



2004-2006 Committee:

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Welcome from current AES Committee

The 2004-2006 Executive Committee is greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve AES. Fostering international collaboration, particularly with Asian ecologists, is our major goal. We would like to continually build the bridge to reach the goal. The followings are our emphases: 1) Issue two or three AES Newsletters annually and update AES website accordingly, 2) Update AES email list and group email, 3) Recruit more ESA members with diverse background, 4) Organize interesting and attractive mixers during ESA annual meetings, and 5) Organize at least one ESA symposium
Your support and participation will make difference.

Annual Report of Asian Ecology Section

In this annual report published in *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America, Vol. 85 (4), October 2004, Page 60*, Dr. Harbin Li stated that in 2004, the AES focuses on the issue of invasive species, providing productive forums for discussing research, management, and policy about biological invasions between eastern Asia and North America. Two international symposiums were held on the subject. The AES cosponsored the Beijing International Symposium on Biological Invasions, held 8–15 June 2004 in Beijing, China. This symposium, entitled “Species Exchanges between Eastern Asia and North America: Threats to Environment and Economy,” was a great success. The AES also organized a symposium in this year’s ESA Annual Meeting at Portland, Oregon, entitled “Inter-continental Invasions of Non-native Species between Eastern Asia and North America.” We believe that these symposia increase research activities and influence policy-making on the subject in Asian countries, which constitute a critical link in the fight against biological invasions caused by exchanges of alien plants and animals across the Pacific Ocean.

ESA President Dr. Jerry M. Melillo visited China

President-Elect Melillo just returned from China, where he spoke with the current and upcoming presidents of the Chinese Ecological Society. They were enthusiastic about the idea of exchanging representatives to annual meetings, and about translating of selected ESA publications into Chinese. They have about 6000 members, and the Society is quite active (e.g., 16 committees). There is also a newly formed East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies (China, South Korea, Japan), which will have its first meeting in Korea in November. There is potential for ESA to link with this new organization. It was suggested that ESA seek funds to support the travel of international students from the developing world to the Montreal meeting. (*Source: Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America, Vol. 85 (4), October 2004, Page 25*).

Sino-USA Symposium on Biocomplexity and Ecosystem Services, May 24-June 5, 2004.

To explore the role biocomplexity plays in providing ecosystem goods and services, Zhibin Zhang (Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences) and James Elser (Arizona State University) assembled a diverse, multi-disciplinary team of researchers from China and the U.S. to attend the Sino-USA Symposium on Biocomplexity and Ecosystem Services. This meeting was sponsored by the Natural Science Foundation of China, the U.S. National Science Foundation, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. U.S. and Chinese scientists outlined their research approaches at conferences held in Beijing, Southwest Normal University in Chongqing, and the Institutes of Hydrobiology and Botany in Wuhan. The presentation of diverse research perspectives was designed to strengthen research both within and across disciplinary boundaries by fostering collaboration, not only among meeting participants, but also between Chinese and U.S. scientists as a group. Also, there will be a return visit of the Chinese collaborators to the U.S., currently planned for Fall 2005. For more information on the research and activities of this group or to contact the participants, please refer to our website: <http://ecovalue.uvm.edu/china.htm>. (Valerie Eviner, email: evinerv@ecostudies.org)

Advanced Ecology Lectures at Fudan University, July 9 – August 4, 2004

An advanced ecology lecture series was successfully given to almost 60 junior ecologists across China between July 9 and August 4, 2004. These lectures were presented by eight invited researchers/educators from the U.S. and U.K. Our central focus of the lectures was on the philosophy and methodology in ecological research. The goal of this program is to expose students to cutting edge science and, more importantly, research philosophy and methodology. These students can then aid China in becoming an international leader in ecology. This lecture series will be continued for the summers of 2005 and 2006. (Dr. Jiquan Chen, University of Toledo, e-mail: jiquan.chen@utoledo.edu)

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The current AES committee would like to invite ESA members who interest, involve, and/or conduct research in Asia. We sincerely encourage all ESA members to subscribe AES when you renew your 2005 ESA membership.