

2014 Annual Meeting of the Geographical Society of China Held in Chengdu, China:

The first full mobilization for the 33rd International Geographical Congress

On October 24-26, 2014, the annual meeting of the Geographical Society of China (GSC) was held in Chengdu, Southwest China. There were more than 1,700 geographical experts, scholars and graduate students from nearly 400 institutions all over the country participating in the event. The opening ceremony was hosted by Professor Wei DENG, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Head of the Chengdu Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, where Professor Yanhua LIU, President of GSC and Counselor of the State Council of China, gave an opening speech and Professor Jieming ZHOU, School Board Director of Sichuan Normal University, made a welcoming address. Honorary Presidents of GSC, Academician Changming LIU, Academician Dadao LU, Vice-Presidents of GSC, Academician Bojie FU, Academician Peng CUI, and other GSC leaders attended the meeting.



The theme of the annual meeting was “Chinese Geographical Sciences: Facing the Future, Moving towards the World”, which encouraged participants to look back at the development of Chinese geographical sciences over the last 100 years, especially at their theoretical and methodological contribution and their contribution to the China’s economic boom, social progress, urban construction, and the management of resources and the environment in the

latest 30 years since the reform and opening up. Also it called for the collaboration and innovation over the whole geographical academia of the country for the success of the 33rd International Geographical Congress to be held in August, 2016, Beijing, so as to start a new era of Chinese geographical sciences taking an active role in a wider international scope in the future.

Centered around the theme of the annual meeting, Academician Dadao LU, Academician Bojie FU, Academician Peng CUI, Professor Ershun ZHONG, CEO of SuperMap, Professor Dian ZHANG, Head of Department of Geography, the University of Hong Kong were invited to give keynote lectures titled “Future Earth Framework and Chinese Geographical Sciences”, “Chinese Geographical Sciences Moving towards the World”, “Mountain Hazards Chains within Alpine Areas under Climate Change: Process, Risk and Strategy”, “GIS Development and its Impact on Geographical Sciences” and “Chinese Empire Pulsation: Spectral Analysis of Macro Geopolitics and Climate Change” respectively.

In the meeting, there were nearly 1000 submitted abstracts, more than 500 oral presentations on 37 topics, and about 200 papers competing for the Annual Meeting Youth Outstanding Paper Award. The cutting-edge topics with the most enthusiastic response included China’s new styles of urbanization and urban development, landscape change and ecosystem services, economic geography and spatial governance, climate change and sustainable development, urban and rural integrated development, tourism, environment and big data etc. These topics not only indicate the international trends of geographical sciences, but also reflect current wide use of geography sciences in the social and economic development and urban construction in China.

Youth salon attracted many young geographers; higher and foundational geography education forums were both featured at the meeting. The meeting also witnessed the 8th national graduate workshop on geography, academic activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Chinese journal “*Acta Geographica Sinica*”, editorial meeting of the book “*30 Years of Geographical Sciences*” compiled by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, 2014 autumn meeting of the steering committee of geographical teaching of the Ministry of Education, editorial committee working meeting of the Chinese journal “*Scientia Geographica Sinica*”, advanced seminar on seismic secondary disaster warning and prevention technologies, and other special events.

Professor Guoyou ZHANG, Secretary-General of GSC, presided over the closing ceremony. During the ceremony, 24 winners of “Youth Outstanding Paper Award” were announced by Professor Yungang LIU, Chairman of the GSC Working Committee for Young Geographers, and then commended. Subsequently, Academician Peng CUI, Professor Wei DENG and Professor Huailiang LUO, Head of the School of Geographical Sciences and Resources, Sichuan Normal University made concluding remarks respectively, expressing their full recognition and appreciation of the participants’ enthusiasm and the academic atmosphere and achievements of the meeting. Finally, Professor ZHANG summed up the characteristics of this successful annual meeting as follows: massive participation, wide idea exchange, orderly organization, thoughtful reception, and the use of sophisticated video conferencing equipment as well.

ZHANG Guoyou, CHEN Hongyan, ZHAO Xin
The Geographical Society of China
December 15, 2014