

# ACPSS Newsletter

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Jing Luo, Editor

## **Message from the President**

December is the time of the year when we naturally look back over the past year and look forward to what the New Year will hold for our organization.



Looking back at what ACPSS has achieved over the past year we can feel proud of the following accomplishments. We successfully held the 16th international conference with the theme of the Sino-American relations in cooperation with the Harvard-Yenching Institute and the Kennedy School of Government's Ash Center at Harvard University in November. The conference featured 33 panels, 106 research papers, and over 150 scholars from the U.S., Canada, mainland China, Taiwan, Macau, Japan, Korea, Singapore, India, Australia, the U.K., and Belgium. The conference has attracted the media's attention as commonly concerned issues discussed at the panels were reported by *Voice of America* (VOA), *Qiao Bao*, and various news outlets around the world. Last summer, following our long-standing tradition of lecture tours, we organized a lecture tour to the Zhanjiang Normal University, China, led by Dr. Zheng Liren, ACPSS executive vice president. The lecture tour was a great success and was highly appreciated by the teachers and students at Zhangjiang Normal University. Last winter, invited by the Da Tong Men, our Taiwanese host, we organized a special trip to observe the November elections in Taiwan. Led by Dr. Zhang Jie, former president of ACPSS, the delegation of 15 ACPSS members visited the major election sites and met with Taiwan officials, scholars, and ordinary folks. The trip triggered a heated debate among the delegation members about the issues revolving around Democracy in Taiwan and where it is headed in the future. As I was informed, the debate among them was carried on during the trip and continued via email after they returned to the U.S.. For all of the participants, it was indeed a fruitful and rewarding trip! In addition to the above events,

ACPSS members also actively participated in various activities in intellectual discourse and scholarly exchanges around the world.

Looking forward, we are planning to continue and strengthen our commitment to our mission goals and to our positive traditions. While continuing to cultivate our unique tradition featuring interdisciplinary idea exchanges and friendship networking among Chinese American scholars, we will reach out further to broaden our membership base, making it more inclusive to all interested scholars of humanities and social sciences around the world. I am happy to see our membership growing rapidly during recent years, and we now have more members from Europe, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Australia. ACPSS is getting strong, and we will make it even stronger and thriving in the future.

I am happy to announce that ACPSS will hold our 17th ACPSS international conference at Columbia University in 2011, and we believe that this will be another exciting get-together event for ACPSS members, old and new. As you know, next year will be our election year for a new president and a new board of directors. The current board of directors will set up the nomination and election committees in time to start the process. We will keep you updated.

As we celebrate the new year, I look forward to working with the ACPSS board of directors, our members, and our friends to accomplish the goals we have set as a community for our beloved organization. Long Live ACPSS!

Li, Jieli (李捷理)

President, ACPSS

## Conference Report



On November 5 to 7, The 16th ACPSS international conference was held at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The conference was co-sponsored by Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard Kennedy School of Government Ash Center, United Societies of China Studies, and Harvard Kennedy School China Society. The conference theme was "Engaging China: Sino-American Relations, Sustainable Development and Beyond". The conference featured 30 panels and 2 roundtables with over 130 attendees from the U.S., Canada, mainland China, Taiwan, Macau, Japan, Korea, Singapore, India, the U.K., Belgium, and Australia. The conference keynote speaker was Dr. Huiyao Wang, Vice Chairman of China Western Returned Scholars Association and Visiting Fellow of Brookings Institute. 106 papers were presented at the conference. As over half of the conference attendees (75) were from outside North America, the 16th ACPSS international conference has greatly promoted idea exchange and research cooperation among interested scholars across the world. The attached is the conference program. *By Dr. Zheng Liren.*

### Taiwan Election Observation



*From Left: Drs. Chen Zhiyuan, Zhang Jie, and Deng Peng*

At the invitation of the Grand Alliance for Unification [三民主義大同盟], a fourteen-member delegation of the ACPSS, headed by Zhang Jie, professor of sociology at SUNY Buffalo, paid a visit to Taiwan in November 21-29, 2010 to watch the midterm election there. Thanks to the hard work of Ma Haoran, the host and coordinator of the delegation's activity, ACPSS scholars witnessed Taiwan's democracy in action through meetings with politicians and campaign organizers of the Nationalist Party (GMD), the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), and independent candidates for the mayoral offices and seats in the municipal assemblies of Taipei (Taipei), New Taipei City (Xinbei), Taichung (Taichong), Tainan and Kaohsiung (Gaoxiong). In addition, they also met with officers of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of China for information on the history and current state of the electoral system in Taiwan.

All in all, most ACPSS scholars were favorably impressed by what they saw during their brief stay. "The Taiwan trip has reinforced my observation that Taiwan continues to make progress in political democracy," writes Li Mingjiang, assistant professor and coordinator of the China Program at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies of Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. "The activism, passion, tolerance, and rationality that people in Taiwan demonstrated during the election are all evidence that Taiwan is not far from becoming an excellent example of successful democratic transition in East Asia." Xu Haiqing, lecturer of contemporary Chinese media and culture at the University of New South Wales, Australia writes: "Political election in Taiwan is like a carnival that engages all. It is part of a populist movement that is based on both tradition and modernity. Its progress and paradoxes reflect those of a global trend, particularly those of the so-called 'belated' or 'alternative' modernities. Taiwan plays a crucial role in mediating the East and the West, and serves as an example of experimenting democracy in a non-West society." Qiu Xujing, Xu Haiqing's colleague, shows her approval similarly: "Democracy has provided different interest groups a sustainable mechanism to debate, negotiate and compromise with each other. Although this process leads to friction and sometimes chaotic events such as the shooting of Lian Shengwen on the eve of the election, Taiwan is progressing towards a modern and orderly civil society." Shi Mingzheng from New York University cheers for Taiwan's political progress: "After watching the democratic process in action, I am emboldened to say that what happens in Taiwan today will happen in mainland China tomorrow. Despite the size, population, and complexity, the yearning for freedom and democracy in mainland China is universal and unstoppable. What lies between

now and then is time and a charismatic leader. I believe it may very well happen in our lifetime." Wu Sibin, associate professor of management at the University of Texas Pan American, gives Taiwan's democratization his personal approval: "In Taiwan, people can praise a political party. They can also openly criticize it. This is made possible by a democratic environment. A mature political party, like a mature person, does not fear criticism. Rather, it has the courage to face criticism." Zhou Shu, one of the youngest members of the delegation from San Jose State University shares her youthful optimism about the election, saying, "With stumbles and struggles, Taiwan has made impressive progress toward democracy, especially in its political election, a fair and open mechanism with amazingly high voter turnout." Deng Peng, a historian from High Point University who paid his first visit to Taiwan, marveled at what he saw and heard there. To him, the democracy in Taiwan represents an epic march of the humankind. The successful midterm election in 2010 has convinced him that "the Chinese people are capable of high-quality democracy."

Most members agree also that the democracy in Taiwan has yet to perfect itself, and its future hinges on a host of factors, both internal and external. "A mature democracy would require much more," Zhou Shu ponders, "such as the formulation of stronger rules and the effective execution of anti-corruption policy." To Zhang Jie, both positive and negative lessons in Taiwan's democratization are meaningful because they "inform the Chinese people who love their motherland and who have been looking for a governing system that best fits Chinese culture." Song Luzheng, a Chinese scholar living in Paris, France, will not hide his reservations about Taiwan's democracy. Compared with the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, he argues emphatically, "Taiwan's miracle pales in comparison." He insists that China's national unification must precede democratization. Without national unification, "democracy will never come to China because the CCP will always use the independence movement in Taiwan to reinforce its power" says he.

The partisan rivalry and regional division in the midterm election caught ACPSS scholars' eyes. "It seems to me," Qiu Xujing observes, "that different groups (north and south, middle class and grass root) are diverging (instead of converging) and this remains to be a major challenge in the future." Deng Peng shows some concern for Taiwan's future as well. He knows that nothing is certain in human history. Good things don't always prevail in the end. Taiwan's progress could be undermined by forces from both within and without. It could, for instance, be destroyed in a civil war between the mainland and Taiwan. Even this eventuality, he insists, should not

obscure the courage of such political leaders as Jiang Jinguo and the Guomindang as a whole.

With regard to the recurrent tension between the mainland and Taiwan, Li Yuhui, professor of sociology from Rowan College, expresses her cautious optimism: "Things concerning Taiwan's status and its relationship with the mainland are far from simple or straightforward. What is encouraging is that the gradual development of the civil society and the democratic movement in Taiwan will most likely sustain the peaceful coexistence of the two sides across the strait. This is also one of the major reasons I strongly argue for political reform and toleration of free speech and different viewpoints in mainland China. Discussion, communication and exchange of ideas are some of the most effective tools of a civil society and they are usually not consistent with violence."

Other members of the delegation are Dr. Chen Zhiyuan of Appalachian State University, Dr. Kuang Zeqian of the University of Manitoba, and Dr. Wang Ning, a scientist at the University of New South Wales, Australia. *By Dr. Deng Peng.*

### Member News

✚ Dr. Guo Baogang of Dalton State College published four books:

Baogang Guo, *China's Quest for Political Legitimacy: the New Equity-Enhancing Politics* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield-Lexington Books, 2010).  
Dennis Hickey and Baogang Guo, *Dancing with the Dragon: China's Emergence in the Developing World* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield-Lexington Books, 2010).

Sujian Guo and Baogang Guo, *Thirty Years of China-U.S. Relations: Analytical Approaches and Contemporary Issues* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield-Lexington Books, 2010).

Sujian Guo and Baogang Guo, *Greater China in an Era of Globalization* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield-Lexington Books, 2010).



✚ Dr. Hua Shiping of The University of Louisville spent his sabbatical year in 2010 at Peking University's

School of International Studies as an American IR Scholars at Beida Visiting Fellow. While at Beida, he contributed regularly to China Central Television (CCTV News) as a "Current Affairs Commentator."

He has also been appointed Calvin and Helen Lang Distinguished Chair in Asian Studies and Director of the Program for Asian Studies at the University of Louisville. He will start with the new appointments on January 1, 2011."

✚ Dr. Li Mingjiang of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, edited a forthcoming volume: Li Mingjiang and Kwa Chong Guan, eds., *China-ASEAN Sub-regional Cooperation: Progress, Problems and Prospect* (Singapore: World Scientific Press, February 2011).

✚ Dr. Cecilia Chien of West Chester University had the following academic activities:

"Tourism, Modernization, and Nation-building: The Case of the Yangzi Delta." In *The People's Republic of China Today: Internal and External Challenges*, edited by Zhu Zhiqun, Singapore: World Scientific Publishers, October 2010.

"Sustaining a Viewership: Chinese TV, Drama, and Identity." Paper presented at 39th Annual Conference, Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Oct 22-23, 2010.

Chair of Panel: "Sustainable Development: Agriculture, Tourism, and the State." 39th Annual Conference, Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Oct 22-23, 2010.

✚ Dr. Xu Guangqiu of Friends University is expecting his next publication: *American Doctors in Canton and Modernization in China, 1835-1935*, Transaction Publishers, Rutgers University, March 2011. The book studies how American medical missionaries established China's first hospital, first medical school, first medical college for women, and first mental hospital in Canton, and the impact of such institution on China's modernization. Dr. Xu argues that Western medicine helped make Canton a cradle of revolution and reform in modern China.

✚ Dr. Sheri Zhang Leimbiger of University of Ottawa reviewed Hu Angang's *Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution*, Da Feng Chubanshe, Hong Kong, 2008.

✚ Dr. Shuhua Zhou was named Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the College of Communication & Information Sciences, University of Alabama, in June 2010. He received MA and PhD degrees from School of



Journalism at Indiana University. He also holds a BS from South China College of Tropical Crops and a BA in English language in literature from Jinan University. Additionally, Dr. Dr. Zhou was an anchor and director of English News at Guangdong TV.

### From Editor's Desk

Congratulations, ACPSS members, for completing another high-achieving year! It is exciting to see the Association growing stronger and its members producing more impact on a wide range of global affairs. As editor, I look forward to hearing from you. Please keep sharing your latest development, the next creative literary/artwork and, you don't have to wait for the contribution call! From this desk, happy New Year!



New Year puzzler for fellow old-timers: What's the title of this 小人儿书?