The 4th China-Japan-Korea Joint Conference on Geography held in Guangzhou

The 4th China-Japan-Korea Joint Conference on Geography was held at the School of Geography and Planning, Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), in Guangzhou between 9-12 December, 2009. A total of 156 participants attended this conference, among them 68 came from Japan or Korea.

Funded by the Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), this symposium is a continuation of the annual younger geographer conference jointly organized by the Geographical Society of China (GSC), the Association of Japanese Geographers (AJG), and the Korean Geographical Society (KGS).

The theme of this conference, 'The Post-crisis East Asian Geography: Challenge and Outlook', included a number of issues such as environment change and greening, region and city development, transformation of East Asian society, culture and economy, geographical methods and so on. This conference obtained high attentions from the geographical societies of the three countries. Its participants included Prof. Zhang Guoyou, the Secretary General of GSC (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)), Prof. Bao Jigang, Vice President of GSC (SUSY), Prof. Cai Yunlong, Vice President of GSC (Peking University); Dr. Cao Guangzhong, Chairman of Working Committee for Young Geographers (WCYG) under GSC (Peking University), Prof. Chai Yanwei, former Chairman of WCYG (Peking University); Prof. Taniuchi Toru, President of AJG (Teikyo University), Prof. Matsumoto Jun, Chairman of Commission of Exchange, AJG (Tokyo Metropolitan University); Prof. Kwon Young-Woo, President of KGS (Sungshin Women's University), Prof. Jeong Hwan-Yeong, Vice President of KGS (Kongju National University), Prof. Nahm Kee-Bom, International Director of KGS (University of Seoul). Also a number of known professors attended the conference, such as Prof. Kang-Won Lee (Chonbuk National University), Prof. Araki Hitoshi (Yamaguchi University), Prof. Liu Weidong (CAS), Prof. Zhou Shangyi (Beijing Normal University), and Prof. Nan Ying (Yanbian University). The conference secretary of the organizer committee was Dr. Li Zhigang (SYSU).

The welcoming session was held at Swasey Hall at SYSU's campus, during which Prof. Bao Jigang, Prof. Zhang Guoyou, Prof. Cai Yunlong, Prof. Taniuchi Toru and Prof. Kwon Young-Woo addressed the opening ceremony. After that, four keynote speeches were given, namely 'Perception of nature: Differences between East and West' by Prof. Toru Taniuchi, 'Cultural representation: The landscape changing in an old commercial district of Beijing' by Prof. Zhou Shangyi, 'The era of low-carbon green growth city' by Prof. Kwon Yongwoo and 'Pragmatism vs scientism: Who is our sponsor?' by Dr. Liu Yungang (SYSU). Dr. Cao Guangzhong, Chairman of WCYG, chaired the welcoming session.

The main conference venue was set at School of Geography and Planning (SYSU) including three branches, while the sessions included Human Geography, Physical Geography, Landscape, Tourism and Geography, GIS and Visualization, and so on. Two poster sessions were set for the conference. About 80 participants published their researches, who came from both overseas institutions and Chinese institutions.

With the largest number of participants in the history of China-Japan-Korea joint conference on geography, and as the first time after its upgrading from just for young geographers to general geographers, the 4th CJK-conference further consolidated the periodical communication and cooperation between the three nations. It provided good opportunities for geographers of both China and overseas to show their recent outcomes. Particularly, through this conference, young geographers from the three countries achieved a good experience to share their understandings, knowledge and achievements.