

Preface

International Workshop on the Yellow River Studies was planned as a kick-off meeting for expanding and deepening not only scientific understanding of water circulation being occurred in the Yellow River domain, but also multi-disciplinary understanding of fact being occurred between natural phenomena and human activities under the severe climate condition. Thus consideration is basic and common comprehension which Research Institute for Humanity and Nature(RIHN) has been established in 2001. It is not so easy, but is challengeable and significant for us.

River water flows down to sea as open water or ground water with dissolved mineral component and precipitation which source is mainly evaporated water from sea surface and partially vapor water evaporated from land surface itself returns on land again. It is very simple but very difficult to estimate quantitatively still now. Moreover, we have little knowledge on effects of land use like irrigation to climatic change except of emission of carbon dioxide. Thus reason is background for planning of the Yellow River studies.

Fortunately, Professor Changming Liu, Chinese Academy of Science, has already been executing Chinese National Key Project relevant to Yellow River. And we have known Ocean university of China continues to pay attention to marine biological study in of Bohai Sea. Japanese and international scientists wish to collaborate with those studies and to get more integrated knowledge through our activities.

This meeting is expected to exchange information each other and discuss both implementation study plans. I would like to say heart full thanks for all of participants.

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Scope

The Yellow River does not reach often to the Bo-Hai Bay since 1970's because of huge amount of water uses for irrigation at midstream. Water shortage for industrial and drinking water and irrigation occurred, and shortage of river water induces water pollution, drastic decrease in groundwater level and decrease of nutrient transports to the Bo-Hai Sea. The recent crisis in the Yellow River basin is complicated because natural climate fluctuation, global warming, change of land utilization, and water management may affect one another.

In this international workshop, interactions between atmosphere and land, and land and ocean in the Yellow River domain will be discussed. Three kinds of research plans in both Japan and China relevant to the Yellow River domain will be also introduced. Invited speakers will be from Chinese Academy of Science, Ocean University of Qingdao, and International delegates from BAHC and LOICZ of IGBP, and IAHS/IAPSO of IUGG.