



中华海外生态学者协会

Sino-Ecologists Association Overseas

NEWSLETTER OF SINO-ECOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION OVERSEAS  
(中华海外生态学者协会会刊)

May 15, 2005

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SINO-ECO PRESIDENT (会长之声)

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Dear SINO-ECO Members and Friends:

Spring is finally here. Everything is just so beautiful! When you were walking on the trail, the sidewalk of creeks, rivers and lakes, or gardening in your backyard, you may take notice of the gentle breeze blowing on your face and through your hair felt, how it smelled of "spring time"!

Last weekend, as I was walking with my family on the trail in one park nearby my home, I noticed the sounds of the small flowing creek as I passed over the wooden bridge, the sounds of chirping and singing of crickets, as the meandering trail took me through the small patch of woods. I heard the birds. I saw the flowers and trees getting ready to bloom. I noticed how green and alive the grass seemed after it looked so brown during the long cold winter months. Everything is now looking so alive and green. Oh, the beauty of spring!

So, I would like to invite you to read through the new issue of SINO-ECO newsletter below. I hope that you will certainly notice and appreciate the "spring of the SINO-ECO" and the "richness and diversity" of its activity. Enjoy your reading and appreciate your feedbacks!

Changhui

*(Spring Tulips, photo by Linda Garrison)*



## BRIEF NEWS (简明新闻)

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### **Name Change of SINO-ECO**

The name amendment of SINO-ECO has been completed by February 1, 2005 and the registration for the new name as Sino-Ecologist Association Overseas (SINO-ECO) has been officially done by February 16, 2005. The Name Amendment Committee and the SINO-ECO Committee of 2004-2006 would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your enthusiasm, active involvements, constructive discussions, debates, and suggestions for the name amendment of SINO-ECO, which are very valuable and helpful for the future development and success of the SINO-ECO. Let's unite and work together in the new year of 2005.

### **Welcome New members:**

The following 6 people including Garry (Zhiming) Wang, Shucun Sun, Jiangfeng Sun, Shuqing Zhao, Jianghua Wu and Jiangguo Huang have recently joined the SINO-ECO. Congratulations! Since last August, there are over 40 new people who have joined the SINO-ECO and will make new contribution to the SINO-ECO activities.

### **Ecological literature translation**

The Review of "Ecological Science and Sustainability for a Crowded Planet: 21st Century Vision and Action Plan for the Ecological Society of America" and the Report from the Ecological Visions Committee to the Governing Board of the Ecological Society of America could be a historical milestone for ecological research. A group of Sino-Eco and ESA members, co-ordinated by Drs. Yegang Wu, Shili Miao and Binhe Gu, is working diligently to translate the whole issue of "Visions for an ecologically sustainable future" into Chinese. The translated papers will be published as book in China and posted on the ESA website. The publication will be sponsored by Ecological Society of China (EAC) and China Association for Science and Technology's HOME Program. Participants include: Jianguo Wu, Guanhui Lin, Shili Miao, Changhui Peng, Hua Dong, Paul Mou, Frank Chang, Yiqi Luo, Fang Gao, Qinqin Liu, Zhangzhi Huang, Weihe Guan, Wei Fang, Junda Lin, Xi He, Weixin Cheng, Weixing Zhu, Hong Jiang, Xinyuan Wu, Ben Gu, Yegang Wu.

### **Most cited papers in the research area of ENVIRONMENT/ECOLOGY.**

The Thomson-ISI(r) identified the following publication to be one of the most cited papers in the research area of ENVIRONMENT/ECOLOGY. Dr. Jiquan Chen, former SINO-ECO president and an active member, coauthored this paper. Congratulations!

Franklin, J.F., T.A. Spies, R. Van Pelt, A. B. Carey, D.A. Thornburgh, D. R. Berg, D. B. Lindenmayer, M. E. Harmon, W. S. Keeton, D.C. Shaw, K. Bible, and J. Chen. 2002. Disturbances and structural development of natural forest ecosystems with silvicultural implications, using Douglas-fir forests as an example. *Forest Ecology and Management* 155: 399-423.

A feature article will appear on the ESI Special Topics Website at the following link: <http://esi-topics.com> < <http://esi-topics.com>> for February, 2005 under the heading "Emerging Research Fronts < <http://www.esi-topics.com/erf/index.html>> ."

**Rusong Wang: the new President of the Ecological Society of China**

Prof. Rusong Wang has been elected as the new President of the Ecological Society of China from 2004 to 2008. The SINO-ECO most warmly congratulates him on this honor, and wish him and the Ecological Society of China every success. We are looking forward to a close collaboration between the SINO-ECO and Ecological Society of China in the coming years.

**Tsunami Book Donation**

Dr. Wei Fang and her colleagues (the faculty and graduate students) of the Department of Ecology and Evolution, SUNY Stony Brook have collected 150 ecological books to donate to the university where suffered Tsunami to meet the needs of students and the library there. They are planning to mail the books to the damaged area. We greatly appreciate their efforts and hearts. Let's we do whatever we ecologists can to help.

**Tsunami Indonesia Relief**

Sino-Eco member and former Sino-Eco web master Dr. Frank Chang was selected among 107 applicants world-wide as a volunteer for the tsunami relief efforts through the GISCorps. He traveled to Indonesia in January and spent 3 weeks working with the GISCorps and other international relief force. Frank is currently a Senior Geographer with the South Florida Water Management District, Florida, USA.

**Donation for Support of Frank Chang's Indonesia Tsunami Relief**

Sino-Eco members donated a total amount of ~\$350 to support Frank Chang's Indonesia trip. The donation has been presented to Frank on 4/9/05. Thank you all.

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS(会议通告)**

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The Third International Symposium on Modern Ecology will be held in Beijing Normal University between June 1-7, 2005. This symposium is sponsored by China Natural Science Foundation and hosted by Beijing Normal University and Beijing Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science. Dr. Jianguo Wu, Sino-Eco member and professor of Arizona State University, serves as the academic committee chairman for the symposium. Several Sino-Eco members from China and overseas will give lectures during the symposium. For more information, please visit <http://www.moderneco.net>.

**SINO-ECO Co-organizing International Carbon Symposium in China**

The Sino-Ecologist Association Overseas is the co-organizers for the upcoming "International Symposium On Ecosystem Carbon Balance and Cycle: Theory and Application" which will be held on July 1-3, 2005, Guangzhou, China. Many SINO-ECO members, including Shili Miao, Jiquan Chen, Yiqi Luo, Weixing Cheng, Hanqin Tian, Qinglai Dang, Hong Jiang, Adam Wei, Song Bo, Yufu Cheng, Dong Hua, Ge Sun, Jinxun Liu, Garry Wang, Hongyan, Luo, Yonghai Qian, and Zisheng Xing etc., will contribute to the conference via serving as Scientific Committee members or presenting talks at the meeting. For more information, please visit our symposium website at: <http://www.sino-eco.org/carbon.html> or contact Dr. Changhui, Peng, University of Quebec at Montreal, Tel: (514) 987-3000 ext. 1056#; E-mail: [peng.changhui@uqam.ca](mailto:peng.changhui@uqam.ca).

## MEMBERS ON MOVE (会员动向)

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### **Dr. Larry Li was elected Honorary Professor of Russian Academy of Sciences**

Dr. Larry Li was elected Honorary Professor (theoretical biology, ecology and biophysics) of Russian Academy of Sciences on January 25, 2005, in recognition of his fundamental contributions and pioneering role in the development of modern theoretical ecology; the honor ceremony will be held at Biological Research Center of the Russian Academy in mid-June and he will speak to their Scientific Council on the state-of-the-art in ecological complexity. He is also an invited plenary speaker (Plenary Session II) of International Conference on Multifunctionality of Landscapes, May 18-19, 2005, University of Giessen, Germany (<http://www.sfb299.de/conference/programme.htm>).

### **Dr. Jianguo Wu- new Editor-in-Chief for Landscape Ecology**

Dr. Jianguo “Jingle” Wu has taken over the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief for Landscape Ecology since early this month. Congratulations, Jianguo! (Yegang Wu)

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS (最近论文)

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### **B. Larry Li**

Chen, X. and B. L. Li. 2004. Characteristics of diurnal water loss of five adjacent ecosystems at Changbai Mountains in Northeast China. *Polish J. of Ecology* 52: 323-331.

Chen, X. and B. L. Li. 2004. Quickly identifying tree species susceptible to extinction: a case study of seven tree species at Northeast China Transect. *Journal for Nature Conservation* 12: 205-211.

Müller, F. and B. L. Li. 2004. Complex systems approaches to study human-environmental interactions: issues and problem. p. 31-46. In S. Hong, J. A. Lee, B. Ihm, A. Farina, Y. Son, E. Kim, and J. C. Choe (eds.), *Ecological Issues in a Changing World: Status, Response and Strategy*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, the Netherlands.

Chen, X., B. L. Li., T. A. Scott, T. Tennant, J. T. Rotenberry, and M. F. Allen. 2005. Spatial structure of multispecies distributions in southern California, USA. *Biological Conservation* 124: 169-175.

Lin, Z., X. Qi, and B. L. Li. 2005. Can best competitors avoid extinction as habitat destruction? *Ecol. Modell.* 182: 107-112.

### **Junda Lin**

Rhyne, A. L., G. Penha-Lopes and J. Lin, 2005. Growth, development and survival of larval *Mithraculus sculptus* A. Milne Edwards and *M. forceps* (Lamarck) (DECAPODA: BRACHYURA: MAJIDAE): economically important marine ornamental crabs. *Aquaculture* 245(1-4):183-191.

Zhang, D. and J. Lin, Comparative mating success of smaller male-phase and larger male-role euhermaphrodite-phase shrimp of *Lysmata wurdemanni* (Caridea: Hippolytidae), *Marine Biology*, in press

**Adam Wei:**

Chen, X., X. Wei and R. Scherer. 2005. Influence of wildfire and harvest on biomass, carbon pool and decomposition of large woody debris in forested streams of southern interior British Columbia. *Forest Ecology and Management* 208:101-114.

Wei, X., S. Liu, G. Zhou and C. Wang. 2005. Hydrological processes of key Chinese forests. *Hydrological Process*, 19(1): 63-75.

**Jiquan Chen**

Wang, W, B. Song, J. Chen, D. Zheng, and T.R. Crow. Visualizing forest landscapes using different data sources. *Landscape and Urban Planning* [PDF, [Web](#)]

Shaw, D.C., J. Chen, E.A. Freeman, D. M Braun. Spatial and population characteristics of mistletoe-infected trees in an old-growth forest. *Canadian Journal of Forestry Research*. [[PDF](#)]

Ma, S., J. Chen, J.R. Butnor, M. North, E.S. Euskirchen, and B. Oakley. Biophysical controls on soil respiration in dominant patch types of an old-growth mixed conifer forest. *Forest Science* [[PDF](#)]

Harper, K.A., S.E. MacDonald, P.J. Burton, J. Chen, K.D. Brosofske, S.C. Saunders, E.S. Euskirchen, D. Roberts, M.S. Jaiteth, and P. –A Esseem. Towards a theory of edge influence. *Conservation Biology* 19(3): xxx-xxx [[PDF text](#)]

Zheng, D., J. Chen, A. Noormets, J. Le Moine, and E. Euskirchen. 2005. Effects of climate and land use on landscape soil respiration in northern Wisconsin, USA: 1972 to 2001. *Climate Research* 28: 163-173. [PDF]

Saunders, S.C., J. Chen, T.D. Drummer, E.J. Gustafson, and K.D. Brosofske. 2005. Identifying scales of pattern in ecological data: a comparison of Lacunarity, spectral and wavelet analyses. *Ecological Complexity* 2: 87-105. [[PDF](#)]



## REPORT FROM SINO—ECO MEMBERS (会员报告)

### GISCorps Volunteer and Sino-Eco Trying to University Affected by Tsunami

Frank Chang



Two thirds of Banda Aceh, the largest city in the Province of Aceh, Indonesia, was either destroyed by the tsunami or affected by its flood on December 26, 2004. The leading university in Aceh -- Syiah Kuala University -- located on the north-east side of the city, barely missed the full tsunami force that came from the west.

The University - a state institution that serves as Aceh's major education provider in mathematics, medicine, engineering, agriculture and the sciences - suffered damages to its physical structure caused by

the flood and earthquake.



Students were back to school by early March. But some classmates and their teachers did not return. Biology Department lost sixteen of its forty-two staff. Adjacent Mathematics Department had four lecturers absent from the roster, lost to the tsunami on 26 December 2004. Campus wide, 106 Syiah Kuala's lecturers and another 108 administrative staff are known to have died; among them, 12 held Ph.D. degrees and more than 40 had masters. The number of deceased represented 15% of its 1400-person work forces. 1000 students of its 11,000-student population at Syiah Kuala University are

assumed dead by a late January estimate.

Some faculty members who lost their homes now live in the tents on campus; some students slept on the floor at the lab at night. Region wide, more than seventy thousand students and four thousand eight hundred teachers had to move to Internally Displaced Population (IDP) camps after their homes were destroyed. A Turkish group was building a student dormitory for homeless students.





Marfirah (left) is an inspiring third year student in Applied Mathematics. She lost her whole family in a costal village.

Prof. Dalil Sutekad (below), head of the Biology Department, led a team of 75 faculty members and students for a field survey right after the tsunami so that the future comparison study can be conducted, despite his personal loss of his whole family. Muzailin Affan, lost his parents and four brothers, is heading a small GIS and Remote Sensing Lab that has nine students as assistants. Sino-Eco member and GISCorps Volunteer Dr. Frank Chang visited Syiah Kuala University when he served as an expert advisor to the Global MapAid during the field visit to Banda Aceh. He evaluated the GIS needs and resources there and helped GMA to sign a memorandum

of understanding with the University for further corporations. He also made several small donations to the faculty and students affected by the tsunami in the name of SinoEco and ESA/AES.

Since January, the University has established a special group called SKU for Aceh Reconstruction Task Force to serve as a think tank for the central and provincial government and to provide a reliable and comprehensive strategy for reconstruction. The Syiah Kuala University will also establish a Tsunami Research Center as the location of Banda Aceh is very geographically, oceanographically, geologically and meteorologically significant to the proposed International Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean (ITWSIO). JICA, Japan and Institute of Oceanography, Hamburg University, Germany have pledged to support the Syiah Kuala University. University of Berkeley donated a car to the Task Force. Faculty members from the University of Copenhagen were visiting the GIS lab.



The University urgently needs visiting professors to give lectures in place of the lost faculty. “We are trying to replace staff from other universities in the country,” says Rector Abdi A. Wahab. “But it’s not easy. Candidates ask how long they will be here, and they express concern about housing and security.”

Individuals and organizations can assist the University in the forms of funding, expertise, surplus equipment such as computers, scanners and plotters, GPS and PDAs.

## ECOLOGICAL ESSAYS (生态科普)

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海啸能给我们什么启示？

• 方舟子 •

每一次灾难，好像倒给了文人们一次抒发自己悲天悯人的胸怀的机会。上一次萨斯流行，文人们纷纷教育我们要保护生态环境啦，要敬畏自然啦，这一次印度洋海啸，我们听到的还是这一套说教：

“我们不会因此而诅咒自然。地球厚德载物，自然化育众生，我们是地球生命，我们只能在地球上生活，我们庆幸拥有地球这个家园。灾难警示我们在自然面前应保持必要的谦卑与敬畏，而不是把她作为一个予取予求的对象或者一个可以‘战胜’的对手。灾难让我们更加珍视人与人的相互依存，使我们生发‘人溺己溺’的情怀，更深地体会人作为一个生物种类的共同感。以此，我们才不会无力到面对灾难徒剩哀号。”（刘洪波《人类面对自然和自己的态度》，载《南方周末》2005年1月6日）

有些灾难与人类的活动有直接或间接的关系，有些灾难则与人类的活动毫无关系。海啸就属于后一种。这次海啸是由于印度洋海底的大地震引起的。位于印度洋海底的两个大陆板块——印度板块和缅甸板块长期以来一直在相互碰撞，印度板块以每年几厘米的速度向缅甸板块下滑，蓄积了巨大能量后突然释放出来，引发强烈的地震，又由地震引发海啸。所以，不管人们是敬畏还是蔑视自然，是保护还是破坏环境，大陆板块总是还在不停地碰撞，地震、海啸总是会发生。这是天灾，不是人祸。

拿天灾教训人，不过是遵循“天人感应”的传统愚昧观念、以灾异言人事的老路子。也不仅是中国如此。1755年里斯本的地震、海啸造成的灾难，也给了天主教和新教互相指责对方行为触怒上帝遭天谴的机会。但是荀子早就说过：“天行有常，不为尧存，不为桀亡。”莫非今天的文化人连这点认识也没有？

对海啸我们无法避免、控制，但是从发生地震到出现海啸有一段迟滞时间，因此如果即时监测，就可以预报、防备海啸。1946年4月1日夏威夷海啸导致150多人丧生，促使人们两年后在夏威夷建立了负责向太平洋沿岸29个国家发警报的太平洋海啸警报中心，成功地预报了此后发生在太平洋的所有大海啸，避免了人员的大量伤亡，死亡多是没有听到或无视警报导致的。这次海啸死亡惨重的根本原因在于在印度洋地区没有类似的警报系统。印尼在1992年就计划建立海啸警报系统，向日本申请2百万美元的赞助，但是由于官僚机构相互扯皮，一直没有获得批准。为了这2百万美元，付出了十几万个生命的代价。在这次大灾难过后，预警系统应该可以很快建立起来了，类似的惨剧想必不会再发生。

如果说这次海啸能给我们什么启示的话，那就是要对可能带来大灾难的大自然时刻保持警惕，即使无法征服、避免，也可以尽量去了解、防范。不要空谈什么谦卑与敬畏，咆哮而来的海浪不会因为你跪在那里膜拜就不把你带走。

（中国青年报 2005. 1. 19）

**ECOLOGICAL LITERATURE (生态文学)**

**散文 (ESSAY)**

Searching for the Lost Army of Cambyses and ...  
 Jiquan Chen, University of Toledo

In 523 BC, the Persian emperor Cambyses dispatched an army of about 50,000 to destroy the Oracle of Amun to secure his absolute power over Egypt. The army vanished in the Western Desert on their way to the Siwa Oasis along with all their weapons and other equipment. Legend has it that the army neither reached Siwa nor returned to the Nile Valley. Finding the army would be one of the major discoveries in Egyptian Archaeology. Most historians believed that that the army was dispatched from the holy city of Thebes, supported by a great train of pack animals. After a seven-day march, it reached the Kharga Oasis and moved on to the last of the oases near the Nile Valley Baharya, before turning towards the 250 kilometers of desert that separated it from the Siwa Oasis. It would have been a 30-day march through burning heat with no additional sources of water or shade (Fig. 1). The Lost Army of Cambyses has been sought by numerous expeditions over the past 2500 years, and until recently no trace of the army has been found. In 2000, an Italian expedition investigated a recent claim of Egyptian geologist Aly Barakat that he found some Persian artifacts (sword, arrowheads, necklace) in an unnamed wadi in the Western Desert. In early 2003 US geologist Tom Bown lead another expedition to Barakat's site and he was accompanied by a film crew, who produced a documentary on Cambyses' Lost Army for the BBC and National Geographic Society channels. Bown claimed the he had located the remains of the army among the sand dunes about 15 km southwest of El Bahrein Oasis.

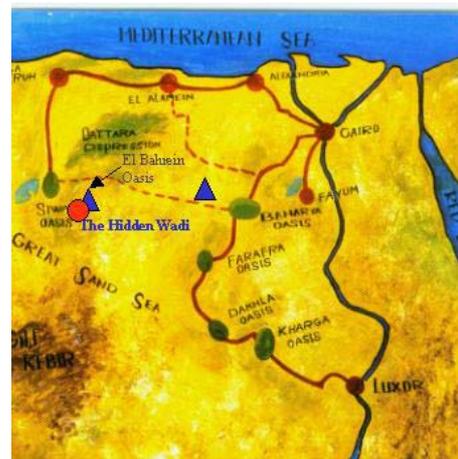


Fig. 1. The location of the Hidden Valley and the travel route for searching the lost army. Triangles are the campground during the search.



Photo 1. The search team, field gears, and activities at the campground.

The site was later named Wadi Mastour ('Hidden Valley') by the UT-EGSMA team. Barakat and Bown reported seeing thousands of human bones littering the desert surface. Dr. James Harrell, a well-known archaeological geologist and a professor in the Department of Earth, Ecology, and Environmental Sciences of the University of Toledo brought this news to Toledo and prepared a field team for the summer of 2003. Dr. Elizabeth Bloxam, an archeologist with the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, Dr. Mohamed Madbouly, a geologist with the Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining Authority (EGSMA), and myself (an ecologist) were invited to joint the search team. We planed to leave Cairo on June 4, stop in Bahariya Oasis

for refueling, camp on the roadside, leave the road at the El Bahrein Oasis, and arrive at the Wadi Mastour before dawn on June 5 (Fig. 1).

The team gathered in Cairo on June 2 when this beautiful city on the Nile River was decorated with flush of acacia flowers. Jim had rented two 4-wheelers for field supplies (note: the two-vehicles team is necessary to pull out each other), including tents, sleeping bags, food for a crew of 6 for seven days, cooking equipment, block ice, water -- the most important item, and sand boards for pulling (Photo 1b). Mr. Akmed Bedawy – an experienced driver in the Sahara desert, also serving as our field captain, cook, mechanic, entertaining leader, and negotiator with military-controlled officials (Photo 1d). Our first challenge arrived in Baharya Oasis, where we found out that the permit issued in Cairo was no longer valid. While the crew chatted with guards at the gate of local military headquarters, our captains spent hours behind the high walls to receive fax permission from the general in charge of the Alexandria region. The team was forced to stay at the Oasis Panorama Hotel to wait for a permit by noon on the 6<sup>th</sup>, which magically arrived at about 1:20 p.m.

Our excitement and endeavors began as soon as we followed the likely same route of Cambyses. The Western Desert, part of Sahara desert, was vast and beautiful (Photo 2). My attention was rarely distracted from the extensive desert pavement (Photo 2a) occasional butte (Photo 2c) and scattered sand dunes. Regardless of my over 20 years' field experience, I found that this one the most challenging to even start, i.e., organizing the necessary tools and documents. I did not expect that most parts of the Western Desert remain “forbidden”, primarily due to the dense mines left behind the World War II, and the only road between Baharya and Siwa

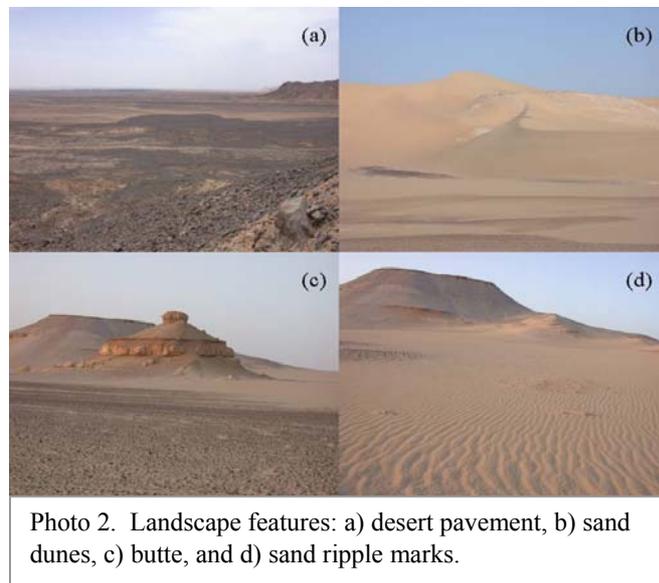


Photo 2. Landscape features: a) desert pavement, b) sand dunes, c) butte, and d) sand ripple marks.

was unmarked, gavel, and frequently blocked by flowing sand and checked by the military every 30 miles or so. The fact that drivers take random directions and leave tire marks in the desert (Photo 1c) was quite disturbing, as I know desert ecosystems are significantly less resilient. With detailed maps, accurate GPS unit, and very experienced leaders, the team was stuck in the sand several times in this wild land. Yet within 30 minutes, civilization disappeared. About the only human sign was the oil pipelines along the roadside; and the team faced an endless desert ahead. Unlike any other desert, no life could be detected and for a brief moment, I questioned my decision with this expedition as threats for life increased.

Three hours later (~135 kilometers west of Baharya), there came a green jeep parked on the roadside with two westerners (Openshaw brothers from Canada as we later found out) and two Egyptians. Throughout of my entire life, I never saw such warmth shown on their face. It turned out that the Canadian crew had a serious mechanical problem with their radiator. The Egyptians had started to pour their drinking water on the radiator to continue their trip until the brothers physically stopped their actions. The crew had been sleeping under the jeep for two days with

enough water for hiking 30 miles east to a military checkpoint. We were proud of being the rescuers! A campsite was immediately sought to have a joint dinner with tasty spaghetti dribbled in tomato sauce (Photo 1a). The desert remained attractive. Clear tire tracks spread in every direction. While Akmed was busy cooking, we hiked around a beautiful butte (Photo 2c). Astonished, I found a gas tank left by British troops (Photo 4a). It had been very quiet until about 8:30 p.m., but suddenly, wind gusts appeared and accelerated. In a few minutes, it reached to an intolerable level. Cowering inside my tent, I felt so sorry for my REI's Northern lights tent to be constantly punched by rains of sands (Photo 1a).

On Day 2 the lonely roads were much smoother. The Canadian brothers happily left us for Baharya and our crew enjoyed the increasing amount of sand dunes and a desert, regardless of more military checkpoints. After we turned south across the El Bahrein Oasis (Photo 3a), where a burial site was used as the landmark (Photo 3b), the team faced the most dangerous challenge – crossing the sand dunes that were over 200 ft high. Sometimes with a >100% slope (Photo 3c). Dr. Harrell reminded the drivers with several lessons: follow the fresh tracks as close as possible, never stop in the middle of dunes, and stop at the ridge before digging into the other side. Regardless of these lessons, our pickups were immediately stocked in sand dunes.

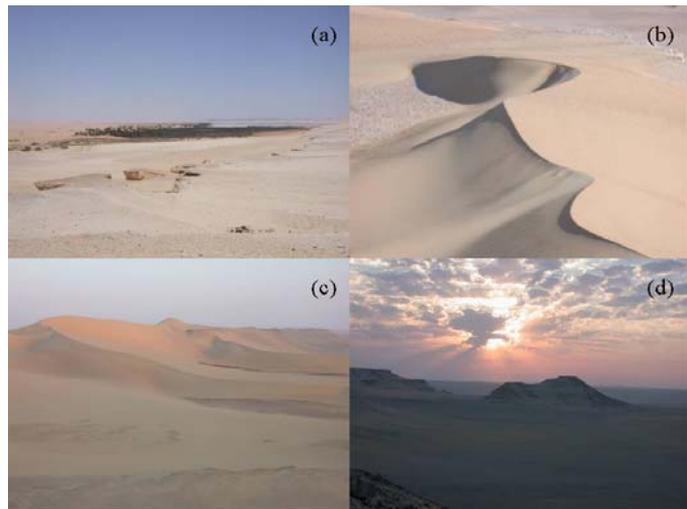


Photo 3: The El Bahrein Oasis (a), sand dunes (b & c) between the oasis and the hidden valley, and sestet in on June 6 in the valley (d)

One time, I questioned the automotive skills of our drivers and attempted to replace them in vain. Thanks to the sand-boards the trucks moved several feet per attempt. One time, it took over an hour for the team to get trapped trucks out of the sand. As our experience was rapidly growing, we learned to send a pioneer to look for the other side of the dunes before a strong push to the top. A strong question that was asked was that if could we could get out of this. If not, we are dead because it was obvious that we could not hike out these massive sand dunes. It took us more than 6 hours to cross the 15 kilometers of dunes. We reached our site at 5:40 p.m. on June 6 (Photo 3d).



Photo 4. Artifacts in the western desert and human behavior once out of the desert.

Similar to our first night, gusts of wind carrying sands began at about 9:00 p.m., but lasted only 2 hours. The Hidden Valley was quiet – not even sounds of nocturnal animals.

Throughout both days, it appeared that the only wildlife was the black flies. Working on my journals, I remained excited as Jim reminded me that not only was there a chance to find the Lost Army, but also I was probably the first Chinese person to venture deep into the western desert. The question of getting out of the desert still rang in my head. Later when I sat in the middle of the ocean of sand, I laughed at myself that I should have purchased a life insurance on behalf of my family as my close friends suggested prior to my trip. Would my beautiful daughters, wife, mother, friends, and colleagues ever miss me? What about my unfinished teaching, research, and other promised works? It was so strange that I had never thought about these questions in my 41 years life. At least I buried my business card, with the following Chinese on it at one of landmarks in the Wadi: “陈吉泉, 中国山西孝义”. At about 5:00 a.m., I was awoken by some birdcalls. Well, life is around! It was time to find the Lost Army.

The Hidden Valley is not large, about 2 miles in diameter, and the tire tracks left by the Italian crew were still visible. With notes from Dr. Tom Bown, we headed toward the first candidate hill in the southeast. While there were a few burial sites (they are very common across the desert), we did not observe any bones scattered across the wadi. A ceramic vessel, as already found by Barakat and Bown, was located immediately with several

pieces of human bones nearby (Photo 4b). A careful excavation was performed by Elizabeth, who believed it belong to the Roman time. Later, we searched every inch of this hill without finding any other artifacts. After lunch, we split and searched all the hills within the wadi. Two more burial sites under the buttes in the north side of the wadi were found (Photo 4c), but the Lost Army remained hidden. By late in the afternoon, everyone was convinced that the army was not here. What the team did find were thousands of fragments of fossil sand dollars, which in cross section have the same porous structure as bone. It must have been these fossils that Barakat and Bown mistook for the remains of Cambyses’ army! Excitement was aroused as I requested to have helicopters to deliver some ice cream, but our captain reminded us the wadi was still within the “restricted military zones”. Luckily, our third night was so quiet that a small bottle of gin from

London was shared. An expanded search outside of the wadi continued on June 7. By knowing that the army was not here, the team enjoyed hiking on various buttes and sand dunes. Human legacies, such as old burials and rock piles, were common, often on tops of buttes. Unlike any other hiking trips, I found that safety is not a concern as long as there was plenty of water. But hiking through the sand dunes were extremely challenging -- making my three trips to the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon National Park seemed like small events. Jim prepared 2 gallons water per day for each member, but I was sure I took an extra gallon. By early afternoon, the team decided to head out after search of all the land within 2 km radius. With



Photo 5: Searching for the lost army of Cambyses in the Hidden Valley (June 7, 2003).



Photo 6: The Sphinx and Pyramid xx.

previous experience, we crossed the sand dunes within 2 hours. But by the time we reached a rest area near El Bahrein, I felt my whole body drained. It was as though my cells were wrought dry. Our captain couldn't wait to have two bottles of Coca-Cola at the same time (Photo 4d). Upon arriving Hotel Beirut, I called my wife and let her know that we survived while the Lost Army remained unseen but in peace.

Disappointed by not finding the army, or rather believing that the whole affair was simply a fable told by the very prejudiced Greek, I looked forward to more cultural experience in Cairo for the next two days, including the stone corals and Cairo (Day 1), the Three Great Pyramids and the Sphinx in Giza (Day 2, Photo 6), major Mosques and the Museum of Egyptian (Day 2, Photo 7). Prior to my trip, I had read a few books about the history, cultural, and geography of Egypt. But the information learned from my reading is nothing close to the actual experience.

In Cairo the busy shopping street, quality artifacts, people, their clothes, and the modern Hilton building on the bank of Nile River constantly amazed me. My first cultural shock came from my clothing. I had brought shorts and swimming suit, but could not wear them as Jim reminded me of the potential dangers by doing so. Another rule advised by Jim was to "never point your camera at anybody wearing uniform". At one point, we waited over 10 minutes to cross the busy street outside of the museum until an Egyptian came and told us to "close your eyes, walk over, god will be with you". It worked! Girls attending the America University would take off their Scarves for head and shoulders immediately after entering the gate; they looked just like students in any other campus in U.S. On our way to Hotel Beirut, all the roads in downtown seemed to be blocked. Soldiers were standing next to each other for a couple of miles while various military in different uniforms standings on all tall buildings. I had never saw so many soldiers throughout my life and wondered why they were there. It turned out that the first lady, Susanne Mubarak, was scheduled to visit the mall for shopping. An evening and a diner on a riverboat were unforgettable (Photo 7d)!

Learning history was one of my purposes for visiting Egypt. Again, knowledge from my reading was so different from touching the Pyramids in Giza to seeing the 18-ton sarcophagus sitting 40 meters underneath the pyramid. How did ancient Egyptians move stones for hundreds of miles from Aswan in Upper Egypt? As a Chinese, I couldn't stop comparing the artifacts from 4500 years ago (Photo 7a) with those made in East Asia. Then back to the Mosques, my tour guide told me that back flies would not be seen inside. I asked. Cairo is known as the City of 1,000 Minarets because of its many mosques. Mosques, and Islamic architecture in general, unlike western architecture, varies more between different geographical regions than it does between historical ages. For example, the fountain in the Courtyard of the Mohammed Ali Mosque (Photo 7b)



Photo 7: The rich history, the people, and Nile spirit would be worth of the expedition.

provided the water for ablutions before prayer and to allow a number of worshippers to wash simultaneously under running water.

In the end, our team was listed as another failed expedition for searching for the Lost Army. To me, it had been the most exciting and challenging field trip of my life. Would I do it again? The answer to me was quite clear. Yes, but with life insurance. 4/11/2005

诗词

七律四首（冰河）

感事

海外浮沉二十秋，大洋西岸辟新畴。  
常听老雀鸣高树，惯看雏莺舞绿洲。  
惊雷四度能穿壁，骇浪三番险覆舟。  
青山依旧夕阳下，自古大江日夜流。

2005年1月

南亚海啸并题张志辉博士赴印尼志愿服务影集

（一）

2004年12月末，印度洋发生强烈地震并引发特大海啸，海浪时速达300里，浪高38米，祸及八国，20多万人丧生，噩耗惊闻，举世同悲。

丽日碧波印度洋，瞬间地撼发颠狂。  
怒潮汹涌三百里，恶水噬吞八国疆。  
廿万黎民成腐土，十千房舍剩残墙。  
天灾人祸谁能断？吟罢歌余尚彷徨。

（二）

中华海外生态学者协会会员张志辉博士赴印尼志愿服务，爱心壮举，令人感动。

噩耗惊闻举世悲，滔天骇浪万般摧。  
废墟满目哀歌近，尸首成滩海草肥。  
犹有爱心悬日月，更存浩气贯风雷。  
踏遍劫岛人未老，往事悠悠永伴随。

（三）

海啸刚过，印尼苏门答腊岛又发生强烈地震，千余人死亡。一志愿者发来E-Mail。

电邮万里送悲声，雪上加霜最断情。  
地动山摇天欲坠，人哭狗叫夜无灯。  
废墟野鬼添新友，庇所孤童遇旧朋。  
我欲挺身却乏力，两行热泪到黎明。

2005年3月

## GREEN HUMOURS (绿色幽默)

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张三李四拜访徐文长，张三暗将徐文长拉到一边说：“文长兄，今日你若能令李四‘呱呱’的叫三声，我今天就请客吃饭。”徐文长笑道：“此事极易。”

徐文长将张三李四带到一片西瓜地中，徐文长手指瓜田对李四说：“李兄啊，你看这一片葫芦长的多好啊。”李四纳闷道：“文长兄啊，这明明是瓜嘛，你怎么说是葫芦呢？”徐文长道：“是葫芦。”李四道：“是瓜。”徐文长：“葫芦！”李四：“瓜！！”徐文长：“葫芦，葫芦，葫芦！”李四：“瓜，瓜，瓜！”

## SINO-ECO MEMBERSHIPS (中华海外生态学者协会会员资格)

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Any individual with Chinese origin and at least one year of overseas professional in ecological fields, willing to recognize and follow the bylaws and paying the membership dues, shall be deemed to be eligible as a member. The due for Regular and Student Members in developed countries will be \$10 and \$5, respectively, for those in developing countries will be \$5 and waived, respectively. For new members, dues paid before March 1 will cover the current year and the following year; those paid between Oct. 1 and Feb.28 will be half of the due and will cover the current year. Donation is greatly appreciated. Please fill in the application form which may be downloaded from: <http://www.sino-eco.org/current/membership.htm> and sent it, with your check payable to SINO-ECO, to the treasurer (2004-2006): Dr. Yufu Cheng, Virtual Center for Spatial Analysis and Remote Sensing (VCSARS), Department of Biological Sciences, California State University, Los Angeles, 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032 (US Dollars or equal foreign country's currency).

