

Foreword

Jennifer L. Turner

Environmental activism in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong has been growing considerably over the past decade, but most green activists and environmental journalists in each area have not had opportunities to meet and exchange ideas on their professions. Through a generous grant from the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Woodrow Wilson Center Environmental Change and Security Project (ECSP) organized a forum in Hong Kong to provide opportunities for 65 environmentalists and journalists from the three areas of Greater China to discuss improving the capacity of environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the quality of environmental reporting in the region.

In preparation for the Hong Kong forum, ECSP's China Working Group brought seven environmental nongovernmental organization representatives and journalists from Greater China to Washington, DC in early December 2000. The seven (Shi Lihong, Ng Cho Nam, Chang Hung Lin, Wang Yongchen, Nailene Chou Weist, Hu Kanping, and Joyce Fu) took part in a study tour of environmental organizations located in Washington DC. They each gave talks at the Wilson Center that highlighted how social, economic, and political factors have shaped the development of green NGOs and environmental journalism in each area. The seven participants also helped me (the China Working Group coordinator) design the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum*, held in Hong Kong, 9-10 April 2001. I am grateful to the seven (whom I affectionately dubbed the G-7 Greenies) who came to Washington, DC, for not only were they key in designing the forum and suggesting speakers, but they also helped us contact participants and acted as chairs for the various panels at the Hong Kong forum. Their work and enthusiasm were instrumental in the success of this unique gathering.

My coeditor Fengshi Wu and I have enjoyed putting this publication together, our only regret is that the printed page does not capture the enthusiastic discussions the participants had over meals and walks around the beautiful grounds of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Beas River Country Club Resort. In these proceedings we have tried to reveal the energy and synthesize the insightful discussions of this two-day forum. Therefore, in addition to presenting summaries of the presentations and discussions, we have added some commentaries that compare the development trends in the environmental movements in the three areas. In order

to better communicate the rich diversity of NGO green groups in Greater China, we also compiled feature boxes on the organizations that were not covered fully in presentations. This publication concludes with an editor essay reflecting on the potential of environmental dialogues in promoting confidence and linkages among peoples and regions.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the U.S. Institute of Peace for the generous grant to bring together environmentalists from both sides of the Taiwan Straits, and thanks are also due to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which made federal conference funds available for meetings in Washington, DC and this publication. I am extremely grateful to the forum cosponsors the Centre for Asian Studies and the Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC) at Hong Kong University who issued the invitations and made the logistical arrangements in Hong Kong. I must acknowledge Ying Chan, the Director of the JMSC, who showed her strong support for the forum by graciously allowing me to monopolize Ray Cheung's time for much of the preparatory work. The challenges of coordinating a conference over a long distance can be strenuous. Despite some late night harried phone calls, working with Ray served to strengthen our friendship and increase my admiration of him.

In addition to all of the enthusiastic participants, I wish to express my gratitude to a number of people who helped the forum run so smoothly in Hong Kong. Yvonne Cheng and Alice Chow from the JMSC together with Clair Twigg (Wilson Center) kept the financial affairs and other crucial conference logistics in order. Other JMSC staff were invaluable: Nailene Chou Wiest as principle organizer of the journalist panels and the post-forum *jiaozi* feast; Li Cho as behind-the-scenes coordinator and troubleshooter extraordinaire; John Young as the ubiquitous photographer; and Holly Guo as a patient note taker. Smiles to Eric Zusman who took a break from dissertation fieldwork in Northern China to haul supplies, take notes, and be a cheerful gofer. Wu Fengshi not only helped at the Hong Kong forum, but she also has worked tirelessly with me compiling, editing, and translating the publication and never once laughing at my creative translations of the Chinese texts! Sun Liang and Qin Xin kept Fengshi and me sane with their editorial assistance, and an extra cheer for Richard Thomas, ECSP desktop publisher, who eagerly dove into laying out a publication in a "language that looks like hieroglyphs."

Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum Participants

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Clair Twigg, Project Assistant
Fengshi Wu, Research Assistant
Eric Zusman, Research Assistant

Centre of Asian Studies, Hong Kong University

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Melissa Curley, Researcher

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Yuen Ying Chan, Director
Nailene Chou Wiest, Assistant Professor
Gene Mustain, Assistant Professor
Ray Cheung, Program Manager
Sai Chan, Honorary Professor
Yvonne Cheng, Assistant
Holly Guo, Volunteer
John Young, Volunteer
Li Cho, Volunteer

Mainland China

NGOs

CHEN Qing, South-North Institute for Sustainable Development
DING Jing, World Wide Fund for Nature - China
FANG Jing, Friends of Nature
HU Jia, Tibetan Antelope Information Center
JIN Jiaman, Green Earth Volunteers
LIANG Congjie, Friends of Nature
LU Hongyan, Environmental Volunteers Association, Sichuan University
SONG Qinghua, Global Village of Beijing
SUN Dehui, Black-Necked Crane Association
WANG Yongchen, Green Earth Volunteers
XI Zhinong, Green Plateau
YANG Jiongli, Friends of Earth, Guizhou
YANG Xin, GreenRiver

Journalists

FANG Sanwen, *Nanfang Weekend*
HU Kanping, *China Green Times*
SUN Xuan, *Yangcheng Evening News*
SUN Yanjun, Tianjin People Radio Station
ZHANG Kejia, *China Youth Daily*
ZHU Zhongjie, *Guangzhou Daily*

Taiwan

NGOs

CHEN Man-Li, Homemakers Union and Foundation
FU Chia Cheih, Green Formosa Front
HUANG Ming Hsuan, Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan
LI Ken Cheng, National Teacher Association
Simon Liao, Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan
LIN Mawnan, Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan
LIN Shen Tzung, Eco-Conservation Alliance
Wei Chieh LAE, Green Citizen Action Union
HSU Jen-Shiu, Society of Wilderness
CHANG Hunglin, Society of Wilderness
CHUNG Mingkuang, Meinung People Association

Journalists

Yu-Tzu CHIU, *Taipei Times*
LIAO Yunchang, *Taiwan Independent Times*
LIN Jusen, *United Daily News*
YU Liping, *Public Television Service Foundation*

Hong Kong

NGOs and Journalists

Anthony CHAN, Messengers of Green Consciousness
Sannie Chan Lit Fong, Green Peng Chau Association
HO Wai Chi, Greenpeace
Lisa Hopkinson, Civic Exchange
Kay KU, The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
NG Cho Nan, Conservancy Association
Norris NG, Conservancy Association
WONG Kai Yi, Tai-O Culture and Environment Group
Vicky LAU, Produce Green Foundation
Plato K.T. YIP, Friends of the Earth (HK)

Journalists and Academics

William F. Barron, Centre of Urban Planning & Environmental Management, Hong Kong University
A. Roger Chan, Centre of Urban Planning & Environmental Management, Hong Kong University
Kai Yan Choi, Hong Kong Shu Yan College
Yok-shiu F. LEE, Department of Geography, Hong Kong University
WONG Koon Kwai, Department of Geography, Hong Kong Baptist University
Olga Wong, *Ming Pao Daily*

International Participants

Barbara Finamore, Natural Resources Defense
Council
Kamilla H. Kolhus, Royal Norwegian Consulate
General

Randy Kritkauskay, ECOLOGIA
Andrea Quong, Independent Researcher
Peter Riggs, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Humphrey Wou, Kenney Watershed Foundation
ZHANG Ji-qiang, W. Alton Jones Foundation

Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum

April 9-10, 2001

Hong Kong Jockey Club Beas River Country Club Resort

Sponsored by

*The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
The Centre for Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong
The Journalism and Media Studies Centre, University of Hong Kong*

Monday April 9, 2001**9:00 - 9:30 Welcoming Session**

Jennifer L. Turner, *Senior Project Associate at the Woodrow Wilson
Center*

S.L. Wong, *Director of the Centre for Asian Studies, Hong Kong
University*

Yuen Ying Chan, *Director of the Journalism and Media Studies
Centre, Hong Kong University*

Liang Congjie, *Friends of Nature*

Chung Ming Kuang, *Meinung Conservation Association*

Sannie Chan Lit Fong, *Peng Chau Island Association*

**Roundtable 2: Effective Strategies and Techniques for
Reporting Environmental News**

Nailene Chou Wiest, *Journalism and Media Studies Centre, Hong
Kong University*

**9:45 - 11:45 Environmental Movement and NGO Trends in
Hong Kong, China, and Taiwan**

Co-Chairs: Ng Cho Nam and Jennifer Turner

Yok-shiu F. Lee, *Department of Geography, Hong Kong University*

Ng Cho Nam, *Department of Geography, Hong Kong University*

Jin Jiaman, *Chinese Environmental Research Institute*

Lin Shen Tzung, *Eco-conservation Alliance*

Tuesday April 10, 2001**9:30 - 12:30 Morning Workshops****Journalist Workshop on Air Quality Reporting**

Facilitator: Nailene Chou Wiest

Sai Chen, *Honorary Professor of the Journalism and Media Studies
Centre, HKU*

Green NGO Capacity Building Roundtable

Co-Chairs: Chang Hunglin (Society of Wilderness) and Lu

Hongyan (Environmental Volunteers Association)

Simon Liao, *Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan*

Wong Kai Yi, *Tai-O Culture Workshop*

2:00 - 3:00 NGO and Journalist Dialogue

Facilitators: Nailene Chou Wiest and Chang Hunglin

3:15 - 4:15 The Visual Image

Chair: Jennifer L. Turner

Hsu Jen-Shiu, *Society of Wilderness*

Xi Zhinong, *Green Plateau Institute*

Sun Dehui, *Black-necked Crane Association*

1:45 - 3:30 Panels**Panel 1: NGO Networking and Partnering**

Chair: Joyce Fu, Green Formosa Front

Wei Chieh Lae, *Green Citizen Action Alliance*

Chen Qing, *South-North Institute for Sustainable Development*

Plato K. T. Yip, *Friends of Earth Hong Kong*

**Panel 2: Description of Environmental Journalism in China,
Taiwan, and Hong Kong**

Chair: Wang Yongchen, Green Earth Volunteers

Hu Kanping, *Green China Times*

Lin Ju Sen, *United Taiwan News*

Olga Wang, *Ming Pao*

3:45-5:15 Roundtables**Roundtable 1: NGO Environmental Education Methods**

Chair: Lu Hongyan, Environmental Volunteer Association

4:15 - 4:30 Closing Session

Co-Chairs: Jennifer L. Turner and Nailene Chou Wiest

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Section I

Environmental Movements and NGO Trends in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong

環保

Editor Commentary:

Development of Environmental NGOs in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

Jennifer L. Turner and Fengshi Wu, Woodrow Wilson Center

The three talks presented below opened the two-day *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* in Hong Kong. These talks presented an overview of green NGO development in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Taiwan and painted pictures of three diverse environmental movements. Since these movements developed independently in different political and social environments it is not surprising that there are marked variations in the character and scope of environmental NGO activities in each area. Drawing from these three talks and our work researching and setting up this forum in Hong Kong, we present this mini-essay as an attempt to pull together and compare some of the diverse development trends of environmental movements in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

The Rise in Environmental NGOs

Within Greater China, Hong Kong environmental NGOs emerged earliest—the first group was formed in 1968. Similar to events in Taiwan, environmental activists initially demanded better government accountability on pollution (particularly air) issues. Like their Taiwanese counterparts, environmental groups in Hong Kong were viewed as radical by their government. Following the opening of political access to civil society groups in the mid-1980s, many of the Hong Kong environmental activists have softened their strategies vis-à-vis the government. Today, there are several dozen well-established environmental groups in Hong Kong, focusing on region-wide or community issues. Many of the region-wide NGOs work closely with the government in shaping environmental policies and regulations.

The early Taiwanese environmental activists were (and many remain) considerably more “fiery” and politicized than their Mainland or Hong Kong counterparts. In fact, the Taiwanese environmental movement, which began with pollution and land use protests in the mid-1980s, is

intimately intertwined with the democratic movement. Later in the 1980s, environmental groups began forming around conservation and anti-nuclear issues. Today, over 300 environmental NGOs operate throughout Taiwan active in a broad spectrum of issues—pollution prevention, environmental education, nature conservation, and organic farming. As discussed in Lae’s presentation, some Taiwanese environmental NGOs are very involved in grassroots protests and projects while others act as watchdogs or advisors for the Taiwanese government in the design and implementation of environmental policies.

Mainland China’s environmental NGOs are the relative newcomers in the region, with the first group formed in 1994 (15 years after the first quasi-nongovernmental environmental group was created). The Mainland Chinese environmental groups are homegrown and are generally non-confrontational organizations. Notably, Mainland green groups arose in a time when international environmental groups began to increase their presence in China. International environmental groups have partnered with various governmental agencies and research institutions, as well as Chinese NGOs. Partnerships between domestic and foreign green groups are much more common in Mainland China than either Hong Kong or Taiwan. Today there are approximately 40 domestic environmental groups registered with the government, but since the registration process often can take years, there are most likely many more NGOs operating while waiting in the wings for official legal status or simply implementing projects as nonprofit corporations. The number of individuals undertaking independent environmental activity at the local level is possibly quite high.

Cooperative Versus Contentious Strategies

Overall, Hong Kong and Taiwanese environmental NGOs have shifted their operation strategies from a contentious to a somewhat more cooperative relationship with

the government. As Drs. Lee and Ng pointed out in their talk, the core Hong Kong green groups have become members of government advisory councils and in effect have become apolitical organizations. Hong Kong groups meet regularly at government advisory meetings and do periodically unite for joint campaigns to pressure the government. During the most recent Long Valley campaign a coalition of environmental NGOs in Hong Kong was very successful in using the news media to help stop government plans to build a railroad through a fragile wetland area. In addition to building a sustainable working relationship with government agencies, many Hong Kong NGOs also are trying to reach a balanced and mutually

supportive relationship with the private sector.

Taiwanese green groups join together much more often than their Hong Kong counterparts to stage anti-government protests. The anti-nuclear (See Lae's talk in the networking section) and anti-incinerator protests illustrate the dynamism of joint NGO activities in Taiwan. Taiwanese NGOs, particularly those working with rural communities, also are very willing to protest against factories or development companies that endanger the land or health of local



Jin Jiaman (right, *Chinese Environmental Research Institute*) and Chen Man-Li (*Homemakers' Union and Foundation*) enjoy a laugh during an icebreaking activity between panels.

people. Some environmental NGO activists and the Taiwanese Environmental Protection Administration (TEPA) officials meet for periodic informal discussions, which can become contentious exchanges, but overall the TEPA officials and NGO activists try to remain friendly. Some NGOs in Taiwan compete successfully for government grants, which enable them to do projects that promote environmental protection. Many Taiwanese NGOs believe they play a key role in lobbying and suing government officials to implement and enforce environmental laws. Moreover, Taiwanese environmental NGOs are very media savvy in their campaigns.

Mainland Chinese groups do not stage protests against the government or factories. Instead, many Mainland Chinese environmental NGOs have built up cooperative relations with governmental agencies and institutes. These close linkages are not simply due to the requirement that

NGOs must have a government “mother-in-law” sponsor, but also because many of the individuals who created green NGOs in Mainland China wished to help increase the government's capacity to protect the environment. As Jin Jiaman noted in her talk, some groups work with local governments and citizens to create waste reduction and recycling programs. Jin also mentioned that there are a large number of unregistered groups that arise spontaneously to address a local issue in the community. Such groups of loose volunteers often operate quite independently from government, but generally do not aim to challenge government authority. Green student groups have increased from 1 in the mid-1980s to 120 today, which could help to cultivate a growing pool of environmental activists ready to create new civil society organizations over the next decades.

Future Development Trends

Drawing from discussions in the Hong Kong *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* and from one-on-one conversations with these environmentalists, we discovered striking differences in the current development trends and priorities of NGOs in each of the three areas. Hong Kong environmental NGOs will most likely maintain their close consultative relationship with government and continue to work to improve the professionalization of their organizations. A number of Hong Kong green groups appear very willing to partner with or receive support from the local business community. Several Hong Kong groups expressed the desire to undertake more work in Mainland China and with the growth in environmental groups across the border they see greater opportunities to do so.

Because Taiwan lacks diplomatic recognition from a majority of the world's countries and therefore does not have full membership in many international organizations, Taiwanese environmental NGOs do not enjoy as much financial assistance and attention from outside institutions and foundations as their Mainland counterparts. One notable exception is the *Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan*, which was able to successfully join the *International Wild Bird Federation*. After the major democratic transition in Taiwan, many environmental activists opted to work on environmental issues within the government sector. Nevertheless, a large number of NGO activists still believe it is crucial to empower local communities to protect the environment and to monitor local policy implementation and environmental threats posed by industries and developers. Therefore it is not surprising that a greater percentage of Taiwanese environmental NGOs have strong linkages and accountability to local communities than do Hong Kong and Mainland green groups.

The lack of access to international forums and funding indicates that Taiwanese groups will continue to focus their energy on internal rather than regional or global environmental issues. Some Taiwanese groups expressed an interest in working with Mainland Chinese environmentalists, but previously had lacked the opportunity to meet their counterparts across the Straits. In fact, in the early stages of setting up this Hong Kong forum some Taiwanese environmentalists told the organizers that they were surprised and pleased to learn Mainland China had any green groups.

Mainland environmental NGOs are markedly different from their Hong Kong and Taiwanese counterparts in that they have developed in an environment of greater “transnational networks.” In other words, the Mainland NGOs have (and will probably increasingly) benefit from contact and assistance from international environmental

NGOs, foundations, and multilateral organizations. In short, the future of the Mainland environmental movement may be greatly shaped by the “transnationalization” of the environmental NGOs. How partial dependence on international support will shape development of Mainland NGOs in the future is a question that cannot be answered today. Despite some external funding support, the role of the Chinese government (at both the central and local levels) will remain significant for Mainland environmental NGOs over the next decade. As environmental NGOs continue to build their partnerships with government organizations and avoid direct confrontation, government agencies and institutes throughout China could act as facilitators for green civil society groups and continue to grant the NGOs greater space in which to operate.

The Emergence and Development of Environmental NGOs in Hong Kong

Yok-shiu F. Lee and Ng Cho Nam, Associate Professors, Department of Geography, Hong Kong University

In the 1970s, the Hong Kong government viewed the few existing environmental nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) as radical pressure groups, but today some of these same groups sit on government advisory councils. In their talk, which opened the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum*, Dr. Yok-shiu F. Lee and Dr. Ng Cho Nam discussed why the majority of Hong Kong NGOs have adopted a non-confrontational, consensual approach to environmental protection activities. In their analysis of the historical development of the environmental NGO sector, Drs. Lee and Ng argued that environmental groups in Hong Kong have become less politicized, even apolitical organizations. The primary factors contributing to the “apoliticization” of green NGOs in Hong Kong have been: (1) the changing structure of political opportunities and constraints in Hong Kong; (2) the organizational weaknesses of the NGOs; and (3) the cultural and ideological shifts within the Hong Kong public.

Major Environmental NGOs in Hong Kong

There are two kinds of environmental NGOs in Hong Kong: those concentrating on territory-wide issues and those focusing on locality-specific concerns. Territory-wide NGOs include the *Conservancy Association*, *Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong)*, *World Wildlife Fund for Nature Hong Kong*, *Green Power*, *Hong Kong Bird Watching-Society*, and *Greenpeace Hong Kong*. These NGOs are distinguished

by a concern for issues that affect Hong Kong and the world. Locality-specific NGOs include the *Tsing Yi Concern Group*, *Green Peng Chau Association*, and *Green Lantau Association*. These NGOs are concerned about narrower, often community-based issues. The major territory-wide groups are outlined below.

Founded in 1968, the *Conservancy Association* is Hong Kong’s oldest environmental NGO. Its membership initially was comprised of young professionals who sought to apply pressure on the government to institute stricter pollution control and conservation laws. In the 1970s, the Hong Kong government officials perceived this group as radical because of its adversarial approach. This impression changed in the 1980s, however, as the *Conservancy Association* softened its critiques of the government and some of its members were invited to sit on the government’s Advisory Committee on Environmental Pollution.

Friends of the Earth, Hong Kong was established in 1983. Its membership base was initially made up of expatriates but currently consists of local community members. In the early years following its inception, *Friends of the Earth, Hong Kong* engaged in mass mobilization activities, such as the anti-nuclear Daya Bay campaign. Recently it has focused more on environmental education activities, partnerships with corporations, and legal challenges against the Hong Kong government.

The *World Wildlife Fund for Nature Hong Kong* office

was set up in 1981. Expatriate businessmen and conservationists continue to make up the majority of its membership. The group has focused on managing the Mai Po wetlands and working on wildlife protection issues. Young, middle class professionals formed *Green Power* in 1988. In its early years of development the group actively promoted a green lifestyle. This focus has changed in the 1990s, from a more idealistic to a more realistic approach, as *Green Power* has become more engaged in social activism and policy criticism.

A relative newcomer to the environmental NGO sector in Hong Kong is *Greenpeace Hong Kong*, which was formed in 1997. The activities of *Greenpeace* in Hong Kong mirror the kinds of protests *Greenpeace* groups employ worldwide—adopting a confrontational approach to protest broad industrial pollution and hazardous waste issues. *Greenpeace Hong Kong* differs from all the above major green organizations, in that it often addresses the issues well beyond the borders of Hong Kong, such as toxic discharge in the Pearl River Delta (which ultimately flows into Hong Kong).

Modes of Green NGO Operation

Modes of green NGO operation in Hong Kong can be broken down into four categories: (1) environmental education, (2) legal challenges, (3) policy advocacy, and (4) criticism and protest. In recent years, the types of activities that NGOs have pursued most frequently in Hong Kong have been environmental education and legal challenges. Twenty years ago more contentious modes of protest, criticism, and lobbying were more common.

Evidence of environmental education activities can be found in the efforts of *Friends of Earth, Hong Kong* to launch waste recycling programs and tree planting activities. The group also has tried to bring eco-friendly messages to local schools. Similarly, *World Wildlife for Fund Nature (HK)* has tried to incorporate education efforts into its Mai Po wetlands conservation program. The Hong Kong government has provided the impetus for many of these educational projects by creating an environmental and conservation fund of \$50 million (USD). Corporate sponsorship has been another source of funding for these and other environmental educational projects.

Hong Kong environmental activists also have encountered success through the legal system via petitions, signature campaigns, and judicial review. Judicial review was used to halt progress on the Sha Lo Tung project, a property deal that would have meant building on parklands. In another case, a final court decision should be announced in 2001 on plans to construct the Long Valley railroad through wetlands in the New Territories. In this case, a coalition of Hong Kong NGOs banded together to use a statute in the Environ-

mental Impact Assessment Law that requires NGO consultation to bring the case under review before construction begins. This coalition of NGOs also mounted an extensive and lively media campaign against the Long Valley railroad.

The Shift from Contentious to Consensual Approaches

A consensual approach refers to a non-radical, non-confrontational activities promoting environmental protection. Dr. Lee and Dr. Ng cited three reasons to explain why green groups in Hong Kong increasingly have adopted a more consensual approach. The first, and perhaps most influential cause of this shift has been the changing structure of political opportunities and constraints. Other key factors are the continued organizational weaknesses of the NGOs and the cultural and ideological processes of the people in Hong Kong.

During the late 1970s to middle 1980s, liberalization and democratization altered the political climate of Hong Kong. In part due to this more open political mood, the Hong Kong government became more receptive to nongovernmental organizations. Consequently, some factions within the government began to build informal alliances with NGOs and their representatives. In the 1990s, these roles became institutionalized in the consultative machinery of the colonial government. Today, although NGOs have gained a secure place at the table, they also are inundated with duties and obligations that come with their institutionalized role. Notably, NGO members are handling many of the consultative details voluntarily without compensation. The NGO members' greater access and influence within the political machinery, combined with being bogged down with detailed consultative work, have contributed to this the non-confrontational approach of environmental NGOs today.

Hong Kong NGOs also must deal with organizational weaknesses that have led them to soften their confrontational approaches. The main weaknesses are small membership bases and dependence on corporate and government funding. First, most of the NGOs in Hong Kong have only a small number of members and must rely on a limited staff. Many of the members that join NGOs have a consumerist attitude. In short, members are not so much *donating* to NGOs to become involved in the organization as much as *purchasing* a part of the organization's success. When results are not immediately forthcoming they often loathe making membership payments again. The need to please their membership base has led some green groups to avoid risky radical protest approaches and focus on providing their members with activities, information, and evidence of successful efforts. The growing dependence of many Hong Kong NGOs on corporate

and governmental funding has also played a role in diluting confrontational methods.

Cultural and ideological processes are the final category of factors that have led Hong Kong NGOs to become more consensual vis-à-vis the government. Shaped in part by Chinese culture, colonial rule, and other historical factors, there is an underlying predisposition within the Hong Kong public to avoid confrontation. This predisposition is reinforced by the perception that environmental problems are not urgent and therefore should be treated gradually. Moreover, many in the public and the government tend to define environmental problems as caused by technical and not political shortcomings. Therefore, the misperception exists that environmental prob-

lems can be solved with the proper management techniques and the installation of clean technology equipment. Political involvement is thus not required.

The speakers concluded that over the past two decades Hong Kong has seen an exponential growth in green NGOs. In addition to the political and social factors that have softened the approach of green groups, the growth in the NGO sector has contributed to greater organizational professionalization and functional specification of these groups. All of these factors have contributed to the evolution of Hong Kong environmental groups, which are now less confrontational and more inclined to cooperate with the government. They describe this evolution as the apoliticization of the environmental moment in Hong Kong.

The Growing Importance of Public Participation in China's Environmental Movement

Jin Jiaman, Co-founder, Green Earth Volunteers and Researcher, China Environmental Science Research Institute

In the late 1990s, the Chinese public significantly increased its participation in environmental protection campaigns and activities sponsored by nongovernmental environmental organizations. This voluntary participation in green activities marks a turning point in the environmental movement in China. Instead of simply following government-sponsored mobilization campaigns, private citizens are joining forces with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to do green work. This new area of public activism in China has attracted interest within Chinese society and from overseas governments, foundations, and NGOs.

1. MODELS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In Mainland China, the NGOs involved in the country's growing environmental movement can be divided into two categories: (1) institutionalized organizations; and (2) groups of individuals gathering together (sometimes spontaneously) to do environmental protection activities. In China, the former organizations must register with a governmental institution, while the latter, more spontaneous groups generally do not formally register their organizations. Both of these categories contain a broad diversity of organizations that differ in scope, methods, and targeted populations. While Chinese environmental NGOs do not share the same history as their Western counterparts, China's NGO community is at least as diverse and complex as those in more developed countries.

1.1 Types and Activities of Formal Environmental Organization

- *Governmental and Quasi-Governmental Environmental Social Organizations.* Before the reform period began in 1979, all environmental organizations were part of the Chinese government. Most of the staff in these organizations belonged to government agencies, and all funds were from the state. Beginning in the early 1980s, the central government devolved greater administrative and financial authority to lower-level governments. In this period of institutional reform, the Chinese government also opened political opportunities for NGOs to be created. In order to regulate this new and growing non-state sector, the Chinese government promulgated the "Temporary Social Organization Registration Management Regulations" in 1989 and revised these regulations in 1998.

Under these regulations, social organizations are required to formally register with a government agency in order to become an independent and legal social organization. Some of the first organizations to be certified independent NGOs were originally created by the Chinese government itself (e.g., government organized NGOs or GONGOs). For example, the *Chinese Environmental Science Institute* (founded in 1979) is China's earliest and largest nonprofit organization that carries out environmental activities.¹ This institute usually organizes nationwide activities and campaigns, in which high-level government officials participate. This high-level political support has meant that *Chinese Environmental Science Institute* activities generally receive considerable news media attention and have been effective in raising public aware-

ness of environmental issues. Today, this group is registered with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and its affiliated professional agencies are the Chinese Scientific Association and the State Environmental Protection Administration. The institute has become more autonomous: while it completely depended on government funding in its first decade, in the 1990s, its state support gradually decreased. In 1997, government support had dropped to 35 percent of the organization's budget.

- *Citizen Environmental Social Organizations.* This category encompasses groups established by individual citizens. Because these citizen groups are self-funded, they are free to set up their own kind of environmental protection organizations. The first example of such a group is the *Chinese Cultural Library—Green Cultural Branch*, better known under the name *Friends of Nature*. A history professor, Liang Congjie, created *Friends of Nature* in March 1994, and the Cultural Affairs Bureau approved its registration. This organization has become an umbrella group for many individual environmentalists throughout China who are engaged in environmental education and research. Nevertheless, the procedure for NGOs to obtain full legal status is much more difficult than for those GONGOs with strong government ties. Many of the NGOs falling into this category would rather register with lower-level governmental agencies to avoid difficulties.

- *Citizen Nonprofit Enterprises.* These consist mainly of organizations that an individual has succeeded in registering under an industrial management bureau. In practice, these organizations do not pursue profit in undertaking their environmental protection activities. The main reason some environmental activists choose this registration route is because it is often nearly impossible for them to find a sponsoring “mother-in-law” (*popo*) governmental agency. The first such green group registered as a nonprofit enterprise is *Beijing's Global Village Environmental Cultural Center*—better known as *Global Village Beijing* (GVB). Liao Xiaoyi (who had recently returned from studying in the United States) founded GVB in March of 1996 under the approval of the Industry and Commerce Department of the Beijing Municipal government. The primary focus of this group is to encourage and to educate the public to adopt a greener lifestyle. GVB uses television, radio, and print media as well as community activities to promote the idea that successful protection of the environment depends on the participation of all people. *Green Plateau*, an NGO in Yunnan Province, is another example of a nonprofit enterprise. After a year's effort, Shi Lihong and her colleagues failed to register *Green Plateau* as an NGO; but eventually they launched

their conservation work by registering their organization (See feature box section) as a corporation under the Beijing Municipal government.

- *University Social Organizations.* Students and faculty in universities and professional institutes usually establish these organizations. The university administration, rather than government bureaus, grants approval for student-run environmental social organizations. One example is Tsinghua University's *Green Association*, established in April 1995. Today this group has a membership of 500 students who come from a variety of degree programs. Similar to other such student groups in China, *Green Association* carries out most of its activities within the university. Student green group activities have included establishing student environmental photography contests, organizing environmental information lectures, and campaigning to abolish the use of Styrofoam and disposable chopsticks in university cafeterias. Such student associations depend on three types of funding sources: (1) the university, (2) membership fees, and (3) donations from public and local industries. University environmental groups are developing quickly and have grown in number from a handful in the mid-1980s to nearly 120 today. They also have spread from a few major cities to universities in most provinces. After student members graduate, they bring to society a greater environmental awareness. The impact these new graduates will have on the development of the environmental movement in China should not be underestimated. (*Editor's Note: See feature box on Environmental Volunteers Association for information on a major student group in Sichuan Province*)

1.2 Individuals and Volunteers

- *Informal Citizen Environmental Organizations.* Such groups generally consist of volunteers who periodically gather together to undertake some kind of environmental protection work. Notably, this kind of organization does not obtain formal registration. Such volunteer groups are not always stable or sustainable organizations. One relatively successful volunteer group is Beijing's *Green Earth Volunteers*. This volunteer group is dependent on enthusiastic volunteers who use their free time to participate in environmental activities such as tree planting and environmental awareness education work. The number of participants in their various activities has ranged from several dozen to one thousand. *Green Earth Volunteers* also has created a journalist salon, which consists of regular meetings to help educate journalists on how to improve their coverage of environmental issues. (*Editor's Note: For more information on this group contact the founder Wang Yongchen at: wangyc54@sina.com*) Another example of a

volunteer organization is the *Tibetan Antelope Information Center* (See feature box section).

- *Neighborhood Environmental Organizations.* Such groups consist of citizens living within the same districts or neighborhoods who voluntarily join together to monitor environmental quality in their area. For example, in Fuzhou Municipality (Fujian Province), 600 citizens from 27 streets and 18 townships have created their own environmental group, the *New Harbor Environmental Monitoring Team*.

- *Suing Pollution Violators.* As the legal system in China has grown stronger, some citizens who are victims of pollution have sued the responsible parties. Using the courts has become a new method for the public to participate in environmental protection. In one case, the Tsingdao municipal planning agency (in Shandong Province) in the year 2000 approved a proposal to build residential housing units a mere 10 meters from the ocean shore. Local citizens opposed this project because these buildings would not only damage the coastal ecosystem, but also would destroy the existing ocean view and access to the beaches. Over 300 people sued the Tsingdao municipal planning agency for violating their environmental rights. This kind of class action case plays a role in monitoring environmental protection work and enhances public participation. Moreover, this form of participation is greatly pushing forward environmental education. (For information on a relatively new nonprofit *Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims* in Beijing that helps individuals take environmental cases to court contact its founder Wang Canfa at clapv@public2.east.net.cn)

In China, public participation in registered environmental NGOs and informal groups of green volunteers is growing. These two types of groups are similar in that they are nonprofit and must raise all or most of their funds. The difference between the two is that the formal organizations generally possess independent legal standing and maintain a permanent staff, while volunteer groups are rarely registered, lack permanent staff, and often do not possess legal standing. Regardless of these differences, both types of environmental groups are creating a broad variety of activities to educate and engage the Chinese public. The following section outlines key types of public participation created by both registered and unregistered environmental NGOs in China.

2. MOBILIZING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2.1 Environmental Education Activities

- *Television and Radio Programs.* Some environmen-

tal NGOs are capable of independently producing educational TV program. For example, *Global Village Beijing* produces “Environmental Protection Hour,” a weekly 30-minute environmental education series on Chinese Central Television Channel 7 (CCTV-7) that has attracted considerable positive attention from both the government and the public. In addition, increasing demand for environmental information is pushing state-run TV and radio stations to create more such programming. For example, China’s Educational Television has a program titled “Green Culture and China,” and CCTV-7 airs a show called “Environmental Protection Hour.” Some NGOs that do not make their own programs act as consultants for TV and radio stations on particular environmental issues.

- *Newspapers and Magazines.* There are two nationwide newspapers specializing in environmental reporting: *China Environment News* and *China Green Times*. Some editors and journalists from these two newspapers are involved heavily in environmental NGO activities. (*Editor’s Note: See Hu Kanping’s article in the journalist section of these proceedings*) Some newspapers that cater to the general public also are beginning to adopt environmental columns as well. For example, *China Youth Daily* has a column titled “Global Village Citizen.” *China Women’s Daily* has a regular column titled “Environmental Protection Matters to Every Family.” Environmental activists and scholarly experts often are interviewed and introduced to the readers in these columns.

2.2 Research and Advocacy

- *Environmental Surveys.* *Friends of Nature* has been particularly successful in undertaking extensive environmental surveys in the past three years, such as: (1) a China newspaper environmental awareness survey, (2) a survey of citizen’s environmental awareness in Beijing, and (3) a survey of environmental groups at Chinese universities. Various environmental NGOs in China conduct different surveys based on their own expertise and capacity. Findings from these surveys provide valuable information for policy recommendations and advocacy.

- *Policy Research and Demonstration Projects.* The *Beijing Environmental and Development Institute* (BEDI) carries out special research on natural resource management and market-based policies for pollution control. BEDI is also undertaking demonstration projects for an SO₂ emissions trading program. The *South-North Institute for Sustainable Development* (SNISD, a Beijing-based environmental NGO) has been carrying out projects that combine research and community-level development

projects. An example of SNISD's work is a biogas generating system project to promote applied research on clean energy and efficient buildings for rural communities. This type of activity requires expertise in sophisticated technologies, but such work could have a great influence on local governmental environmental policymaking and implementation.

3. THE CHALLENGES AND POTENTIAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES IN CHINA

- *Policy and Resource Problems.* In the area of policy, the two new regulations that merit discussion are the 1998 "Social Organization Registration Management Rules" and the "The Temporary Regulations for the Registration and Management of Non-Industrial Enterprise Citizen-Run Work Units." On one hand, these regulations provide a true opportunity for nonprofit citizen groups to develop and give China's nongovernmental and nonprofit institutions a new starting point. On the other hand, these regulations stipulate that if there already exists a professional organization or a similar social organization dealing with a certain issue, one cannot establish a group focusing on that issue. For example, if there were already a quasi-governmental organization doing educational work on coastal waters, an NGO wishing to register to do similar work would not be able to get approval from a registration management organization (usually a government agency). This regulation limits the number of civil society environmental organizations and constitutes a major hindrance to the development of environmental organizations. One positive trend is that, following the increased devolution of authority to lower-level governments; some local governments are giving official and semi-official environmental organizations greater opportunities to develop.

- *Funding Challenges.* Solving funding problems is a major challenge for China's nongovernmental sector. In other countries, NGOs often apply to foundations for funding. This channel is not that common currently in China, for the country has few domestic foundations. Therefore, Chinese NGOs do not have a reliable source of local funding. However, some overseas foundations have

begun to support China's NGO sector, and this support has become a major catalyst for NGO development.

- *NGO Capacity Building.* The management of public and partially public environmental organizations is relatively good. Although these groups are independent from their government agencies, they already possess skills and systems for management, accounting, and fund generation. However, sometimes these groups possess inefficient and heavily bureaucratized management methods. Environmental NGOs that developed independent of the state sector often lack proper management skills and experience. Clearly, inefficient management and supervising systems hinder the development of green NGOs in China.

- *Need for Clear Goals.* Social environmental groups need to set and develop clear goals in order to strengthen their organization's capacity. NGOs should develop a good reputation through efficient work and not simply depend on propaganda. In short, if an NGO wishes to survive, it will need to professionalize. Some successful groups have been the *Beijing Environmental and Development Institute* and SNISD, both of which have their own professional staff. These kinds of organizations will give strength to the developing nonprofit green sector in China. Public participation is entering a new phase in China's environmental protection sector. Formal and informal NGOs and quasi-governmental environmental groups are not only motivating the public, but also are playing a role in monitoring the government's environmental protection work. This movement shows that environmental protection is not just an area for government agencies or experts, but also an area ready for contributions from a new and growing NGO sector.

Endnotes

¹ The Chinese Environmental Science Institute is the first GONGO created by the central government after its launching of the economic reform. However, activists and volunteers created the China Forestry Association, now a quasi-NGO under the Ministry of Forestry, in early 1900s; it is said to be the first environmental NGO in modern China.

The Evolution of Taiwan's Environmental Movement

By Lin Shen Tzung (Sam Lin), *Eco-Conservation Alliance*

The Environmental Movement During the Martial Law Period (1949-1987)

Taiwan's environmental movement began in the 1980s and evolved from scattered and spontaneous anti-pollution protests to the diverse collection of 300 environmental NGOs that exist today. Reflecting on the past twenty years of this environmental movement, the abolition of martial law in 1987 is often considered the turning point for green activism in Taiwan.

Before martial law was abolished, some anti-pollution campaigns sprang up in rural areas. The first such protest was in Lukang (central Taiwan) in a campaign opposing the construction of a Dupont chemical plant. Next were protests in response to repeated pollution spills at the Li Chang Rong Chemical Manufacturing factory in Hsinju (in north Taiwan). The former case was a grassroots protest to prevent pollution that could have directly impacted the rural community. In the face of the community's stiff resistance, Dupont abandoned their plan to build a factory at Lukang. The second example in Hsinju was an environmental protest against a highly polluting factory. In addition to the continued protests by people living around the factory, professors from the local universities (Tsinghua and Jiaotong) also supported and participated in the protests. In the end the factory was forced to close.

The rise in the concept of environmental rights internationally in the 1980s gave Taiwan's nascent environmental movement more legitimacy, which was particularly crucial for Taiwanese who still lived under martial law. In addition, Taiwanese news journalists contributed to the environmental movement through their investigative reporting and participation in campaigns. Intellectuals and scholars also voiced their opinions supporting environmental protection efforts. Even the leftist and socialist intellectuals in Taiwan put forward theoretical arguments for environmental rights. In Asian societies professors tend to be relatively well respected, therefore their participation in the environmental protests and campaigns helped to give the green movement in Taiwan even more legitimacy.

The Environmental Movement after Martial Law

After martial law was formally abolished in 1987, the number of environmental organizations in Taiwan increased considerably. Although initially these groups were limited in skills and experience, their leaders and members possessed a strong concern for Taiwan's environmen-

tal problems. Over the decade following the end of martial law, the commitment of these green activists helped to create a relatively solid environmental movement. The movement has been fueled by particularly strong community opposition to environmental pollution and rural protests in southern Taiwan. For example, in Kaohsiung's Houjin and Yilan districts community groups held protests against oil and chemical pollution from factories. In Kaohsiung County, the indigenous people in Meinung protested against the construction of a dam that they believed would destroy the local ecosystem and culture. Another sign of the growing strength of Taiwan's environmental movement has been the increasing number of campaigns, in which environmental NGOs have joined together. NGOs have united to oppose nuclear power plants, golf courses, incinerators, and to lobby for the protection of forests.

Taiwan's environmental movement was strengthened not only by fiery protests, but also by new laws passed by the government. The most notable law was the environmental impact assessment (EIA) law passed in 1994, which greatly empowered environmental activists. Before the EIA law was implemented, environmental protection groups could only utilize protesting as a strategy against polluters and could not take the polluters to court. After the EIA law, Taiwan's environmentalists were able to demand that EIAs be carried out correctly. The EIA law led environmental groups to turn increasingly to the courts to sue polluters and destructive development projects. The court cases have not merely stopped harmful projects, but sometimes have led pollution violators to lose their businesses. For example, environmental groups were able to halt destructive development projects in Hsinju Hsiang Mountain and in Kuanhsi District in the late 1990s. Most Taiwanese environmentalists agree that protesting and suing have become effective methods to stop violators of environmental and natural resource laws.

Under the one party rule of the Nationalist Party (KMT) in Taiwan, it is not surprising that the KMT controlled the supposedly fair and impartial justice system. Therefore, prior to the 1990s, if citizens tried to sue government officials the officials would never be charged and arrested. However today, citizens have been able to use the new environmental laws and regulations to successfully sue, as well as remove and punish government officials who violate pollution control laws.

Although Taiwan's environmental movement has come to increasingly depend on the courts, the move-

ment still has needed to tap the power of people at the grassroots level. In order to protect their fishing grounds, Taiwanese fishers were key protesters in stopping Tainan's Bingnan development and the continued construction of Number 4 nuclear power plant.

Besides protests and suing, environmental education is a rich, albeit indirect, strategy utilized by some of Taiwan's environmental groups. Such educational efforts include bird and wildlife watching, as well as eco-tourism organizations, which have flourished in recent years and have raised people's concerns about the environment.

Distribution of Natural Resources Fuels the Environmental Movement

In addition to the early pollution protests, Taiwan's environmental movement has been fueled by land use conflicts such as the placement of landfills, incinerators, dams, and development construction. Without exception these conflicts revolve around whether land resources are equitably used and distributed. Protests against golf courses are a prime example of such equity concerns.

Taiwan is a small, densely populated island with an increasingly affluent population. The number of golf courses has grown to accommodate the increased demands for recreational activities. However, only 100-200 people can use a golf course at one time. Moreover, golf courses create serious water resource problems and—in the eyes of environmentalists—inappropriately use land. Therefore, environmental groups have led anti-golf course campaigns to demand protection of water resources. Environmental activists also oppose the corruption that is involved in many golf course projects. Specifically, government officials often accept bribes (“black gold”) to pass zoning laws that favor golf course developments. A previous administrator Hao Bocun once stated that he wanted golf to become a sport for all citizens of Taiwan. Environmentalists retorted that in order to accommodate the entire population of Taiwan, all of Taiwan, Fujian, and Guangdong would have to be leveled and converted into golf courses!

The Aims of the Eco-Conservation Alliance

The *Eco-Conservation Alliance* (*Shengtai Baoyu Lianmeng*) is a loose organization made up of forty environmental groups in Taiwan. Initially, this alliance was formed in the mid-1990s to push for the passage of a wildlife protection law. After this law was successfully passed, environmentalists viewed this newly established organization as a new model for cooperation in Taiwan. Over the past eight years *Eco-Conservation Alliance* has continued to bring together many groups and individuals to successfully push through other green laws. The

alliance enables its member groups to mutually support each other, thereby strengthening their power, as well as improving and expanding the quality of research and discussion of Taiwan's environmental problems. Better research and debate could help introduce environmental concepts to the general public and popularize environmental awareness celebrations, such as the year of forest culture.

This alliance has increased its political power by gradually strengthening cooperative relationships with legislators, specifically to lobby for special environmental issues or laws. The alliance also has become concerned about better integrating environmental protection throughout the government's operating budget. The alliance is founded on the principle that environmental protection issues should take priority over political or partisan interests. In addition to monitoring the government, the *Eco-Conservation Alliance* members build relationships with the legislators that both promote cooperation and exert pressure. Members of the *Eco-Conservation Alliance* want to be on good terms with all politicians who are willing to cooperate with the alliance's activities. The alliance even goes as far as endorsing “green” candidates. Conversely, if a candidate's environmental positions are not appropriate—even for a candidate from the key KMT opposition party the Democratic Progressive Party who boasts “greenness”—the alliance will not grant its endorsement unless the candidate has substantively supported environmental issues. The *Eco-Conservation Alliance* stresses that green NGOs should be tolerant of each other's different goals and philosophies and not attack each other.

Environmental Movement and Politics in Taiwan: Supporting the “Crow Spirit”

In the past, some Taiwanese politicians used the environmental movement to mobilize the public and gain political support. But today environmental protection is a low priority for most politicians, because voting statistics show that supporting environmental policies does not bring politicians many votes. Although the Taiwanese government has passed many environmental protection laws, the environment is still a low priority of the government. Therefore, environmental NGOs need to act as monitors of the government in order to protect the earth.

Nature knows no political boundaries. Therefore, environmental problems in one country can spillover into other countries. In order to become more dynamic and effective, environmental NGOs should unify their efforts within and beyond borders. Those of us who are professional environmental activists can be optimistic and talk of ideals. Because what we do is not for ourselves but for everyone, especially the future generations. The environ-

mental movement should not be content with simply following and supporting current laws to protect the environment. Instead, NGOs should fight for more appropriate laws and regulations.

I wish that everyone in the world could support the spirit of the crow and together be concerned about environmental problems. (*Editor's Note: "spirit of the crow" refers to the spirit of advocacy for environmental awareness*

and protection even in the face of government pressure) I also hope that Taiwan's environmental groups can continue to progress and learn to capture the power of networking, alliance building, and tools such as the Internet. I hope that Taiwan's news media can progress and report environmental cases without bias and never again act as a propaganda machine for the authorities.

Ying Yuan Chan is director of the *Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC)* of Hong Kong University. As a cosponsor of the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum*, JMSC organized the informative journalist workshop on Air Quality Reporting during the second day of the forum.



S. L. Wong, director of the *Centre for Asian Studies* at Hong Kong University, was one of the cosponsors of the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum*. He gave the opening welcome remarks at the forum.

Section II NGO Networking and Partnering

網絡

Networking and Partnering Strategies of NGOs in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

Jennifer L. Turner and Fengshi Wu, Woodrow Wilson Center



Fu Chia Cheih (a.k.a. Joyce) from the Green Formosa Front enlivens the participants before the NGO Networking and Partnering panel

Networking is the lifeblood of non-governmental organizations around the world, for building strong partnerships among various social groups can strengthen the capacity of NGOs and thereby increase their impact. It was apparent from the talks by Plato Yip, Wei Chieh Lae, and Chen Qing that environmental NGOs in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland China are aware of the need to create

strong partnerships with government, business, and other NGOs in the society. It can be a challenging task, however, for NGOs to maintain a close relationship with government or businesses without losing their independence. One key point raised in discussion was the importance for NGOs to avoid overstretching their capacity, for if groups overemphasize networking they could waste valuable financial and human resources. Each NGO should carefully evaluate the extent of their networks and make full use of existing partnerships. Below are some observations on the characteristic of networking in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland China.

- Hong Kong environmental NGOs are much more likely than their Taiwanese or Mainland counterparts to partner with the business sector. In light of the dominant role of the business community in the Hong Kong

political sphere it is logical that environmental NGO groups work to improve communication with business leaders. Naturally these green groups must be cautious about being viewed by the public as co-opted by the business community. Green groups in Hong Kong have been able to build stronger NGO networks through their participation in government advisory panels.

- Networking among Taiwanese NGOs is very strong. In fact, the environmental movement in Taiwan was borne out of environmental activists joining their groups together for joint campaigns against government policies that protected polluting industries or ignored conservation issues. In his keynote talk, Lin Shen Tzung noted the important role of the Ecological Protection Federation. There are, however, other umbrella organizations active in Taiwan that bring together many NGOs to campaign on island-wide environmental issues. Lae's talk in the networking panel described the broad range of NGOs that joined together in a recent anti-nuclear power plant campaign in Taiwan.

- Networking could play a particularly important role in Mainland China to strengthen the capacity of NGOs, for green groups are in their nascent stages of development. Many Mainland Chinese NGOs have built strong relationships with government agencies, community associations, and/or international NGOs. Jin Jiaman noted in her keynote talk that existing laws on registering civil society organizations do not permit NGOs to create branches outside the area in which they registered. These rules combined with the tendency of the Chinese government to view overly large networks suspiciously lead environmental NGOs in Mainland China to focus predominantly on building partnerships with groups in their own local area. Earth Day celebrations in Beijing in 2000 and 2001 did bring together many Mainland and international environmental NGOs. It also merits mention that student green groups have created some networks among universities.

For example, the *Green Student Network* in Beijing—with the help of the *Environmental Volunteers Association* in Sichuan—has promoted communication among Beijing-based green student groups. Thanks to the rapidly growing attention from the international environmental community, Chinese NGOs have received fi-

ancial and technical support, as well as some inspiration. While today these transnational networks are helping the Mainland NGOs develop, these networks will enable the Chinese environmentalists to educate international environmental groups on how to work effectively in China.

The Green Citizen Action Alliance and the Anti-Nuclear Movement in Taiwan

Wei Chieh Lae, Executive Director of Green Citizen Action Alliance

The *Green Citizen Action Alliance* (established in 1992 under the name *Taiwan Environment Protection Union, Taipei Chapter* and changed to *Green Citizen Action Alliance* in 1999) includes a broad range of in-

dividuals from various social classes who are concerned about environmental issues in Taiwan. The members of this organization believe that the collusion of the Taiwanese government with corporate interests has forced

Table 1.
GCAA Networking, Partnering and Advocating for a Nuclear Free Taiwan, 2001

Type of Partner	Activities and Goals	Partners
Anti-Nuke action organizations	Core partners involved in organizing the campaign	Taiwan Environment Protection Union, Homemakers' Union and Foundation, Green Party
Grassroots organizations	Monitor and collect first-hand information on the impact of power plants on communities and the environment	Aboriginal Culture Alliance, Dawulanyu Association, Wuqiu Public Affairs Association, Jianlao Anti-Nuke Self-Survival Association, Yeliu Anti-Nuke Self-Survival Association
Transparency of information campaign organizations	Campaign for transparency of public policymaking and reporting	Meinung Conservation Association, Eco-Conservation Alliance, Green Formosa Front
Eco-conservation experts	Undertake scientific research and gather evidence of nuclear power plant impacts on ocean and river ecosystems	Eco-conservation Alliance, Society of Wilderness, Scuba-diver Association, Ocean Culture and Education Fund.
Labor rights organizations	Lobby for labor safety, especially to protect workers from radiation	National Industry Labor Union, Workers Legislation Action Committee, Labor Worker Front
Religious organizations	Raise respect for land and life among the public	Catholic Justice and Peace Group, Christian Conservationalist Association
Social movement organizations (including education, women's rights, and social welfare)	Support for civil society, against the propaganda of the nuclear power industry	Humanity Education Fund, National Teacher's Association, Human Rights Association
International NGOs	Provide information on anti-nuke movement in other areas, monitor American/Japanese corporations involved in the nuclear industry in Taiwan	Nuclear Free Asian Forum, European Green Parties, Monitoring Multinational Corporation Alliance
Legal system	Undertake legal confrontation	Lawyers and legal scholars
Industry	Propose alternative energy plans	Renewable energy technology corporations
Legislature	Generate political and legislative support	Sustainable Development Committee
News media	Provide information and communication	Internet and local news media organizations

the public to protect the environment through street demonstrations and lobbying in the Legislative Yuan. *Green Citizen Action Alliance's (GCAA)* activities focus on social activism in order to: (1) organize people at the grassroots level; (2) educate the public on becoming "green" consumers; and (3) spread conservation ideas and knowledge. In the future *GCAA* will devote more time and energy to expanding their international links and sharing resources and information with green groups in other countries. The Alliance believes that only through cooperation across boundaries will they be able to understand the world's ecosystem and work to preserve it for the benefit of all humanity. This NGO supports itself through membership fees, donations, and sales from publications.

Mr. Wei Chieh Lae used the most recent wave of anti-nuclear protests in Taiwan to illustrate the techniques used by the *GCAA* to mobilize local communities and build diverse networks (See Table 1). The anti-nuclear power plant movement is the oldest and most broad-based environmental movement in the history of modern Taiwan. This anti-nuclear movement began in the 1980s and today involves more environmental NGOs than any other green campaign in Taiwan. During the fourth wave of anti-nuclear power plant campaigns in 2001, the *GCAA* (as one of the core players) cooperated with and helped organize a variety of social organizations to take up different duties (according to their own expertise) such as campaigning, information

collecting, policy monitoring, legal efforts, and legislative confrontation.

Mr. Lae and his colleagues believe that the anti-nuclear power plant movement is very comprehensive throughout Taiwan, for it is an issue that potentially impacts many sectors and people. For example, to campaign for the closure of a nuclear power plant, NGOs are responsible for providing alternative energy options, which requires communication and cooperation between NGOs and renewable energy corporations. It merits mention that maintaining such a wide and loose anti-nuclear network is challenging. Mr. Lae pointed out that internal communication among all the organizations involved is crucial to achieving the goal of the movement. Moreover, all of the participants in this network must be tolerant of each other's missions. Environmental NGOs also need to be flexible to work with each other to realize the general goals, instead of striving for their own interests.

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Building Local Partnerships: the South-North Institute for Sustainable Development Chen Qing, Director of the South-North Institute for Sustainable Development

The *South-North Institute for Sustainable Development (SNISD)* was founded in 1998 with the aim of producing environmental and energy policy studies, as well as promoting the application of new energy efficiency technologies. *SNISD* currently has six full-time staff, all first-tier college graduates, half of whom have studied abroad. Their work at *SNISD* is challenging, but Chen Qing stated that they are a "hard-working and happy group."

SNISD's small-scale biogas projects have been successful due to the creation of strong partnerships among farmers, local banks, researchers, schools, and other NGOs. In cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, *SNISD* has helped farmers in two villages within the Baima Snow Mountain Nature Reserve construct small-scale biogas generating systems to provide biogas for daily energy use and winter greenhouses. As a result, in

each village the consumption of firewood has been reduced considerably. Moreover the families now are able to grow profitable greenhouse vegetables to supplement their income. The total investment for the installation of the biogas systems is a combination of family contributions, local bank loans, and subsidies by *SNISD*. Beyond installing the technology, *SNISD* has conducted several follow-up activities. For example, *SNISD* invited experts and technicians to Baima Snow Mountain Nature Reserve to demonstrate to farmers how to grow vegetables in greenhouses. To spread the knowledge of this clean and sustainable technology in the region, *SNISD* is helping a local school implement the four-in-one model biogas system, and turning the school into a training center for biogas technology.

As demonstrated by the above example, *SNISD* works closely with local governments, agricultural banks,

and research institutes. Mr. Chen emphasized three key issues to strengthen the effectiveness of NGOs that aspire to introduce new technology and change public policy. These NGOs should: (1) create feasible policy recommendations; (2) develop or identify new technologies that can be easily applied; and (3) undertake or identify cutting edge scientific research. In their work, *SNISD* aims to disseminate information on their successful pilot projects so other institutions and local governments can replicate these energy efficiency projects in the vast rural areas of China.

Mr. Chen believes there is a great need for more environmental NGOs in Mainland China that focus on creating practical methods and policies for solving China's environmental problems. At this phase of NGO

development in Mainland China, NGOs can be more effective both in their work and in promoting the development of green groups by assisting, rather than criticizing the government. For example, NGOs can carry out grassroots conservation projects and issue policy reports that can help shape better environmental policies.

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The Changing Style of Environmental NGOs in Hong Kong

Plato K.T. Yip, Assistant Director of Friends of the Earth, Hong Kong

Mr. Plato K.T. Yip drew on his experience as an environmentalist active in academia, government, and the NGO spheres to paint a picture of the changing style of environmental NGOs in Hong Kong from the late 1970s to today. Political, economic, and social changes in Hong Kong have prompted the gradual, yet distinctive shift of environmental NGOs away from idealistic and confrontational working styles. Today, many green NGOs in Hong Kong have a more cooperative relationship with the government than in the past. These changes stem in part from the political reforms launched by the Hong Kong government in the

1980s. These reforms began to incorporate more grassroots organizations into the government's consultation system. Additionally, as Hong Kong's economy has rapidly expanded so have pollution problems and public demand for cleanup, which created opportunities for environmental groups to expand their activities. Gaining more power to shape environmental policy and more public support are the key factors that have changed the role and character of Hong Kong green groups. Additionally, the evolving character of Hong Kong environmental groups also stems from the success of early environmental campaigning and lobby-

Table 2. Evolution of Environmental NGOs in Hong Kong

	Late 1970s - Late 1980s	1990s - Present
Public Function of NGOs	Watchdogs	Solution Providers
Working Style of NGOs	Idealistic Mission-Oriented Heroic/Charismatic Leaders	Pragmatic Action-Oriented Teamwork
NGO Relationship with Government	Confrontational	Legalistic and Consensual
NGO Relationship with Other Groups	Leadership	Partnership
Public Image of NGOs	Generalists Bourgeois Advocates Doers/Protestors Fringe Groups	Specialists Grassroots Strategists Networkers/Facilitators Mainstream Political Groups

ing. Green NGOs no longer need to be confrontational to change government and public behavior and attitudes towards environmental protection.

Having summarized the major trends in the operation of environmental NGOs, Mr. Yip explained those changes in more detail (See Table 2). Environmental NGOs in Hong Kong initially arose to protest against the colonial government's apathy regarding pollution and conservation problems. Since NGOs have become a part of the government advisory system the past confrontational practices have been replaced by more consensual work styles. While NGOs used to play the role of watchdogs or pressure groups, today their function has shifted to becoming solution providers and consultants for the government and the public. Over time many of the groups in Hong Kong have become more professional institutions with activists maturing into strategists, networkers, and government partners. As the organizations have become more professional and institutionalized they are run more as businesses and teams as opposed to simply a group of protesters or followers of a heroic/charismatic leader.

In the past, environmentalists in Hong Kong viewed themselves as the leaders of the public and private sectors, but today most groups want to build up sustainable partnerships with the public, corporations, and the news media. The new character of environmental NGOs working with government does not mean that they still do not pressure the government. Today, environmentalists use the law more often than street protests to force the government to comply with their own laws.

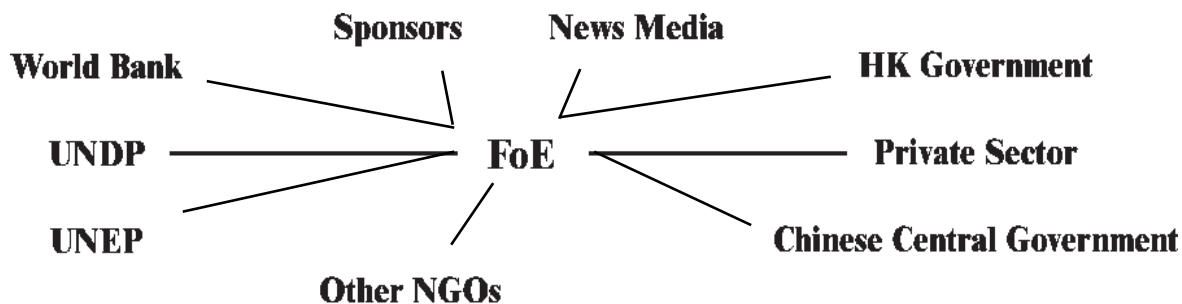
The public and the news media also have shifted their attitudes about the function of environmental NGOs. Specifically, NGOs are no longer viewed as nature lovers who promote general environmental awareness; instead NGOs are seen as specialists to turn to for

advice. Another distinctive change has been that in the past expatriate members dominated many of the environmental NGOs, but today Hong Kong Chinese make up the majority of the membership. This has led the public to view green NGOs as local and accessible groups rather than elite clubs.

As groups have expanded their level of activities, they have needed to improve fundraising, attract more volunteers, and create a niche for themselves. Therefore, many groups have changed from being a small group of "doers" or protesters to "networkers" who can obtain sufficient funding and support and as act as information facilitators for the public and the government. Overall, environmental NGOs in Hong Kong are now accepted as one of the mainstream political actors.

In addition to talking about the shifting character of environmental NGOs in Hong Kong, Mr. Yip used his own knowledge of the *Friends of the Earth, Hong Kong* (FoE) to illustrate how Hong Kong environmental NGOs are using extensive networking to fulfill their missions (See Figure 1). Besides sponsors and the news media, FoE (through a variety of projects) has established working relations with the Hong Kong and Chinese central governments, corporations, and other NGO groups. For example, FoE built partnerships with the private sector, the Hong Kong government, and other NGOs to implement a Plastic Recycling Project. FoE obtained support from the World Bank and United Nations agencies to set up a series of workshops and training classes on environmental issues. Together with the Chinese State Environmental Protection Administration FoE is sponsoring an annual Earth Award in China for Mainland Chinese organizations or individuals who have achieved extraordinary success in the environmental research or activist spheres.

Figure 1. The Network of Friends of the Earth, Hong Kong (FoE)



Section III

NGO Environmental Education Methods

教育

Editor Commentary:

The Environmental Education Priorities in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong

Jennifer L. Turner and Fengshi Wu, Woodrow Wilson Center

The three talks by Liang Congjie, Sannie Chan Lit Fong, and Chung Ming-kuang revealed that despite differences in the political environs and the divergence in how nongovernmental groups have developed, many of the NGOs from Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Taiwan have prioritized environmental education. In the 1980s as the economies in Hong Kong and Taiwan boomed, these “little dragons” became high consumption, high-waste producing societies. Mainland China has followed this path of rapid economic development and explosive consumerism. All of the participants at the April Hong Kong forum believed that NGOs could play a key role in educating the public about worsening ecological problems caused by rapid economic growth, industrialization, and wasteful consumption. In discussions at the forum, attendees were able to swap many stories of successful environmental education activities and strategies encouraging people to adopt “greener” lifestyles. The discussions highlighted the strategies and skills that enable NGOs to achieve their public education goals most effectively. Some key points raised in the discussions stated that NGOs should:

- Work to get to know and build trust in the community the NGO aims to serve and educate, which

in turn will help the NGOs become more effective and sustainable;

- Be creative in mobilization and organizing environmental activities; and,
- Do not overextend the NGO’s capacity, for one group cannot educate everyone.

In Mainland China environmental education has been an area in which the government has strongly encouraged NGO activity. Mainland NGOs have taken advantage of this political space and have been particularly active and strong in undertaking environmental education work. Since 1949, the concept of nongovernmental organizations has been left out of the public discourse and it is striking how quickly Mainland Chinese environmental NGOs have started to gain recognition and respect from the public through their educational activities. In Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Taiwan there are NGOs and university student groups that work with schools to raise the environmental education among children. Because this is a particularly non-sensitive area of NGO activity, environmental education is a topic in which NGOs in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and Taiwan can have fruitful communication with their counterparts.

Friends of Nature and the Tibetan Antelope Bus

Liang Congjie, Founder and Director of the Friends of Nature

Ever since the first Chinese environmental nongovernmental organization (NGO) *Friends of Nature* (FON) was granted official legal status in 1994, its founder, history professor Liang Congjie has been pondering what a green NGO in China can do in terms of protecting the environment. Without further political reforms regarding social organizations, it remains impossible and inappropriate for NGOs to lobby the gov-

ernment in China. In light of the fact that Professor Liang and many of his NGO colleagues lack technical expertise, they are not able to conduct scientific research. Therefore, instead of lobbying or doing scientific research, members of FON devote their energy to environmental education activities. They have two foci: 1) to improve the public’s environmental awareness; and 2) to enhance environment education among elemen-

tary and middle school students.

In an interview with *Asiaweek* after being awarded the Magsaysay Public Service Prize in August 2000, Professor Liang explained FON's flexible tactics. He stated that his "strategy is to first support the government since it has the regulations to help improve the environment, but as an NGO, it is also our mission to act as watchdog." He also commented at the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* in Hong Kong that Mainland Chinese NGOs should start with small activities, not big propaganda campaigns (*Chang Gao Diao*). Moreover, even if they focus on environmental



Professor Liang Congjie, founder of China's first environmental NGO the *Friends of Nature*, provided an eloquent talk on greening people's hearts during the Environmental Education panel.

education, green NGOs in Mainland China today need to be aware of the balance between cooperation with the government and independence.

Friends of Nature has helped Xi Zhinong (co-founder of *Green Plateau*) protect natural forests in Yunnan Province, and Yang Xin (Founder of *Green River*, a Chinese NGO working on the Tibetan Plateau) to conserve

the sources of Yangtze River. In 1996, when Xi Zhinong first began photographing and reporting on the endan-

gered golden snub-nosed monkey in northeast Yunnan, he was practically fighting a war against logging industries all by himself. Fortunately, he got in touch with Liang Congjie who took advantage of FON's networks among journalists in Beijing and brought the story of the golden snub-nosed monkey to major newspapers in China. This reporting led to demands from the public to protect the monkeys. High-level officials in Beijing subsequently ordered that logging in Northeast Yunnan stop.

Professor Liang thinks environmental education in elementary and middle schools is especially important for the future of environmental protection in China. "We hope to turn the kids' hearts green," he said. The Tibetan antelope bus is the most popular and effective children's educational project FON has undertaken. Funds from a German organization have paid for a van, which tours schools, raising green consciousness among pupils with environmental games and videos. To date, the Tibetan antelope bus has traveled around Beijing city and many neighboring provinces. Together with the China Youth Foundation (a government organized NGO), FON has been training volunteers to advance environmental education in Project Hope Schools in rural and remote areas. Another *Friends of Nature* project that merits mention has been their yearly surveys on the quantity and quality of environmental reporting major Chinese newspapers.

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Meinung: Starting from a Small Village

Chung Ming-kuang, Secretary General of *Meinung Conservation Association*

The *Meinung Conservation Association* is a grassroots environmental and community organization in Taiwan. The group began as a loose protest movement in 1992 and was transformed into a formal organization in 1994. In the early 1990s, the Taiwan water conservation administration's water resource committee quietly approved the construction plans for a 147-meter high dam in Meinung County without the agreement of the local citizens. The completed dam sparked fierce opposition from the local community. These protests also in-

directly spurred Taiwanese intellectuals to begin to support rural citizen-based environmental movements. Initially, citizens in Meinung County opposing the dam organized themselves into a core group of activists called "seven small working teams." These small groups of activists eventually joined together to create the *Meinung Conservation Association*, as it exists today.

The *Meinung Conservation Association* hopes that through ceaseless environmental education and community cultural activities their movement can become

strongly rooted into the Meinung community. A strong movement will empower the community to deal effectively with the environmental problems stemming from the Meinung Dam and face the challenges created by the Taiwanese government's longtime prioritization of the industrial sector over agricultural and rural areas. This movement will give new hopes to this old rural community in Meinung.

The association's experience in developing environmental education has led them to identify two important lessons for strengthening the effectiveness of local environmental activism:

1) Environmental education needs to be multifaceted, for no single style of environmental campaigning can be effective in every situation (See Table 3 for the scope of *Meinung Conservation Association's* environmental educational activities); and,

2) Local community groups need to set up or use their own news media organizations for their environmental activism.

Within Meinung County (population 35,000), the *Meinung Conservation Association* has used community newspapers, magazines, music tapes, the Internet and other kinds of communication media to develop a variety of environmental education activities to target people of different ages. Members of the association believe it is very important for a grassroots environmental group to fully utilize existing news media resources in the area,

not only because it is a practical strategy, but also because the community will be more receptive to the message.

One of the best examples of using local news media was when the *Meinung Conservation Association* helped to support *Moonbeam Mountain (Yue Kuan Shan)* magazine, which is a community publication. This magazine has a 20-year history of uninterrupted publication, but prior to their cooperation with the *Meinung Conservation Association* the magazine had never taken a stand on environmental issues. However, today the magazine has broadened and deepened its environmental education coverage, which in turn has helped to strengthen local environmental volunteer networks and solidify the local green activist foundation. The Internet has become another strategy for publicizing the unique qualities of Meinung County and building networks of people who support protecting the environment and culture in this rural community. Continually updated Internet Web sites and periodic listserv reports have become low-cost, fast methods for the association to disseminate information on the environment and grassroots campaigns in Meinung County. While Internet use is particularly widespread among young people, many of the rural people in Taiwan do not use it. Therefore, environmental groups interested in reaching rural communities should use a variety of communication strategies and not be overly dependent on the Internet.

The *Meinung Conservation Association* also has

Table 3. Meinung Conservation Association (MCA) Environmental Education Activities

	MCA Periodical	<i>Yue Kuang Shan Quarterly Journal</i>	Documentary Films, Music Recordings	Internet, e-newsletters
Targeted Audience	Meinung citizens, scholars and environmentalists throughout Taiwan	Meinung citizens and environmentalists throughout Taiwan	Varies	Students and enthusiastic supporters of MCA
Content	Theory, Analysis	Stories of MCA events and campaigns	Music and films of environmental events, and campaigns	Information on events, campaigns and environmental quality
Distribution Methods	Regular mail	Regular mail	Varies	Internet
Goals	Promote discussion of theoretical ideas	Increase environmental education	Increase environmental education	Motivate members, build networks, and increase environmental education

worked with traditional musicians in Meinung to record several music CDs. The songs on these CDs not only highlight the unique local music and cultural connections with nature, but also include anti-dam songs.

Meinung has attracted an endless stream of news media attention due to the fact that this community is nestled in a scenic area with a distinctive cultural history. The area is also infamous for its enthusiastic community of people who have diligently worked to protect their county from destructive development. Although news media reports have promoted positive information on Meinung's environmental campaigns and cultural events, outsiders who come to report (especially Taiwanese mainstream news media organizations) often bring their own preconceptions and expect to be treated royally by the community. If, for example, the reporter encounters some difficulties in making arrangements to visit Meinung, the subsequent article may have a negative impact on Meinung. In light of some past negative experiences with outside news media organizations, the *Meinung Conservation Association* has stressed the importance of creating a community-based news media.

In addition to conventional news media methods, the *Meinung Conservation Association* also has organized

special ecological campaigns and activities. Once a year the association organizes a monarch butterfly watch in order to assess how the dam has destroyed some of the natural habitat in the monarch butterfly emerald valley. The *Meinung Conservation Association* uses the arrival of the butterflies in the valley each year to organize both anti-dam events and ecological education activities. After six years of tireless work, these butterfly watches have become an important environmental campaign in southern Taiwan. The *Meinung Conservation Association's* junior partner organization the *Meinung Youth Committee* also organizes an ecological camp every winter holiday. This camp helps to teach children and adults about their own traditional rural community and why they need to be concerned about their local environment.

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Preserving Tradition and Promoting Environmental Education

Sannie Chan Lit Fong, Founder Green Peng Chau Association

The *Green Peng Chau Association (GPCA)* is a nonprofit grassroots environmental group set up in 1991 on a one-square kilometer island, called Peng Chau (flat island), which is located seven kilometers east of Hong Kong Island. Before the 1980s, Peng Chau Island was free of auto and industrial pollution and 70 percent of the land was unspoiled nature and rural areas. Local residents had long maintained island traditions and community ties. In 1990, one woman—who became one of the founders of *GPCA*—returned to the island of her birth after ten years of studying abroad only to discover that the natural environment and local culture on the island had undergone marked changes. The beautiful beach had vanished and people no longer appeared to value what nature had given them. This woman joined some other women on the island (who also were discouraged about the environmental degradation) to create the *GPCA*. This grassroots group aims to promote environmental awareness among island residents. The *GPCA* members also wish to do everything in their power to conserve the remaining beauty of the

island.

The women running this NGO work to meet their objectives by: (1) monitoring development planning on the island, and (2) organizing activities to promote environmental awareness and education. Over the past nine years, *GPCA* has tried to persuade the local government to address the pollution dangers facing the island, such as untreated sewage dumped into the sea and construction debris deposited in open spaces. Indirectly, *GPCA* lobbying influenced a local government decision to halt the planning of a new container terminal because of the pollution it would have created. The *GPCA* also has organized educational workshops at local primary schools and kindergartens in order to ignite the minds of the young people of Peng Chau to protect their island's environment. By organizing green outings (e.g., tree planting and beach clean ups), seminars, and exhibitions, *GPCA* is actively educating the local people about greener lifestyles and eco-tourism. In light of this broad range of activities, it is not surprising that this nonprofit grassroots organization

staffed completely by volunteers often faces many financial pressures and staff shortages.

The local government on Peng Chau Island does not have a bold plan to improve the local economy, which is a predominantly residential area, possessing limited agricultural areas and few valuable natural resources. The GPCA volunteers have, however, proposed a comprehensive “Green Cultural Island Plan” to develop the island into an eco-tourist area and create an eco-education center. This sustainable development plan includes the following activities and projects:

A green market during the Xu Festival. The Xu Festival is seen as an important tradition for local residents, businessmen, farmers, and fishers to exchange products and goods during the Xu Festival (this holiday also is celebrated in many places in China). Recently, however, the Peng Chau local government made a plan to construct a modern new downtown district to replace the old traditional markets. The GPCA countered this plan by proposing that the government maintain the 200-year Xu Festival tradition and use the existing markets to hold a green market for local people to sell and buy organic agriculture products during and after the Xu Festival.

Community organic farming. This is a plan to fully use fallow and wasteland on the island to create small organic farms. The GPCA will invite experts to introduce local farmers to the advantages and methods of growing organic products, and encourage them to sell their products through the green market during the Xu Festival. Another component of this plan is to divide wasteland into small pieces and rent small plots to local residents, who are interested in being organic “vacation farmers.” Some currently unused land also can be given to local schools for environmental education purposes. This latter plan aims to provide a live classroom for local residents to learn about nature, and give them an opportunity to work together outdoors with their families. Overall, this organic farming plan will fully utilize the soil resources on the island and help reconnect people to their island’s environment.

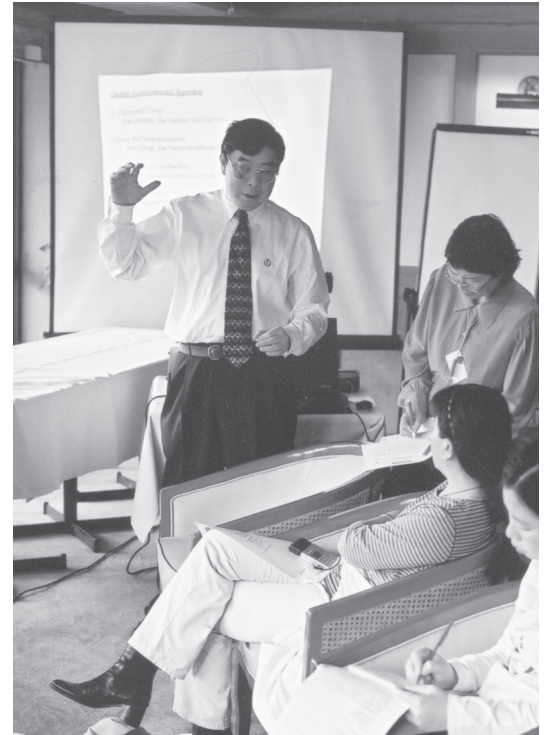
A traditional Chinese culture and ecology research center. This center would combine traditional culture and

eco-education to promote the study of how traditional culture has influenced human behavior. This center would also promote a new green lifestyle through textbooks and exhibitions.

An eco-tourism and eco-educational center. Because the Peng Chau Island is rich in cultural traditions and contains a beautiful natural environment, it is an ideal destination for eco-tourism and the island could develop an eco-tourist education center for Hong Kong.

Despite its small size, Peng Chau Island contains a diverse population, including businessmen, fishers, and local residents.

While many have lived on the island for generations, there are also migrants from Greater China and overseas. GPCA volunteers hope that their sustainable development plans can help bring together this diverse population to protect the island’s resources. According to GPCA volunteers, it is very important to consider both nature-ecological and history-cultural factors in order to design and implement successful environmental education plans for the island.



During the Air Quality Reporting Workshop, Dr. Sai S. Chan (standing) gave a brief tour of intriguing topics in current international research on environmental health. He urged reporters to dig beneath the surface on environmental stories and not stop at the episodic level of reporting.

Section IV Green NGO Capacity Building

能力

Overview of Day Two at the Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum

Jennifer L. Turner and Fengshi Wu, Woodrow Wilson Center

On the second day of the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum*, the participants focused on NGO capacity building and NGO-journalist communication. The morning session began with Simon Liao from the *Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan* (See essay in this section) and Wong Kai Yi from the *Tai-O Culture Work-*

sessions, each small group reported their insights to all of the NGO participants to evaluate. The lively moderators for this session were Chang Hunglin (*Society of Wilderness*) and Lu Hongyan (*Environmental Volunteers Association*). The highlights of these discussions are provided on the following page.

While the NGO participants discussed capacity building, the environmental journalists simultaneously held a workshop on air quality reporting. The afternoon session brought together the NGO and journalist participants for an activity to promote discussion on how to improve communication between the two professional groups. In this session, environmental NGO participants were split into groups and they had to imagine they were an NGO trying to pitch a story to a journalist. The journalists critiqued each group in turn. Insights into the journalist sessions are highlighted in the essays contained in Section V. of these proceedings.

In last session of the forum, the participants were able to explore how the use of visual images can strengthen the impact an NGO. In that session, three photographers who run environmental NGOs treated the forum participants to slideshows and presentations explaining how they use nature



In breakout sessions, workshop participants explore issues on how to improve environmental NGO capacity in areas of financing, membership, and public participation. From left to right: Lin Shen Tzung (*Eco-Conservation Association*), Sun Dehui (*Black-necked Crane Association*), Ng Cho Nam (*Conservancy Association*), Huang Ming Hsuan (*Wildbird Federation, Taiwan*)

shop in Hong Kong (See feature box section) giving brief talks on their respective organizations. Following these talks the participants were split into small groups to discuss the challenges of building the capacity of green groups. They focused on membership management, public participation, and fundraising. After breakout

photography to promote their environmental education work. The three photographers were: Sun Dehui (*Black-necked Crane Association*), Xi Zhinong (*Green Plateau*), and Hsu Jen-Shiu (*Society of Wilderness*) Descriptions of their activities can be found in the feature box section of this publication.

Small-Group Discussions: Member Management, Public Mobilization, and Fundraising

Below are the highlights from the small group discussions on NGO capacity building.

Groups One and Two: Membership Management

Two groups discussed how best to attract and keep members in an NGO. Not all of the NGOs in the forum were interested in signing up and managing members, for they viewed membership organizations as somewhat elitist and too cumbersome to manage. Others argued that building up a membership base does not mean an NGO is pursuing an elite approach, rather more effectively expanding and sustaining its reach into the community. A devoted membership also can offer valuable skills and knowledge to an NGO. Some of the central points drawn from the discussions are outlined below:

- 1) Do not rely on an individual leader to sustain the NGO. Sometimes a charismatic leader attracts a large membership, but when he or she leaves the membership disappears! Therefore, in order for an NGO to become a sustainable institution with a membership devoted to the environmental cause, the organization must downplay the individual and develop a system for regularly changing the leadership.
- 2) NGOs need to make all members and volunteers feel like part of the team.
- 3) Discover the expertise of the members and organize activities to enable members to exchange ideas.
- 4) Take advantage of information technology (such as e-mail, list-servers, Web sites) to improve the communication among members and NGO staff.
- 5) An NGO should produce a high-quality journal or newsletter to update members on the organization's activities.
- 6) Frequent communication via email, phone and at events is crucial to maintain personal contact with members. Members need a sense of belonging to remain committed to the NGO's work.
- 7) If an NGO does highly visible and effective activities and campaigns the organization will improve its reputation and thereby attract more members.
- 8) The success of an NGO should not be based on simply having a huge membership. An excessive number of members can be expensive for an NGO to maintain and satisfy.
- 9) In addition to overstretching the NGO's capacity, too many members could turn an NGO into

an impersonal bureaucracy. A large membership does not necessarily lead to bureaucratization in all NGOs.

10) Training members and volunteers can be an attractive benefit to keep them interested and active in the NGO. Among the conference participants some member-training activities include: (a) running classes on wildlife understanding and birdwatching (*Society of Wilderness; Hong Kong Birdwatching Association, Conservancy Association, Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan, Green Earth Volunteers*); (b) teaching members to measure pollution levels in local streams and monitor environmental index (*GreenRiver*); (c) training on how to organize their community to monitor local industries (*Meinung Conservation Association*); (d) training on the knowledge and technology of recycling, how to turn used cooking oil into soap, and how to compost kitchen wastes (*Homemakers' Union and Foundation, Global Village of Beijing*); (e) train journalists about environmental issues (*Green Earth Volunteers, Global Village Beijing*); and (f) seminars for nature interpreters, environmental teachers, and conservationists (*Environmental Volunteers Association at Sichuan University, Friends of the Earth-Guizhou, Black-necked Crane Association, Society of Wilderness*).

Group Three: Public Participation

All of the NGOs attending the forum struggle with stimulating and maintaining public participation in their activities and events. Some of the main points from this discussion are outlined below:

More is not necessarily better! In other words, an NGO should not simply gauge success by having lots of people at events. Certain activities and events may be more effective with smaller groups. It is important to decide on the scope of public participation according to the specific aim of a project. For example, birdwatching and trash pickup are activities that do not require a high skill level from the participants. While participation in scientific investigation of the source of Yangtze River and work to prevent the slaughtering of Tibetan antelope (*GreenRiver*) require more specialized skills and knowledge. Such specialized activities often do not lend themselves well to campaigns to promote public participation. Moreover, in cases such as the protection of black-necked cranes (*Black-necked Crane Association*)

and preservation of the last habitat of Taiwan's native carnivorous plant (*Society of Wilderness*), specific attention must be given on how to avoid unnecessary disturbance of nature by human beings.

Diversify activities. Diversify the types of NGO activities and events to attract the attention of the public and to tap into the interests of different age groups. Those NGOs that focus on environmental education all stressed the need to develop different activities and facilities for different age groups.



Participants enthusiastically jump into an icebreaker activity between panels. From left to right: Jennifer L. Turner (*Wilson Center*), Sun Yanjun, (*Tianjun People's Radio Station*), Roger Chan (*Hong Kong University*), Fang Jing (*Friends of Nature, FON*), Wei-Chieh Lae (*Green Citizen Action Union*), and Liang Congjie (*FON*).

Go to the people. Many of the NGO participants in this forum were grassroots organizations, so maintaining close contact with their local people is the lifeline for these groups. NGOs need to go into communities and introduce environmental activities to impacted communities and local residents. Thus, their goal to promote environmental protection can be carried out through changing people's perceptions and behaviors. Some examples of NGOs attending the forum that work with communities include: (a) *Green Formosa Front* in Taiwan has combined disaster relief work with their green activities by assisting farmers rebuilding after the 1999 earthquake to plant organic crops; (b) *Global Village Beijing* has created green community groups with the cooperation of the district government of Xuanwu, Beijing, to promote green lifestyles among families; (c) *Friends of Nature* sends a Tibetan antelope bus out to rural areas to educate children about wildlife protec-

tion; and (d) project coordinators of the *South-North Institute for Sustainable Development (SNISD)* are sent to stay with farmers in the Baima Snow Mountains of Yunnan Province. The efforts of SNISD to coordinate local governments, financial institutions, and farmers have led to the growing implementation of renewable energy pilot projects in this mountain region.

Solicit feedback. In designing an activity make sure to incorporate a way to solicit feedback from participants in order to improve the planning of future events. Feedback will help to better estimate future participation.

Some quotes from the public participation discussion:

Dr. Yang Jiongli (*Friends of the Earth, Guizhou*): In order to promote tourism and birdwatching in the Guizhou Caohai Nature Reserve, we have worked with the Guizhou provincial government to launch a media campaign to raise awareness of eco-tourism in the nature reserve.

Mr. Simon Liao (*Wild Bird Association, Taiwan*): Even when we work on international environmental issues, it is important that we, environmentalists, "jump into" our own communities and deal with local problems.

Mr. Sun Dehui (*Black-necked Crane Association*): A large numbers of participants can have a negative impact on the environment. Imagine the impact of building up new transportation infrastructure and organizing large groups of crane lovers to visit northwest Yunnan. The hordes of visitors would be a nightmare for the black-necked cranes and scare them away! We must carefully design eco-tourist and birdwatching activities so we do not damage what we are trying to protect!

Mr. Lin Shen Tzung (*Eco-conservation Alliance*): The goal of public participation should be to create environmentalists. The more environmentalists in the world the better.

Group Four: Fundraising

This group wrestled with the tough issue of how to run an NGO on limited funding, which is a major concern of groups in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. In Mainland China, NGOs tend to depend on volunteers, foreign foundations, and Chinese environmental activists for support of their activities. Mainland Chinese NGOs are concerned about the uncertainty of funding resources and organizational

dependency. Hong Kong and Taiwan NGOs are more reliant on membership fees and government grants. The latter source of funding is often quite sensitive and NGOs disagree if such funds hinder their effectiveness. Some Hong Kong groups (such as *WWF Hong Kong* and *Friends of the Earth, Hong Kong*) have been very successful in obtaining strong corporate sponsorship to do work in Hong Kong and in Mainland China. Closer attention is needed to assess this type of NGO funding. Some ideas drawn from the fundraising discussion included:

- 1) One of the easiest ways to solve the problem of funding shortages is to recruit volunteers to help carry out NGO activities and events.
- 2) An NGO should prioritize projects and not do too many at once and stretch resources too thin.
- 3) Given limited funding, an NGO should focus

on a narrow range of priorities and do these well, which will enable the NGO to prove its effectiveness and be more successful when submitting grant proposals or soliciting funding from the public. In short, be focused and create a niche for your organization.

4) Integrate fundraising activities into regular NGO events.

5) Fundraising on the street can help advertise NGO events and collect money. (*Editor's Note: Greenpeace Hong Kong has been particularly successful with this technique*)

6) Stress motivating members to participate in events, for they could become major financial supporters of NGO activities.

7) NGOs should develop strict standards for accepting corporate donations so the public does not view them as being co-opted by big business.

The Organizational Model of the Wild Bird Federation Taiwan

Simon Liao, President, Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan

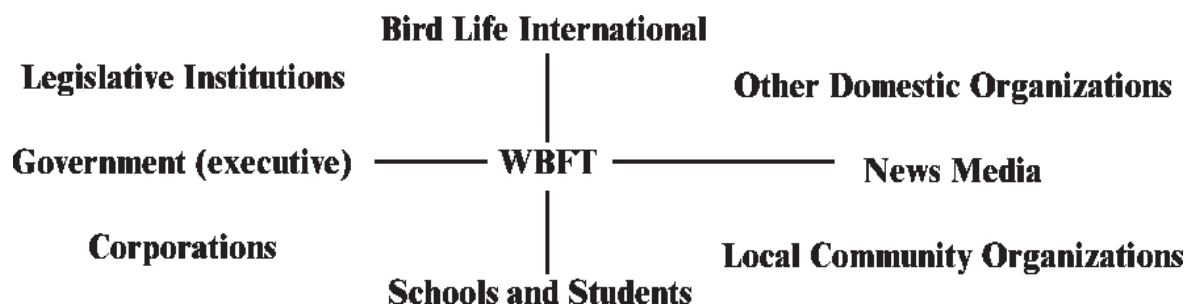
Ever since its establishment in 1988, the Wild Bird Federation Taiwan (WBFT) has developed 19 regional Wild Bird Societies, and attracted approximately 5,000 members (10,000 including family members). As of the year 2000, WBFT organized over 640 bird watching activities, with more than 685,000 participants. Over the past 13 years, the WBFT has expanded their general activities beyond educational bird watching to include: 1) activities to promote the conservation of wetlands; 2) assessments of important bird habitats in Taiwan; and (3) work to save exotic birds. Island-wide their bird watching activities have been diversified to include topics related to environmental protection, as well as bird appreciation.

In 1994, with the goal of contributing to regional and international bird conservation, the WBFT joined

Bird Life International, the largest wild bird conservation NGO in the world. In 1995, WBFT initiated a series of international conferences on conservation of the black-faced spoonbill. Since 2000, the WBFT has supported the *Bird Life International* in a number of activities, including: (1) publishing *Threatened Birds in the World*; (2) sponsoring emergency relief of South Pole penguins suffering from oil spill pollution; and (3) participating in the protection of tropical forestry in Paraguay.

Under the leadership of Mr. Simon Liao, the WBFT has put more energy into developing international activities in recent years. He believes that pursuing financial assistance and strategic advice from the international community is a very effective means to improve and support local conservation work. In his talk

Figure 2. Networking by the Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan



Mr. Liao also pointed out that in order to ensure better cooperation with both domestic and international groups, it is important for NGOs to understand the needs of the local people, businesses, and government. Mr. Liao used WBFT's experiences in carrying out an Important Bird Area (IBA) project to illustrate how his group has strengthened its organizational capacity through building strong networks (See Figure 2).

WBFT interacts with numerous groups as it works to assess and mark wild bird habitats and undertake

tional NGO partners.

Similarly, corporations wish to build up a pro-environmental protection public image and the WBFT needs their financial support, so choosing carefully (not wishing to "green wash" unworthy businesses) the Federation has found partners in the business sector. The Federation also needs students to participate in volunteering activities. Conversely, students need training and want fun volunteer activities, which the WBFT can provide. Local community organizers in Taiwan seek campaigns and issues that pull the community together and the WBFT can meet this desire through its public awareness campaigns and participation in endangered bird activities. The news media hungers for information on important issues and WBFT works to provide them the necessary data, for the news organizations can help promote the Federation in their bird conservation work. Using this strategy of mutual understanding and assistance, in the IBA project the WBFT has created partnerships with 29 organizations in the governmental, corporate, academic, and grassroots community sectors.

In summary, Mr. Liao did not merely wish to describe the reciprocal relationships between the WBFT and other governmental and societal groups, rather he wanted to stress the necessity for NGOs to explore what government, corporations, the news media, and local people expect from them, for all of these groups are invaluable constituents. In short, to develop a stronger organization, environmental NGOs need to meet the diverse demands from their constituents in society.

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A group of environmentalists who have devoted themselves to the protection of wildlife (from left to right): Xi Zhinong, Lin Mawan, Lin Ju Sen, Simon Liao, Huang Ming Hsuan, and Sun Dehui

other activities. Mr. Liao believes that before partnering with other organizations it is crucial that WBFT first prioritize its own goals and then try to understand the goals of potential partner organizations. With this clarity of needs and goals, WBFT can use its expertise and services to meet the needs of partner organizations without losing sight of the Federation's own priorities. For example, when WBFT deals with the Taiwanese government, the Federation needs governmental support in policy promotion, disseminating information, and financing. Conversely, the government wishes to promote its own reputation among people within and beyond Taiwan's borders. In light of the mutual benefits of cooperation, WBFT has succeeded in recruiting more than 1,000 volunteers and has been able to provide the government with a wide network of local and interna-

Section V Environmental Journalism in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong

媒體

Green Voices in Greater China: Harmony and Dissonance

Nailene Chou Wiest, Assistant Professor, Journalism and Media Studies Centre, Hong Kong University

The Beas River Jockey Club, nestled in the bucolic green hills of the New Territories, is just a stone's throw from the border with Mainland China. Dewy bougainvillea blossoms glistened in the April sun when some twenty environmental reporters from Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong gathered here for a two-day conference.

For Fang Sanwen, who just returned from a month-long reporting trip on the 3,000-kilometer path of sandstorms from Inner Mongolia to Beijing, the lush green world around him was almost unreal. His story on the villages deprived of water, crops, and hope by the encroaching desert spreads across three full pages of the Guangzhou-based *South Weekly*.

Environmental journalism has flourished in China over the past decade. Hundreds of reporters produced thousands of news stories and television documentaries covering subjects from the looming shortage of water resources to the endangered species in the wilderness. In Hong Kong and Taiwan, environmental reporting also has come a long way. Working closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), environmental reporters have helped forge not only an environmental consciousness, but also a political activism that pressures the Hong Kong and Taiwanese governments for change. Together, they share a professional commitment to reporting environmental degradation and raising public awareness of the endangered ecological resources. But different political systems, various stages of economic development, and editorial priorities have created a wide divide among Mainland Chinese, Taiwanese, and Hong Kong environmental reporters.

Mainland China: Environmental Propaganda

The abundant crop of environmental stories in China has not come about spontaneously. After the Chinese government became a signatory of the Agenda

21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development at the 1992 Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), China's National People's Congress (NPC) launched a massive publicity campaign to raise environmental awareness. The Environmental Resources Protection Committee of the NPC set up a special taskforce for organizing and implementing environmental news coverage. For each of the following eight years, the taskforce drafted plans, assigned topics, planned reporting trips, and made timetables for the release of the feature stories. In short, the taskforce created a top-down structure, working with exemplary efficiency in mobilizing the news media to raise the environmental consciousness in China.

This political approval actually has given journalists greater freedom and opportunities to write on environmental topics. Over the past eight years, some 13,000 reporters from all news media organizations in China have produced an astounding 104,000 pieces of work, according to a study by the International Media Studies program at Tsinghua University. Environmental reporters from Mainland China at the conference stated they enjoy more freedom in pursuing their stories than other beat reporters. With the blessing from Beijing, they are able to obtain cooperation from local authorities in doing their investigative work on certain issues.

China has come a long way in recognizing the legitimacy of environmental concerns. Hu Kanping, editor of *China Green Times*, the second largest environmental newspaper in China with a circulation of 100,000, recalls when his paper was launched in 1985, the unclear mandate was to "clean the environment and cleanse the spiritual pollution." At that time, the officials had very vague ideas of what the environment meant and what needed protection.

With the deepening of China's economic reforms,

many officials traveling abroad have found that industrialized countries openly acknowledge the existence of environmental problems. In fact, the more developed the economy, the more environmentally conscious people become, which removes much of the stigma from facing up to the environmental problems.

Environmental subjects also turn out to be very popular with readers, listeners, and viewers, which in turn draw talented and enterprising young journalists into the field. Sun Yanjun, a young broadcaster at Tianjin People's Radio, has breathed life into otherwise boring programming by creating imaginative segments that promote greater appreciation of nature and awareness of environmental problems, such as "Environmental Guardian," "Walk about Global Village," "Green Alarm Bell," and "Green Jeopardy Games."

Fang Sanwen said his publication *South Weekly* (a popular weekly with a national readership of 200,000) was particularly suited for long features on environmental investigative work. With the support of his editor, Fang, another reporter, and a photographer rode an old jeep along the trail of sandstorms from the Alashan League in Inner Mongolia to the hills on the outskirts of Beijing. "We tried to tell the story behind the oft-repeated statistics: The number of sandstorms rose from five in the 1950s to 23 in the 1990s. The year 2000 alone saw 12 sandstorms, and in the first three months of this year, six have already been reported." Fang continued to explain that "behind the environmental degradation and economic losses is a whole series of problems affecting the society. The deterioration of meat, wool, and hide quality will force the pastoralists and ranchers to abandon their traditional livelihood and migrate to the cities. This impact on their culture is hard to imagine." The resulting report took the form of a diary, along with sidebars explaining scientific facts and policy debates.

Zhang Kejia runs her green page at the *China Youth Daily* every Wednesday. Her green page acts as a forum for the public to debate on environmental issues. She also has broadened the participation through Web site discussions (www.cyol.net/gb/cydg/n/).

Wang Yongchen, an award-winning veteran broadcaster at China Central Radio in Beijing, commented that environmental reporters are fired by a sense that they feel they can make a difference. The environmental journalists in Mainland China are not just the medium through which most people come to understand environmental issues, these journalists also make things happen and correct what goes wrong. Wang Yongchen captured this spirit in her statement that "in the absence of enforcement of environmental protection, we

journalists become guardians to the environment." Once while reporting on the ecological strains brought by population pressure and industrialization along the Yangtze River, Wang described in her radio program how the cruise ships threw plastic food containers into the waterway turning the 5,500-kilometer river into a giant public sewer. Within days of the broadcast, local officials were galvanized to action in the face of public outcry and the littering stopped. The result was a slightly cleaner river.

Similar positive actions resulting from Mainland reporters' exposés to protect the environment and save the endangered species abound. Television reports on the golden snub-nosed monkey and the Tibetan antelope all led to government intervention to protect the animals' habitats. Those are happy stories that received wide international publicity, but such reporting makes up only a small part of the environmental reporting in China. Most of the stories deal with water resources, forestry, and agriculture. Generally, stories praising the efforts by governmental agencies and enterprises to clean up the environment outnumber criticisms.

Mainland reporters also avoid politically sensitive topics. Not surprisingly the Three Gorges Dam is off-limits. "We support the government on major issues and direct our criticisms on minor issues," stated a Mainland reporter at the conference. Editors are unlikely to back their reporters in confronting officials. Moreover, for contentious stories it is difficult for reporters to get cooperation from local sources. In one of the conference sessions, an NGO representative showed pictures of a gigantic log on a flat bed truck with signs advertising logging opportunities in Tibet. Notably, although China's State Council has promulgated decrees banning logging nationwide, the Mainland Chinese reporters stated candidly that they would not report this story because it takes place in the Tibetan Autonomous Region where the enforcement of the bans is much less rigorous than in other parts of China. The rights and interests of ethnic minorities are so complex in China that environmental reporters do not feel that they are up to the task to take on these national issues.

Taiwan: No Holds Barred, Seeking Hot-Button Issues

Taiwanese reporters take pride in their role of building the environmental consciousness as well as forging the democratic movement on the island. The political pressure and censorship in Mainland China cause reporters from Taiwan to cluck their tongues. In today's Taiwan, political pressure towards the news media would make reporters even more rebellious towards the Taiwanese government. Working with local environmen-

tal NGOs, Taiwanese journalists have mobilized the public to pressure the government to enact laws to protect endangered species, to enforce logging bans, and to push for environmental justice affecting economically disadvantaged groups.

Lin Ju Sen, a senior reporter at the *United Daily News*, distributed his article clippings collected over ten years to showcase the range of his environmental reporting. For two years, he followed the trafficking of rhinoceros horns—used as an ingredient for traditional Chinese medicine—and filed stories with datelines from many countries. He also reported on the returning of orangutans, which were smuggled into Taiwan as pets, to their home in Southeast Asian jungles. Chiu Yu-tzu, a reporter with the English language *Taipei Times* stated that environmental reporters have *carte blanche* in choosing their stories in Taiwan. She commented that “there are no taboos and no politically sensitive topics for us.” She has written many conservation stories, ranging from black-faced spoonbills to Formosan rock macaques to preserving Chinese cypress forests in Chilan Mountain in central Taiwan.

Taiwanese reporters commented that in the past the news media cast the Nationalist (KMT) government officials as the “bad guys” on environmental issues while the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) used to play the role of environmental champions. As the DPP moved into power in the year 2000, the environmental movement has lost a clear-cut focus of the heroes versus villains. The building of the fourth nuclear reactor on the island was a hotly debated subject during the 2000 presidential campaign, which swept the DPP’s candidate Chen Shui-bian to power. But much of the debate was overshadowed by corruption charges against the ruling Nationalist Party and ironically, the environmental reporting on the nuclear power plant took a back seat.

Hong Kong: Environment as Local Health and Lifestyle Issues

For years, air pollution has been a staple subject for Hong Kong environmental reporters. The urban canyon of tall buildings traps emissions from vehicles and creates smog that poses health risks. Hong Kong environmental reporters have found it difficult to sustain reader interest in this chronic pollution problem. However, an event last year greatly energized environmental reporting. In October 2000, a coalition of green groups successfully challenged a HK\$7 billion (U.S.\$900 million) plan to build a rail spur in the New Territories that would cut through a wetland habitat for rare birds. The debate on protecting the wetlands, energetic anti-

rail demonstrations, and the final defeat of the proposed project gave environmental reporters an exciting story to report. Some of the campaign stories even appeared on the front page of the newspapers.

Hong Kong environmental reporters also have covered controversies over the building of a refuse treatment plant on Peng Chau Island and the creation of a Disney theme park on Lantau Island, both of these projects will adversely impact the coral reef. Ironically, after the NGOs scored the wetland victory, many Hong Kong legislators have become more cautious on environmental issues. Because Hong Kong’s economic growth is slowing and unemployment rising, legislators tend to avoid words and actions that could be perceived as anti-development by their constituents commented Olga Wong, a reporter at the *Ming Pao* newspaper.

Rising public attention on the potential health impacts from consuming genetically modified foods challenges environmental reporters to educate themselves in order to present a balanced picture to their readers, Wong says. She also noted that environmental news often is tucked in the community section of the newspapers. Many Hong Kong journalists find it difficult to elicit editor interest in environmental topics that do not have an immediate impact on Hong Kong, such as Mongolian sandstorms.

Needed: Technical Knowledge and Access to Information

All the reporters attending the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* in Hong Kong agreed that they need more training in the technical areas of environmental science, as well as an expanded knowledgebase in the global context of environmental problems. They also emphasized that learning from the personal experiences of veteran reporters and having thoughtful discussions on cultural and philosophical issues could help them do a better job.

The overwhelming amount of available scientific information, much of which is presented as hypotheses, poses special challenges for reporters to communicate to the readers. Another issue that challenges reporters while writing their stories is the new twist to the perennial theme of development competing with conservation. Specifically, the option to use newer technology to solve environmental problems created by older technology. Therefore, environmental reporters need to rethink their former dichotomous approaches to writing about the environment and explore the potential of new clean technology.

For a variety of reasons, some environmental prob-

lems have been all but ignored in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. For example, in Taiwan and Hong Kong, the new dangers of high-tech indoor pollution have not been adequately addressed. As those economies are now heavily dependent on the electronic industries for growth, there is a reluctance to explore the health hazards from new sources of pollutants. In Mainland China sensitive questions of hazardous waste disposal and processing are rarely reported, for this issue is likely to highlight the tension between the rich coastal provinces and the poor inland provinces.

In a workshop session, Dr. Sai S. Chan (professor of medicine on leave from Oregon Health Science University) urged reporters to dig beneath the surface on environmental stories and not stop at the episodic level of reporting. Specifically, reporters should pay more attention to the range of possible solutions and how citizens can help the government to design laws to protect the environment. Dr. Chan gave a brief tour of intriguing topics in current international research on environmental health. For example, “gender discrimination” in the environment is a concept that refers to women’s greater vulnerability to environmental hazards because of their hormonal cycles. Research has shown that the sharp rise of female cancer rates in the last decade is directly linked to pollutants in the environment. “We protect the environment to protect ourselves,” Dr. Chan argued.

During the two days of the *Green NGO and Envi-*

ronmental Journalist Forum, environmental reporters made large strides in understanding each other and the different political and economic systems that shape their views. All the reporters, to some extent, feel the commercial pressure on responsible coverage of environmental issues. For example, reporters in Taiwan and Hong Kong, where newspapers are commercial enterprises, are keenly aware that environmental stories can hardly compete with sensational crime and sex stories in attracting readers and advertisers. Unless stories become political, public interest in environmental issues is difficult to sustain. Even Mainland Chinese environmental reporters wonder aloud if their publications would survive on their own without government subsidies.

Many journalists at the forum also mentioned that environmental reporters also need better writing and editing skills to tell a good story. In telling their stories however, the journalists agreed they must strike a balance between promoting awareness and remaining unbiased. All came to a consensus that it is in this area that reporters from Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong can learn from each other. “We all use the Chinese language, but until now we have had less contact with each other than with other international environmental groups,” one participant stated. The frank discussions at the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* promised to be the beginning of a stimulating exchange and friendship for those environmental reporters.

Harmony in Diversity: The Relationship Between Environmental Journalists and Green NGOs in China

Hu Kanping, Editor, China Green Times

Chinese environmental journalists and activists are both “green.” While they operate in different professional spheres they share feelings of social responsibility to fight against environmental degradation by unifying a variety of social forces. This common concern for the environment has created a solid basis for cooperation between journalists and environmental activists in China. However, because environmental journalists and green nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) ultimately play different roles in society, their methods, channels, goals, and range of influence differ. Therefore, Chinese environmental journalists and activists work both independently and together. Their similarities and differences can be expressed in the analogy that they are a harmonizing string quartet rather than ballet dancers moving with identical steps.

Reciprocity is the bond that ties environmental journalists and NGOs. As a journalist and editor for an environmental newspaper, I have been exploring successful ways to enhance social impacts of the news media by cooperating with both domestic and international NGOs for many years. For example, with the help of the *International Fund for Animal Welfare*, we at the *China Green Times* sent free subscriptions of environmental newspapers to biology and geography middle school teachers and teaching teams in Beijing. The Japanese NGO *OISCA* and my newspaper staff planted trees to create the Sino-Japanese Youth Green Memorial Forest. Some on the newspaper staff also have worked together with the Beijing-based NGO *Friends of Nature* to develop the “Return the Birds to the Blue Sky” campaign, which opposes the caging of wild birds. The

China Green Times also partnered with the *China Wildlife Protection Association* (Editor's Note: this is a government organized NGO, founded in early 1980s) to create National Student Green Reporting Teams, which provide middle and elementary school students with opportunities to learn about journalism and wild animals.

Through these activities, the *China Green Times* journalists not only attracted more readers throughout China, but also were able to identify new and relevant environmental problems to target in future reporting. The increased recognition and new areas of reporting improved our newspaper's reputation. Notably, the green NGOs, with whom we worked closely, also benefited in that they obtained their goals using fewer resources and energy. Despite the different strategies, appropriate cooperation between environmental journalists and green NGOs empowers both in their efforts to raise environmental awareness among the public.

Environmental news media organizations and NGO cooperation unifies their unique strengths. These two professional groups can support each other through exchanging information and human resources, as well as sharing insights on public opinion and environmental ideology. In today's China, environmental NGOs are both the main organizing body and driving force in the civic environmental movement. The growing number of diverse NGOs are acting as the explorers and promoters of environmental ethics and values, as well as playing the role of information clearinghouses and idea generators for environmental issues. Therefore, green NGOs are irreplaceable sources of information and support for the environmental news media. Besides obtaining valuable news clues and analytical articles from environmental NGO activists, our editors and journalists often consult with them on questions of environmental politics and culture, as well as issues of green consumption, green products, green labeling, and green architecture.

All news media organizations in China (including those with an environmental focus) function to some extent as the voice of the government. Dramatically different from its counterparts in western countries, the Chinese news media is often depicted as the ears, eyes, and tongue of the government, with the news partially colored and censored to fit the official line. However, in light of the intertwined relationship between the news media and government, environmental journalists may help build a bridge to link green NGOs with the government and other sectors of the society. Such linkages can help green NGOs develop their reputa-

tion, and facilitate their activities.

One particularly striking "Chinese characteristic" of China's environmental sector is that there are many "ambidextrous" environmental advocates—in other words many "greenies" are both environmental journalists and NGO activists. I am a perfect example, for I direct a department in a major environmental newspaper and also hold memberships in two green NGOs. Most of the members in Chinese NGOs are volunteers devoting their free time. Clearly, the journalists who choose to actively participate in NGO activities are



Ray Cheung (*Journalism and Media Studies Centre*) relaxes during a break in the journalist workshop on air quality reporting.

motivated to serve the public and not to make personal gain. Moreover, a mature journalist active as a volunteer in an NGO will not give up his or her independent judgment in reporting. In fact, it is not uncommon that journalists raise sharp criticism towards the NGOs to which they belong. Journalists are more often common members as opposed to leaders in the NGOs. For example, I used to do administrative work and edit books for the *Friends of Nature*.

Today, environmental journalism is in its nascent stage in comparison to the broader news media in China. Similarly, green NGOs are a relatively new kind of social organization. Chinese environmental journalists and activists support each other, both struggling as their organizations steadily grow. While they stand on different soil, they are bathed in the same sunlight.

Facing a Half-Transformed Society

Liao Yunchang, Reporter, Taiwan Independent Times

As the Taiwanese political system has increasingly democratized, the public in Taiwan has witnessed a growing diversity in news media organizations. The increase in privately run cable networks and the explosion in the use of the Internet have fundamentally changed the previous practice of the news media being the propaganda tool of the government. The growth in



Ding Jing from the *WWF-China* office pitches an environmental story to convince the panel of journalist judges to cover her imaginary NGO's story.

The growth in the number of media corporations and Web-based news outlets has broadened the kinds of news coverage in Taiwan, which has allowed a greater diversity of voices to be heard and opened up reporting on previously ignored issues.

This expansion in freedom for the news media has enabled many journalists to seek out the previously unheard or weaker voices in the society, which explains why today there is considerably more coverage of environmental campaigns and activities in Taiwanese newspapers than ever before. Before the ending of martial law in 1987, the government limited news media reporting on protests against nuclear power plants and polluting factories. Over the past two decades as Taiwan's political system has opened up, many newspapers have begun to report

and print editorials voicing the concerns of environmentalists and the stories of pollution victims.

While the news media organizations in Taiwan have begun to pay more attention to environmental issues, such reporting is not perfect. In an attempt to balance the coverage and make up for the long-term neglect of environmental organizations, more journalists now try to report on environmental problems and activism.

Despite their willingness to research and report on environmental issues, Taiwanese journalists today still are constrained in their environmental reporting. Today's obstacles stem not from political bans, rather from economic motivation of the news media industry.

Ultimately, news media organizations wish to publish only those opinions acceptable to the newspaper's financial backers and the mainstream political line. In short, the organizations and advertisers that back a news media company ultimately set the tone of the news reported. Not surprisingly, many of the demands that environmental groups make vis-à-vis the business community and the government in Taiwan often conflict with the profit motivation of the news media industry. In light of this pressure to tow the newspaper's line, journalists may not fully report the real opinions or main concerns of environmental NGOs. In addition, environmental reporting is sometimes incomplete because journalists may lack the scientific expertise to understand the environmental issues being debated. Taiwanese journalists reporting on the environment also need to be careful about being biased in their reporting or too shallow in their coverage.

Standing at the dividing line between pollution and a clean environment, with the cross of professional ethics on their back, Taiwanese environmental journalists face a semi-transformed society. Freed from the clasp of authoritarian control, the news media in Taiwan is now confronted with the temptations and challenges of a free market. Clearly, with the new pressures from the corporate (rather than the governmental) powers it is a constant challenge to ensure accurate representation—and interpretation—of environmental news in Taiwan.

Section VI Feature Boxes of NGO Participants

環保

Black-Necked Crane Association

Established: December 1998

Where: Zhao Tong, Yunnan Province, China

Founder: Mr. Sun Dehui

Current Membership/Staff: 208 (Nationwide)

Funding: Membership fee (30 RMB/person, 15 RMB/student, exempt for farmers)

Major Activities to Date

- Feed and protect black-necked cranes over the past winters;
- Deliver telescopes and necessary medicine to local farmers to enable them to find and treat injured black-necked cranes;
- Publish *Black-Necked Crane* newsletter periodically; and,
- Facilitate scientific research, recording the number of black-necked cranes and their habits during the winter season.

Projects and Activities Under Development

- Collect funding to purchase corn and potatoes for feeding black-necked cranes;
- Conduct research on habitats of black-necked cranes in Yunnan, Guizhou, and Sichuan Provinces;

- Find alternative fuel for local farmers so they will not overuse the grass from local wetlands and destroy the ecosystem in the Zhao Tong area;
- Collect funding to support medical facilities for injured cranes;
- Build a crane protection office in Zhao Tong; and,
- Make videotapes for educating local farmers about the cranes.

Mr. Sun Dehui, a true naturalist, started photographing the black-necked crane, the most precious crane on the earth, eight years ago. He has traveled to all the habitats of the black-necked crane in Yunnan and neighboring provinces, published over 10 papers, and taken more than 9,000 pictures of this graceful endangered crane. After he founded this organization, he has put in all his personal savings to support and educate local farmers to realize his dream of recreating a safe and peaceful winter “home” for around 4,000 black-necked cranes in Zhao Tong.

Contact Information: Mr. Wang Shaorong, 89 Wen Chang Road, Zhao Tong, Yunnan 657000, China
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Friends of Green

Established: November 2000

Where: Tianjin, China, registered as *Tianjin Environmental Science Association Green Education Committee* under Tianjin Municipal Government, Ministry of Civil Affairs

Founder: Professor Zhu Huan, President, College of Environmental Engineering, Nan Kai University

Current Membership/Staff: Over 100 individual members and 10 institutional members (Predominantly in Tianjin)

Funding: N/A

Projects and Activities Under Development

- Organize environmental education among citizens;
- Conduct periodic surveys of public opinion on particular environmental problems and generate policy recommendations based on survey findings; and,
- Promote transnational cooperation among NGOs.

Friends of Green is the first nongovernmental environmental organization in Tianjin, which is one of the

four cities in China directly under the administration of the central government. Ms. Sun Yanjun, a full-time radio reporter at Tianjin People's Radio, is the General Secretary of *Friends of Green*. Ms. Sun commented at the forum that *Global Village of Beijing* has given *Friends of Green* important support and advice. Recently, at the radio station Ms. Sun

created a daily half-hour program, "Green Global Village," in which she attempts to use the program to help victims of pollution.

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Friends of the Earth, Guizhou

Established: 1997

Where: Guiyang, Guizhou Province, China, registered as *Friends of the Earth Guizhou Environmental-Ecological Education Base* under Guizhou Provincial Government, Ministry of Education

Founder: Professor Yang Jiongli and Mr. Xiao Jinyuan

Current Membership/Staff: Over 6000 (Predominantly in Guizhou Province)

Funding: Internal funds

Major Activities to Date

- Ran a series of lectures on environmental issues in schools and colleges;
- Published Environmental education textbooks;
- Established Cao Hai Ecological Education Base; and,
- Held Student camps in nature reserves

Projects and Activities Under Development

- Running Student bird watching activities;
- Cooperating with business corporations and government agencies on the management and maintenance of Cao Hai Ecological Education Base; and,
- Enlarging the group of volunteer lecturers and developing networks among governmental officials, school-teachers, parents, and students.

As an environmental scientist and bird expert, Professor Yang Jiongli spent his entire career working in the Guizhou Provincial Government's Environmental Protection Bureau and research institutes. In 1995, Professor Yang was invited by Dr. Ng Cho Nam (Hong Kong University and key member of the green NGO *Conservancy Association*) to participate in the *Southeast Asian Environmental Education Conference*. At the conference Professor Yang was literally shocked to learn

about the proliferation and effectiveness of green NGOs in Southeast Asian countries. He thus was inspired to embark on a new kind of work to undertake practical grassroots environmental work in China. Two years later when Professor Yang retired at the age of 55, he put all his savings into establishing *Friends of the Earth, Guizhou*. To date, this NGO still depends on research funding raised by professor Yang and his colleagues. Despite the limited funds, with the support and voluntary contributions from teachers, researchers, and parents, *Friends of the Earth, Guizhou* has been able to continue to give environmental education lectures in schools and colleges. In order to create more sustainable funding, beginning in 2001, Professor Yang and his colleagues adopted a new approach. Specifically, the organization established and became one of the shareholders of the Cao Hai Ecological Education Base, which is supposed to hold environmental education activities and camps in the future. In this way, they can subsidize their NGO from the funds raised by the Education Base. Hopefully, this new public-private-NGO partnership can help the organization become financially self-sufficient, as well as maintain this important environmental education center. *Friends of the Earth, Guizhou* also has worked together with the Hong Kong *Conservancy Association* in bird-watching activities in the past few years.

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Environmental Volunteer Association of Sichuan University

Established: 1995

Where: Sichuan University, Sichuan, China

Founder: Lu Hongyan

Membership/Staff: Several hundred student members

Funding: Donations from Chinese companies, universities, and local environmental protection bureaus, as well as project grants from international environmental NGOs

Major Activities to Date

- Set up environmental education activities in and around Sichuan University, including talks, debates, exhibitions, film festivals, tree planting, community surveys, field research, and events in primary schools.
- Reform and improvement of environmental curriculum in Sichuan University. Current environmental courses offered include: (1) Environment and Sustainable Development (required for all undergraduates); (2) Environmental Course for MBA students; and (3) Teacher Training Program (required for environment education graduate students).
- Create the first Environmental Education Center at

a Chinese university. This center that the *Environmental Volunteer Association* is currently setting up will aim to: (1) coordinate and systemize all of the programs mentioned above; (2) facilitate the development of student environmental groups in China (the Web site www.greensos.org is under design to connect student environment groups nationwide); (3) develop teaching/learning methods applying information technology tools; (4) strengthen the partnerships between schools, government departments, concerned organizations (nationally and internationally), and various community efforts; and (5) look for international partners to promote cross-border communication, research, and projects to involve young people in environmental protection.

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Web Site: www.greensos.org

Green Plateau

Established: March 2000

Where: Work activities done in Diqing Prefecture, Zhongdian Village in Yunnan Province, registered under Beijing Western District Industrial Bureau

Founders: Ms. Shi Lihong and Mr. Xi Zhinong

Current Membership/Staff: Three regular staff members (not a membership-based organization)

Funding: Grants from environmental foundations and individual donations

Major Activities to Date

Zhenxi district in northwest Yunnan where *Green Plateau* operates is an area rich in biodiversity. Through environmental education and other projects *Green Plateau* aims to increase people's environmental awareness and promote sustainable development.

- Environmental Education: (a) Diqing Prefecture environmental education teacher training; (b) Diqing Prefecture elementary school "Love and Protect Diqing's Environment" essay and picture contest; and,
- Nature conservation and social development: (a) Naren Village villager mountain patrol project; (b) Naren Vil-

lage redesign of traditional housing project; (c) Naren Village women's weaving project.

Xi Zhinong and Shi Lihong, who are innovators in the environmental NGO sphere in China, run *Green Plateau*. Xi Zhinong is a photographer whose photos of Yunnan Province's endangered golden snub-nosed monkey in 1996 sparked government action to protect the monkey's habitat. Shi Lihong has considerable experience in environmental NGO work in China with *Friends of Nature*, the *Tibetan Antelope Information Center*, and *WWF-China*. Today, while *Green Plateau* is an organization only in its infancy, its work as one of the few Chinese green NGOs undertaking grassroots work in a remote rural region has drawn the attention of environmental NGOs and foundations in China and internationally. Similar to other new Chinese NGO activists, Shi Lihong and Xi Zhinong have recognized the need to professionalize the management of their group in order to create a sustainable organization. Therefore, Shi Lihong has traveled to other countries to take courses on NGO management.

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Tibetan Antelope Information Center

Established: 1998

Where: Beijing, China; not formally registered as an NGO, rather consists of a network of volunteers disseminating information on wild animal protection

Founders: Ms. Shi Lihong and Mr. Hu Jia. Shi Lihong used to work with *WWF-China* news office. Today she runs two organizations: the *Beijing Volunteer Rural Ecological Development Research Center* and *Green Plateau*. In 1998, Hu Jia began the management of the *Friends of Nature* Web site. Today he also manages the *Tibetan Antelope Information Center* (TAIC)

Current Membership/Staff: Seven core organizing volunteers

Funding: *Worldwide Fund for Nature—China*, *International Fund for Animal Welfare* (China office), and *Friends of Nature* provide considerable information and pictures to TAIC. In 2001, TAIC received a US\$1000 grant from the U.S.-based foundation *Global Green Grants*

Major Activities to Date

- By gathering and disseminating current news, updates on Chinese animal protection laws, scholarly research, and international trends on the Tibetan antelope and other endangered species, TAIC has become the authoritative information clearinghouse on Tibetan antelope in China.
- The TAIC network has promoted greater news media coverage and public discussion of the endangered Tibetan antelope, which in turn has sparked private sector and government organizations to devote more funding and personnel to the protection and support of the antelope.
- In addition to disseminating information, TAIC brings together individuals from academic, NGO, and government spheres to work together in their endangered species protection work.

Illegal wild animal poaching began to grow considerably in the 1980s, particularly in sparsely populated

areas on the Tibetan Plateau and Western Sichuan. There are upwards of 100,000 individuals involved in these highly profitable poaching activities. However, not all poaching has been motivated by profit. For example, in some areas of Western China food shortages led poachers to massacre wild animals in order to feed their families. As the number of poachers has grown and local government monitoring of wild animal habitats has remained lax, poachers have carried out massive slaughters of Tibetan antelopes throughout the year. It was not until 1995 that the local governments and citizens responded by setting up wild animal patrols to halt the cruel slaughter of antelopes. The hardships endured by these wild animal patrols have been great. The murders of some of patrollers by poachers sparked anger among the environmentalists in Beijing and throughout China and ultimately led to the creation of TAIC. Today, TAIC is at the frontline of the battle against illegal poaching in China. TAIC issues timely reports on illegal poaching in Kekexila and posts current animal protection laws in China and information on international animal protection organizations on the Internet. TAIC is an all-volunteer network made up of a core of committed individuals (Xu Jian, Wu Yong, Yang Yang, Huang Jingwen, Run Baohua, Ma Zhao) who assist Hu Jia. All of these and previous volunteers have full-time jobs or go to school, which has resulted in a high volunteer turnover rate at TAIC. Similar to volunteer organizations the world over, TAIC needs to develop a more stable staffing system in order to become a more sustainable organization.

Contact Information:

Hu Jia, TAIC, Beijing City 100025, Chaoyang District, Shili Baobeili, Building Number 4, 421, China
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Fax: 86-10-85838966
E-mail: hujia@taic.org or hujia@public.bta.net.cn
Web Site: www.taic.org

GreenRiver

Established: Began work end of 1994; obtained formal registration 1999

Where: Registered with the Sichuan Provincial Cultural Affairs Bureau under the name *Sichuan Provincial GreenRiver Environmental Protection Association*. In 1994, *GreenRiver* began to set up ecological monitoring stations at the source of the Yangtze and in the Tongtian River Basin. In May 1996, *GreenRiver* initiated construction of another monitoring station at Suonandajie (in the North river basin of the Yangtze headwaters), which began operations in 1997.

Founder: Mr. Yang Xin

Current Membership/Staff: Between 10-20 volunteers at any one time (*GreenRiver* is sustained by a rotating population of volunteers from the local community and universities throughout China)

Funding: Receives donations and assistance from other environmental NGOs and foundations (For example Hong Kong's *Friends of the Earth*, *International Fund for Animal Welfare*), as well as donations from businesses and individuals. Yang Xin also has raised money from the sale of two photo-essay books on the Yangtze River to establish the Suonandajie Protection Station on the Tibetan Plateau in 1999.

Projects and Activities Under Development

GreenRiver's activities that aim to protect the source of the Yangtze River include:

- Construct ecological monitoring station, cooperate with local scientific research organizations and journalists to survey and research the quality of the Yangtze River headwaters in order to accumulate baseline data on the health of the river and to help design an effective environmental protection plan for the basin;
- Use the monitoring stations to assist local governments in developing anti-poaching patrols;
- Recruit volunteers to educate local rural communities and tourists about the threats to the Yangtze River ecosystem;
- Complete the construction of the Suonandajie moni-

toring station through the purchase of scientific equipment and integrate the station into the local community;

- Conduct ecological surveys of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River in order to promote the protection work of the upper river areas;
- Use television and photographic essay books to expand the understanding and concern for the fragile ecosystem of the Yangtze River source more broadly throughout China. Past books include: *The Yangtze Spirit* (1997), *The Sources of the Yangtze* (2000), and *Wildlife in the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River* (forthcoming);
- Construct a privately-run environmental protection education center in the Jinsha River Basin; and,
- Create a "panda car" mobile educational program to visit 50 schools each year and give environmental education classes.

As a photographer and explorer with a passion for the Yangtze River, Yang Xin's numerous rafting trips down the river in the 1980s enabled him to see first hand the growing destruction of the basin's ecosystem. He was thus inspired to become an environmental activist and establish *GreenRiver* in 1994. He has traveled extensively throughout China not only to raise funds for his NGO, but also to set up environmental campaigns to raise awareness of the ecological threats to the Yangtze River Basin. He spends approximately half of each year working under harsh conditions at the monitoring stations. *GreenRiver* is distinctive in that it is one of the first registered rural-based grassroots NGOs in China. Moreover, *GreenRiver* is unique in its role to bring together scientific experts and volunteers to remote regions in western China.

Contact Information: GreenRiver, 27 Jianshenanxin Road, Chengdu, Sichuan Province 610051, China
Telephone: 86-28-4328252 Fax: 86-28-4365832
E-mail: greenriver@mail.sc.cninfo.net
Web Site: <http://green-river.org>

Global Village of Beijing

Established: March, 1996

Where: Beijing, China, registered under the Industry and Commerce Administration Bureau of Beijing as a private corporation

Founder: Ms. Sheri Liao

Membership/Staff: 11 full-time staff and numerous volunteers, but no members

Funding: Donations and project grants from Chinese and international foundations, corporations and individuals



Chung Ming-Kuang (*Meinung Conservation Association*) and Song Qinghua (*Global Village Beijing*) converse in a quiet moment during the forum

Major Activities to Date

- *Promote practice of sustainable consumption:* (1) Using a variety of methods, *Global Village of Beijing* (GVB) has disseminated the concept of sustainable consumption among the public. Since 1996, GVB has produced 300 weekly television programs such as “Time for the Environment” on CCTV-7; (2) GVB initiated the idea of Earth Day in China and collaborated with five other Chinese NGOs to organize the event in the year 2000; (3) GVB also prints educational materials such as guidebooks, video compact discs, calendars, brochures, and posters for distribution to communities and schools, enterprises and related government departments.
- *Green community development.* In December of 1996, GVB helped the Neighborhood Committee of Dachengxian of Xicheng District set up the first garbage-sorting site, and cooperated with District Government of Xuanwu to set up in Jiangongnanli the first Green Community in China. The Green

Community will: (1) focus on green buildings, energy and water conservation, garbage sorting; and (2) organize a representative body composed of community residents, NGOs, and government officials.

Projects and Activities Under Development

- *Environmental education and training center.* GVB’s training center is located 70 kilometers outside of Beijing in Yanqing County. Surrounded by mountains, forests, springs and wetlands, the training center covers over 187 hectares of wilderness. As an NGO-managed conservation area, the goal of the center is to provide biodiversity protection, environmental education, consultation, and training programs to the public.
- *The green Olympics.* The GVB director sits on the consulting team for the Beijing Olympic Games Bid Committee and has been involved in Beijing’s proposal for greening the games. GVB worked with the *Beijing Young Pioneers Work Committee* to send environmental cards to 830,000 elementary students to encourage them to make environmental commitments with their parents.
- *International outreach.* GVB uses its international status to promote the public environmental movement and civil society development in China. From 1998 to 2000, GVB was appointed the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) NGO Regional Focal Point and in 2001 was appointed China’s NGO Focal Point. GVB is also a member of the *World Nature League Education Committee* of IUCN and member of the *Asia-Pacific Environment Journalist League*. In July of 1998, the director of GVB attended the Environmental Roundtable Meeting held by U.S. President Bill Clinton in Guilin, China.

The founder and current director of GVB, Ms. Sheri Liao, studied in the United States in the early 1990s and became aware of the development of environmental movements in both America and other countries. She then made the decision to improve environmental awareness in China by establishing GVB in 1996. Today, GVB has substantial influence on public opinion, news media coverage, policymaking and international institutions. Ms. Liao was honored with the Sophy Award in 2000, a European award to distinguished individuals in environmental protection.

Contact Information:

No. 86 Bei Yuan Road, Jiaming Garden, Chaoyang
Distract Beijing 100101, China
Telephone 86-10-64891037, 64891038

Fax 86-10-64946235

E-mail: gvb@public3.bta.net.cn

Web Site: www.gvb.org.cn

Homemakers' Union and Foundation

Established: June 1987

Where: Headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan; regional office in Taizhong

Founder: Numerous women

Current Membership/Staff: 5,000 members and approximately 100 volunteers and seven paid staff run the organization

Funding: 600 (NTB) yearly membership fee, Honor Member 10,000 (NTB), private donations and donations and grants for specific research projects

Major Activities to Date

- Supervised the implementation of the government's "trash sorting, recycling, reduction" program;
- Set up "Environmental Mothers Camp" and environmental protection courses in order to encourage more homemakers to participate in environmental and consumer protection activities;
- Used television, newspapers, and meetings in the community, schools, and local businesses to promote green consumerism, environmentally friendly offices, and environmental lifestyles;
- Promoted waste reduction through campaigns to encourage people to carry their own chopsticks, use cloth bags, and refrain from using disposable cups and plates;
- Promoted recycling of hazardous household wastes in order to create toxic-free homes;

- Set up pilot projects for composting kitchen wastes;
- Established a small-scale waste reduction project to recycle cooked oil to make soap; and,
- Conducted environmental sanitation assessments and community-level environmental surveys.

As one of the oldest nonprofit green groups in Taiwan, the *Homemakers' Union and Foundation* aims to unite women to help improve the natural environment and promote environmental education. In the mid-1980s this NGO, like most green groups in Taiwan, participated in street demonstrations and protests. One of the group's early actions consisted of women dumping garbage in the offices of legislators to protest the lack of recycling programs on the island. While such techniques led to the arrests of these women, these protests did eventually convince the Taiwanese government of the need for establishing recycling programs. The *Homemakers' Union and Foundation* often has united with other Taiwanese environmental groups and the Ecological Protection Federation to work jointly on anti-nuclear energy campaigns and other issues.

Contact Information:

Taiwan, 100 Taipei, Ding Zhou Street, Section 3,
Alley 160, Number 4, 5th Floor 1

Telephone: 886-2-23686211

E-mail: homemakr@ms15.hinet.net

Web Site: <http://forum.yam.org.tw/women>

Green Formosa Front

Established: June 1997

Where: Taipei, Taiwan

Founders: Ms. Fu Chia Chieh together with dozens of other individual environmental activists

Current Membership/Staff: 15 staff (7 fulltime) and some volunteers. This NGO does not devote energy to develop a broad-based membership

Funding: The majority of the funding comes from governmental and other competitive grants

Activities and Projects Under Development

Green Formosa Front accomplishes their grassroots and environmental justice objectives through research projects, protests, campaigns, and work with local community groups. Some specific areas include:

- Policy research and evaluation in: (1) toxic waste disposal; (2) energy policy and electricity laws; (3) garbage fee collection and recycling strategies; (4) mountain ecology protection; and (5) agricultural and organic foods policies;

- Organizational development to build closer ties among environmental activists and volunteers: (1) book club; (2) social activities among environmental activists; and (3) student camps; and,
- Specialized research projects: (1) Taipei City community planning; (2) grassroots organizing to promote sustainable development in the areas hit by the 1999 earthquake; (3) agricultural production and sales studies, (4) study promoting the use of livestock waste as organic fertilizer; and 5) coastal problems and water quality index.

In addition to the above activities, *Green Formosa Front* also organizes campaigns critiquing specific policies and government officials. In one recycling policy case, *Green Formosa Front* sued inefficient Environment Protection Administration officials in court. In 1998, this NGO also started a campaign to persuade the Taipei City government to begin the pay-by-bag policy, in order

to teach the public the take on the true cost of garbage disposal. In Taipei, this policy led to an increase in recycling from 2.3 percent to nearly 40 percent of total waste generation. The *Green Formosa Front's* policy advocacy work even has gone beyond Taiwan's borders when in 1998 staff from this NGO went to Cambodia to collect proof that Formosa Plastics in Taiwan had exported mercury-contaminated waste. This issue not only brought *Green Formosa Front* international attention, but also empowered the group to push for better industrial waste policies in Taiwan.

Contact Information:

Green Formosa Front, 106 Taipei City, Shin Yi Street, Section 3, Alley 147, Lane 36, Number 22. Taiwan
Telephone: 886-2-270-80961
E-mail: gff@gff.org.tw
Web Site: www.gff.org.tw

Society of Wilderness

Established: 1995

Where: Headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan with several offices and training centers in Taipei, as well as offices in Taizhong, Chiayi, Kaohsiung, Hualian. Internationally there are offices in Malaysia and Nicaragua

Founder: Dr. Hsu Jen-Shiu, nature photographer

Current Membership/Staff: Over 5,000 members and between 20-30 staff members and volunteers

Funding: Membership dues, donations, and fees from classes and seminars

Major Activities to Date

- Holds more than 500 speeches and guest lectures and hosts more than 150 nature camps in Taiwan each year;
- Publishes *SOW Magazine* and *SOW Newsletter*;
- Hosts five radio shows in different cities throughout Taiwan;
- Conducts 20 training programs and seminars each year (including nature interpreter training, ecological writing, nature photography);
- Cooperates with the Provincial Museum to bring the exhibitions such as "The Original Face of Taiwan" on tour around the island; and,
- Protects Taiwan's wild lands. Members of the *Society of Wilderness (SOW)* have become guardians of Taiwan's wild lands through activities such as: (1) rescuing portions of the eastern coastline from over-development; (2) defending the Shui-Lian area from a private-sector power plant on aboriginal lands; and (3) saving the last

habitat of Taiwan's native carnivorous plant in Hsin-Tzu County.

Projects and Activities Under Development

- Establishing a children's nature education system, which would create education materials, train teachers and young nature interpreters, and set up a nature education facility;
- Raising funds to acquire more wilderness areas and let natural processes take over to help preserve wild species;
- Expanding programs to train naturalists and conservation personnel;
- Forming a legal group to monitor national environmental legislation and policy;
- Overseeing the management of national parks and publishing a *National Parks White Paper*; and,
- Assisting governmental agencies in protecting water, soil and other natural resources.

Members of this NGO believe that "wilderness is where life begins." The founder of *SOW* believes that Taiwan has been overdeveloped and in the process people have achieved only superficial material gains at the cost of the degradation of the island's natural beauty, the extinction of species, and an increasing frequency of natural disasters. The group was established with the goal to defend the last wilderness areas for this and future generations in Taiwan. The core *SOW* mission is to obtain

the guardianship and management rights of wilderness areas, allowing nature to manage and revive itself. Such land protection is done by establishing protected areas through land purchases, long-term leases, trusts, and donations. Through their activities they aim to raise funds to acquire wilderness areas and promote awareness for nature conservation by providing opportunities for ecological education.

Contact Information:

The Society of Wilderness, 177 Taipei, Wenshan District, Hsing Lung Street, Section 1, Number 113, Taiwan

Telephone: 886-2-29303193

Fax: 886-2-2934-6318

E-mail: sowtw@ms10.hinet.net

Web site: www.sow.org.tw

Kaohsiung City Teachers Ecological Education Center

Established: June 1998

Where: Taiwan, Kaohsiung City

Founder: Mr. Li Ken Cheng

Current Membership/Staff: Core membership 11-15 teachers, as well as a broader network of approximately 100 teachers from all levels of schools and concerned citizens in Kaohsiung City, who wish to help promote ecological education

Funding: N/A

Projects and Activities Under Development

- Working to build up a foundation for environmental education teaching in Taiwan by creating short-term training classes on water resource problems and protecting mountains and forests. Over the past three years approximately 3,000 people have participated in training courses and other activities at the ecological education center. These activities have led the educational community in Kaohsiung City to develop a greater awareness on the need to teach environmental education;
- Promoting awareness on the need to protect forests and private and public parks;
- Undertaking a broad range of research and survey work; and,
- Publishing a quarterly journal and developing teaching materials, with the goal of creating a strong foundation for environmental education teaching.

In the NGO capacity building session at the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* in Hong Kong Li Ken Cheng told a story and showed pictures of some of the activities undertaken by the members of the *Kaohsiung City Teachers Ecological Education Center*. One of these pictures depicted several of the center's teachers talking to some rural citizens about protecting forestlands. The rural residents misinterpreted the teachers' call to protect the forests and thought they were being told to leave their ancestral land. Moreover, they

did not understand why the teachers said they should stop cutting down trees on their own land. A debate started and tempers began to fly, which culminated in



Two Taiwanese environmentalists, Lin Shen Tzung (a.k.a. "The Crow Spirit") and Lin Ken Cheng (*Kaohsiung City Teachers Ecological Education Center*), engrossed in conversation

the teachers from the *Ecological Education Center* getting beaten up! Lin Ken Cheng and his bruised colleagues did not lose heart and their attackers later regretted their actions. Li commented that environmental NGO work is clearly a profession with risks!

Contact Information:

100 Taipei City, Hangzhou Street, Section 1, 71 Alley, 2 Floor

Telephone: 886-2-3393-1061

Fax: 886-2-3393-1065

E-mail: ntaecc@mail.nta.tp.edu.tw

801 Kaohsiung City, Qianjin District, 209 Chong Cheng Si Street, 5 Floor

Telephone: 886-7-2155660 Extension 18

Fax: 886-7-2159951

Web Site: www.nta.tp.edu.tw

Environmental NGOs in Hong Kong

1. *The Conservancy Association*

The first green NGO in Hong Kong, founded in 1968. (See Lee and Ng's presentation for details)

5A, Capri Building, 130 Austin Rd., Kowloon, Hong Kong

E-mail: cahk@netvigator.com

Web Site: www.conservancy.org.hk

2. *Friends of the Earth—Hong Kong*

A registered charity, founded in 1983, dedicated to protect and improve the environment in Hong Kong through education, research, and lobbying. With a team of 19 dedicated staff, they have a membership of more than 1,000 individuals, over 140 schools, and many NGOs.

2/F, SPA Centre, 53-55 Lockhart Rd., Wanchai, Hong Kong

E-mail: foehk@foe.org.hk

Web Site: www.foe.org.hk

3. *WWF—Hong Kong*

An independent part of the global WWF network. Over 50 full-time staff work in three offices with nine voluntary committees made up of over 50 individuals with expertise in relevant fields to provide professional advice. Current membership is over 14,000, which includes adult, junior, teacher, and family members. They have been working since 1981 to implement a wide range of conservation and environmental education programmes in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

No. 1 Tramway Path, Central, Hong Kong

E-mail: www@wwf.org.hk

Web Site: www.wwf.org.hk

4. *Greenpeace—China*

They advocate non-violent direct actions to prevent environmental damage. Current projects include campaigns for building a toxic-free Pearl River Delta, improving water quality in Dongjiang River, stopping GE food, and banning waste incineration.

1/F, Tung Lee Commercial Building, 95 Jervois St., Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

E-mail: greenpeace.china@dialb.greenpeace.org

Web Site: www.greenpeace-china.org.hk

5. *Green Power*

When it was first founded, *Green Power* aimed to promote a green lifestyle and raise public concern for local environmental issues. In recent years, they have focused

on environmental conservation. *Green Power* opened the Chinese White Dolphin Resource Center in 1997. They also joined hands with Guangzhou Environmental Protection Bureau and Guangzhou Research Institute of Environmental Protection in the establishment of the Green Field Ecological Education Center, which helps to facilitate the exchange of green education between Hong Kong and Mainland China.

G/F, 2 Jordan Rd. Kowloon, Hong Kong

E-mail: info@greenpower.org.hk

Web Site: www.greenpower.org.hk

6. *Produce Green Foundation*

A group of local environmental enthusiasts concerned about modern farming and nature protection created this charitable organization in 1988, and set up the first organic farm in Hong Kong. Today they run two organic farms (a total area of 360,000 square feet) in the New Territories. The foundation has published books, periodicals, and pamphlets on gardening, food and green living. The farm at Hok Tau sells organic vegetables and is opened to visitors everyday.

18 Hok Tau Village, Fanling, N.T. Hong Kong

E-mail: info@producegreen.org.hk

www.producegreen.org.hk

7. *Clear the Air*

They are committed to promoting the introduction and implementation of measures to significantly reduce air pollution in Hong Kong by: 1) promoting and publicizing strong, focused community support for air pollution control measures; 2) working with government and stakeholders to find practical solutions; and 3) educating the public on the threat of air pollution on human health.

8/F Eastwood Centre, 5 A Kung Ngam Village Rd., Shaukeiwan, Hong Kong

E-mail: info@cleartheair.org.hk

Web Site: www.cleartheair.org.hk

8. *Civic Exchange*

An independent, nonprofit, public policy think tank established with the mission to promote civic education, public awareness and participation in governance. *Civic Exchange* undertakes research on development economics as well as social and environmental policies and practices.

Room 601, Hoseinee House, 69 Wyndham St., Central, Hong Kong

E-mail: lisah@civic-exchange.org
 Web Site: www.civic-exchange.org

9. Green Peng Chau Association

This grassroots group was established in 1991 and aims to promote environmental education (See Sannie Chan's presentation for details)

4B, Nam Wan, Peng Chau Island, Hong Kong. Post Box No. 18, Peng Chau Post Office, Hong Kong

E-mail: gpengchaua@hkbn.net

Web Site: www.greenpengchau.org.hk

10. Tai O Culture Workshop

This group aims to serve as a gathering place where local residents on Tai O Island can participate in promoting their island's traditions, culture, and sustainable development through various research and cultural exchange activities. The Tai O Culture Workshop members are enthusiastic young people, teachers, professors, clerical workers, housewives, social workers, and students.

G/F, 54 Wing On Street, Tai O, Lantau, Hong Kong.
 Phone: 852-2985-6118

China Environment Series 4

The Working Group on Environment in U.S.-China Relations, a project within the Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and Security Project, and funded by the W. Alton Jones Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Energy Foundation, has published its fourth issue of the *China Environment Series*. A tool for researchers, policymakers, and educators, *CES* examines environmental and energy challenges facing China and explores creative ideas and opportunities for governmental and nongovernmental (NGO) cooperation.

The four feature articles in the current issue of *CES* are connected by a common theme of transition and change—specifically, how political and economic changes in China have affected the implementation of environmental and energy policies. Taken together, these articles also paint a clearer picture of the changing role local governments and NGOs (both Chinese and foreign) are playing in shaping the priorities and effectiveness of environmental protection and energy initiatives in China.

New to *CES* in this issue is a "Commentaries/Notes From the Field" section, including submissions from new China scholars and energy researchers.

CES 4 also contains an updated and expanded "Inventory of Environmental Projects in China," which describes projects conducted by U.S. government agencies as well as nongovernmental and multilateral organizations.

To obtain a copy of *China Environment Series* 4, please contact Jennifer Turner at 202-691-4233 or by email at chinaenv@erols.com. You may also download a copy from the ECSP web site at <http://ecsp.si.edu>.



The reporter Lin Ju Sen from *United Daily News* peruses a copy of the Wilson Center's *China Environment Series*.

Section VII

Cross-Regional Civil Society Dialogue and Environmental Confidence Building

Jennifer L. Turner and Fengshi Wu, Woodrow Wilson Center¹

信任

Despite growing economic and cultural linkages, relations in the Taiwan Straits continue to be colored by tension and mutual mistrust. The ongoing dispute over Taiwan's status and threats from Beijing feed the perception that the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Taiwan are on a path to inevitable confrontation and even military hostilities. The potential for such confrontation highlights the need to open more doors for dialogue and cooperation between the PRC and Taiwan. The challenge remains to find policy areas that can become catalysts for communication and confidence building across the Taiwan Straits.

For the past twenty years, there has been increasing economic interdependence between Taiwan and Mainland China, which is widely believed to promote mutual prosperity and encourage more peaceful relations. A similar logic supports the idea that enhancing the awareness of common environmental challenges and *ecological* interdependence across the Taiwan Straits also could create opportunities for mutual gain and peaceful interaction.

A major focus of the Environmental Change and Security Project's (ECSP) meetings and publications in Washington, DC has been to critique and explore the policy relevance of the growing body of research that posits environmental degradation can be a catalyst for various forms of conflict between nations, regions, and peoples.² In addition to this environmental-security agenda, since 1997, ECSP also has been running the Working Group on Environment in U.S.-China Relations, which has aimed to foster dialogue among policymakers, NGOs, and academics in the United States and China on environmental and energy cooperation. The *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* in Hong Kong was a new China Working Group initiative, which aimed to give environmental NGO activists and journalists in Greater China a chance to exchange information on their environmental education, lobbying, and government watchdog work. The goals of the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* were modest and did not directly address the

topic of cross-straits environmental cooperation. However, the enthusiastic exchange of ideas among environmentalists from both sides of the Taiwan Straits did lead us to reflect on the prospect for environmental peacemaking in this and other regions of conflict.

The Concept of Environmental Peacemaking

While there is a large body of scholarly research on the linkages between environmental degradation and conflict, there is almost no systematic research on an important corollary; namely that environmental cooperation may be a catalyst for broader processes of regional peacemaking. It merits investigation whether environmental cooperation can move beyond simply avoiding ecologically induced conflict and actually create more extensive opportunities for building peace.³

In their exploration of this question of promoting peace, Conca and Dabelko posit that environmental peacemaking can develop both through state-to-state relations and trans-societal linkages.⁴ At both levels environmental cooperation can transform the bargaining environment between countries, regions, or peoples and help to build trust and interdependence into the relationships. For example, environmental problems often develop gradually and demand a long time to solve. Thus, cooperation on environmental issues could lengthen the time horizons of political decision-makers. If countries or regions develop effective long-term cooperative strategies for environmental problems they could simultaneously instill a habit of more diffuse reciprocity in their relationship, as well as reduce the uncertainty in their interactions. Environmental cooperation at the nongovernmental level could serve to strengthen trans-societal linkages and build common norms and identity around mutual ecological concerns.

Environmental Peacemaking in the Context of Cross-Strait Relations

In light of decades of growing economic integration colored with fluctuating political tensions, it is not surprising that security and economic issues domi-

nate cross-strait dialogues and interaction. Aside from some nascent regional forums on environmental protection in Northeast Asia,⁵ at the governmental level Mainland China and Taiwan rarely cooperate on environmental issues. While there are some potential long-term environmental problems that will impact both (e.g., global climate change, fishery collapse, Mainland's acid rain problems impacting Taiwan), Taiwan and Mainland China are not facing any immediate pollution or natural resource conflict that could force them to negotiate an environmental agreement or undertake joint action. In short, there is not a strong catalyst for high-level cooperation on environmental issues in the Taiwan Straits.⁶

While there are no explosive ecological battles looming in the cross-strait region, the people in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong do face common environmental problems that stem from the rapid economic development in the region. Public opinion polls in each of the three areas cite environmental degradation, particularly air pollution, as one of the major threats to health and quality of life. Urban sprawl, groundwater pollution, and unsustainable use of surface and groundwater resources are the other problems putting pressure on the natural environment and endangering human health in each of these areas. On both sides of the Straits, the paucity of hazardous waste disposal facilities combined with the lack of community-right-to-know protections, are allowing uncontrolled contamination of soil and water. While the governments in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong all have promulgated a wide range of environmental protection laws to address these issues, each faces difficulties in monitoring and implementation. The growth in environmental NGOs and news reporting could potentially help fill the gap in monitoring environmental policies and problems. But as these proceedings highlight, green civil society organizations face numerous political, institutional, and financial challenges in Greater China. Strengthening the capacity of these groups could improve their effectiveness as environmental watchdogs and educators.

Potential of Trans-Societal Environmental Cooperation

Presentations and talks at the two-day forum revealed the dynamism and growing potential of the non-governmental sector in environmental politics in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Green NGOs are actively engaging in policymaking, problem solving, and awareness building and environmental jour-

nalists are also quite active in reporting and investigating environmental degradation and environmental activism. Promoting information sharing on common environmental problems and facilitating environmental collaboration among NGOs, academics, and news organizations within Greater China could highlight the extent of their *ecological* ties and common environmental challenges. Over time building informal “green” networks could pave the way for more formal cooperative environmental efforts to solve problems each area faces. Cooperation on common environmental challenges could build confidence in the Taiwan Straits region for the PRC and Taiwan to work together on other issues.

While environmental activism is growing within Greater China, one of our main observations from the forum and research is that communication and cooperation among these green groups and environmental journalists remain at a low level.⁷ Perhaps this lack of “green” networks is simply an outgrowth of the political complexity across the Taiwan Straits. Given the history and political obstacles in the region, as well as institutional weaknesses of the NGOs, the limited contact and exchange among grassroots environmental NGOs in Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Mainland is understandable. Nevertheless, the puzzling question is whether the enhancement in such civic exchanges and dialogues will have healthy and long-term effects on mutual confidence building among the people and governments within Greater China.⁸ A single conference cannot provide the answer to this question. However, our observations at the Hong Kong forum and reflection on the subsequent collaborative initiatives among the participants leads us to speculate on how trans-societal environmental networks could build confidence (a precursor of peace) among regions and peoples, as well as improve environmental protection initiatives. We posit that the impact of trans-societal environmental networks in the cross-strait regions could:

1. *Strengthen the effectiveness of environmental NGOs and journalism in the region.* By exchanging information with counterparts in other areas, environmental NGO activists can learn from each other and improve the capacity of their organizations. Providing environmental journalists with an opportunity to exchange stories and listen to lectures on new reporting themes helps them craft more relevant and compelling stories. Stronger and more sustainable NGOs could enhance the growth of a “green” civil society within Greater China. From their Hong Kong and Taiwan colleagues,

Mainland Chinese environmentalists can learn about networking, partnering with the private sector, and fund raising techniques. Conversely, Mainland environmental NGOs can offer their growing expertise of the advantages and pitfalls of cooperating with international NGOs and foundations.

2. *Spread new thinking on solving environmental problems beyond NGOs and journalists.* Some environmental NGOs and journalists play a crucial role in shaping ecological awareness in their communities while others influence government policymaking. Participating in dialogues with counterparts from other areas enables environmental activists and journalists to carry home new knowledge and opinions. The dissemination of new information and ideas could contribute to building common norms and understanding of the importance of environmental protection and the necessity for action.

3. *Generate more substantial domestic pressures for regional environmental cooperation.* By promoting greater understanding of environmental problems, trans-societal environmental networks could encourage or raise the interest of the respective governments to come together to address common environmental concerns.

4. *Encourage local governments and the private sector to cooperate with environmental NGOs.* While high-level environmental cooperation and dialogues are not taking place among the Mainland, Taiwanese, and Hong Kong governments, environmental NGO networks could open up opportunities for *local* governments, the private sector, and research institutes to cooperate on environmental issues. As the examples below illustrate, trans-societal environmental networking has produced some diverse and productive NGO and governmental partnerships that are addressing environmental problems in Mainland China:⁹

(a) *The South-North Institute for Sustainable Development* (A Beijing-based NGO) is working with the *Natural Resources Defense Council* and the *Taiwan Institute for Economic Research*, *Shanghai Municipal Economic Commission*, *Shanghai Tongji University*, and the *Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology* on a project to support the development and commercialization of fuel cell vehicles in the PRC (fuel cell vehicles are a key research and development objective of PRC's Tenth Five-Year Plan).

(b) *The Friends of the Earth Guizhou* (which was

founded with guidance from the *Conservancy Association* in Hong Kong) is working now with the Guizhou Provincial government and local businesses to create sustainable management programs in the Cao Hai Ecological Education Center.

(c) *The Nature Conservancy* is working with the Yunnan Provincial government and over forty university and environmental grassroots organizations in the province to implement a master plan to promote conservation and sustainable development projects within Yunnan's great river basins.

(d) *WWF-Hong Kong* periodically runs training courses in the Maipo Wetland Reserve for PRC environmental government agencies and schools.

(e) *The World Resources Institute* is partnering with the *Hong Kong Polytechnic University* and several Mainland universities to help integrate environment and sustainable development issues into Mainland Chinese business school curricula.

(f) In its Asian Elephant Habitat Conservation and Community Development Project the U.S.-based *International Fund for Animal Welfare* has brought together the *Wildlife Division of Simao Prefecture Forestry Bureau*, the *Forestry Department of Yunnan Province*, the *Institute of Ecology at Beijing Normal University*, and the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* to develop community economic programs in order to ease the pressure on farmers caused by elephant activities in Simao Prefecture.

5. *Enhance environmental NGO cooperation among Mainland Chinese NGOs.* Unlike the NGO sector in Taiwan and Hong Kong, a number of the Mainland NGOs are not aware of the existence of other environmentalists within their country! As discussed earlier in these proceedings, Taiwanese environmental NGO activists offer models for effective NGO partnering and networking. NGO gatherings, even with outside groups, has the added benefit of promoting more networking among Mainland's environmental NGO activists who could in turn build stronger information exchanges between provinces and regions within Mainland China on environmental issues. Interprovincial and intraprovincial environmental and natural resource conflicts are growing in Mainland China, so enhancing NGO networks within the country could enable Mainland environmentalists to facilitate cross-provincial cooperation.

Conclusion

The Hong Kong forum offered the participants an

opportunity to examine how environmental NGOs and news reporting have emerged, operated, and mobilized in each society, what type of difficulties they are facing, and what kinds of advantages they each enjoy. Mutual understanding of their counterparts across the Straits lays a good foundation for future dialogues among these civil society organizations. While only a short amount of time has elapsed since the forum, the *Green NGO and Environmental Journalist Forum* already has sparked some collaborative initiatives:

(1) *The Wild Bird Federation, Taiwan* began planning to help supply the *Black-necked Crane Association* at Zhaotong with telescopes to help with education activities among local farmers;

(2) The *Greenpeace-Hong Kong* office hosted a roundtable with the Taiwanese activists after the forum and explained the specifics on how to organize an online campaign against genetically modified (GM) food;

(3) The founder of the Taiwanese group *Society of Wilderness*, Hsu Jen-Shiu joined together with *GreenRiver*, a Sichuan-based NGO, to photograph the Jin Sha River in the summer of 2001. Those pictures will be published soon as the first and most comprehensive study of the ecological status of the river. The two groups are discussing future potential cooperation.

(4) Journalists at the forum interviewed the NGO participants (and each other!) and have used the material to create radio shows and to write newspaper and magazine articles.

(5) Hong Kong environmental NGOs commented that the forum helped them to identify more partners for future joint projects in Mainland China.

While the forum has sparked some small collaborative initiatives, we must reiterate that the objective of the forum was modest. We hope that this forum and these proceedings can promote some dialogue and further investigations into the potential of environmental cooperation to improve the effectiveness of green civil society organizations and to enhance peaceful relations among peoples and regions around the world.

Endnotes

¹ We would like to express our gratitude to our Wilson Center colleagues Geoffrey D. Dabelko, Sun Liang, and Gang Lin who provided us with valuable feedback on this final commentary.

² See the ECSP Web site for publications highlighting the environmental-security debates and literature (<http://ecsp.si.edu> or request copies at ecspwwic@wwic.si.edu). To request copies of the *China Environment Series* email chinaenv@erols.com or call 202-691-4233.

³ On theorizing environmental confidence-building, see Ken Conca, "Environmental Cooperation and International Peace" in *Environmental Conflict* (P. Diehl et al. 2001. Westview Press).

⁴ In the forthcoming book *Environmental Peacemaking* (Johns Hopkins University Press and Woodrow Wilson Center Press), editors Ken Conca and Geoffrey D. Dabelko present a collection of case studies that compare the progress, prospects, and problems related to environmental peacemaking initiatives in six regions: the Caspian, the Baltic, Southern Africa, South Asia, Central Asia, and along the U.S.-Mexican border. See also Stacy D. VanDeveer and Geoffrey D. Dabelko (Eds). 1999. *Protecting Regional Seas: Developing Capacity and Fostering Environmental Cooperation in Europe*. Washington, DC: Environmental Change and Security Project, Woodrow Wilson Center (for a copy email ecspwwic@wwic.si.edu).

⁵ There are some environmental and energy working groups within Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), which may be providing Mainland Chinese and Taiwanese representatives opportunities to meet and discuss regional environmental issues.

⁶ Notably, Hong Kong and Mainland China are facing some environmental problems that could raise tensions. For example, depending on which way the wind is blowing, Hong Kong and Guangdong Province send polluted air to each other. Hong Kong and Guangdong Province also share a common river basins. The Pearl River Basin, which is threatened by industrial, agricultural, and domestic wastes.

⁷ While the *Friends of Earth-Hong Kong* and the *Conservancy Association* in Hong Kong have been making efforts to start long-term and institutionalized cooperation with Mainland partners, a majority of the participants at the conference had never met their counterparts. In fact many of the Taiwanese groups were unaware that any truly nongovernmental green work was possible in Mainland China.

⁸ While the growth of cross-strait environmental networks could someday become a reality, it is a valid question whether the state institutions in Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong would react negatively to the emergence of something akin to a regional green civil society. We do not believe environmental networks would be viewed as politically sensitive by the governments, for over the past decade numerous environmental scientists and researchers on both sides of the Taiwan Straits also have been meeting regularly. Over the same time period humanitarian and cultural organizations in Taiwan and Hong Kong have significantly increased their activities in Mainland China. Even government-organized NGOs in Taiwan and Mainland China, which aim to promote reunification, have worked together without causing political tidal waves. See Wang Xinxin Ken. (2000). "Taiwanese NGOs and the Prospect of National Reunification in the Taiwan Strait." *Australian Journal of International Affairs*. (Volume 54, Issue 1):111-115.

⁹ For more information on U.S. and Chinese NGO activities in China see the yearly inventory in the Wilson Center's *China Environment Series* <http://ecsp.si.edu>.

Green NGO and Journalist Forum Collage

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