

THE CESDRRC NEWS

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I. What is the CESDRRC?

The **CESDRRC** (China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Center) is the largest public library and information center in China focusing on issues concerning the current environmental situation, environmental problems, protection methods, and sustainable development. The Center is part of the **CEEC** (Center for Environmental Education and Communications), which itself is a department of **SEPA** (State Environmental Protection Administration).

The purpose of the CESDRRC is to give the public access to environmental information by sharing knowledge, providing information and building networks.

We welcome volunteers of all nationalities to engage in our activities.

Our Supporters: A Brief Introduction

Mitsubishi Corporation, Beijing financially supports the CESDRRC. With their donation it is possible to build up the library's book stock. The Japan Foundation Office, Beijing donated books and the copy machine, the furniture and other equipment of our library was given by Nissho IWAI China.

The Asian Development Bank supported us with the donation of English books and technical equipment. The further purchase of technical equipment was also financially supported by NEC and the *CIM* (*Centrum fuer Internationale Migration und Entwicklung*). With the last donation of *CIM*, the CESDRRC was able to purchase a multi-media projector, a video presenter, a projection screen and a PC with DVD-drive as equipment for our training section. *CIM* further supported the purchase of a PC and a laser printer for the research section. For all these donations we would like to thank our generous sponsors!

Please feel welcome to visit and experience this unique facility in Beijing!

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 - 17:00

II. News from our Research Center

1. Our Current Research Projects

"Environmental Education in Primary and Secondary Schools in the PRC"

Tatjana Erlewein has been working on this project since the middle of September. She interviews teachers to find out which environmental education programs are being implemented and analyzes the material and methods they employ. The goal is to improve the co-ordination and co-operation between the existing environmental pedagogical campaigns.

Ms Erlewein is supported by the Carl-Duisberg Society and takes part in their ASA program. Contact: terlewein@hotmail.com.

Within the context of this project, Ms Erlewein joined the *Antelope Van Project* on October 16 to visit two schools near Beijing. The *Antelope Van Project* was introduced in April 1999 with a two-year support fund from the German NGO *Save our Future*. The van is named after the endangered Tibetan Antelope (*Chiru*). Volunteers drive it to schools and communities to promote environmental education and protection. The pupils learn about environmental issues through playing, which fascinates them and helps them to become more aware of the environment they live in.

If you are interested in further information on this project, please contact the project coordinator Hao Bing via email: binghao@bnu.edu.cn or check the web site of *Friends of Nature*: www.fon.org.cn. Ms Hao is currently trying to raise funds to continue the project and would greatly appreciate any help.

Furthermore, Ms Erlewein was contacted by Dr Xiaobin Xu from the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry who introduced ESPERE (Environmental Science Published for Everybody Round the Earth) to her. The objective of this project is to provide comprehensible information on climate change and other environmental processes to the general public. Students and teachers in every country are encouraged to become both regular readers and contributors of ESPERE pages. For more information please contact Dr Xu xu@mpch-mainz.mpg.de or go directly to their website: www.espere.net

2. Not to be Missed: Our Plans for November

✓ Monday, November 5: Panel Discussion on Water Management in China

Mr Ma Jun, a journalist for the *South China Morning Post* and Dr Sternfeld are invited as guest speakers to a luncheon held by the German Chamber of Commerce, Beijing. The topic of the luncheon will be "Water Management in China." Mr. Ma is the author of the much discussed book "China's Water Crisis" (*Zhongguo Shui Weiji*). The Chamber Luncheon will start at 11:45 a.m. at the Kempinski Hotel. For reservations, please call Ms Ute Dietmar under 10-6590-0926, ext. 207.

✓ **Thursday, November 22, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.:**

"Ecological Urban Design in Germany

Lecture by Juergen Paulussen

In Germany and other countries of the European Union, the necessity of ecological and sustainable development in all aspects of urban life has been recognized since the early seventies. After an initial trial period, marked by intensive public debates and the enactment of ecological legislation, a comparatively high standard in ecological knowledge, techniques, administration, and behavior has been reached. Nevertheless, all efforts to develop an ecological architecture will remain half-measures unless they are viewed within an adequate framework of ecologically-oriented urban and environmental planning that takes into consideration all the existing interdependences.

The presentation's focus will be on the application of ecological principles in urban development and architecture in Germany.

Mr Paulussen will give his lecture in English.

Juergen Paulussen is a German architect and expert for urban and environmental planning who has worked for the well-known planning bureau Albert Speer & Partner (AS & P). He is currently employed as a CIM integrated foreign expert and assistant professor at the Department of Systems Ecology of the CAS Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences. He is mainly involved in the department's project on "eco-model cities". Contact: paulussen@mail.rcees.ac.cn, juergen.paulussen@web.de

✓ **Friday, November 23, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.:**

"Greening a desert – helping the people": The sustainable forestry project in Feng Ning county

Lecture by Dorit Lehrack and Zhao Daxing – China Association for Non-governmental Association Cooperation (CANGO)

The sustainability of improvements is a big concern, but it is in fact often neglected both by the donors and the beneficiaries. Especially in afforestation projects, which enjoy a high popularity, the question "What happens to the trees after being planted?" is crucial, but often not taken into consideration. Recognizing that fact, CANGO intends to focus on the sustainability aspect of all kinds of projects.

The Feng Ning project is a successful example of this new approach. Feng Ning County, about 190 km north of Beijing in Hebei Province, suffers from sand storms, especially in spring. The living conditions in the whole province (especially in the semi-desert areas) are poor, and so are the people. Afforestation is one way to reduce the force of the storms and improve the environmental conditions, but only if the trees survive. Funded by the Japanese Tokuyama Corporation and Keidanren fund and monitored by the Chinese-Japanese Sunshine Plastics CO. Ltd., the participative approach, used in this project, puts the responsibility for tendering the trees onto the poor villagers of Xiaobazi Township, but also allows them to enjoy the fruits of their work. In this township the average income per year is 1.009 RMB, equivalent to \$122. According to the State Council, this ranks the township

as one of the poorest counties in the province. Whilst the project started purely as a tree-planting project, as a result of the good cooperation between CANGO and the local environmental office, the project is now going to be extended. New aspects such as environmental education will be introduced, and fund raising for cleaner energy, such as biogas facilities, is supported by CANGO.

The lecture (in English and Chinese) is to inform the audience about this integrated sustainable approach and get feedback from them.

CANGO is an independent, self-reliant, self-financed and non-profit NGO. Its mission is to create a strong empowered network of Chinese NGOs to address pressing social issues such as poverty, environmental destruction and under-development, particularly in China's poor, remote and minority-inhabited areas.

Ms Dorit Lehrack, an experienced environmentalist and NGO manager, joined CANGO in March 2001 as its *CIM* integrated foreign expert and Senior International Advisor. Mr. Zhao Daxing, an agricultural engineering expert, is the project officer at CANGO, responsible for the Feng Ning Project.

For more information: Dorit@cango.org

✓ **Tuesday, November 27, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m:**
“Ecological Design in the Urban Environment: A 21st Century Strategy”
Lecture by Betsy Damon

Ecological design, creating sustainable systems, in the urban environment requires a weaving of ecology, economics, and culture. The major resources on which all life depends are not infinite; they are fast disappearing or degrading. Urban communities are becoming increasingly disconnected from natural systems. It is time to reintegrate the knowledge of sustainable resource management, with the understanding that humans can live in balance with living systems. In the building of the human community, all parts, water, air, energy, and all raw materials need to be considered in the social-economic equation.

This lecture will focus on water systems which are buried, destroyed, and otherwise misused, and these water systems can be integrated into the community. This creation of multifunctional places/relationships will invite cross-disciplinary and interdepartmental planning.

This planning precipitates infrastructure changes which will be the foundation of sustainable communities.

The lecture will be given in English. (Chinese translation provided)

Betsy Damon is an environmental artist and director of the NGO “Keepers of the Water.” She designed the “Living Water Garden“ in Chengdu.

For more information, check out www.keepersofthewaters.org or contact Bdamon7367@aol.com

2. Our Activities in October

- ◆ **On Oct. 8**, on her way back from field research in Dzoige (Ruo'er'gai) county, Sichuan province, Dr. Angela Manderscheid, a researcher affiliated with the Department of Geography of the University of Oulu, Finland visited CESDRRC to discuss possible fields of cooperation. Dr. Manderscheid is presently conducting a research project called "Ecological Carrying Capacity of Natural Pastures: A Case Study of the Tibetan Plateau."

The objectives of the project are

- * to evaluate the ecological carrying capacity of natural pastures on the Tibetan plateau with the help of Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) techniques
- * to analyse the traditional and modern nomadic pasture management and production systems in the research area
- * to generate recommendations on the future direction of mobile livestock rearing
- * international exchange of scientists and working methods

The research is sponsored by the Academy of Finland. Contact: Angela.Manderscheid@oulu.fi

Dr Manderscheid is a member of the organizing committee for an international workshop on "Natural Pastures and Mobile Animal Husbandry under Pressure: The Cases of Lapland and the Tibetan Plateau", which will be held from June 12 –14, 2002 in Oulu, Finland. For further information, contact Dr. Manderscheid or go to their website: <http://terra.oulu.fi/henkilot/angela/circular1.htm>

- ◆ *2001 Friends of the Environment Concert*, October 13

On the occasion of its first anniversary, the Beijing Environment Volunteers Network (BEV-NET) organized a concert at the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Concert Hall. The concert was sponsored by the Japanese embassy in the PRC, the Center for Environment and Development at CAS and supported by Panasonic Co. Ltd., Ebara Corp., and others. The presentors were Beijing International Radio's Ms Wang Xiaoyan and Dr Graeme Smith from Qinghua University.

At the pre-concert get together, people from different organizations and companies involved in environmental protection had the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas on this important issue. Several speeches were given, e.g. by Mr Zhang Kun, the director of the China-Japan Friendship Environmental Protection Center.

Before the start of the actual concert, a choir of twenty dedicated members from the NGO *Friends of Nature* shared their "Three Songs for Environmental Protection" with the audience.

Mr Zuo Jicheng, associate professor at the Chinese Conservatorium of Music, acted as the concert's musical director. Together with Cao Dewei, also an associate professor at the CCM, and other musicians he performed self-composed, original pieces of music that combined the sounds of classical Chinese instruments such as *erhu*, *suona* with

modern electronic beats. Furthermore, the singer Wang Xianlin, an associate professor at the Central Academy of Music, delighted the audience with two arias.

Every piece of music was met with warm applause. At the end of the concert, flower arrangements were presented to the musicians to thank them for their excellent performance and their support of a good cause.

The concert can be considered a complete success – there was almost no empty seat in the concert hall and the many guests were full of praise for the concept and its organization.

Pictures of the concert can be found on the BEV-NET's website: www.geocities.co.jp/NatureLand/7714 (in Japanese only)

(Article provided by Ms Matsue Naoko, the director of BEV-NET)

- ◆ A delegation of 23 women from Gunma prefecture, Japan, visited our Center on October 17 to gain an insight into the activities of the China-Japan Friendship Environmental Protection Center.

- ◆ On October 18, Grace Tan PoChoi, the Beijing office chief representative of the Badi Foundation, gave an introduction to the foundation's mission and projects. The Badi Foundation is an international NGO established in Macau in 1990. It implements socio-economic development programs that draw upon the potential of both individuals and institutions to actively participate in the advancement of society. Their *Environmental Action Program*, started in 1996, illustrates this approach: It aims at the development of the participants' capability to work together towards the improvement of their families and communities. The two main target groups are rural women and educators, as these two groups have been found to have a special potential to contribute to sustainable development. To date, the foundation has organized and conducted training classes for rural women from more than 100 villages in Shaanxi province. It has also trained more than a hundred school teachers to identify local environmental concerns, analyze available resources, develop and sustain activities in environmental protection. Follow-up evaluations in both fields have shown that the foundation's concept and teaching methods fit the needs of the target groups and were therefore very effective. Ms Tan Po Choi's presentation was greeted with great interest from the audience. Many questions were asked and some people even expressed their interest in becoming volunteer teachers for the foundation. If you are interested in the Badi Foundation's work, please contact their Beijing Representative office: bfbjof@mail.sparkice.com.cn

- ◆ Oct. 19, Dr. Sternfeld gave an interview for *Beijing Today*, the weekly English edition of *Beijing Youth*. The subsequent article is due to be published sometime in the beginning of November.

- ◆ From Oct. 21 to Nov. 2, Dr. Sternfeld participated as a consultant in the Project Progress Review of the Sino-German project “Participatory Approaches in Agriculture and Forestry”. At present, the project is realized in four counties in Shanxi province.
Contact: particip@public.ty.sx.cn

III. Service Section

1. Upcoming Conferences on Environmental Issues in China

- International Seminar on Ecological Agriculture (ISEA), November 6-8, 2001, Beijing
Organized by: China Association of Agricultural Science Societies; Beijing Guozong Investment Co., Ltd
Contact: gouhq@cav.net.cn
- International Symposium on Sustainable Development of Mountainous Human Settlements and Eco-Environments, Nov. 6-11, 2001, Kunming
Organized by: Research Center for Mountain Cities and Regions, Yunnan Urban Scientific Association
Contact: xu5029@public.km.yn.cn
- Second Non-Governmental Organization Forum on US-China Environmental Cooperation, Nov. 14-16, 2001, Beijing
Organized by: International Fund for China's Environment (IFCE), People's University of China
Contact: ngoforum2001@yahoo.com (Ms Du Jianxia)
- International Conference on Improving Management of Natural and Cultural Heritage in China, Dec. 4-6, 2001, Beijing
Organized by: Center for Environment and Development, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Contact: cedcass@public.east.net.cn (Ms Zhang Xiao)

2. Useful Websites on Environmental and Related Issues

A) Databases:

www.sdinfo.net.cn 中国可持续发展信息网 -- Sustainable Development Information Networking
Created by the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (www.acca21.edu.cn) in cooperation with several state departments
Extensive information environmental conditions in China:

Geographical structure, climate, vegetation, nature reserves, forestry, soil quality etc. pp.

In Chinese only

www.gein.de

Portal to German environmental information

In German and English

Data provided by 48 state and regional departments and other public agencies

Links to 50,000 websites and databases

Different search methods possible (by topic, thesaurus-based, simple text search)

B) Publications:

www.grida.no/geo2000/index.htm

"Environment Outlook" report by the UNEP

www.greenyearbook.org

Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development, published by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway

C) News/Information:

www.chinaenvironment.net

Professional Association for China's Environment (PACE) (in English)

www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com

Highlights the work of international and Chinese NGOs (in English)

www.enviroinfo.org.cn

By the Institute of Environment and Development, a Chinese NGO in Beijing, detailed information (article from Chinese official media, full texts of Chinese environmental laws, etc.)

D) Environmental Education:

www.ase.org/greenschools

The Green Schools Program:

Aimed at helping schools to use energy efficiently through energy-conserving technical measures and changes in the behavior of students and teachers

www.greenschools.com.cn

The program's home page in the PRC

www.gjee.ntnu.edu.tw/greenschool

Information on the same program in Taiwan

www.gcci.org/gea/geac1.html

Global Environmental Alliance, China:

Works with Chinese educators to promote

environmental literacy and assists with the training of government officials to integrate environmental concerns into the decision-making process

IV. Library News

1. General Information

Our library provides not only books about environmental science in Chinese, Japanese and English, but also materials dealing with related sciences such as agriculture, industry, biology, chemistry, and astronomy. There is also a wide range of material dealing with environmental issues in social, economic and cultural terms.

There are English magazines in our collection, including *Tomorrow*, *Nature*, *Environmental Policy and Law*, *Time*, and *National Geographic* and also 56 Chinese journals dealing with environmental topics. A number of daily newspapers (mostly in Chinese) are available, and we receive newsletters and information from several organizations, including the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the GTZ Organic Farm Development Project (OFDC), the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), Environmental Resources Management China (ERM), and the China Association for Non-Governmental Organization Cooperation (CANGO).

2. Presentation of our New Books

We are grateful to Ms Barbara A. Finamore, Senior Attorney at the *Natural Resources Defense Council*, for donating about one hundred books to our library. About one fifth of them focus on environmental issues in the former Soviet Union, others on international environmental law and policies, sustainable development etc. Below you find a short excerpt from the original book list.

NRDC has been active in China since 1997. That year they launched the “China Clean Energy Project” which is aimed at the significant reduction of China’s greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions.

Using a combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches depending on the particular needs of a program area, NRDC has been focusing its efforts on three specific sectors: Electric power, building construction, and technology transfer. The NRDC model has achieved considerable results in the city of Chongqing and will now be transferred to other key pollution centers.

If you want to learn more about NRDC’s work in China and elsewhere, have a look at their webpage: www.nrdc.org

Markandya, Anil and Julie Richardson. *Environmental Economics: A Reader*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.

Elliott, Jennifer A. *An Introduction to Sustainable Development: The developing World*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Haas, Keohane and Levy (ed). *Institutions for the Earth: Sources of International Environmental Protection*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1993.

Benedick, Richard Elliot. *Ozone Diplomacy: New Directions in Safeguarding the Planet*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Principles of Environmental Enforcement*. Washington, DC: EPA, 1992.

Repetto, Robert et al. *Wasting Assets: Natural Resources in the National Income Accounts*. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 1989.

Faeth, Paul (ed). *Agricultural Policy and Sustainability: Case Studies from India, Chile, the Philippines and the United States*. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute, 1993.

Schramm, Gunter and Jeremy J. Warford (ed). *Environmental Management and Economic Development*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1989.

Van Dyke, Jon M. et al. (ed). *Freedom for the Seas in the 21st Century: Ocean Governance and Environmental Harmony*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 1993.

Krever, Vladimir et al. (ed). *Conserving Russia's Biological Diversity: An Analytical Framework and Initial Investment Portfolio*. Washington, DC: WWF, 1994.

National Commission on the Environment: *Choosing a Sustainable Future: The Report of the National Commission on the Environment*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 1993.

World Commission on Environment and Development: *Our Common Future: The Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1987.

Lebel, Gregory G. and Hal Kane. *Sustainable Development: A Guide to 'Our Common Future' - The Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*. Washington, DC: The Global Tomorrow Coalition, 1989.

Thank you very much!

V. Bookshop

On the ground floor of the Sino-Japanese Friendship Center for Environmental Protection you can find our bookshop with around 700 Chinese publications about environmental issues. Please ask for our catalogue, mail order is also available.

Opening hours: 8:30 - 16:30

VI. Training Center

1. Weekly Classes in Foreign Languages with Native Speakers

- ◆ Environmental English (Conversation) Tuesdays 16:30 - 18:00
- ◆ Elementary Japanese Wednesdays 12:00 - 13:00
- ◆ Intermediate Japanese Wednesdays 12:30 - 13:30
- ◆ Advanced Japanese (Conversation) Wednesdays 13:00 - 14:00

We are still looking for an English teacher, so if you are interested in volunteering for this position or know somebody who would like to teach the Environmental English class, please contact our center.

For any information on the ongoing Japanese classes, please contact Ms Junko Takedo:

Phone/Fax: 6508-5262

Mobile: 13801036364

E-mail: junpei@163bj.com.

VII. Who is Who?

- ◆ **Ms Lu Yuzhen** is the chief librarian and manages the English books.
- ◆ **Dr Eva Sternfeld** is a German **CIM (Center for International Migration & Development) integrated expert** working as the director of reference, research & institutional exchange in the CESDRRC. Her main fields of expertise are environmental education and water management. Contact: aiwastar@163bj.com
- ◆ **Ms Liu Qing** and **Ms Gao Xiuqing** run the bookshop.
- ◆ **Ms Hou Yaoxia** and **Ms Lin Yiwen** are responsible for cataloging the Chinese publications.
- ◆ **Ms Rao Xiling** is our receptionist.
- ◆ **Tatjana Erlewein**, is a student of Applied World Languages & International Management/ Sinologie at the Hochschule Bremen University of Applied Sciences. Her research project is described in detail under II./1.
- ◆ **Claudia Schneider**, studying Sociology, Chinese and Russian at the University of Leipzig, Germany is our current intern. Apart from helping out in the library, she is responsible for editing the monthly newsletter and for the continued research related to the "Organic Food Consumer's Guide for Beijing". Contact: schneider_claudi@hotmail.com

