



The 8th IALE World Congress

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The 8th IALE (International Association for Landscape Ecology) World Congress took place in Beijing, between the 18th and 23rd of August 2011. The congress was jointly organized by the IALE-China Chapter, The Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences, CAS, The Ecological Society of China and Peking University. More than 850 delegates from 47 countries and regions attended this conference. The countries best represented were China, The United States, The United Kingdom, The Netherlands and Germany. More than 30 % of the attendees were students and the congress had a special section offering training courses related to urban ecology and landscape ecology methods.

The theme of the 8th IALE World Congress was landscape ecology for sustainable environment and culture. The IALE meeting benefited from the presence of renowned researchers such as Richard Forman (Professor of Landscape Ecology at Harvard University), Paul Opdam (Senior Researcher at the ALTERRA research institute, Wageningen University), Robert Costanza (Director of the Institute for Sustainable Solutions at Portland State University) and Jianguo Wu (Professor of Landscape Ecology and Sustainability Science at Arizona State University). Consisting of 7 plenary speeches, 13 symposiums, 520 oral presentations and 140 posters, the conference covered the topics of global biodiversity and ecosystem services, landscape ecology and culture protection, landscape and urban planning, accommodating biodiversity responses and engineering restoration in adapting to climate change, etc. The main topics of discussion were related to the services that humans derive from ecosystems and their quantification, imminent threats to landscapes and biodiversity as well as cultural and urban landscapes across the world.

To encourage young researchers, IALE and The Chinese Academy of Sciences sponsored 40 young scientists and graduate students from 25 countries to attend the conference in Beijing.

The success of the 8th IALE World Congress in Beijing not only boosted communication and cooperation among researchers from different countries, but also represented the academic level in China and broadened the horizons of landscape ecology.



Mid-Congress Excursion to the Great Wall

More information about the congress: <http://www.iale2011.org/>