## FEWSTERN Symposium 2019







# **PROGRAM BOOK**

# 2019 China-US Joint Eco-environmental Symposium "Research and Innovation at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water"

October 26-29, 2019



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### INTRODUCTION

Climate change, urbanization, population growth, and accelerating consumption of energy and natural resources bring great challenges for regional and global sustainable development. It is becoming imperative that society integrate across the natural and built environments to provide for a growing demand for food, energy, and water while maintaining key ecosystem functions and services. However, addressing the entangled relationships among agricultural, environmental, and socio-economic systems is challenging--especially at a global scale.

The U.S. and China lead the world in the consumption of petroleum products, release of greenhouse gases, and food marketing. Although the two nations are geographically distant and differ substantially in terms of natural resources, energy resources and utilization, political structure and economic models, as well as cultural heritage, China and the U.S. confront many of the same FEWS (food, energy, water systems) and associated environmental challenges.



In recent decades, the urbanized areas in China have expanded from 17% in 1978 to 52% in 2012. Meanwhile, competitive land use for construction has intensified, a trend that impacts energy consumption, agricultural productivity, and water quantity and quality. Without economically feasible models that address food, energy and water production, sustainable resource management, and cost-effective technologies to reclaim degraded and polluted lands, most regions of China will soon experience severe food, energy, and water security issues.

Similar problems, albeit to a lesser extent, exist in the U.S. and many other countries. Although fundamentally different political and economic systems shape the U.S. and China, the two nations share FEWS trajectories in several complementary ways. For instance, numerous opportunities exist for China and the U.S. to collaborate on agricultural modernization, food and feed security, greenhouse gasneutral energy production, secure water supply, sustainable megacities and green urbanization, and rural re-development.

The governments of the U.S. and China signed a 10-year Energy and Environment Cooperation Framework in June 2008 to facilitate such joint efforts. Therefore, it is essential to bring together researchers, program leaders, government officials, and industry stakeholders to exchange perspectives, assess risks, continue to identify and refine FEWS research grand challenges, generate opportunities for collaboration in science, technology and policy, and ultimately develop a global FEWS research agenda through engagement with other countries. Such interactions will also accelerate the development and transfer of new technologies between countries, create economic opportunities, and contribute to the development of a diverse, internationally competitive, and globally engaged workforce of scientists and engineers. Such efforts will enable and stimulate public debate, and provide a structured rationale for economic and environmental policy decisions and regulations.

This symposium aims to exchange innovations, share ongoing research, and explore new research and partnerships with industry, government leaders, and non-profit organizations. The format of the symposium will emphasize panel presentations and roundtable discussions designed to optimize networking opportunities and encourage collaboration. Attendees will work face-to-face to develop grant proposals, integrate and narrow research plans, and interact across research groups.

## **ORGANIZERS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **HOST**

China-US Joint Research Center for Ecosystem and Environmental Change

#### **ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS**

University of Tennessee Washington State University Nanjing University

#### **SUPPORTING AGENCIES**

U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)

#### PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Chinese Academy of Sciences

**Nanjing University** 

**Zhejiang University** 

Shanghai Jiao Tong University

South University of Science and Technology

**Wuhan University** 

**Hohai University** 

**Hubei University** 

Nanjing Normal University

Nanjing Agricultural University

Shenyang Agricultural University

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Michigan State University

University of Wisconsin Madison

**Oregon State University** 

John Hopkins University

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Agilent Technologies, Inc.

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- Dr. Guibin Jiang, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Dr. Frank Löffler, University of Tennessee & Oak Ridge National Laboratory

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- Dr. Cheng Gu (Nanjing University)
- Dr. Mingzhou Jin (University of Tennessee)

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## **Abbreviated Conference Schedule**

[A detailed Conference Agenda is available separately]

Saturday, October 26, 2019		
	Hotel Check-in	
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Reception/Social Mixer	Reception includes
		hors d'oeuvre and cash bar
Sunday, October 27, 2019		
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast provided at hotel and Registration	
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Keynote Sessions	
10:00 – 10:30AM	Coffee Break & Group Photo	
10:30 – 12:00 PM	Keynote Sessions	
12:00 – 1:00PM	Lunch provided at hotel	
1:30 – 2:00 PM	Funding Opportunities Overview	
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Participant 3-Minute Presentations	
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Group Discussion	
3:30-4:00PM	Coffee Break	
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Participant 3-Minute Presentations	
5:00-5:30PM	Group Discussion	
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Banquet and cash bar provided at hotel	
Monday, October 28, 2019		
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Continental Breakfast provided at hotel	
8:30 – 10:00 AM	Three Concurrent Break-Out Sessions	
10:00 10:30 AM	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 12:00 PM	Three Concurrent Break-out Sessions	
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch provided at hotel	
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Session Chair's Presentations	
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Coffee Break	
3:00 – 4:30 PM	Team Meetings	
4:30 – 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	
5:00	Conference Concluded	
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Optional Dinner Buffet provided at hotel	

## JRCEEC: A 12-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

#### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

In July 2006, the China-US Joint Research Center for Ecosystem and Environmental Change (JRCEEC) was established to promote international interdisciplinary collaboration between Chinese and US scientists in the research areas of bioenergy and environment. The center's partners include the University of Tennessee (UT), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Purdue University, three top research institutes in ecology and environment of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS—the powerhouse of science and technology in China), and the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC—a top five comprehensive university in China). Later, annual meetings and many topical workshops were held in China or the US to create and broaden partnership-based collaborations in frontier research areas. Many of the meeting activities were funded by US National Science Foundation (NSF), US Department of Energy (DOE), and National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), and sponsored by industry companies and partnering institutions

In May 2011, as a milestone, the Center was competitively accepted, along with other US top universities (such as Duke), into the China-US EcoPartnership Program to address environmental sustainability issues between the two nations. This JRCEEC-based, Purdue-led program was jointly managed by the US Department of State (USDOS) and the China National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and annually reports to the US-China Annual Strategic and Economic Dialogue (SED—the highest government platform for strategic dialogue between the two nations). In June 2016, the program successfully accomplished its five-year mission and graduated with high marks.

In June 2013, JRCEEC began providing a service to students by organizing summer research internship activities. In summer 2013, two UT Haslam Scholars (Kenna Rewcastle and Imani Chatman) performed eight-weeks of research at the Institute of Applied Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenyang, China, with living stipends covered by the host laboratory and travel expenses jointly covered by the UT Haslam and US NSF programs. In fall 2015, three Chinese graduate students visited Purdue University with support from Purdue. In summer 2016, Hannah Woo and Nannan Jiang (Microbiology PhD students) spent five weeks studying in Beijing and Shenyang, with travel funded by US NSF. In August 2016, the Education Office of the Chinese Embassy offered UT scholarships for two undergraduate students every year to any academic institution in China for summer study. In January 2017, a former visiting student (Xiangfeng Zeng) with UT's Center for Environmental Biotechnology was invited by USDOS for a two-week visit to Washington DC and US universities and attended the US-China Advanced Forum for Young Scientists (only ten were invited from China). This JRCEEC student exchange program served to enhance communications and mutual understanding for the next-generation of leaders in the US and China.

In October 2014, JRCEEC was awarded a three-year competitive grant by the world's largest non-profit scholarship organization—CSC—for recruiting outstanding Masters students (10 per year) from China to study at UT for doctorate degrees in the areas of environment and energy. The program, named "China-US Doctoral Environment and Energy Program (DEEP),"plans to recruit 100 PhD students for UT in 10 years and so it is also called the "100-PhD Program." The DEEP program is based on a MOU, which was signed by UT Chancellors (Cheek and Arrington) and the presidents of three Chinese partnering institutions (China Agricultural University, Nanjing University, and the Institute of Applied Ecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) in early 2014. The DEEP program is the first and largest collaborative PhD program between the US and China thus far in the 21st century, with living stipends, medical insurance, and round-trip international air tickets provided by CSC (a total of \$22,800 per student per year), out-of-

state tuition covered by a fellowship granted by the UT Chancellors Office, and in-state tuition paid by UT faculty. Thus far, the program has successfully recruited more than 30 PhD students for nine UT departments. The program, a collaboration among approximately 100 UT and 100 Chinese faculty, is rapidly developing, with the support of UT colleges, particularly the AgResearch program. This program was hailed as the best program by the North America Division of CSC in October 2016 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the CSC and highlighted as a model of "People-to-People" program at the 2017 China-US Annual Economic and Strategic Dialogue in Washington DC.

In January 2018, the program was successfully renewed after CSC panel review, and the maximum number of scholarship approved by CSC increased from 10 to 15 per year. Meanwhile, the scope of discipline areas was expanded to include food production and security. Participating institutions were extended to include all of the 120 research institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Nanjing Agricultural University. In 2019, CSC suggested adding a number of 2-year postdoctoral fellowships and/or visiting PhD student scholarships to the program to catalyze and strengthen faculty collaboration for mutually beneficial research.

In October 2016, a new joint Center for Soil Productivity and Environmental Conservation (SPEC) was launched within the framework of JRCEEC and a MOU was signed in June 2016 between UT and Shenyang Agricultural University (SYAU). The SPEC aims to develop long-term innovative scientific collaboration in the areas of soil science and nutrient management through faculty exchanges, student internships, joint curriculum, facility sharing, and even jointly hired faculty. The SPEC was developed from a JRCEEC collaborative research group on biogeochemistry and climate change, which started in January 2013. The collaboration involves a number of other top agricultural institutions, such as the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Nanjing Agricultural University, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, Institute of Applied Ecology, Institute of Soil Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Jilin Agricultural University, Purdue University, and the Environmental Sciences Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

In May 2017, a new grant from the US National Science Foundation was awarded to faculty and scientists at the University of Tennessee (UT) and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). The project supported the development of a Research Coordination Network (RCN), designed to identify transdisciplinary research opportunities for scientists in the US and China focusing on the nexus of food, energy, and water systems (FEWS). This grant, termed "Food-Energy-Water Systems Transdisciplinary Environmental Research Network (FEWSTERN)," partnered with three NSF-China awards to three teams of Chinese institutions, led by Nanjing University, Southern University of Science and Technology, and Remin University of China, respectively, to develop research priorities transcending US and Chinese grand challenges. The first project meeting was held in Nashville on December 6-9, 2017.

To meet the FEWS research needs, in June and November 2017, Joint Research Center for Agricultural Plant Biotechnology (CAPB) and Joint Center for Biomass Science and Technology (CBST) were established to promote US-China collaboration in plant science, forestry, pathology, and bioenergy. Major partners of CAPB and CBST are Nanjing Agricultural University (with a top ten world ranking in agriculture) and Chinese Academy of Forestry (with a top ranking in forestry in China), respectively. These centers include participation by many other institutions, such as Nanjing Forest University, Southwest Forest University, and China Agricultural University.

As a successful and large international partnership, JRCEEC has greatly promoted research networking and collaboration and student training in the areas of environmental sustainability between the US and China. JRCEEC has engaged many central governmental agencies to explore opportunities for joint

programs, such as China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and Natural Science Foundation (NSFC), as well as the US Department of Energy (USDOE) and National Science Foundation (NSF). JRCEEC has organized 12 annual academic conferences and 27 topical research workshops, published six special journal issues on focused research topics, five proceedings, and more than 150 joint research papers. It has assisted in preparation of nearly 20 research proposals (40% funded but mostly single-side funding), arranged more than 150 Chinese visiting scholars for 6-24 months of joint research at UT, ORNL, and Purdue University, and coordinated and hosted week-long academic visits for approximately 550 faculty, program managers, and administrators of partnering institutions. The JRCEEC has engaged nearly 5,000 researchers in China and the US and has continuously made advances in the transformation from knowledge exchange into systematic integration of research, education, and stakeholders. The JRCEEC will endeavor to serve as a Union of Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy (U-STEP) during the next decade of its growth by making practical contributions to economy-beneficial international collaborations between these two nations and beyond.

#### **ANNUAL WORKSHOPS**

As part of its mission "to promote research collaboration, academic exchange, student education, and technology training and transfer," the China-US Joint Center for Ecosystem and Environmental Change (JRCEEC) holds annual workshops and periodic topical workshops. The following is a summary the workshops held to date:

**2018 Annual Workshop**—"Advances in Critical Needs for the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems," Yixing Bamboo International Conference Center, Yixing, Jiangsu Province, China., October 24-28, 2018



**2017 Annual Workshop**—"The Food-Energy-Water Systems (FEWS) Research Network," Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, Tennessee, USA, December 7-9, 2017



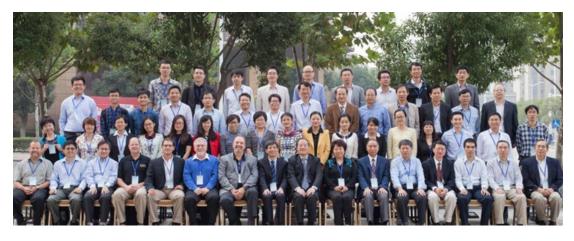
**2016 Annual Workshop**—"International Nexus of Food, Energy, Water, and Soil," Howard Johnson Garden Plaza Hotel, Yixing, China, October 27-29, 2018



**2015 Annual Workshop**—"Critical Zone Science, Sustainability, and Services in a Changing World," Beck Agricultural Center (Purdue University) and the Holiday Inn Lafayette-City Center, West Lafayette, IN. U.S.A., October 22-24, 2015



**2014 Annual Workshop**—"Water, Energy, and Ecosystem Sustainable Development," Anhui Jinling Grand Hotel, Hefei, China, October 26-28, 2014



**2013 Annual Workshop**—"Environmental Health and Green Development," Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, USA, November 18-19, 2013



**2012 Annual Workshop**—"Land Use, Ecosystem Services, and Sustainable Development," Shenyang, China, September 17-19, 2012



**2011 Annual Workshop**—"Global Sustainability Issues in Energy, Climate, Water, and Environment," Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana (USA), September 26-29, 2011



**2010 Annual Workshop**—"Energy, Ecosystem, and Environmental Change," Beijing, China, September 22-24, 2010



**2009 Annual Workshop**—"The Climate-Energy Nexus," Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA, November 11-13, 2009



**2008 Annual Workshop**—"Bioenergy Consequences for Global Environmental Change," Beijing, China, October 15-17, 2008



**2007 Annual Workshop**—"Environmental Aspects of Bioenergy Production and Sustainability," Knoxville, Tennessee, USA, September 11-13, 2007

