

Second International Symposium on Flood Defence

September 10-13, 2002, Beijing, China

The “Second International Symposium on Flood Defence” was held in the China Hall of Science and Technology, Beijing, China, from 10 – 13 September 2002. The Tsinghua University, the Research Center on Flood and Drought Disaster Reduction of the Ministry of Water Resources of China, the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research, and the International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation organised the Conference. The Symposium attracted more than 200 researchers, practitioners, educators and public officials working with or interested in flood control, representing about 40 countries and regions. At the opening ceremony, Madame Zhengying Qian, vice president of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference; Mr. Jingping E., Secretary-general of the State Flood Control & Drought Relief of China and Vice Minister of the water resources of China; Dr. Erich Plate, Honorary President of the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering Research; Prof. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, President of the International Association for Hydrological Sciences; Prof. van Stokkom, Director of the East Netherlands Department of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management; Mr. Richard Reidinger, Water Resources Economist of the World Bank; and Prof. Zhangzhi Cen, Vice President of the Tsinghua University made opening addresses. Qian Zhengying noted that China's flood protection strategies are moving from fighting floods to living with floods in a sustainable manner. Only by finding outlets for massive seasonal floodwater can China develop its estimated 1 million square kilometers of populous and fertile alluvial river plains and be in harmony with floods.

The Symposium provided a forum for reviewing state-of-the-art of studies on flooding, and engineering and non-engineering strategies. It focused on a better understanding of flooding and environmental problems, different perspectives evolved, climate change and its impact on extreme hydrological events, and reporting new approaches to the study and flood control strategies. This aspect of the Symposium was highlighted by eleven keynote and ten invited papers, presented by distinguished international scientists, as well as around three hundred contributed manuscripts. The Symposium provided also a chance for the participants to view the development of hydraulic engineering in China.

During the conference, a standing committee of International Symposia on Flood Defence was erected. The tasks of the committee are to review state-of-the-art studies on flooding and engineering and non-engineering strategies, as well as select the theme, venue and organisers of the symposia. In the first committee meeting, Dr. Erich Plate was elected as the chairperson, it was decided to establish a secretariat office hosted by the Research Center on Flood and Drought Disaster Reduction of the Ministry of Water Resources of China, and it was agreed to hold the next symposium in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, in Spring 2005.

Cheng LIU, Symposium Secretary
International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation



Opening ceremony of the Second International Symposium on Flood Defence



Zhengying Qian, vice president of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference



Jingping E, Secretary-general of the State Flood Control & Drought Relief of China, and vice minister of the water resources of China



Erich Plate, Honorary President of the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research



Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, the president of the International Association for Hydrological Sciences



Hein T.C. van Stokkom, Director of the East Netherlands Department of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management