

EAEH2013 Welcome address-Ts'ui-jung Liu

October 24, 2013

President Wu, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to participate in the Second Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH2013) on behalf of the Association for East Asian Environmental History (AEAEH) and the local preparatory committee of the Conference.

For your information, I would like to brief first about the preparation of this conference. With the announcement of call for papers in March 2012, we received proposals of 59 individual papers and 8 panels containing 27 papers. It should be noted that after reviewing only a few paper proposals were not accepted. It is to be regretted, however, that a few scholars finally decided not to attend the conference for various reasons. Thus, in these three days, we will have 70 presentations, including keynote speeches.

Under the general theme of "Transformation of East Asian Environment in Historical Perspective: Local Reality and Global Connection", all papers and panels have been organized into 21 sessions focusing on different sub-themes such as, conceptual view of environmental history, forest management, environmental policy history, attitude toward nature, nature in the 20th century, natural hazards, disaster and prevention, marine resources and imperialism, biological resources and imperialism, land use, water resources, pollution, Taiwan's post-war local environmental history, and American environmental legacies in the Philippines. The sessions are arranged in parallel due to limitation of time; but I hope that all participants will be able to enjoy learning from different topics as much as possible by moving quietly from one session to the other during the course of presentations.

It should also be mentioned that under the request of some participants in July this year, a special session is arranged for introducing the database of Geographical Information System (GIS) established in Academia Sinica in order to show the operation of this database. I hope that this introduction will be helpful for you to utilize the GIS database in

your research.

Regarding the current situation of the Association for East Asian Environmental History, I would like to inform you that now we have 298 members in the membership list available in the AEAEH website. Compared with the initial number of 193 in October 2009 when the website was first initiated, there is an increase of more than 100 members in four years. This is a quite good progress. I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to provide information such as activities of workshop and conference as well as new publications which can enrich the content of the AEAEH website.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that after the First Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH2011), more than 20 papers were revised and submitted for publication and 18 of them were selected for a volume entitled, *Environmental History in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Ts'ui-jung Liu, to be published by Routledge in association with Academia Sinica (forthcoming 2014). The 18 chapters of this volume are divided into four parts concerning environmental thought and policy, altered view on landscape, ground gained for agriculture, and ground lost: disease and disaster. It is notable that 10 authors of this volume are also participating and presenting papers in this second conference. I expect that from this second conference we can produce another volume in due course. For this, I would like to encourage all presenters to submit your revised papers after this conference. For a long-term expectation, a series on East Asian Environmental History may be produced as we will have the Association's conference held regularly in the future.

As environmental history has been developed into a field of study since the 1970s in the world and even though the steps in East Asia seems to be a little bit slower, more and more scholars specialized in history and other disciplines have devoted to do environmental history. I believe scholars concerning East Asian environmental history will not only try to establish this sub-field into a solid interdisciplinary academic ground but also to contribute to the world environmental history as a whole.

With this in mind, I would like to thank you all again for coming to this

conference, particularly for those coming from far away from abroad and those who serve as the chairs of sessions. I would also like to thank National Dong Hwa University for hosting this conference, to thank Academia Sinica for providing necessary budget, and to thank the working teams of the Dong Hwa University and the Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica, for providing all services.