

ESA Asian Ecology Section 2005 Report (July 23, 2005)

Fostering international collaboration, particularly with Asian ecologists and ecological societies of America and Asia, is a major goal of the Asian Ecology Section (AES). Here, I proudly report five major achievements that AES fulfilled in 2004-2005.

- 1) Coorganized “the First Symposium of Plant Ecology Frontiers” in Guilin, China in June of 2005 with the Plant Ecology Section of the Chinese Society of Botany. About 100 Chinese plant ecologists attended the two-day symposium. The presentations covered a wide range of current research topics.
- 2) Participated in a Tsunami relief effort in Southeast Asia. The 2004 December disaster in Southeast Asia connected peoples’ hearts all over the world. AES encouraged members to participate in Tsunami relief. Dr. Wei Fang and her colleagues and graduate students in the Department of Ecology and Evolution of SUNY at Stony Brook collected 150 ecological books that were sent to the universities affected by the Tsunami. AES also helped Dr. Frank Chang, a Senior Geographer with the South Florida Water Management District, traveled to Banda Aceh as a GISCorps volunteer in February, 2005. He visited many UN and government agencies, the Syiah Kuala University, and NGOs for a field assessment of GIS needs. He made several donations to the faculty and students affected by the tsunami on behalf of AES and Sino-Ecologists Association Oversea.
- 3) Organizing an ESA 2005 symposium on “Ecological Impacts of Asia on Global Sustainability at Multiple Scales” in Montreal. With large populations and rapid economic growth, Asia is a critical battleground for environmental conservation. This symposium, coordinated by Drs. Young Choi and Shili Miao and approved by ESA for the 2005 Annual Meeting, provides a forum for assessing the ecological impacts of Asian population and economy on the global environment. The symposium invites leading ecologists from China, Korea, and USA to address critical issues such as loss of biodiversity, increased desertification, fossil fuel consumption, carbon cycle and their policy implications, and sustainable grassland management.
- 4) Organizing a panel discussion on “the collaboration between ESA and Asian ecologists and ecological societies: opportunities, challenges, and perspectives” in Montreal. Dr. Sun-Kee Hong, the secretary of the East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies (EAFES) and the Ecological Society of Korea (ESK), talk about “ESK and EAFES: History and Action”. Dr. Rusong Wang, the president of Ecological Society of China, will briefly address the needs and status for the collaboration. A discussion will be followed after their presentations.
- 5) Collaborating with the Ecological Society of China and Sino-Ecologists Association Overseas for a joint project that translates the special issue of Frontiers in Ecology and the EcoVision Report into Chinese. This issue and the report are important ESA documents that needs to be communicated to Chinese people in general and Chinese ecologists in particular. AES expects that the Chinese versions of these documents will generate great impacts in China on research, policy and strategic plan development, and decision-making about global sustainability and global ecology. The translation will be published and distributed in China and made available on the

ESA website.

In addition, AES increased its membership with diverse backgrounds, and updated its website and published its newsletters regularly.

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