



PEAC News

PEAC Annual Meeting 2006

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On January 14, 2007, Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center Yunnan China (PEAC) held Annual Meeting 2006 at HaiKun Hotel Kunming. The meeting, presided by Ms. Xin, director of the board of PEAC, aimed to 1) make all participants have a better understanding on PEAC; 2) enhance communication and cooperation; 3) promote staff's ability of making project plan, progress report, and final report.

Besides PEAC's staff, participants also involved delegates of Yunnan Health and Development Research Association, Eco-Watch Yunnan and Yunnan Eco-Network, and seven journalists respectively from CCTV, China Newsweek, China Features, South Weekend, Cheung Kong School of Journalism and Communication in ShanTou University, and NGO magazines. The meeting covered issues ranging from 2006 work report, 2007 work plan and project progress in 2006 to other relevant work arrangements.



Prof. Xiang Rong-jiong, the former director of the board of PEAC, gave a wonderful opening speech. "It is PEAC's great honor to have you all here to join our annual meeting." Prof Xiang expressed his gratitude to the participants, and he also mentioned that the meeting reflected that PEAC has been going towards perfection progressively on its institutional capacity building.

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Feedback of the Implementation of Baoshan Project



From January 20 to 21, five members of PEAC went to Pingzhang, Xinzhazi and Dazhai in Baoshan for collecting feedback of project activities. Over 60 villagers were interviewed by Questions which got involved in whether they knew the risks of pesticide or not, who was the dominant person in decision-making of pesticide purchase, who sprayed when it came to use, how to store the pesticide at home and the treatment of the pesticide packages and if they had changed the means after training.

During the survey, project members learned that almost all villagers had realized the risks of pesticide on human health and environment. And a great number of villagers had decided to change the storage method and got rid of its package. Some villagers had a little understanding about organic and ecological agriculture. Excitedly, several farmers could give exact definition and some practical cases of organic agriculture. Meanwhile, project team found that rural women bear large amount of the family work in villages.

Organic Agriculture Study Tour



This farm is established in 2002 as the organic base due to its surrounding. There is no factory, no pollutions on soil, water, air are considered the best condition to develop organic farm here.

Through two years production under the national criteria for organic vegetable, "HaoBaoQing" ecologic farm was guaranteed as "OFDC organic farm base" and became the first national-level organic farm in Yunnan province. At present, it has set up a huge green house hold 2500 m², model a small ecological agricultural system.

On November 5, 2006, PEAC, as the host, received six representatives including experts from Thailand Agricultural Ministry and Agricultural Technology Extend Department. This is the fourth time that Thailand people came here to investigate agricultural development in Yunnan Province. PEAC arranged an eight-day study tour for them. On the first day, Mao Zhongshun, a PEAC staff, guided the study group to the base of organic vegetable—"Haobaoqing" ecologic farm, which located in Tuanjie village, far away from Kunming city 30 kilometers.

PhD candidate Xurui, manager of the farm, welcomed and hosted them to dinner, all the delicious organic vegetables shared there. Then in the afternoon, with an enjoying mood, they discussed the organic agricultural markets both in Thailand and China as well as the technologies used in the organic farming.



The second day, PhD candidate Yangsong, also the member of PEAC, led the visiting group to "JinWoTu" Red Pear plantation which belongs to Jinwotu Ecologic Plantation Co.,Ltd., director HuangYong there received the study group, accompanied by technician Chou. And they talked the relative topics with Thailand researchers in terms of techniques, organic fertilizer application, insects and disease prevention, variation selection of Red Pear, etc. In the afternoon, they all visited the pear garden. Although the harvest season has been over, the leaves of pear trees are still green and there are one or two red pears hanging in the tree.

Time goes to November 8. In this day, the group accompanied by PEAC staff Liuqian and others had a tour to special markets in Kunming, including farmer's market, flower and birds market, teas and Chinese traditional medicine material market. They chatted with the local residents on the market price, sale volumes and export situations of their agricultural products.



Then the next day, Thailand study group went to Dali city with PEAC staff Sun Jin and Zhou Jiu-xuan. The spot they visited is Chenguan village, in Eryuan county of Dali which is distant away from Kunming more than 300km. It is a village with superior natural geography, ample heats and rains, convenient irrigation systems. Farmers here took agricultural production all the year round, meanwhile engaged in the livestock feeding. Not long ago, PEAC assisted officials there opened a Farmer Training School. So, after they investigated the agriculture situation in the field in Chenguan, they visited the Farmer Training School which equipped with a computer, a small library and office supplies, and PEAC provided books, additional handbooks and materials for it.

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Paraquet Event List

From Oct. 30th to Nov. 4th, 2006, Sun Jing and Li Qing, members of PEAC, made a paraquet survey at rubber garden and banana garden in Jinghong, Yunnan. The survey mainly involved in paraquet usage, distribution and risks on environment and health. The local people took an active role in it.

January 2007, the second edition of *A Training Handout for Paraquet Risks* was accomplished. After collecting the information feedback of the first edition, national and international relevant information, and solving encountering problem, the second edition is more comprehensive and practical than the first one.

Several meetings were held among the numbers of paraquet project about the problems which they encountered and made sure each one's responsibility according to current work, and then made out their work plans. Survey method, project implementation and the revision of training handout were discussed as well.

CHENGUAN COMMUNITY FARMER TRAINING SCHOOL ESTABLISHED BOARD OF TRUSTEES

With the assistance of PEAC, the board of trustees of ChenGuan Community Farmer Training School (CFTS) was set up. Feng, an active villager, organized the selection conference, and members of the village committee and the branch of communism party in this village were convened to select the members of the board. Among them, the board director was selected out. Guo, the secretary in the branch of communism party, would be in charge of the position. Mr. Feng was appointed to be the principal of Training School. The vice-principal is also appointed. Right now, they were drafting out the blueprint of the future school. Local villagers there also took an active action. They negotiated with the officers of local



agricultural departments to require more agricultural technical training.

During the time when Thailand researchers came, Chenguan villagers communicated with foreign experts by the help of translators on their own initiatives. Later, peasants from Baoshan, a county in Yunnan province, would be invited to Chenguan village to share their farming experiences with

Chenguan's. At meantime, the regulation system of Training School, of school's library is under establishment. The women team who are responsible for the local environmental protection, was established to enhance women's influence in local political affairs.

The successful establishment of CFTS's leaders group (board of directors) is the symbol of standardization of CFTS's management, which will definitely provide intelligent support for the work of pesticide reduction that has been implemented in local community for a long time and will promote the development of ecological agriculture in

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Then Professor Kuang Rong-ping, executive director of PEAC, made a presentation on work in 2006, and he highlighted the achievements of PEAC, including establishment of new board, institutional capacity building and project development. PEAC's projects, such as paraquat project, GE (genetically engineered) crop risk assessment project, community capacity building project, and network building project. And it aroused participants' interests. They hold a heated discussion on PEAC's work.

Ms Xin drew a positive picture on the work in 2007 and pointed out its emphasis is that: 1) further implement the five projects which Prof. Kuang has mentioned in his presentation; 2) develop new projects and fund; 3) make reasonable investment and budget. Along with Ms Xin's presentment, each project officer gave a report on their projects. Then the morning session was ended by all participants' discussion and comments.



The topics of afternoon session were the work plan in 2007 for each project and personnel responsibilities. Each project officer made a work plan based on summary of the work and project progress in 2006. The work plan was improved through communication and discussion. Regarding to this, participants shared their experiences and provided several advice. Besides work plan, personnel responsibilities were allocated. It was addressed that each staff should have a clear understanding on his or her responsibility, but besides their own work, they should continue to cooperate with each other, since cooperation is essential for an organization to develop.

The annual meeting was held successfully. It is one of the most important events for PEAC, since through it, not only PEAC's staff but also other participants have a better understanding on PEAC and its work. All people have been informed of the importance of PEAC's work Furthermore, PEAC's staff has made clear plans for what to do next and all other participants highly praised PEAC's work in 2006 and PEAC's team spirit.

Promoting the regional pesticide action in Guizhou Institute of Highland Development. From December 11 to 12, three PEAC staffs came to Guizhou to visit Guizhou Institute of Highland Development (GIHD) and had a talk on pesticides with them. The purpose of this visit was to highlight the agrochemical pesticide issues in the projects of GIHD, promote the ecological and sustainable agriculture development as well as eliminate the pesticide pollutions and reduce the pesticide crisis there.

During their work in rural community construction, GIHD found that If they want to develop the ecological agriculture, the pesticide problems should be paid much attentions on. Because of lacking the experts on this issue, they invited PEAC to give some technology support.

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Thailand study group gave comments on the ecological agriculture system in Chenguan Village which developed well. In fact, several factors promoted it. Firstly, its planting technology advanced. Secondly, the onion and garlic production brought more income to peasants, and the third is that the information system in village develops quickly nowadays.

On November 13, the study group returned to Kunming, and closed this investigation. Orawan Khongaprinrak, the representative of Thailand group, expressed their satisfaction and great thanks to PEAC. Professor Kuang, executive director of PEAC, also expressed his wishes to them and hoped Thailand and China keep more technical cooperation in the future.

It is so lucky, at that right time is women's physical check there, Thailand researchers and PEAC staffs witnessed the public health service the Farmer Training School served

The primary leader of GIHD and its project officials all joined in this talk. And PEAC presented the book *Chinese Pesticide Development: A Comprehensive Report* and five training handouts on community pesticide risks and ecological farming as gifts to them. Professor Kuang, the executive director, pointed out that firstly, they should use the pesticide reasonably and safely with IPM, then, take the alternatives to replace pesticides.



In Brief

Ruth Schimanowski Visits PEAC

In the morning of January 25, 2007 Ruth Schimanowski from Misereor visited PEAC. PEAC's staff discussed the general situation of PEAC with her. Meanwhile, Ruth introduced her working situation and discussed financial problems with PEAC's staff extensively. Finally, Ruth expressed applause on PEAC's work and gave some good advices for future development. Cooperation and mutual communication were sincerely expected.

Telephone Interview

Jan. 23, 2007 Mr. Thomas Krueger, journalist cooperated with the publicity department of EED, made a telephone interview with staffs of the program of GE (PEAC). During the 1 hour talking Mr. Krueger asked some questions. Such as, how PEAC get involved in GE issues, why they started to focus on GE cotton, and how they started the study, and so on and he was satisfied with PEAC's answer.

During Oct 2nd to 25th, 2006, PEAC's member Ms. Zhang Zihua participated a short-term international course, *Focus on the Global South*, held by the international NGO organization in Chulalongkon University in Bangkok. Later, from Oct 26th to Nov 14th, she participated Indian internship as one part of the course. The subject of this course is "Globalization, civil society and social justice".



PEAC Internal Training

PEAC has been established five years. As an organization, it developed fully in this period and achieved great achievements. Especially in 2006, it was taking a big pace forward, but with the development of PEAC, the requirements for the PEAC staff became stricter. So in order to strengthen the institutional capacity construction and promote the new staff's comprehensive ability, PEAC first internal training lecture was held.

From November 27 to 28, 2006, Ms. Xin, director of the board of PEAC, held the training as a presider. At the beginning, Prof. Xiang, the former Director, gave a review on PEAC's history. Then, Professor Kuang, executive director of PEAC, gave an inspiring speech on PEAC's development and personal construction. He emphasized that every enterprise, organization or team should form its image, identity and culture, especially the young generations should play a very important roll in it. Also he provided ten pieces of advice to all staff, it refers to individual responsibility, respectable behave, self-consciousness, modest manner, language ability and

so on. After then, every staff described his or her work and outputs, and put forward some problems in projects for public discussion. On the second day, Ms. Xin made a lecture on how to make a financial report at first, and then Professor Kuang gave a lecture on how to make a project report, including the draft, progress report, final report, logistic framework, etc. Finally, Ms. Xin pointed out that besides passion, the sense of responsibility is also important. No matter what work we are doing, we should keep it in mind, and continue to improve ourselves.

The training lecture is closed successfully. It provides a good opportunity for all staff to share their experiences and learn from each other. What's more, it is an excellent basis for PEAC's

“...besides passion, the sense of responsibility is also important. No matter what work we are doing, we should keep it in mind, and continue to improve ourselves.”

In Bangkok, November 30, 2006, East Asian Rice Working Group mainly formed by relative organizations in Asian held a conference. Members from NETH introduced their investigations about the hybrid rice and the possible development of rice in Asia. Jean from SEARICE introduced her comparison finds between the hybrid and traditional rice in Philippines.

The research on rice as SP explained by RRAFFA. PEAC and EARTH NET FOUNDATION commented these issues. Executive Director Kuang participated this conference as one PEAC's



Congratulation on YHDA

Yunnan Health and Development Association organized a meeting to celebrate its registration at Medical College Kunming. Professor Xiang R J and Mr Liu Z H were invited to attend this activity. Prof. Xiang spoke at the meeting to congratulate its registration.



Popular Science Lecture held for cadres in Eryuan County. On December 20, the fiftieth commemorative day of Dali establishment, Eryuan County government and Scientific & Technologic Association held a popular science lecture together to enhance the scientific ideology among local cadres. Chief principals from nine towns and departments of villages, together more than 120 participants attended the lecture.

Mr. Kuang, Executive Director of PEAC, presented one lecture, “Use Ecological Techniques to Develop Villages’ Construction, Promote Eryuan Ecological Agriculture Development”. It started with the introduction of essential agricultural technologies, laid the emphasis on the agricultural modes and ecological agriculture technologies as well as the community construction.

Website Construction

With the further development of PEAC, it becomes essential to construct website through which we can keep pace with the progress of information era.

Nowadays website which supplies a lot of useful information is a good medium to spread culture and promote communication all over the world. PEAC's goal is to make more and more people participate in protecting environment and human health by reducing even eliminating pesticide. Being aware of this, PEAC decides to build its own website which can popularize the consciousness of the risks of pesticide, thereby to take action of refusing pesticide. For that, PEAC started to prepare and resign the website on purpose in

November, 2006. In order to perfect it, PEAC has held several conferences regarding to the website. In each meeting, PEAC's staff discussed the issue extensively and gave more useful suggestions and advices. Furthermore, PEAC has made a clear picture of the website's focuses, and made plan to accomplish its aim step by step that is to establish a significant pesticide action web and promote the development of eco-agriculture.



Staff Exchange

New staff

Mr. Chen Xi:

After graduating from Yunnan Agriculture University, Mr. Chen Xi worked on the research of non-point source pollution. Looking for a change, he joined PEAC's Bao Shan and paraquet projects. Although he has only worked for PEAC for about one month, PEAC's staff all think that he is earnest and hardworking.

Ms. Li Wei:

worked in an import and export company as a translator, after graduation. Now, she joins PEAC to continue her translation work, including editing and compiling the newsletters.

Departing Staff

Ms. Zhang Zhihua:

one of PEAC's staff member, left PEAC to be a volunteer of Red Cross. She played a very important role in the English translation of Pesticide Development in China: A Comprehensive Report. In a study tour, she has been to Thailand and India.

Therefore, the function of PEAC's website is more definite by repeating discussions. The first action is spreading knowledge related to the risks of pesticide and alternative agriculture. The second is enlarging the training range of more people and impact on the harmfulness of pesticide and the approach of alternatives in China even all over the world. As we knew, it would take much time, money and human resource to hold a training one by one or face to face, however it is also rather limited. If we use website, there will be too many people not only Chinese but also foreigners who will be benefit a lot from browsing it. Thirdly, to make it become a platform for communication all over the world. Although website construction may be a very difficult task, PEAC will make an effort to achieve it because of your concern and assistance.

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PESTICIDE ECO-ALTERNATIVES CENTER

PEAC on Web!!

The updated website

will soon be launched