

2016-02-24 NSF-NSFC Workshop to Explore Enhancing Collaborations between U.S. and Chinese Researchers in Systematic Biology

An NSF-NSFC Workshop to Explore Enhancing Collaborations between U.S. and Chinese Researchers in Systematic Biology was held on Feb 24-26, 2016 at the South China Botanical Garden, Guangzhou, China. Nearly 60 individuals, about half from the United States and half from China, gathered to discuss the benefits, strengths and challenges of U.S.-China collaborations. Rather than reporting on specific scientific research projects or outcomes, the workshop focused on panel discussions and short talks on how to collaborate. The workshop co-organizers were Pat Herendeen, Senior Director, Systematics and Evolutionary Biology, Chicago Botanic Garden; GE Xuejun, Professor and PI of the Laboratory of Molecular Ecology, South China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and YU Shixiao, Professor of Ecology, Director, Center for Tropical & Subtropical Ecosystem Research, Sun Yat-sen University.

The workshop was followed by a day and a half long tour to rural areas of Guangdong Province, including Dinghushan and Heishiding Nature Reserves. This provided many opportunities for informal discussions about scientific topics and collaborative opportunities. A workshop report, which will identify these opportunities, is in preparation and will be made publicly available.

Workshop participants from NSF included Paula Mabee, Division Director, DEB/NSF; David Mindell, Program Officer, Systematics & Biodiversity Science Cluster, DEB/NSF; Karen Alroy, Science Associate, DEB/NSF; Nancy Sung, Head, NSF Beijing Office; and SUN Bo, Program Specialist, NSF Beijing Office. From NSFC, participants included YU Zhenliang, Division Director, Department of Life Sciences; YAO Yupeng, Division Director, Department of Earth Sciences; WEI Qin, Program Manager, Division for Americas and Australasian Affairs, Bureau of International Cooperation (BIC); and SHEN Jie, Program Manager, Division for Americas and Australasian Affairs, BIC.



Discussion at the workshop, meeting room at the South China Botanical Garden, 2/24/2016.



Workshop group photo at the South China Botanical Garden, 2/24/2016



Field trip to Sub-Tropical Forest Eco-System Experiment Center at Heishiding Nature Reserve, 2/27/2016.



Field trip to SYSU's Experimental Greenhouse at Heishiding Nature Reserve, 2/27/2016.