

## Foreword

Jennifer L. Turner, Editor

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**T**wo thousand and four was an extremely busy year for the China Environment Forum (CEF). It was also a year in which we experienced some major changes. First the busy year: We ended one study tour project and began another—our Water Conflict Resolution in the United States and China working group held its final meeting in June 2004 after two study tours in the United States and one in China (see special reports section in this issue and in issue 6). The group's team papers and final policy brief will be completed and published this year. The new study tour project also had the theme of water and was done in collaboration with Kenji Otsuka at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) with funding from the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership. IDE and CEF created a tri-national working group—comprised of water and environmental experts from Japan, the United States, and China—and asked them to explore the potential for joint U.S.-Japan efforts to enhance river basin governance systems in China. To accomplish this task the group participated in study tours in Japan, China, and the United States that emphasized three key aspects of river basin governance (see the special reports section for the China tour summary). In April 2005 IDE and CEF published a collection of research papers titled *Promoting River Basin Governance: Crafting Japan-U.S. Partnerships in China* (see CEF website for PDF link) and will publish a policy brief on river basin governance in China in the summer of 2005.

Now in terms of major changes I first must mention that after three years of working for me as a stellar project assistant and managing editor, Tim Hildebrandt moved on to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. His central interest of study will be environmental NGOs and civil society in China, so while he is sorely missed I have not “lost” him per se! The other major change in 2004 was the birth of my daughter Vanessa Skye Turner in December. During my maternity leave I was able to work on editing the *China Environment Series* and the river basin governance publication because Vanessa would take long naps, often on my lap, which actually forced me to sit at the computer longer—she was a demanding co-editor.

Some funding constraints forced us to delay Issue 7 of the *China Environment Series* and to scale back the print version. However, readers will be able to find many meeting summaries on the CEF website and most importantly, the complete Inventory of Environmental and Energy Projects in China will soon be available online as well. This is also the first peer-reviewed issue. We also are pleased to announce that a grant from Shell China, Ltd. enabled us for the first time to translate the *China Environment Series* into Chinese—big thanks to my tireless research assistant and translator Lu Xiaoqing. Also lots of gratitude to the wonderful folks at *China Development Brief* in Beijing who are overseeing the layout and printing of this Chinese issue, which will be out in the summer of 2005.

**Mike Seymour, Marilyn Beach, and Steve Laister** open up this issue with an informative article on the work undertaken by Shell together with other international oil companies to encourage international environmental and social impact assessment standards for the West-East Pipeline Project. In the second feature article **Runsheng Yin, Jintao Xu, Zhou Li, and Can Liu** introduce the challenges and potential of two major forestry campaigns in China—the Natural Forest Protection Program and the Slope Land Conversion Program. **Christoph Peisert** and **Eva Sternfeld** discuss how supply-management oriented strategies to quench Beijing's “thirst” are causing regional water conflicts in northern China and severely endangering Miyun reservoir and watersheds far removed from the city. In his article **Peter Riggs** highlights how Guangdong is not only in the vanguard of China's economic revolution, but also a potential leader in promoting sustainable (and profitable) agriculture.

This year's “crop” of commentaries and notes from the field covers a broad variety of issues. Three articles focus on water development projects—ranging from poorly implemented micro-level projects to promote rainwater harvesting in Gansu (**Seth Cook**) to the decision-making process behind the massive national Three Gorges Dam project (**Gørild Heggelund**), to the challenges of creating a biosphere in the cross-boundary Tuman River Basin area (**Sangmin Nam**). Two commentaries highlight the growing use of standards and green labeling to promote more sustainable food production—e.g., Green Food (**Megan Tracy**)—and energy efficiency (**Gary McNeil** and **David Hathaway**). **Sylvia Ping Song** offers our only commentary focusing on the nongovernmental sector in China with her piece on the nascent, yet growing, green NGOs in Guangdong province. While green

NGOs are most active in the area of environmental education, **Heidi Ross** and **Jing Lin** highlight how the Chinese education system is reforming itself to strengthen environmental education at all levels of schooling.

In addition to all of the enthusiastic contributing authors and peer reviewers I wish to thank Tim Hildebrandt and my wonderful research assistants—Lu Xiaoqing and Yan Baohua—and the desktop publisher Richard Thomas for all their work in getting this issue out. I also wish to recognize the various funders whose support of the China Environment Forum activities in 2004 and 2005 has been greatly appreciated: Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Blue Moon Fund, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Shell China, Ltd.

### Green Boat—Student Environmental Association in Sichuan Province

**G**reen Boat (*Lü Chuan*) is a university student environmental association created at the Southwest Petroleum Institute (SWPI) in November 2001. This all-volunteer group initially focused most of its activities on campus (e.g., environmental speech competitions, picture exhibitions, campus water saving campaigns, and battery recycling), but has increasingly become involved in projects beyond campus. Members of Green Boat believe that environmental protection depends more on taking action and showing dedication than simply shouting slogans. The range of their work shows Green Boat is indeed a group of action. Some major campus activities include:

- *Green Library*: At the university library Green Boat has compiled a small collection of environmental books (donated by SWPI, environmental protection bureaus and nongovernmental organizations) for students to learn more about nature and environmental protection issues in China and beyond. The group also has a collection of environmental movies that they lend to teachers and students.
- *The Voice of Green*: In cooperation with the campus broadcasting office, Green Boat has created a special environmental program that is broadcast every Thursday afternoon.
- *Environmental Education*: Members of Green Boat give environmental talks and create learning games in schools near campus. Another environmental education activity is a display case containing environmental information located near the SWPI campus dormitories.
- *Green Dream*: Green Boat publishes a regular newsletter called Green Dream, which is distributed to university departments and dormitories.

With funding from SWPI, WWF-China, Global Greengrants Fund and other organizations Green Boat members have been involved in some of the following activities:

- In January 2002, Green Boat members participated in a “Nationwide University Students Winter Ecology Investigation” held by the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.
- In the summer of 2002, members of Green Boat participated in a “Wetland Ambassador Action” held by the National Forestry Bureau and WWF-China.
- In October 2002, members carried out an ivory trade investigation in Chengdu financed by International Fund for Animal Welfare.
- In the summer of 2003, Green Boat members attended a wetland investigation at the Green Camp in Ruo Er Gai.

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