfwmd.gov.

(4) Dr. Pu (Paul) Mou of Virginia Tech took 10 American students to China for a three-week teaching class "China Forests and Bio-conservation." Dr. Mou and students visited three cities, Beijing, Harbin, and Chengdu; two natural reserves, Laingshui and Wuolong; as well as Ermei mountains for vegetation distribution study.

After his teaching tour, Dr. Mou joined IFCE's (International Fund for China's Environment) and visited Shannxi and Beijing from June 8 to 16. The delegation was consist of eight people, Drs. Ping He, the delegation leader, Alfred Liu, Jeff Ji, Ping Zhuang, Wei Hu, Mrs. Zhihua Xu, A. Brettell, and Paul. "The visits were very successful," said Paul. Here is Paul's report.

"We arrived Shannxi on June 8 and were welcomed by the Shannxi Women Union, our local coordinator. We had a discussion meeting with professors of Northwest Uni. and held a special lecture on June 9. Six delegation members reported their latest research and technologies. Mr. Chen, Zongxi, vice-governor of Shannxi, met and hosted a banquet for the delegation on June 9 evening. On June 10, the delegation was divided to two groups. One visited Yanglin Agri. Development District and Northwest Agri-forest Uni. Another visited the Xian Architecture Uni. and met professionals from env. industries. I went to Yanglin and had a good talk with the professionals there. On June 11, we had a meeting with officails and scientists of Shannxi Env. Protection Bureau and the Provincial Academy of Env. Sciences.

On June 12, we held the opening ceremony of IFCE's Children Env. Art Educational Base, a joint venture with the Xian Little Swan Art Group. More than two hundreds people representing various groups of Shannxi province attended the ceremony. More than twenty media covered the event, including Xihun News, People's Daily and other major media. Our photo appeared on the cover

page of a number of newspapers the next day, including China Daily. IFCE hosted a lunch buffet to thank the people in Shannxi for thanking the hospitality of the local hosts. 150 people attended.

Four of delegation members continued to Beijing, including Ping He, Wei Hu, Zhihau Xu and I myself. We visited the NPPCC and discussed environment issues with leaders of the Overseas Chinese Committee and Environmental committee of NPPCC on June 13. The two committees hosted a lunch banquet for the delegation. Ping He and Wei Hu chaired the conference of Env. Reform in China in Great Wall Hotel on June 14 and 15. More than 100 industry leaders gathered to discuss the techniques and management models to meet env. regulations in China. We visited State Env. Protection Administration on June 16 and met Mr. Xie, Zhenghua, the administrator. We discussed a number of issues. Mr. Xie gave high remarks to IFCE and agreed to serve on IFCE's advisory board."

For more information, contact Paul at pmou@vt.edu. For your information, Paul is a former president of SINO-ECO.

(5) Dr. Changhui Peng, Research Scientist of Ontario Forest Research Institute, Canada, is invited by the Institute of Geology & Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences for a one-week visit for scholar activities from August 6 to 10 in Beijing. After his visit in Beijing, Chaghui is planning to spend a couple of weeks in his hometown for vacation in Hunan province. A summary of his trip to Beijing and Hunan will be in our next newsletter. Changhui can be reached at changhui.peng@mnr.gov.on.ca.

Recent Publications

(Note from the editor: We encourage our members to contribute to this section to demonstrate our accomplishments and share the information and joys with others. Dr. Yude Pan, the current president of SINO-ECO, points out that "most SINO-ECO members work hard in their research fields and have good contributions to sciences. We should use our newsletter to highlight their work and efforts." We hereby provide a couple of examples in this issue.)

1. *Science* (June 23rd, 2000, 288:2135) (YP):

P. Zhang, G. Shao, G. Zhao, Dennis LeMaster, G. Parker, J. Dunning, and Q. Li published a paper entitled "Ecology: China's Forest Policy for the 21st Century" in *Science*, the most prestigious and influential scientific journal in the world. The paper introduced a new forest policy in China--the Natural Forest Conservation Program (NFCP).

Deforestation in the past half century has brought disastrous problems to China's environment, such as soil erosion, reduction of productivity, biodiversity loss, sever drought and flooding. A flooding in the Yangtze river in the summer of 1998 alone caused a loss of more than US\$20 billion. The lessons in the past have made the Chinese government to reframe their forest policy from timber-driven to environment-oriented. The NFCP covers more than two thirds of the nation's total land area mostly in the west and northwest of China. Timber harvesting from the natural forest has reduced from 32 million m³ in 1997 to 14 million m³ in 2000 and meanwhile

the central government has invested about US\$20 billion to subsidize the local people affected by the new policy. The implementation of the NFCP includes six measures: (1) technical training and education; (2) land management planning; (3) mandatory conversion of marginal farmlands to forest lands; (4) resettlement and retraining of forest dwellers; (5) share in private ownership; (6) expanded research. For more details about the paper, contact: Dr. Guofan Shao at gshao@fnr.purdue.edu or Dr. Guang Zhao at ZHAOG@columb20.dhec.state.sc.us.

2. *Environmental Managers* (March, 2000) (FG)

F. Gao published a feature article entitled "The role of rule effectiveness in emission projections" in the March's issue of *Environmental Managers*, one of the most influential and distributed journals in air and waste management in the nation. The short article describes the results of the author's collaboration with U.S. EPA, in which the author helped EPA correct errors in some emission projection equations. For more information, contact fgao@state.de.us.

3. The Book "*Global Climate and Ecology*" (JL, FG)

Many SINO-ECO members have contributed chapters to this upcoming book. According to a recent contact with Dr. Jingyun Fang (the chief editor in Beijing), the book is scheduled to be out in the fall of 2000. Dr. Junda Lin (the chief editor in US) will meet Jingyun during the WRSA Symposium next month (see News above).

4. The book "*Lecture in Ecology (Vol. 2)*" (JW, FG)

This book collects chapters from SINO-ECO members and other Chinese ecologists who attended the Second Symposium on Ecology held in Beijing, June 1999. All chapters have gone through peer review and second revision. The chief editor, Dr. Jianguo Wu, is reviewing the chapters and will send the book (all chapters) to Dr. Xingguo Han, another chief editor in Beijing. Xingguo will be in charge of final review and publication. The book is scheduled to be out early next year. For your information, Xingguo is also a senior member and a former president of SINO-ECO.

Student Corner

1. An article recommended by Ms. Wei Fang (WF)

A website article entitled "Some Modest Advice for Graduate Students" is recommended by Ms Wei Fang, a Ph.D. candidate of SUNY at Stony Brook. The article can be found at <http://www.unibas.ch/dib/zoologie/stearns/gradadvice.html>

"Although I have already passed most crucial stages in grad school, I wished I had read it in my first year," Wei said.

2. Questions and Answers (WF, FG)

Ms. Wei Fang also suggests that in the student section our grad student members toss questions to our senior members regarding career development. The questions and answers can be concise and anonymous. She believes that this might benefit both sides.

This is very good idea. Now, for our student members, what questions do you have and want SINO-ECO Newsletter to convey to our senior members?

For our senior members, what ideas and advice do you have for our junior members who are at the beginning of their careers?

Please send your questions and answers/advice to the editor at fgao@state.de.us. The editor will keep any question and answer anonymous and confidential.

3. Debate on Dismissal/Transfer of Chinese Student (FG)

A Chinese graduate student in a science discipline at a major university was recently dismissed by his major advisor, a Chinese professor. There are several reasons, but the major one is believed to be the unsatisfactory progress in his research in the last two years. The research program has ample funds to support the graduate students and post-docs to conduct any relevant lab experiment and to attend national conference every year. However, this student failed to present papers in the last two annual conferences and had to withdraw the abstracts. The student spends a significant portion of his time (maybe, half time) to take courses in EE and computer (without telling the advisor) and work for extra \$. The argument is that he is paid by RA for half time (20hr/wk), so he can use the other half freely.

This student was accepted for a Ph.D. program in agricultural science in early 1998. He had a Masters degree in environmental science from a famous university in South China when he applied for admission. Before accepting him, his major advisor contacted (called) his M.S. advisor, who was the head of the department where the student obtained his M.S. The department head gave a very strong recommendation for his student.

Dismissal of Chinese graduate students in basic science and some traditional engineering disciplines has been heard more and more frequently. In addition, some students admitted to those programs transfer to other programs (especially computer-related programs) before dismissal action is taken. The number of those students may be still small relative to the total number of Chinese graduate students. However, the detrimental impacts of such dismissal/transfer and the behavior of those students are far-reaching and significant. For example, departments of basic science in various universities have decided that they will no longer accept graduate students from China unless the students can financially support themselves.

Debate: Professors, including both American and Chinese professors, feel that those students do not have any scientific and professional ethics in their minds. They usually promise a lot and provide very strong recommendations before admission to obtain TA or RA in order to come to US, but they are not dedicated (or loyal) to scientific research after they arrive. The result is apparently a waste of research fund and time, and oftentimes pushes the advisors in awkward situations due to failure of fulfilling the funded projects in time. The students, on the other hand, argue that they did

provide true information when they apply for admission. But after they arrive in the US (maybe even before they arrive), they realize that they need to worry about their careers and living in the future, they need to stay in US and find a good-paying job, and obtain PR status.

What do you think, our Newsletter readers? Comments and arguments are welcome, and will be presented in the next newsletter. Send to the editor at: fgao@state.de.us.

People on Move

(1) Dr. Qinfeng GUO has recently moved to Tucson, Arizona. He accepted a prestigious position of Russell Research Fellow at the Desert Laboratory, University of Arizona. His new e-mail address is qguo@geo.arizona.edu.

(2) Dr. Hong HE has received a faculty position in the University of Missouri, and will move to his new place this summer from his current lab at University of Wisconsin. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Career Opportunities

None in this issue.

For Your Information

(1) SINO-ECO Presidents (FG)

The following is the list of SINO-ECO presidents since 1989:

Drs. Jianguo Liu, Xingguo Han, Pu Mou, Jiquan Chen, Xi He, Quan Dong, Ye Qi, Guanghui Lin, Junda Lin. The current president: Dr. Yude Pan. (Note: The presidential term was one year from 1989 to 1998. In 1998, the presidential term was changed to two years).

From Inside the Steering Committee

The committee is considering some changes and proposals regarding the operation of SINO-ECO. Examples include: expanding student members, waiving membership due for students, changing membership due to voluntary, seeking for donation, organizing special groups and trips to China, editing special books on special topics, etc. The committee cordially invite inputs from our member to improve SINO-ECO. Ideas and suggestions can be sent to any of the committee member:

Yude Pan, President (ypan@fs.fed.us)

Shili Miao, Vice President (smiao@sfwmd.gov)

Wei Fang, Treasurer (weifang@life.bio.sunysb.edu)
Fang Gao, General Editor (fgao@state.de.us)
Paul Mou, Public Affairs (pmou@vt.edu)