ACTIVITIES SUMMARY
Global Scholars Program
Summer Research Workshop
Beijing & Shanghai, China, 2012
Content

Overview.................................................................................................................................1
Week 1: Beijing........................................................................................................................2
  June 11, Initial Orientation .................................................................................................2
  June 12, A Talk and Reception with Barnard President Debora Spar ..............................2
  June 13, Visit to Friends of Nature & Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Economic Cooperation Commission ........................................2
  June 14, Visit to Roots and Shoots Beijing Office & Greenpeace East Asia ...................3
  June 15, Trip to Mutianyu Great Wall ..............................................................................4

Week 2: Beijing......................................................................................................................5
  June 18, Visit to Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China & CAA 2012 Alumni Networking Reception ......................................................5
  June 19, Tour of Olympic Park & Lecture on Environmental Impact of the 2008 Beijing Olympics ...........................................................................................................6
  June 20, Visit to Green Candle R&S Association at Beijing Normal University & “Beyond Imagination” R&S Group ..................................................................................6
  June 21, Workshop with CDM Club ..................................................................................7
  June 23, Tour of Historical Heritage Sites in Beijing .......................................................7

Week 3: Beijing......................................................................................................................8
  June 25, Field Trip to Eco-restoration Projects in Mentougou District & Panel Discussion on “Environment and Urbanization in China” at CGCEA .....................................................8
  June 26, Panel Discussion on “Environment and Urbanization in China” ......................9
  June 27, Visit to the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs & Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences ....................................................................................................9
  June 28, Visit to Beishenshu Waste Sanitary Landfill & Green Beagle ............................10
  June 29, Visit to Carrot Farm & Tianle Chang’s lecture on CSA .....................................11

Week 4: Shanghai....................................................................................................................12
  July 2, Guest Lecture on Shanghai’s Urbanization ............................................................12
  July 3, Visit to Shanghai Municipal Department of Environmental Protection & Grassroots Community ..............................................................................................................12
  July 4, Visit to Greenovate & Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Communication Center ..................................................................................................13
  July 5, Guest Lecture on Historic Building Preservation in Shanghai ...........................14
Overview

The Columbia University Global Scholars Program Summer Research Workshop is a pilot international study program initiated by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, in collaboration with the Columbia Global Centers and the Office of Global Programs. This year, the program’s China section run from June 10 to June 7, 2012 and research was conducted in China’s two largest cities, Beijing and Shanghai. Professor Guobin Yang, a sociologist of China and professor from Columbia University guided a cohort of eleven competitively selected undergraduates during a four-week in-country research study and workshop on the inaugural theme of Environment and Urbanization in China.

The Columbia Global Centers | East Asia (CGCEA) worked closely with Weatherhead to plan the program’s schedule and logistic arrangements before their first trip in China. We have provided our best on-the-ground support and successfully concluded the first pilot run. During the four weeks, the GSP team had the chance to meet with a wide range of environmental non-profit organizations, government environmental agencies, social enterprises, high schools and universities; visited the historical and environmental sites, organic farms, landfills and eco-restoration areas; and participated in diverse guest lectures hosted by CGCEA featuring local experts in the relevant filed. They were joined by 6 hosting students from Peking University in Beijing and 3 graduate students from Shanghai Jiaotong University in Shanghai. The Center’s staff accompanied the team on their visits in both cities to provide close guidance.
Week 1: Beijing

June 11, Initial Orientation

The Global Scholars Program Summer Research Workshop in Beijing began with an orientation hosted by Columbia Global Centers | East Asia (CGCEA) on June 11.

CGCEA staff Jin Liu, Sean Quirk, and Eyra Xiong introduced the role the Center has played in forming an extensive partnership with Columbia schools and the local academic community. Followed a brief introduction about the Center’s current programs, the staff gave the GSP students advice on living in Beijing, Chinese etiquette, and basic Chinese phrases. The entire GSP group and 6 host students from Peking University attended the orientation. Professor Guobin Yang introduced the schedule, pedagogy, and field research methods to the students.

June 12, A Talk and Reception with Barnard President Debora Spar

On June 12, the GSP group attended an invitation-only lecture, hosted by CGCEA, titled “Three Deaths and a Problem: The State of Higher Education in the United States Today” with Debora L. Spar, President of Barnard College. The conference room was packed for her speech and flowed into the reception area for refreshments, conversation and continued Q&A.

Related links:
CGCEA news article:
http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/eastasia/content/three-deaths-and-problem-state-higher-education-united-states-today-%E2%80%94%E2%80%94-talk-and-reception

June 13, Visit to Friends of Nature & Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Economic Cooperation Commission

On June 13, accompanied by CGCEA staff, the group visited Friend of Nature, a local environmental NGO located in Dongcheng District in Beijing. Founded in 1994, Friend of Nature (FON) is the oldest environmental NGO in China. According to Alice, an intern from Paris working for FON since last year, this organization has been working for nearly two decades to promote awareness of China’s most pressing environmental problems.

Mr. Bo Li, the current Board of Director and Program Advisor of FON, presented their climate change projects, including China’s Civil Society Joint-Research Group on Climate Change and the Sustainable Transport Project.
The group members were also impressed by FON’s various programs on protecting endangered species such as the Tibetan antelope and the snub-nosed monkey, as well as on promoting environmental education through camps, field trips, photo exhibitions and publications. Ms. Hehe Zhang, Deputy Director for FON, answered GSP students’ questions regarding FON’s organizational structure, funding, and current projects.

**Related Links:**
FON’s official website: http://www.fon.org.cn/

Following Friends of Nature was a visit to the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Economic Cooperation Commission. Invited by Ms. Sonia Li, the Vice Chairman for this association, GSP group members watched a short documentary titled *Touching the Tigers*. This documentary reveals the emotional relationship between Chinese and American people, which has transcended nationality, border and ideology.

**Related Background Information: Touching the Tigers**
Based on the background of the World Anti-Fascist War, this documentary depicts the extraordinary experience of an American pilot, Glen Beneda, in China. During World War II, Beneda was sent to the Chinese battlefield as a “Flying Tigers” pilot. His fighter jet was shot down by the Japanese army during one of his missions, but fortunately he was rescued by Chinese farmers and soldiers. After nearly 60 days of hard journeying, he was finally escorted to U.S. Air Base. This experience left Beneda with an attachment to China, which led to his final journey of gratitude to China, despite his poor health at the age of 86. He passed away shortly after the trip.

**June 14, Visit to Roots and Shoots Beijing Office & Greenpeace East Asia**

June 14 was the second day of site visiting. In contrast to Friend of Nature, these two NGOs — Roots & Shoots Beijing (R&S Beijing) and Greenpeace East Asia — are international organizations that have branches in Beijing.

In the morning, the group visited Roots & Shoots, which is an international hands-on environmental and humanitarian education program. As introduced by Ms. Yang Lv, Program Coordinator at Roots & Shoots Beijing, the organization was started in 1991 by Dr. Jane Goodall and a group of Tanzanian students who wanted to make a difference in their community. R&S is now a growing global program based on the principle that everyone has the ability to bring about change.
Under the Beijing summer sun and surrounded by the green organic plants, the group learned that the Roots & Shoots Program is the focus of the Jane Goodall Institute in China. Since the office was established in Beijing in 2000, Roots & Shoots has been widely successful in China, providing a platform for young people to organize activities outside of their school curriculums and participate in environmental, humanitarian and animal protection activities in their local communities.

Since 1994, R&S has established over 600 R&S groups around China; all of them are based on a spirit of volunteerism, demonstrating that individuals can make a difference through active participation.

Following the introduction was the discussion and Q&A. The group members were interested in how they cultivate relations and partnership with local schools (including primary schools, high schools, and universities) to conduct their environmental education activities, as well as how they gain the understanding and supports from those students’ parents.

The GSP group visited Greenpeace East Asia in the afternoon on June 14. The Media Officer Mr. Damin Tang and his colleagues received the group and briefed the students on their current major projects and campaigns on toxins, climate change, oceans, food safety, and air pollution. The students were impressed by their work and by the fine presentations given by the officers working on toxics campaigns.

**Related Background Information:**

Greenpeace is an independent global campaign organization that works to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment, and to promote peace by sparking an energy revolution. It also works towards creating a toxic-free future, protecting the world's ancient forests and the animals, plants, and people that depend on them, campaigning for sustainable agriculture and working for disarmament and peace. Greenpeace East Asia’s Official Website: [http://www.greenpeace.org/eastasia/](http://www.greenpeace.org/eastasia/).

**June 15, Trip to Mutianyu Great Wall**

On June 15, the GSP group explored one of the most famous Great Walls located in Beijing suburb --- Mutianyu Great Wall. They enjoyed their first sightseeing experience in China.
Week 2: Beijing

June 18, Visit to Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China &. CAA 2012 Alumni Networking Reception

The students started their second week in Beijing by visiting the Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China on June 18.

The Deputy Director Ms. Haijun Chen and her colleague Ms. Chang Su briefly introduced the organization’s history, institutional setup, laws and regulations, and publicity and education. Students raised various questions regarding policy-making, environmental protection projects, and environment monitoring.

The lecture by Ms. Chen was followed by a tour of a series of exhibitions on the convention and their projects. The staff briefed students on their major work on ozone layer protection, POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants) reduction, biodiversity conservation, and response to climate change and mercury pollution.

Related Links &. Background Information:
The Office (http://en.mepfeco.org.cn/) was founded in 1989 to manage cooperation with international organizations on environmental protection. The Office is actively involved in a variety of environmental projects including Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation, Global Environmental Policy Studies, and International Consultancy and services.

In the evening of June 18, the students attended the annual Columbia Alumni Association cocktail reception where they had a chance to get to know more alumni in Beijing.
June 19, Tour of Olympic Park &. Lecture on Environmental Impact of the 2008 Beijing Olympics

On the morning of June 19, the students took a tour of the Beijing Olympic Park and a few related Olympic structures, built several years ago for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The National stadium, also known as the “Bird’s Nest,” was the major stadium during the Olympics where the opening and closing ceremonies were held. The “Water Cube” right next to it was also designed for the Olympics and is now the National Aquatics Center.

In the afternoon, the students had a guest lecture at CGCEA by Ms. Qiushi Zhang, Professor of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at Peking University, on issues of environment, sustainability, and urban planning in Beijing. Professor Zhang in particular addressed the environmental impact of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

June 20, Visit to Green Candle R&S Association at Beijing Normal University & “Beyond Imagination” R&S Group

On the morning of June 20, the GSP group visited the Green Candle Roots & Shoots Association at Beijing Normal University, a student-run association which focuses strongly on environmental protection education. As explained by its members, the Association tries to raise environmental awareness on campus, as well as help protect the environment by making small changes in daily life, such as being energy efficient and minimizing individual water consumption.

In the afternoon, the students met the “Beyond Imagination” Roots & Shoots Group from the Experimental School Attached to Capital Normal University. This group’s goal is to protect the environment, care for the animals, and help the community. The Group took part in a project protecting black bears held by the Animals Asian Foundation. The students learned about the operation of environmental communities in elementary and middle schools.
**June 21, Workshop with CDM Club**

The GSP students joined a workshop with the CDM Club (Clean Development Mechanism Club) from Peking University, an advanced student association that focuses on educating youth leaders, as well as conducting academic research projects on environmental issues. As explained by Ms. Xia Hu, the Minister of HR for the club, CDM is also actively involved with the International Youth Summit on Energy and Climate Change. The Club shared their experience in pushing for a low-carbon campus lifestyle at Peking University. Columbia students from the GSP group also shared their experience in the U.S. regarding public participation and youth roles on environmental actions.

![Ms. Hu introducing CDM Club to GSP team](image)

**June 23, Tour of Historical Heritage Sites in Beijing**

On June 23, the students went on a group outing to several historical heritage sites in Beijing including the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, and the Lama Temple. They enjoyed the opportunity to relax after the rigorous first two weeks of the trip.


### Week 3: Beijing

**June 25, Field Trip to Eco-restoration Projects in Mentougou District & Panel Discussion on “Environment and Urbanization in China” at CGCEA**

On the first day of their third week in China, the GSP group took a field trip to Mentougou, a suburban district of Beijing, to visit several sites as demonstrations of the Eco-restoration Project, which is led by the Beijing Municipal Science & Technology Commission.

The group members, accompanied by Mr. Wenbo Zhang, Director of Science & Technology Commission of Mentougou District and the manager of this series of Eco-restoration Projects, started their tour of two eco-restoration areas which are their major research and experimental achievements: Dashakeng sandpit and Yongding River wetland. As explained by Mr. Zhang, in the process of the project fulfillment, several types of Mentougou District’s damaged areas are treated, such as coal mining, sand quarrying, road slope, and channel wetlands. The students talked freely with Mr. Zhang on topics of the experience of this comprehensive project and the Eco-humanity Alliance.

**Related Background Information:**

General Plan and Technology Demonstration of Eco-restoration in Mentougou is the district’s key ecological construction project supported by the Beijing Municipal Science & Technology Commission. The project leader is the Mentougou Science & Technology Commission and participating units include many colleges, universities, research institutions and companies. Sub-projects of the project can be classified into four groups: planning studies, specific research, demonstration projects, and technology research.

Eco-Humanity Alliance is an environmental NGO devoted to the promotion of social, economic and ecological development. Under the Alliance there are three committees: a business committee, expert committee and regional committee. Through exchanges and cooperation among members, they provide integrated solutions for the establishment of ecological knowledge. The mission of Eco-humanity is to seek the best environmental path for sustainable development, with human welfare in mind. Their slogan is “Ecological Earth, Harmonized Humanity.”

In front of an ecological energy saving house
June 26, Panel Discussion on “Environment and Urbanization in China”

In the afternoon, students from the GSP group took part in a public panel discussion, which was co-organized by the Weatherhead East Asia Institute and CGCEA. Four experts were invited to speak about “Environment and Urbanization in China,” as the panel was titled, including Dr. Jennifer Holdaway, Program Director of China Environment and Health Initiative at Social Science Research Council, Mr. Bo Li, Board of Director and Program Advisor to Friends of Nature, Professor Zengzhi Shi, Professor of School of Journalism and Communication at Peking University, and Ms. Yongchen Wang, Senior Environment Reporter to China National Radio.

These four experts shared their opinions and perspectives on various topics including public health, environment pollution, the duty of government and public monitoring, new media empowerment, and the rapid demise of China’s bodies of water.

Related Links:
News article about the panel on CGCEA website:
http://globalcenters.columbia.edu/eastasia/content/environment-and-urbanization-china-0

June 27, Visit to the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs & Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences

On June 27, the GSP group visited two domestic environmental organizations. The first was the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE), a registered non-profit organization based in Beijing which is renowned for its Pollution Map of China. The second was the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, which plays an influential role in China's environmental protection battle, relying on its large amount of members.

In the morning, Mr. Jun Ma, Director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs received the visitors and guided them in the tour. As explained by Mr. Ma and his colleague Ms. Jingjing Wang, since its establishment in May 2006, the IPE has developed two pollution databases (water & air) to monitor corporate environmental performance and to facilitate public participation in environmental governance. Its aim is to expand environmental information disclosure to allow communities to fully understand the hazards and risks in their surrounding environments, thus promoting widespread public participation in environmental governance. In an informal and friendly discussion, students acquired useful information regarding the history, structure and mission of the program. They were also able to study in greater detail the pollution map and learn how pollution affects everyday life.
After lunch, the group continued their research trip in Honglian Nan Cun, where the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences (CSES) is located. Students of GSP listened to a brief introduction of the CSES by Mr. Zhongjun Zhu, Director of Department of Environmental Damage Appraisal and Assessment. Mr. Zhu explained that the CSES is a national-level non-profit and non-governmental organization engaged in environmental protection with the longest history and on the largest scale in China. During the subsequent discussion, Mr. Zhu and another two engineers working for this organization spoke more about their academic activities, the role of governmental consultation, and environmental policies. Students asked questions regarding the CSES's projects and the relationship between the organization and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, among other topics.

**Related Links:**

**June 28, Visit to Beishenshu Waste Sanitary Landfill & Green Beagle**

On July 28, the GSP group visited two operational sites of the Beijing Environment Sanitation Engineering Group Company, the largest state-owned business in this field in Beijing, and a non-governmental organization called the Green Beagle Institute, which is registered and based in Beijing.

The first station of this day was Xiaowuji Solid Waste Sorting and Transfer Station, which is located at Shibalidian Township, Chaoyang District. The students were briefed on the company's ideas regarding environmental protection and resource recycling. They were then guided around the monitoring center and the resorting workshop. Beishenshu Waste Sanitary Landfill is 13Km from the first station. The site left a deep impression on the entire group.

After lunch, the students came to the Green Beagle office and had a casual discussion with 3 guest lecturers and their staff in a cozy meeting room. The discussion was centered around the organization's history, ideas and daily work. Professor Da Mao, Mr. Xiaoshan Huang, and Mr. Fusheng Xu spoke about their research work, findings, and experimental projects on garbage and waste classification.

**Related Background Information:**
Put into operation in 1997, the Xiaowuji Large-Scale Solid Waste Sorting and Transfer Station covers a land area of 2ha and has a designed daily disposal capacity of 980 tons. It was reconstructed after the Xiaowuji Waste Transfer Station jointly built by China and
Germany. The station is one of the first of a group of large-scale automatic solid waste sorting facilities in China.

Located in Ciqu Township in Tongzhou District, Beishenshu Waste Sanitary Landfill is 13Km from the Xiaowuji Large-Scale Solid Sorting and Transfer Station. Covering a land area of 33.76ha, it has a designed daily disposal capacity of 980 tons. With a total landfill height of 54m and a total landfill capacity of 4.647 million m³, the site has a predicted service life of 13 years.

The Green Beagle Institute is a formally registered NGO in Beijing, China, which focuses on environment protection including environmental impact monitoring, environmental accident investigations, public environmental awareness, etc.

June 29, Visit to Carrot Farm &. Tianle Chang’s lecture on CSA

The focus of the group’s last day in Beijing was on CSA, i.e. Community Supported Agriculture. In the morning, the GSP students went to the Carrot Farm, which is located in the Baishan Township in Changping District. After that, they attended a lecture given by Ms. Tianle Chang at CGCEA.

At the Carrot Farm, the owner introduced the farm and its focus on eco-agriculture. The Farm was established in 2011 and adopted an extended version of CSA as their business model. It integrates comprehensive style of healthy life, which is embodied in a series of services offered by the Farm, including working in fields, outdoor sports, appreciation of the arts, and the reunion of friends and relatives.

Ms. Tianle Chang’s lecture in the afternoon primarily presented another way to achieve CSA goals. Instead of taking consumers to farms, it is equally feasible to bringing farmers to their customer by establishing specified markets in communities. This has actually been successfully practiced in Beijing and several other cities, and has attracted wide attention from media and public.

Related Background Information:
The concept of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) was born in Switzerland in 1970’s. Today it has attracted more than 200,000 households and 2,000 farms. The central idea of this concept is to build a bridge between consumers, who share the same idea and interest in finding safe food, and farmers, who hope to ensure a stable group of customers. By helping consumers acquire fresh, healthy, safe and eco-friendly local vegetables and subsidiary foods, farmers are able to gain steady incomes.
**Week 4: Shanghai**

**July 2, Guest Lecture on Shanghai’s Urbanization**

The group’s first full day in Shanghai was as busy as the rest of the week would prove to be. The day began with a lecture titled “Meeting Challenges for the Urban Future: Development, Challenges, and the Outlook of Shanghai’s Urbanization.” The lecturer, Dr. Jian Cheng, is the Deputy Director at the Development Research Center of the Shanghai Municipal Government. His powerpoint first mapped the progress of global urbanization, then focused on urbanization within China, and finally within Shanghai. He also addressed the numerous challenges that have developed as a result of these urbanization processes, such as air pollution, economic inequality, and a loss of traditional Chinese culture. After his presentation, the professor answered various questions posed by the GSP students.

In the afternoon, the group had the chance to meet with the Students’ Union of SESE from Shanghai Jiaotong University. Students from GSP and SESE took turns to present the projects they have been working on, all of which focus on spreading environmental awareness. One of these projects, for example, worked to promote vegetarianism, while another focused on the creation and distribution of an eco-bag. The presentations were informative and enlightening, and were followed by a lively Q&A session between students from both groups.

**July 3, Visit to Shanghai Municipal Department of Environmental Protection & Grassroots Community**

On the morning of their second day, the GSP group visited the Shanghai Municipal Department of Environmental Protection (SMDEP). There, the students received a lecture from Ms. Min Shi, the Deputy Director of SMDEP, who discussed the Department’s 12th Five-Year Plan, their policy-making process, and several recent environmental policies. She also addressed China’s need to control its energy consumption and emission levels, as well as other pressing environmental issues.
In the afternoon, the group met with Mr. Liu Yonglong of the Grassroots Community, a volunteer organization which “aims to promote public participation, public spirit, and the sustainable and harmonious development of urban communities.” Mr. Liu spoke to the students about the GC’s programs, which currently include a school for children of migrant workers in XingLian, as well as a program meant to raise awareness of environmental protection in Shanghai communities. The GC also headed a project in Longchi, Sichuan, a town which suffered from a severe earthquake in 2008. Working with local townspeople, volunteers organized over 40 different activities addressing economic, cultural, education, and health issues in the region. Their efforts helped to boost post-earthquake construction and create a more sustainable, confident community.

July 4, Visit to Greenovate & Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Communication Center

On this day, the GSP students visited Greenovate, where they met with Ms. Nizhen Hsieh, Greenovate’s Project Director, and Mr. Chris Pothaar, GECKO Project Content Developer. According to their website, Greenovate “is part of what is known as the hybrid organization movement – a push to develop organizations that embrace traditional for-profit business practices while simultaneously making an intensive effort on all fronts toward a common good.” This truly fascinating movement is made up of marketers, designers, engineers, and educators who work together, combining business and social potential to create a more sustainable, prosperous China. Ms. Hsieh and Mr. Pothaar gave various examples of recent projects. They began by outlining first each initial challenge, then the respective solution, and finally the impact each project has had.
Later in the day, the group took a trip to an organic farm established by the Shanghai Green Oasis Ecological Conservation and Communication Center. The farm is located in Cenbo Village, which, located beside Dianshan Lake, is the only national natural, ecological, and cultural village in Shanghai. There, members of the organization have been farming since 2010 on about 10 acres of land. The GSP students were able to explore the farm, which was filled with organic produce and livestock, and were given a tour by Ms. Haiqiong Yu, the project assistant.

**July 5, Guest Lecture on Historic Building Preservation in Shanghai**

On their last day in Shanghai, the group was treated to a guest lecture by Weihang Lin, General Manager of Shanghai Hengshi Investment Management Company. His lecture, titled “Basic Review of Historic Building Preservation in Shanghai,” focused on current housing policies and the work being done to fight for the preservation of these ancient structures.

The trip culminated with a final dinner in Yu Yuan and a reflection on the group’s week in Shanghai.