



Research

Inception Workshop on Koshi Basin Programme in Nepal

Around 50 participants from Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, and Australia gathered in Kathmandu from 3 to 5 September 2012 for an inception workshop on the AusAid-supported Koshi Basin Programme. The Chinese delegation consisted of Dr Dong Qi and Dr Ru Zhitao from the International Cooperation Bureau of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); Dr Deng Wei, Dr Chen Ningsheng, and Fang Yiping from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS; and Dr Zhang Yili, Dr Yao Zhijun, and Dr Zhou Caiping from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS.

The Koshi Basin Programme signifies a new era for transboundary multilateral scientific cooperation between China, India, and Nepal. The programme is intended to provide a scientific basis for the development of the basin. The first phase of the programme commenced in 2012 and will run until 2016.

Dr David Molden, Director General of ICIMOD, presided over the opening ceremony. Dr Hua Ouyang, Programme Manager of ICIMOD's Integrated Water and Hazards Management programme Dr Russell Rollason, First Secretary of AusAID, and Dr Molden all gave addresses. Dr SM Wahid, Koshi Basin Programme Coordinator at ICIMOD, introduced the programme and outlined the objectives of the workshop. Keynote speeches were presented by Prof B Yong from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia, on river assessment and hydrologic prediction under climate change; Dr R Carr from eWater on a comprehensive model and decision support system; Dr L Bharati from IWHI and Dr S Lacoul from the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat, Nepal, on a strategic plan for the Koshi River basin; Dr Zhang Yili from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research on land use variations in the Koshi River Basin; Dr N Ghost from University of Delhi on water-agriculture and food security; and Dr N. Khanal from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, on 'Influences to society and economy affected by hazards induced by water in Koshi River basin'.

The group discussion was divided into six sessions: basic data, climate-water-agriculture, water related hazards, adaptation to climate change, capacity building, and programme management. The groups discussed the objectives, expected outcomes, and action plan for the Koshi Basin Programme and identified verifiable objectives for the first year.

The Koshi River is an extremely important river in South Asia that originates from the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and flows through China, Nepal, and India. There are five mountain peaks above 8,000 m in the

Inception Workshop on Koshi Basin Programme in Nepal



basin, including Mount Everest. CAS's recently completed external cooperation programme 'Geo-Surface Processes and Regional Adaptation to Climate Change in Himalaya Region' – founded in 2009 by the Bureau of International Cooperation, CAS, with support from ICIMOD, Tribhuvan University, and other institutions in Nepal and organized by CNICIMOD – helped further develop regional cooperation on research and resource management, which is key for the Koshi Basin Programme.

Sino-Pakistan Joint Expedition to Northern Pakistan

A joint field expedition to northern Pakistan was undertaken in October 2012 as part of Sino-Pakistan cooperation under the Third Pole Environment programme. The Chinese contingent was led by Profs Zhang Yinsheng and Wu Guangjian and the Pakistani contingent was led by Dr Rahmatullah Jilani of the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO).

The expedition downloaded automatic weather station data at the glacial moraine of Rama Glacier near Astore. The expedition crew also repaired the automatic weather stations at Rama Glacier, added more apparatus including an ultrasonic snow depth meter and automatic total rain gauge, and placed some water level indicators in the Astore River in the lower reaches of the Rama Glacier. River water was sampled from the Hunza River, Astore River, Indus River and in Gilgit. Passive air samples dating back to 2011 for the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) study were also collected from Gilgit.

Expedition members were shown around the Mountain Agricultural Research Centre in northern Pakistan, where Mr Shafiullah, head of the Centre, briefed them on the centre's research and the operation of its station at

Juglote. Automatic total rain gauges were then configured at the Juglote and Skardu stations and research staff were trained on how to operate them. At the end of the expedition, scientists from both sides expressed a willingness to promote bilateral cooperation in the future.

Workshop on Monitoring System Building and Assessment of Ecological Environment Change in Tibet in Beijing

A workshop on 'Monitoring System Building and Assessment of Ecological Environment Change in Tibet' was held in Beijing on 28 November 2012 to strengthen CAS's scientific and technological cooperation with the Tibet Autonomous Region and promote the regional Technology Innovation Cluster Building in Tibet.

Presentations were made by Yao Tandong, Chief Scientist of the Tibet Innovation Cluster Programme and Director of the Cluster Office; Feng Renguo, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Science and Technology for Resources and the Environment; and various experts from the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Northwest Institute of Plateau Biology, China Tibetology Research Center, and Southwest University for Nationalities. Yao Tandong reviewed the inspection of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research conducted by Padma Choling, President of the Tibet Autonomous Region, and pointed out that only by basing decisions on scientific evidence can environmental issues be solved and disasters managed soundly. He made a special presentation on field research by Bai Chunli, President of CAS, in Tibet and conveyed Bai Chunli's instructions to focus on social development issues concerning local CCP committees

Sino-Pakistan Joint Expedition to North Pakistan





Workshop on Monitoring System Building and Assessment of Ecological Environment Change in Tibet in Beijing

and the government, especially geohazards, ecological protection, and raising the income of local people to support comprehensive, socioeconomic development and increase people's living standard.

Feng Renguo outlined the background of the Innovation Cluster Building, its significance, and the key scientific issues it seeks to address. He expressed hope that the project would integrate knowledge from present studies (such as the Tibetan Plateau Leading Special Project B, ecological remote sensing assessments over the past decade, and the Western Action Plan), focus on ecological assessment and the building of an ecosystem monitoring system, and help formulate the implementation plan for the Innovation Cluster Programme as soon as possible.

Presentations were also made by Dr Zhang Yili from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research and Dr Wang Xiaodan from the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment on 'Remote sensing assessment on the decade changes of ecologic environment in Tibet' and 'Environment effect assessment and optimization of Tibetan ecological security shield construction'. A full discussion then took place on project activities and suggestions were put forward.

Workshop on Exploration, Evaluation, and Prevention of Landslide at Zhangmu (Khasa) in Tibet in Chengdu

Experts came together at a workshop in Chengdu on 11 and 12 December to explore options for managing the Zhangmu (Khasa) landslide in Tibet. Presentations were made by representatives from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, CAS, Institute of Rock and Soil Mechanics, CAS, Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS, and

Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS, which were followed by group work and discussions.

Participants worked in groups to review the progress made on the landslide since October 2012, including knowledge on the formation, objective composition, engineering geological zonation, characteristics, stability, and inducing factors of the landslide known from earlier work. Experts discussed research on the results of collapse, debris flows, and glacial lake outburst floods, all of which may influence the landslide at Zhangmu, and confirmed the impact of external factors. Based on conclusions drawn from earlier work, a basic working methodology was formulated for landslide control. Participants also determined what work needs to be undertaken next and defined the mission and timeline for such work. In his concluding remarks, Dr Deng Wei, Director of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, expressed hope that the project group will focus on the regional environment, investigate the stability of the Zhangmu landslide in its entirety, determine the impact of local activity on the landslide, identify the internal dynamics of the landslide, and support development in Tibet.

China Society on Tibetan Plateau Annual Meeting in Beihai

The China Society on Tibetan Plateau held its annual meeting in Beihai, Guangxi Province on 20 and 21 December 2012. The meeting was attended by over 150 scientists from various disciplines and representing institutes within CAS, the China Meteorological Administration, China Tibetology Research Center, and various universities (Nanjing University, Lanzhou University, Southwest University, Qinghai Normal University, Yunnan Normal University, and Jiangxi Normal University). The multidisciplinary background of the

CSTP 2012 Annual Meeting in Beihai



participants facilitated a deeper understanding of the land surface processes and environmental changes occurring on the Tibetan Plateau.

During the meeting, Prof Yao Tandong presented his report on the 'Study of multi-sphere interaction over the Tibetan Plateau' in which he summarized academic developments in the study of the Tibetan Plateau and outlined research achievements in the study of the major multi-sphere factors affecting the Plateau. He also highlighted the importance of research to ecosystem preservation on the Tibetan Plateau. His report closed by presenting some research directions for Chinese researchers.

At the plenary session, updates were given by Prof Wang Erqi on 'Studying the Longmenshan and Wenchuan earthquakes'; by Prof Zhang Renhe on 'Climatic features of daily variation in Tibetan Plateau vortices formation and possible causes'; by Prof Shi Jiancheng on 'Progress and problems in the study of remote sensing hydrology'; and by Prof Ma Yaoming on 'Changes in climate systems on the Tibetan Plateau, their influences on East Asian and understanding of possible mechanisms'. The results of several key National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) research programmes were also shared, including 'Multi-phase transition of water in the Earth system in the Third Pole and its influences' and 'Changes of climate systems on the Tibetan Plateau, their influences on East

Asian and understanding of possible mechanisms'. Group discussions followed and participants contributed their thoughts on topics such as the response of the Tibetan Plateau ecosystem to climate change and human activity and the response of the Tibetan Plateau lake ecosystem to global changes.

Cooperation

CAS Vice President Visits Nepal

A CAS delegation led by Vice President Dr Zhang Yaping visited Nepal from 10 to 16 October 2012. During the visit, Dr Zhang met with Dr Surendra Kafle, President of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and renewed the agreement between the two academies. Dr Kafle said that he hoped both sides would take this opportunity to develop deeper and more pragmatic cooperation. Dr Zhang said that CAS and Nepal universities and institutions have developed cooperation in many fields, including compiling Flora of Pan-Himalayas and working together on the Third Pole Environment project. Dr Zhang hoped that the agreement would facilitate the exchange of personnel and strengthen collaboration on global change, water resource management, environmental research on the Tibetan

CAS Vice-President visits Nepal



Plateau, plant protection, and general development. Dr Zhang also encouraged Nepali scholars to work in CAS through the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) scholarship. The CAS delegation also exchanged views with Dr Madhav Karki, Deputy Director of ICIMOD, and Dr Hira Maharjan, President of Tribhuvan University on the future of CAS-Nepal cooperation.

Bangladesh Delegation Visits CAS Institutes

A six-member delegation from the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh, visited the Kunming Institute of Botany, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, and Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS, from 24 to 28 September 2012. The delegation was headed by Mr Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs and Regional Board Member of ICIMOD.

The delegation met with Dr Yang Yongping, Deputy Director of the Kunming Institute of Botany; Dr Deng Wei, Director of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment; and Dr Ma Yaoming, Deputy Director of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research. Academic exchanges with the visiting delegates included an introduction to the three CAS institutions' research scope and academic areas, graduate education programme, and outreach to foreign students. Mr Tripura introduced the main objectives of the visit and outlined the general situation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The delegates were also acquainted with the CAS programme including its young scientist education and training programme and international joint expeditions. Both sides expressed hope that academic exchange between China and Bangladesh would be strengthened through joint expeditions and a focus on communication.

Bangladesh Delegation visits CAS Institutes



Academic Activities

International Symposium on Climate Change and Adaptive Water Management in Beijing

An 'International Symposium on Climate Change and Adaptive Water Management' was held at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research on 24 September 2012. The symposium was jointly organized by the Water Resource Research Center of CAS, International Water Resource Association, and Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS, and sponsored by the 973 project on impacts of climate change and water resources of the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research.

Participants included Dr James Edward Nikcum, Chair Person of the International Water Resource Association; Dr Tom Raymond Soo, Secretary General of the International Water Resource Association; Dr Aditya Sood of the International Water Management Institute of Sri Lanka; and Dr Christopher James Cippel of the International Centre for Water Resources. Chinese experts from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Science, Beijing Normal University, and Institute of Atmospheric Physics, CAS, also took part in the symposium.

The symposium was presided over by Dr Xia Jun and Dr Zhou Chenghu, Deputy Director, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, who gave a welcome speech. Participants made a series of presentations on topics such as adaptive water management under climate change and extreme weather; the vulnerability of water resources and adaptive counter

International Symposium on Climate Change and Adaptive Water Management in Beijing



measures in China; the three 'red lines' in China's water resource management policy; the assessment method for regional water resource adaptive management; and climate change and adaptive management in the Mediterranean and California mountain regions. The symposium facilitated exchange and discussion between Chinese and international scientists on issues surrounding climate change, the vulnerability of water resources, and new methodologies for research on water resources.

Second International Conference on Mountain Environment and Development in Chengdu

The '2nd International Conference on Mountain Environment and Development' (ICMED) was organized by the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS, in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, from 16 to 18 October 2012. More than 80 participants from 11 countries attended the conference, which was hosted by CAS, the State Forestry Administration of China, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and the International Geographical Union, with the support of the Bureau of Science and Technology for Resources and the Environment, Bureau of International Cooperation of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Geographical Society of China, Mountain Branch of the China Society of Natural Resources, and the Geographical Society of Sichuan. The purpose of the conference was threefold: to follow up on the public appeals from the last thematic symposium and maintain momentum; to enhance mountain research for the benefit of humankind and provide a scientific basis for the rational utilization of mountain resources while protecting the mountain ecology; and come up with scientific solutions to issues relating to mountain livelihood adaption and sustainable development and to alleviate poverty in mountain regions.

Second International Conference on Mountain Environment and Development in Chengdu



Prof Deng Wei, Director of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, and Prof Gregory Greenwood, Executive President of the Mountain Research Initiative, gave welcome addresses. Prof Deng highlighted that, as the main location of forest ecosystems, mountains are a basic resource for the survival of the human race and sustainable development. Mountains are also important for their minerals, water resources, natural heritage, and scenery, which provide a basis for industrial development, among other things. He said that it is inevitable that the development of human society will depend more and more on mountain environments in the future.

Participants from the United States, Switzerland, Russia, Poland, United Kingdom, India, Peru, Cuba, Hungary, and China engaged in academic exchanges on the latest research achievements in the fields of mountain ecology, climate change, natural resources, natural disasters, sustainable development, and poverty alleviation and discussed problems related to mountain environment conservation and development under pressure from climate change.

The conference reviewed and consolidated the concepts expressed in the first conference, which took place 10 years ago. It also strengthened and expanded the academic influence of China's mountain research. After the conference, some participants went to Dujiangyan and Yingxiu to visit the Dujiangyan irrigation project and see post-earthquake recovery reconstruction, hazard prevention and mitigation, and ecological restoration work in the area.

International Conference on Land Use Issues and Policy in China in Beijing

More than 120 participants from Australia, England, America, Sweden, Germany, Nepal, the Netherlands, and China attended an 'International Conference on Land Use Issues and Policy in China' in Beijing on 20 and 21 October 2012 as part of Rapid Rural and Urban Transformation. The conference was sponsored by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research and jointly organized by the international journal Land Use Policy, Chinese National Committee for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (CNC-IGBP), Chinese National Committee for the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (CNC-IHDP) working group for land change, Rural Health and Community Development Research Centre in University of South Australia, Research



International Conference on Land Use Issues and Policy in China

Centre for Regional Agriculture and Countryside Development of the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Key Laboratory for Regional Sustainable Development, Key Laboratory for Unutilized Land, and Key Laboratory for Land Use of the Ministry of Land and Resources.

The conference focused on issues and policy related to land use amid rapid transformation and development to facilitate a discussion on research methods, theoretical progress, and decision practices in relation to land use in China from an international perspective. A total of 115 papers were submitted to the conference, of which 49 were selected for presentation. The conference facilitated international academic exchange in the field of urban and rural transformation and development; it also provided international experts with an opportunity to study land use and land use policy in China.

Study of Atmospheric Boundary Layer on the Tibetan Plateau Reviewed in Lanzhou

A workshop to review atmospheric boundary layer (ABL) studies in the arid area and Tibetan Plateau was held in Lanzhou from 26 to 28 October 2012. The workshop covered three main topics: complex land surface and boundary layer structures in high elevation areas; land-air interactions in arid areas and the Tibetan Plateau; and the energy-water cycle in the monsoon region and interior river drainage areas.

Prof Wang Jiemin addressed the plenary session and presented an academic report titled Limitations of the Eddy-Covariance Method in Flux Observations. Experienced in the study of ABL in arid northwestern China and the Tibetan Plateau, Prof Wang shared his experience in studying atmospheric physics and land surface processes over the past half century, focusing

particularly on major achievements from the Heihe River Basin Field Experiment and GAME-Tibet and CAMP-Tibet projects. He said that he hoped young scientists would aim high and work hard to promote China's ABL study at the international level.

The workshop was co-sponsored by the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS, and the Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, CAS. Over 80 research staff from China and abroad attended the workshop. About 20 scientists from the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research delivered six oral presentations. A number of distinguished international experts were also at the workshop including Prof Massimo Menenti from Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands; Prof Bob Su from the University of Twente, the Netherlands; Dr Hirohiko Ishikawa of Kyoto University, and Dr Tetsuo Kobayashi of Tottori University.

Seminar on Peat Utilization and Desertification Control in Xinjiang

A seminar on peat utilization and desertification control was held at the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography (XIEG), CAS, from 7 to 9 November 2012. The seminar aimed to deepen relations with the Indonesian Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) and lay the foundation for pragmatic and efficient cooperation in peat utilization and desertification control.

The seminar was hosted by the National Engineering Technology Research Center for Desert-Oasis Ecological Construction. Dr Agus Masduki, Diana Nurani, and Dr Koesnandar from BPPT and experts from the Xinjiang Science and Technology Department, Xinjiang Branch of CAS, Xinjiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and XIEG attended the meeting.

2nd International Conference on Mountain Environment and Development in Chengdu



Experts from XIEG introduced the institute and outlined its research on desertification control and peat utilization in Xinjiang. Dr Agus Masduki gave a presentation on BPPT and its work. Diana Nurani and Dr Koesnandar reported on the progress of peat in Indonesia and microbial biotechnology and its utilization in secondary suitable land. A discussion then ensued on peat utilization and demonstration. After that, the BPPT delegates visited a non-irrigation plantation in the Gurbantunggut Desert.

During the meeting, Prof. Lei Jiaqiang, Deputy Director of XIEG, and Dr Agus Masduki, representing BPPT, signed an agreement for scientific cooperation. An initial agreement was also reached between the two sides on matters of peat and desert productivity research and peat utilization in environmental management and sustainable agriculture development. Lei expressed the hope that the two sides would seize this opportunity to expand cooperation in other related fields.

International Conference on Cryosphere: Changes, Impacts and Adaptation in Sanya

Over 150 scientist from 12 countries – including China, Russia, Australia, Iceland, and Italy – attended the ‘International Conference on Cryosphere: Changes, Impacts and Adaptation’ in Sanya City, Hainan Province from 10 to 12 November 2012. The conference was organized by the State Key Laboratory of Cryospheric Sciences, Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute, CAS, and Key Laboratory of Tibetan Environmental Change and Land Surface Processes, Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences, and sponsored by CAS, the National Nature Science Foundation of China, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, and various other international organizations and national agencies. CAS academicians Qin Dahe, Yao Tandong, Prof Atsumu Ohmura, Prof Charles Fierz, and Prof Olga Solomina were among the invitees.

The conference discussed cryospheric research relevant to issues such as climate change in cold and arid regions, observed changes in the cryosphere (including remote sensing of cryospheric changes), and climatic and environmental records in relation to the cryosphere, cryosphere and sea level, and cryosphere and water resources. The conference provided a forum in which to discuss ongoing research efforts, facilitate international

cooperation, explore future research projects, and define a general strategy for cryosphere studies and management. The conference widened communication among cryosphere researchers and highlighted important research results, especially across central Asia.

Livestock Industry Development Workshop in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Community in Chengdu

Over 60 experts, farmers, and herdsman gathered in Chengdu, Sichuan Province from 25 to 29 November 2012 for the ‘Livestock Industry Development Workshop in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Community’. The workshop was hosted by the Sichuan Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, Sichuan Provincial Animal Husbandry Foodstuff Bureau, and Sichuan Academy of Grassland Science. Participants engaged in case analysis, lectures, discussions, and participatory training on livestock industry capacity building, livestock development, ecological environmental protection for pastoral areas, and sustainable livestock production, as well as on how to improve the living and production conditions of farmers and herdsman. The workshop, which emphasized that importance of community involvement and support, broadened the perspectives of community representatives and re-established the idea that herdsman should be the focus of project implementation.

Livestock Industry Development Workshop in Qinghai-Tibet Plateau Community in Chengdu



International Symposium on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management in Hong Kong

From 20 to 24 December 2012, 60 researchers from six countries – including China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and the United States – came together in Hong Kong for the 'International Symposium on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management'. The symposium was sponsored by the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, CAS, and Hong Kong Baptist University.

Professor Chen Xi, Director of the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, and Albert Chan, Rector of the Hong Kong Baptist University, delivered welcome addresses during the opening ceremony. Fu Bojie, academican from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, CAS, and Prof Li Bailian, University of California, presented keynote lectures. Researchers participated in discussions on new technologies and methods for the long-term monitoring of ecosystems, the response of ecosystems to human activities, and the modelling of ecosystem processes.

The symposium has set up a concurrent session in Central Asia to focus on ecosystem management and the construction of a research network in Central Asia. At the end of the symposium, the directors of ten institutes from China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan signed an agreement for cooperative ecosystem monitoring and management. They plan to conduct joint research on ecosystem monitoring and the management of Central Asia and provide research reports on climate change and its counter measures.

International Conference on Urban and Rural Development in China and India at Sichuan University

An international conference on urban and rural development in China and India was held at Sichuan University from 19 to 21 September 2012. Participants from University of Washington, University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Public Health Foundation of India, Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Huaxi College of Public Health of Sichuan University, and Institute of South Asian Studies of Sichuan University took part in the conference. The conference was organized by the Institute of South Asian Studies of Sichuan University, and Jackson International Relations College, Washington University. The conference reflects Sichuan University's vast accumulation of research on South Asian affairs.

The Deputy President of Sichuan University, Prof Yan Shijing, presented at the opening ceremony and gave the welcome speech. He said that, "The rise of China and India is a prominent feature amid the current international pattern and their development and comparison is an important topic". He went on to explain that China and India have the two largest populations in the world and the acceleration of urbanization has changed millions of urban and rural people's lives in these countries; therefore, it is of practical and academic value to discuss the development of urban and rural areas in the two countries, as well as in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Prof Shapiro, Dean of Liberal Arts College, Washington University, noted the long history of cooperation between the two universities and the many achievements. Through this meeting he said he hoped to deepen his understanding of Sino-India relations and lay the foundation for further in-depth cooperation between the two international research institutions.

International Symposium on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management in Hong Kong



Meetings

The 32nd International Geographical Congress in Cologne, Germany

The '32nd International Geographical Congress' was held in Cologne, Germany from 26 to 30 August 2012. Over 2,500 geographers and scientists from around the world gathered for the Congress, bringing their wide-ranging perspectives and methodologies to bear on these four topics to contribute to the solution of urgent scientific and socio-political issues – bringing research 'Down to Earth'.

Hosted by the International Geographical Union, the Congress takes place ever four years. This year's Congress consisted of traditional meetings of the Congress's various commissions and sessions on four key topics: global change and globalization; society and environment; risks and conflicts; and urbanization and demographic change. Prof Chen Fahu, Director of Environmental Change Committee of the Geographical Society of China and Vice Present of Lanzhou University launched the session on 'Human-Environment Interactions and Evolution in the Late Pleistocene and Holocene'. Prof Chen and Prof Andrei Velichko from the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr Bernhard Weninger from University of Cologne, and Dr Loukas Barton from the University of Pittsburgh co-chaired the session.

Participants reported on research progress and the interaction between humans and the environment in different parts of the world over the ages. The Lanzhou University delegation, led by Prof Chen, presented five session oral reports and displayed two boards. During the meeting, Prof Chen was selected as Vice Chair of the Environment Evolution Commission. Prof He Chansheng

chaired the session on 'Hydrologic process and watershed management in arid region' as well as four other sessions.

The 2013, International Geographical Union 'Meeting on Sustainable Utilization of Water Resources in Arid Regions' is scheduled to take place at Lanzhou University, which will expand the influence of China's geographical research internationally. The 33rd International Geographical Congress will be held in Beijing in 2016. The Environmental Change Committee of the Geographical Society of China and Lanzhou University will undertake some of the organization for this event, including organizing a northwest field trip for participants.

Constituent Meeting of Geographical Society of China in Chengdu

The Southwest Representative Office of the Geographical Society of China held its Constituent Meeting on 21 November 2012 at the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS. The Secretary-General of the Geographical Society of China, Zhang Guoyou, delivered a speech about the importance of the Society's Southwest Representative Office and its goals. He said that the Southwest Representative Office will act as an academic exchange platform; carry out a variety of activities including science education and academic workshops; and provide better service to its members.

Dr Deng Wei, Director of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, welcomed the leaders and participants from the Geographical Society of China and provincial geographical society. He emphasized that mountain regions have obvious regional geographical differences. Moreover, as an area for geographical science research and an important treasury of biological resources, energy resources, and culture, mountain regions have a significant impact on national

The 32nd International Geographical Congress in Cologne, Germany



The Constituent Meeting of GSC in Chengdu



geographical patterns. He said that, as an attached unit of the Southwest Representative Office, the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment will provide support for the Southwest Representative Office and launch extensive academic exchanges to attract teachers and students to participate in the activities of the society, thereby spreading geographical knowledge more broadly.

Cui Peng, Vice Director of the Geographical Society of China, hoped that the establishment of the Southwest Representative Office would expand the influence of the southwest regional research areas in the field of national geographical research; solve geographical frontier problems in the Southwest Mountains; and strengthen the academic status of the society. During the meeting, delegations discussed the organizational structure and staff arrangements for the Southwest Representative Office; ideas for the regional representative council in 2013; and the agenda for the society's national meeting in 2014.

The 43rd ICIMOD Board Meeting in Myanmar

The 43rd Meeting of the ICIMOD Board of Governors was held in Myanmar from 27 to 30 November 2012, along with the ICIMOD Support Group Meeting and Programme Advisory Committee Meeting. At ICIMOD's invitation, Dr Deng Wei, Secretary General of CNICIMOD and Director of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, CAS; Dr Wei Fangqiang, Vice Secretary General of CNICIMOD and Vice Director of the Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment; Prof Hu Pinghua, Head of the Secretariat Office of CNICIMOD; and Dr Dong Qi from the Bureau of International Co-operation, CAS flew to Myanmar to take part in the Meeting.

Participants of the 43rd ICIMOD Board Meeting in Myanmar



The agenda focused on ICIMOD's work in 2012 and its plan for 2013 to 2017. Each regional member country reported on the status of their cooperation with ICIMOD and put forward suggestions for the coming period.

Dr Wei presented the China Country Report 2012, in which he reviewed the work of ICIMOD in China. Dr Wei appreciated ICIMOD's contribution to the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, including the Tibetan Plateau and Pamir, under its three strategic areas: Sustainable Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction, Ecosystem Services, and Integrated Water and Hazard Management.

An agreement for 'Cooperation between CAS and ICIMOD for the secondment of young Chinese professionals at ICIMOD' was approved to provide opportunities to young professionals, especially PhD graduates, from China in the fields of livelihoods, water and air, ecosystems services, and geospatial solutions. This agreement will give young professionals from China exposure to project management in an international organization and increase their research capacity as well as increase the engagement of Chinese professionals within ICIMOD. Dr Deng represented CAS at the ceremony for the acceptance of this agreement. During the meeting, Dr Deng had a discussion about the progress of the Koshi Basin Programme with Dr Arun Shrestha, Climate Change Specialist of the Integrated Water and Hazard Management programme at ICIMOD.

2012 International Mountain Day Celebration in Chengdu

CNICIMOD celebrated the tenth International Mountain Day on 11 December 2012 with the theme 'Celebrating Mountain Life', in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and ICIMOD. CNICIMOD displayed exhibition boards and prepared publications reflecting research work conducted on mountain hazard management, climate change, and mountain development.

International Mountain Day strives to strengthen the engagement of individuals, institutions, and civil society in sustainable mountain development. It is also an opportunity to mobilize resources to improve the livelihoods of mountain communities. This year, special attention was given to the involvement of youth in global sustainable development. Additionally, there was a focus on the linkages between rural and urban development with an eye to the implementation of a green economy in line with the Rio+20 Earth Summit.

Focus

The 435th Xiangshan Science Conference: Climate Change

Climate change is an important topic in today's world. Negotiations on the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol have become increasingly difficult. China is under mounting pressure to implement the Durban package, which remains a formidable task, and many uncertainties exist about the post-2020 negotiations on the global climate change regime.

Against this background, the '435th Xiangshan Science Conference' convened in Beijing from 25 to 27 September 2012 with the theme 'Scientific Understanding of, and Response to, Climate Change'. Its objectives were to review recent progress in the field in terms of the evidence, impact, adaption, and mitigation of climate change; make a scientific judgment on the new demands on China's development as a result of climate change; and offer scientific and technological support to China's socioeconomic development and diplomatic negotiations. Experts and scholars from different fields were invited to join in-depth discussions on central topics such as: scientific understanding of, and adaption to, climate change; science and technology for climate change mitigation; scientific issues concerning the international climate regime; and policies to address climate change.

Careful studies and analysis are needed to advance China's negotiation strategy and national climate change programmes – based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities – for international negotiations on climate change in 2020. Along with frequent global climate anomalies, extreme climate disasters are becoming more catastrophic, posing new challenges to China's climate change programme.

To build a resource-conserving, environmentally friendly society, China needs to engage in further planning. In recent years, China has been active in addressing climate change and is placing greater importance on scientific research and development in the field of climate change. As a result, Chinese institutions and experts in this field have conducted many studies with remarkable results. However, as with the development of any academic discipline, there are long-standing and fierce controversies regarding the scientific understanding of some climate change phenomena within the international science community.

Executive Co-Chairs:

Du Xiangwan, Research Professor, Chinese Academy of Engineering

Ding Yihui, Research Professor, National Climate Center

He Jiankun, Research Professor, Tsinghua University

Keynote review reports:

1. New Advances in Scientific Understanding of Climate Change (Qin Dahe)
2. Scientificity of the Strategy to Address Climate Change and its Impact on China's Development (Du Xiangwan)

Reports on central topics:

1. The Interdecadal Abatement, Influence and Future Prediction of Asian Summer Monsoon (Ding Yihui)
2. Growth Mode Transformation in Terms of Economics (Zhou Dadi)
3. World Situations after the Durban Conference (Liu Yanhua)
4. China's Objectives and Policies to Address Climate Change and Low-Carbon Development (He Jiankun)

China considers ICIMOD as a valuable platform for increasing scientific exchange and regional cooperation among countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas.

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