

## Preface

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop on the Yellow River Studies was held on January 27-29, 2003 in Kyoto as a kick off meeting, the two projects which I am taking the role of coordination are being implemented as scheduled plan under the tight cooperation with Chinese National Key Project coordinated by Academician, Professor Changming Liu, Institute of Geographical Science and National Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

First of all, I have to explain the difference of research intention between two projects. The first one is entitled "Recent rapid change of water circulation in the Yellow River and its effects on environment" funded by Research Institute for Humanity and Nature as Project 1-2, continuing five years from 2003 to 2007 fiscal year, and it aims at new discoveries of the interactions, such as complicated phenomena underlying among atmosphere and land surface, ground water and seawater, and development and preservation, in the Yellow River basin. The second one is entitled "Model development for hydrology and water resources in the Yellow River Domain" as a sub subject of "Development of simulation models for hydrology and water resources" which is subject No.6 of "Coexistence of People, Nature and Earth(RR2002)", Revolution Research Project funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT). It is to continue five years from 2002 to 2006 fiscal year.

The former is investigative and observational research using the latest equipments for grasping universal phenomena locally and the latter is requested making data base with high resolution at the moment, such as meteorological, hydrological, land-use changes and so on, over entire the Yellow River Domain. The final goal of both projects is to really recognize the reason why the drying-up of the Yellow River has occurred in 1990s. Therefore both projects should keep complementary relationships each other.

As it passed almost four years since the former project started, some interesting facts were discovered. And, the latter project has also got steady research results such as the precipitation data base with high resolution, hydrological modeling and satellite data analysis for land use change. Including research results by Chinese scientists, I am intensively expected information exchanges among all of scientists in the 3rd International Workshop held on February 15-16, 2007 in Kyoto. Fortunately, it brought fruitful results by the presentations and discussions among 18 Chinese, 14 Japanese, 2 Americans and a Check scientist. I wish to inform to all of readers that there are hidden issues on the background of water problems in the Yellow River.

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Project Leaders

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