



Chinese-American Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

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About the COAA

COAA is a member-led, all inclusive, non-profit, professional association supporting its members and promoting excellence in oceanic and atmospheric sciences and related activities. Members have many opportunities to share information, news, studies and concerns related to the fields of oceanic and atmospheric sciences through board work, submitting correspondence or articles to the COAA Newsletter, leading workshops and making presentations at the Annual Meetings, making contributions to the COAA website, and networking with people in a wide variety of careers (from well-known senior professionals to young environmental enthusiasts).



(Flyer for COAA's first Distinguished Scholar Symposium)

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1. COAA elect 2011-2012 board members

January 2011 - The 2011 COAA annual meeting was held at the University of Maryland, College Park on Saturday, January 8, 2011. This event brought together many of COAA's past board members, as well as many new friends.

Exiting President Charles Sun presided over the first half of the meeting when he summarized COAA's achievements in the past year and directed the election of the new board members. Five new board members were elected for the 2011~2013 term, including the new President-elect Dr. Kung-Hwa (Peter) Wang from NOAA, Drs. Jian-Jian Wang (Program for Atmosphere), Can Li (Membership) and Tianle Yuan (Webmaster) from GSFC and Dr. Yong Xie (Program for Ocean) from GMU. The new board will be led by the new President, Dr. Fuzhong Weng. Dr. Charles Sun offered to continue taking care of COAA's CFC fund and to provide guidance when necessary.

After an official handover of COAA's presidency, new president Dr. Fuzhong Weng welcomed all the new board members and discussed his perspective and major plans for the coming year.



(Dr. Charles Sun passed COAA's official seal to new President Dr. Fuzhong Weng. News provided by Dr. Haifeng Qian)

2. COAA 2011 Chinese New Year luncheon



February 2011 - The COAA celebrated Chinese New Year with a luncheon at the Hunan Manner Restaurant in Columbia on February 12, 2011. Nearly 30 scholars and their families attended this special event, including current and several former COAA president, Dr. Fuzhong Weng, Dr. William K. M. Lau, Dr. Dalin Zhang and Dr. Zhanqing Li. The CEO and president of COAA's Corporate Member, ERT Inc., Dr. Jingli Yang and Dr. Peter Li, respectively, also attended the event.



During the luncheon, President Fuzhong Weng represented COAA to wish all members a happy and prosperous Chinese New Year. Attendees exchanged many ideas for COAA's future development, especially on the issues related to COAA's International Technology Exchange Center (ITEC), its

potential significance, and the supervision of its direction and operation.

Several COAA exiting and continuing board members, i.e. Drs. Charles Sun, Ronghua Zhang, Xianjun Hao, Ningli Wang, Haifeng Qian and Zhibo Zhang received special awards from President Fuzhong Weng for their outstanding contributions to COAA.

The luncheon was filled with warm greetings and friendship. It ended with a fun raffle that symbolized good luck for the winners in the Chinese Rabbit Year.



(More photos can be found at <http://www.coaaweb.org>, news provided by Dr. Haifeng Qian)

3. COAA ITEC 2011 workshop for the CMA Wuhan Regional Climate Center

Through March 29 - April 5, 2011, the COAA International Technology Exchange Center (ITEC) hosted a training workshop entitled "Emergency Response and Management Training Program" for six delegates from CMA Wuhan Regional Climate Center.

The visiting group arrived at Washington D.C. on March 29th, 2011 lead by Dr. Huanyin Huang, Chief of the Forecasting Division from Hubei Weather Bureau, and the Deputy Director Dr. Zhou Yuehua. The group also included one senior engineer, Mr. Liu Jinghui, and three engineers, Mr. Liu

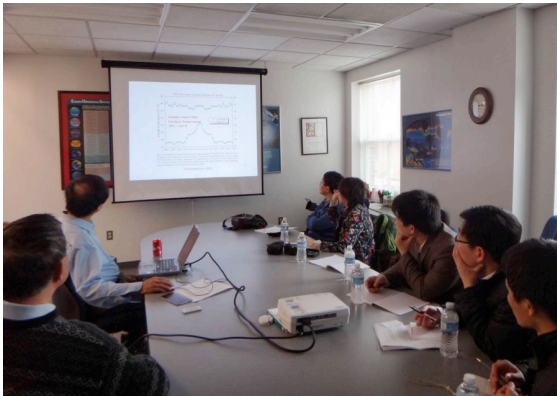
Zhixiong, Mr. Gao Zhengxu and Mr. Wang Fangfang. The purpose of the visit was to study climate and hazard monitoring in the US, atmospheric chemical and physical processes, and their modeling to support local, state and federal policy-makers on the strategies for predicting weather and climate and for minimizing the impacts of human activities on climate.



The delegation was hosted by COAA ITEC's project director and NOAA research scientist Dr. Qian Haifeng. During this week-long period the delegates visited several local research institutes, i.e. NOAA NESDIS/NCEP, University of Maryland College Park, and the climate research company IMSG. Special seminars were arranged for the Chinese delegates at each Institute. At NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, Dr. Du Jun presented a new concept of determining management and emergency response in weather forecasting with more effective skills. Dr. Wang Wanqiu introduced NOAA's latest Climate Forecast System (CFS) forecasts while Dr. Song Yang introduced CPC's research and operations. Dr. Zhou Yuehua also presented a brief introduction of Wuhan Regional Climate Center.

In the UMD session, the delegation visited the COAA ITEC located in the University of Maryland, College Park and held a professional exchange forum. Professor Dalin Zhang from the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science presented

the latest modeling study of urbanization effects on the Baltimore metropolitan area. Dr. Quanan Zheng, also from the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, gave a talk on the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Dr. Yuehua Zhou presented a brief introduction of the current status of the Wuhan Regional Climate Center and afterwards, both parties exchanged discussion. The delegates were impressed by the US emergency response procedures and measures and felt greatly benefited from the visit. They suggested that both sides conduct more in-depth cooperation in the future on the topics of interest, such as urbanization effects.



In the IMSG section, IMSG CEO Vance Ham, Vice President Paul Chan, Chief scientist Dr. Le Jiang and the delegates exchanged their views and discussed the relevant research results in-depth. They looked forward to future cooperation.

Through this workshop, COAA and the CMA Wuhan Regional Climate Center gained better understanding of each other and expressed a willingness to establish further cooperation and friendship in the future. The Wuhan Regional Climate Center Delegation's 6 delegates concluded their 6-day visit on April 4th, 2011 and flew back to Wuhan safely on April 5th.



(News provided by Dr. Haifeng Qian)

4. COAA 2011 Distinguished Scholar Symposium

On May 21, 2011, COAA held a special spring workshop – COAA 2011 Distinguished Scholar Symposium – the first of its kind, at the University of Maryland. This is a new initiative proposed by COAA President, Dr. Fuzhong Weng, to invite the most distinguished scientists from the US and China to share their life and research experiences for the benefit of young scientists.



The symposium featured two distinguished professors **Xiaolei Zou** and **Shunlin Liang** from Florida State University and the University of Maryland, respectively. Both speakers are recipients of China's most prestigious award, the "One-Thousand-Talents Program", and are currently leading China's national key projects in meteorology and satellite remote sensing.

Several dozen colleagues and friends of COAA enjoyed immensely the lecture by Professor Zou, who shared her personal stories, dreams, experiences, research and academic achievements. Professor Liang talked about his work in China as a recipient of the “One-Thousand-Talents Program”, its roles and responsibility, science scope and challenges.



The symposium was a great success. Everyone was very proud of and inspired by the speakers for their research excellence and their patriotic compassion for serving our motherland. Profs. Zou and Liang received COAA’s honorary member awards from Dr. Weng. The symposium fostered many exciting discussions and ideas for collaboration that will serve COAA’s core mission.

A Perfect Life and A Perfect Career

Prof. Xiaolei Zou is a Named Professor, J. Charney, of Florida State University, an AMS Fellow, and recipient of several prestigious awards from both China and the U.S. She is not only well known for her outstanding academic achievements in the fields of data assimilation and numerical weather prediction, but also much admired by her friends and colleagues for raising two exceptional children. As one of the earliest scholars who came to the USA after China’s open policy began, Prof. Zou encountered and overcome many personal and

professional difficulties. What was the secret to her success?



(Prof. Zou shows a picture of her childhood with her siblings)

At COAA’s first distinguished scholar symposium, Prof. Zou passionately shared stories of her family, childhood, college, advisors, friends, students and children. She showed many pictures marking her growth from a little girl born into a typical Chinese intellectual family to an accomplished scholar of international fame. Her extraordinary characters, wisdom and persistence, were made evident as she was speaking. Prof. Zou told stories about her grandfather, who taught her what benevolence was, and stories about her parents and siblings from whom she inherited high intelligence, good character and strong discipline. She shared fond memories of attending the Nanjing Institute of Meteorology, and of the classmates, professors and M. S. and Ph. D. advisors who influenced her life and shaped her earlier career. She even shared motherhood tips about raising two highly talented, disciplined and well-rounded children. Even though switching her field of study from

mathematics (she loves math) to meteorology was not her original idea when entering the graduate program, she embraced every obstacle and challenge with passion and determination until one day she loved meteorology and found the beauty of it. Her personal and professional successes seem to be a perfect combination of passion, perseverance, intellectual capability, and a loving and caring personality.



(Prof. Zou accepts COAA's Honorary Member Awards from Dr. Weng)

Prof. Zou also reported her recent involvement in Chinese Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) and climate initiatives. As recipient of China's "One-Thousand-Talents Program" through her alma mater Nanjing University of Information and Technology (formerly Nanjing Institute of Meteorology), and Science Director of China Meteorological Administration (CMA) NWP Center, Prof. Zou is working closely with scientists in China to improve numerical weather forecasting skills and to educate the next generation. These are very challenging tasks that require a tremendous amount of time and effort. What is her motivation for doing this? Her answer was very simple and touching: *"It comes from the hometown complex, national complex and alma mater complex. China provided me with all the*

education I needed to succeed. I have served US for more than twenty years - it's time for me to serve China a little."

A Mission Too Heavy to Walk Away



(Prof. Liang accepts COAA's Honorary Member Awards from Dr. Weng)

Prof. Shunlin Liang was one of the earliest scholars recruited into China's "One-Thousand-Talents Program". After obtaining most of his education in China and working in the cutting edges of remote sensing in the US for nearly twenty years, Prof. Liang found a way to contribute back to China. The same motivation has propelled many Chinese scholars to go back and seek opportunities to serve their country.

Invited to speak at COAA's first distinguish scholar symposium, Prof. Liang briefed COAA colleagues on China's key national "863" project he is leading, the "Global land surface characterization product development and applications" with total funding of 40M Yuan. This project has the ambitious goal of establishing China's own series of products of global land surface parameters such as global leaf area index,

surface albedo, emissivity, surface longwave and shortwave radiation, and photosynthetic active radiation. This work will raise China's current remote sensing capabilities from qualitative to quantitative.

Prof. Liang gave an excellent lecture on remote sensing of Earth's surface energy budget and many other surface parameters, ranging from algorithm development to various practical applications. Prof. Liang is greatly concerned about climate and environmental change and subsequent shortages of natural resources in China. He mentioned the ongoing scientific debate on whether forestation of the great Northwest desert region is beneficial to the preservation of underground water levels. He talked about the dryness of the Yellow River and the severe water shortage in Northern China. These problems affect the lives of millions of people. He hopes his research will contribute to the development

of quantitative remote sensing capabilities in China and help to monitor environmental change in China and around the globe.

(News by Dr. Yaping Zhou, Photos provided by Dr. Zhibo Zhang)

5. Call for contributions to COAA newsletter

Please let us know if you have exciting news to share with other COAA members, including awards, promotions, important publications, etc. We will post them on the COAA website and newsletter.

Please send your announcements to:
news@coaaweb.org

For current job listings, visit the COAA website:

<http://www.coaaweb.org/career.php>