Sino-Eco members get together at the 2016 American Geophysical Union annual meeting. AGU meeting is held annually in San Francisco, CA. Photo by Jim Tang.
Dear Sino-Eco members and friends,

Holidays are coming and I am writing to represent Sino-Eco to wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

The holiday season is also a good time for reflection. I am extremely pleased to see what Sino-Eco and our members achieved this year! Sino-Eco held the election this year. As the President, I thank you all again for your trust and the new executive committee welcomes your continuous support. We had the first online meeting on September 28. We clearly defined our tasks and laid out the plan for next year. You will surely see more exciting things to come. Keep an eye on our future updates!

Sino-Eco organized the annual gathering on August 10th, 2016 during the 101st Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Thanks to our former President Dr. Yushun Chen and our Secretary Dr. Lifei Wang, the meeting was well attended and very successful. It is exciting that more members joined our big family at the gathering! I am very glad to see our membership keeps growing. I hope every one of you continue to tell your colleagues, students, and friends about our association and encourage them to become a member. Becoming a member is easy (visit www.sino-eco.org) and extremely affordable ($10/year or $5/year for students). As a member, you will be connected to the leading ecologists and your peers and well informed about current research dynamics and job opportunities.

Our association also gave out the Best Student Paper Award this year. After a rigorous review by the Award Committee, two recipients were selected to receive this award: Dr. Yaling Liu from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Dr. Yong Luo from the Nature Resources Canada. Please congratulate them for their achievements!

In addition, I am so proud that our members were successful in publications, symposiums, and other professional activities. Please see some examples inside the newsletter. I wish our members and friends a more productive year of 2017!

Lastly I would welcome any suggestions about what you want us to do for you and our organization in the coming year. We have fund to support some programs or activities. Please email me at zhu@hartford.edu if you have any suggestions.

May your holidays be filled with lots of happiness, peace and love.

Sincerely,

Bin Zhu
Sino-Eco President 2016-2018
Associate Professor, University of Hartford
元旦快乐新年幸福藏头诗两首

新年伊始迎【元】月
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Sino-Ecologists Association Overseas (Sino-Eco) organized the annual gathering on August 10th, 2016 during the 101st Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Approximately 60 Chinese ecologists from universities, research institutes, laboratories, and agencies all over the world attended the gathering. Sino-Eco president Dr. Bin Zhu, vice president Dr. Charlie Huang, former president Dr. Yushun Chen, and secretary and treasurer Dr. Lifei Wang organized the gathering this year.

Dr. Yushun Chen, on behalf of Sino-Eco president Dr. Bin Zhu, welcomed new and old friends to the annual gathering. Many senior Sino-Eco members, such as Drs. Changhui Peng, Jim (Jianwu) Tang, Shuijin Hu, Adam (Xiaohua) Wei, Yushun Chen, Yonglong Lu, Pu Mou, Dafeng Hui, and Lingli Liu, attended the gathering. During the three-hour gathering, senior Sino-Eco members and early career ecologists had a great time talking about their scientific careers, sharing research experience and ideas, as well as exchanging information on potential opportunities for research positions, workshops, conferences, and collaboration.

This year, Drs. Jim (Jianwu) Tang and Charlie Huang launched a Sino-Eco WeChat group to help improve timely communication among Sino-Eco members. During the gathering, over 20 new members joined Sino-Eco. Two winners of the Sino-Eco 2016 Best Student Paper Award were also announced: Dr. Yong Luo from the Canadian Forest Service in British Columbia, Canada; and Dr. Yaling Liu from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington, United States.

By connecting Chinese ecologists with their peers, Sino-Eco hopes to provide a framework for discussion, networking, and potentially mentoring for early career ecologists. Sino-Eco organizes gatherings concurrent with the Ecological Society of America Annual Meetings every year. In addition to providing a great opportunity for members and friends of Sino-Eco worldwide to reunite, these gatherings have facilitated international and interdisciplinary collaboration in ecological research and created a platform for Chinese ecologists to present their research and build professional networks. The next Sino-Eco gathering will be held in Portland, Oregon in August 2017. We look forward to seeing more new and old friends of Sino-Eco next year.
Yaling Liu and Yong Luo Receive 2016 Sino-Eco Best Student Paper Award

The 2016 Sino-Eco Best Student Paper Award goes to Yaling Liu from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Yong Luo from Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources and University of British Columbia. The award winning papers are:


The award is given annually at the Sino-Eco gathering. Two winners are selected each year. Each winner receives cash prize and formal recognition by Sino-Eco. The funding support comes from Sino-Eco annual budget and the Sino-Eco Yang Hanxi Ecological Fund. The 2016 Sino-Eco Best Student Paper Award committee is chaired by Dr. Bin Zhu. Committee members include Drs. Yushun Chen, Jiquan Chen, Lingli Liu, Hanqin Tian and Weixing Zhu.

Dr. Yaling Liu obtained her bachelor's degree in Geography from Hubei University, China, and then a Master's degree in Meteorology from China Agricultural University. She then worked as a high school geography teacher and a research assistant in a technology company, before starting a PhD program at Purdue University. Her PhD research seeks to enhance understanding of biogeochemical interactions between ecosystems and climate change, land use/cover change and human activities, with a focus on water cycle. She uses a combination of modeling, remote sensing, in-situ measurements, data assimilation and statistical analysis to address various research questions. She is in particular interested in understanding the hydrological impacts of climate change, human activities and their feedbacks to the climate, as well as disentangling the interactions within the water-energy-food nexus. Currently, she works as a postdoctoral research associate at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and her research involves Earth-human interactions, the water-energy-food nexus, and the development of a hydrological model endogenously within an integrated global land use-energy-economy-climate model.

Yong Luo is currently a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Eliot McIntire at Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada and University of British Columbia. After graduation from Anhui Agricultural University with Master degree in Silviculture, he pursued his PhD degree in Forest Science with Dr. Han Chen at Lakehead University. His research focuses on forest ecology, global change ecology and predictive ecology. His studies are conducted at large spatiotemporal scales to reveal how species interactions and climate changes affect forest demography and functioning. He also uses model simulations to predict vegetation dynamics in future climates.

Dr. Yaling Liu, post-doctoral researcher at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Dr. Yong Luo, post-doctoral fellow at Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources and University of British Columbia.
Sino-Eco Members Join the Yangtze River Economic Belt Field Investigation
By Yushun Chen

During April 24-30, 2016, a team of Sino-Eco members joined the Yangtze River Economic Belt field investigation trip organized by China Association of Science and Technology. The team visited Yibin, Sichuan, Yueyang, Hunan, and Shanghai, and communicated with local officials and representatives from different sectors. The purpose of this trip was to identify basin-wide and reach based stressors and propose ecological solutions to support the development of the Yangtze River Economic Belt. Sino-Eco continues its mission in playing a very important role in providing scientific suggestions for China’s ecological conservation.

2016 Multidisciplinary Ecological Symposium Held in Wuhan, China
By Yushun Chen

On July 11, 2016, Sino-Eco President Dr. Bin Zhu joined the 2016 multidisciplinary ecology symposium at Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IHB, CAS) in Wuhan, China. The symposium was hosted by Sino-Eco member and Past President Dr. Yushun Chen. The symposium was supported by Sino-Eco members Dr. Jianguo Huang from South China Botanical Garden, CAS, Dr. Xuhui Zhou from East China Normal University, Dr. Lei Cheng from Zhejiang University, and Dr. Dejun Li from Institute of Subtropical Agriculture, CAS. The symposium will serve as a starting point to promote multidisciplinary communications and collaborations in ecological research among Sino-Eco members and friends in China and overseas.
Yiqi Luo Elected as a Fellow of American Geophysical Union

Sino-Eco member Dr. Yiqi Luo was elected as a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union for distinguished contributions to the field of global change ecology. Dr. Luo is a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Plant Biology at University of Oklahoma, and director of the EcoLab at the Stephenson Research and Technology Center. He was honored during the 2016 AGU Fall Meeting. Only one in a thousand members is elected to AGU Fellowship each year.

Among the most notable of Luo’s research is his work on terrestrial carbon cycle. His team has conducted experimental modeling and theoretical studies of carbon dynamics in terrestrial ecosystems in response to global change. His research aims to determine ecosystem responses to global change and incorporate experimental and observational data into models to constrait their forecasts of future changes in ecosystem services.

Chinese Environmental Scholars Forum 2017 in Berkeley, CA

By Yu Zhang and Hang Deng

Chinese Environmental Scholars Forum (CESF) is a self-organized group dedicated to promoting open, equal and free exchange of ideas among scholars and students who work on or are interested in sustainability-related research. The forum has been hosted by different universities and institutions (Harvard University, 2014; Yale University, 2015; and Princeton University, 2016) since it was initiated. The fourth forum will be held in Berkeley, California in early summer 2017, hosted by scholars from University of California Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. This year, the theme is water, which is the central thread of many Earth and environmental systems. The forum will focus on research topics such as climate change and water cycle, water and ecosystems and food production, and water quality and treatment. Ecological scholars doing research related to water (e.g. mechanisms and processes in aquatic or arid ecosystems) are more than welcome to contribute by giving talks or presenting posters. The website is http://www.envforum.org/ and will be updated soon with registration information.
Kai Zhu Published Study on Nonlinear, Interacting Response of Grassland Production to Global Change

Sino-Eco member Dr. Kai Zhu (kai.zhu@rice.edu) Huxley Faculty Fellow at the Department of BioSciences, Rice University, recently published a study demonstrating nonlinear, interacting responses of grassland production to global change. The study was featured as a cover article in PNAS. Global environment change involves many factors that occur simultaneously, yet they are usually investigated in isolation. In this study, Zhu reported a long-term global change experiment that subjected California grassland to multiple individual and simultaneous changes in temperature, precipitation, carbon dioxide and nitrogen. The study revealed nonlinear and interactive effects of temperature and precipitation on grassland net primary production (NPP), which defined a ridge-shaped NPP response surface to these two variables. He also found that added nitrogen raised the peak of the NPP response surface, and added CO₂ shifted the peak to low temperatures. The approach taken in this study may be powerful in investigating the influences of global change on other types of ecosystems as well. The full citation of the paper is


Postdoctoral Position Available at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

A postdoctoral position is available in the Environmental Sciences Division (ESD) and Climate Change Science Institute (CCSI) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The successful candidate will be expected to use multiple estimates from observed vegetation and soil fluxes and states to constrain and improve the GPP and carbon allocation scheme in the land component of DOE-sponsored Accelerated Climate Modeling for Energy (ACME Land Model - ALM). The UQ methodology will be employed to identify and reduce various uncertainties associated with the ALM structure, internal parameters and external drivers. With the updated ALM together with other modeling efforts and experimental campaigns from the DOE NGEE-Tropics project, the postdoctoral candidate will also be responsible for investigating the response mechanisms of tropical rainforests to droughts and ENSO events.

The selected candidate will have one or more of the following attributes: (a) a background in land surface model simulation, evaluation and development; (b) strong experience in assembling and diagnosing large models and observational datasets; (c) and strong programing skills in at least one of Fortran, R, Matlab, NCL or Python. The applicant should have a Ph.D. in an appropriate field (e.g., Atmospheric Science, Ecology, Geography or related area) at the time of appointment. The candidate should also have a strong interest in collaborative research with a team of modelers and experimentalists. For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Jiafu Mao (maoj@ornl.gov). If interested, please apply here at

https://recruiting.ornl.gov/sap/bc/webdynpro/sap/hrrcf_a_posting_apply?PARAM=cG9zdF9pbnN0X2d1aWQ9MDA1MDU2QJQzOTc3MUVEnkJE4OkkJDQjk0NEYzMDU0NTAmY2FuZF90eXBIPUVYVA%3d%3d&sap-client=010&sap-language=EN#
Call for Papers: Evolving Landscapes under Institutional Change, Globalization, and Cultural Influence in Contrasting Urban Systems. A Special Issue of Landscape and Urban Planning

Guest Editors: Peilei Fan (fanpeile@msu.edu), Jiquan Chen (jqchen@msu.edu), and Jingle Wu (Jingle.Wu@asu.edu)

Drastic urbanization has occurred in nations that embraced globalization and underwent institutional transformation, especially those from the central planning to the market-based economic systems in Southeast and East Asia and Eastern Europe. This special issue is to examine patterns, drivers, and consequences of the transforming urban landscapes in megacities that experienced dramatic restructuring under significant globalization, institutional changes, or cultural influence. A particular focus is to provide diverging experiences of comparative cities before and after a significant socioeconomic change/shock, including the transition from a central planning system to a market system. In the transitional economies, this change/shock may refer to a gradual or a rapid transition from the central planning system to the market based economic systems, such as the opening up of the economies of China, Vietnam, and Mongolia and the extreme case of the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 or the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The themes include:

• evaluating the spatiotemporal changes of urban landscapes in these rapidly urbanizing nations,
• quantifying the socio-economic and biophysical driving forces contributing to the urban landscape evolution, particularly how institutional mechanism, cultural factors, and globalization have affected urban landscape transformations,
• assessing the consequences of urban landscape change on social equity and environmental quality of various urban residents, and
• exploring the relationship among urbanization and economic development, environment quality, and social equity.

This special issue will include a range of studies on cities at different economic development levels, cultures and institutions that face unique environmental pressures and social equity challenges. Each contribution shall indicate clearly which of the above themes it addresses.

Timetable:

01/01/2017: Abstract deadline (title, abstracts, key words, bios)
06/01/2017: Submission of manuscripts
09/01/2017: Reviews back to the authors
12/01/2017: Submission of revised manuscripts
03/01/2018: Recommendations to the Editors-in-Chief

Potential contributors shall submit an abstract with their short bios to guest editors. Guest editors will review and invite selected authors to submit the full manuscripts through the online submission system of Landscape and Urban Planning.