

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Sündermann

**25 years of cooperation between the Ocean University of Qingdao
and the University of Hamburg - 25 years stimulation of
Sino-German relations in oceanography**

From August 15 to 26, 1983, the 18th General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) was held in Hamburg/Germany. This was the first time after the societal reforms in the People's Republic of China that Chinese geoscientists became visible in the Western world. Among others, there have been many contacts and talks between German and Chinese oceanographers.

In the following time a vivid correspondence between German and Chinese institutions of marine research developed, especially between the Shandong College of Oceanography in Qingdao (SCO) and the Institute of Oceanography, University of Hamburg (IfM). In 1985 Prof. Jürgen Sündermann was invited by Prof. Wen Shenchang to give a series of lectures on modelling of physical, chemical and biological processes in the sea at SCO.

This event was realized in 1986, when Prof. Sündermann and his wife visited China during July 7 – August 8. At SCO he delivered 10 classes on modelling and took part in 4 discussions on actual topics of oceanographic research. Afterwards he visited the South China Sea Institute in Guangzhou (Prof. Ye Longfei).

In the same year an international conference on shelf sea dynamics (ISPSBECS, November 3-5, 1986) was held in Qingdao, and Prof. Sündermann participated as invited lecturer. On this occasion Prof. Wen together with him signed the first official memorandum on scientific cooperation between SCO and IfM, supported by the State Oceanic Administration of China (SOA) and the German Research Foundation (DFG), on November 6, 1986. Thereafter Prof. Sündermann visited the headquarters of SOA in Beijing and had talks on perspectives of Sino-German cooperation in oceanography. Both sides agreed to involve further scientific institutions from China and Germany.

Since this early initiation the cooperation has been systematically and fruitfully developed. The University of Hamburg (UH) and the Ocean University of Qingdao (OUQ, successor of SCO, precursor of the Ocean University of China, OUC) could bring in their experiences and project proposals into the regular meetings of the Joint Sino-German Governmental Commission on cooperation in marine research and technology. In the following years relations and common works also developed with the Second Institute of Oceanography (SOA) in Hangzhou (Prof. Su Jilan) and the South China Sea Institute in Guangzhou (Prof. Ye Longfei); further with the First Institute of Oceanography (SOA) in Qingdao,

the Third Institute of Oceanography (SOA) in Xiamen (Prof. Li Li) and the Guangzhou Marine Observatory (Dr. Xia Zongwan).

The relations between the OUQ (OUC) and the UH became fostered more and more and got permanent support from both, SOA and DFG. Besides of physical oceanography other marine disciplines as meteorology, biogeochemistry and hydrobiology have been included, besides of modelling also field measurements and remote sensing. The personal links became closer, scientists are exchanged, young Chinese people studied in Hamburg. Among others, Jiang Wensheng, and Xueen Chen from Qingdao and Huang Daji from Hangzhou got their Ph.D. degree from the UH, each with model developments for Chinese coastal seas. Almost yearly there have been mutual visits of leading scientists, partially in the frame of the Joint Sino-German Governmental Commission.

Prof. Sündermann was awarded on April 21, 1989, the status of an Honorary Professor of OUC in Qingdao and he was distinguished for his continuous partnership in an academic ceremony in Qingdao on August 5, 2004.

The most visible highlight of the cooperation hitherto was the joint project “Analysis and Modelling of the Bohai Sea Ecosystem” (AMBOS) which was carried out during 1997-2000 encompassing two ship cruises of R/V DONG FANG HONG in autumn 1998 and spring 1999. The results of the project have been published in a Special Volume of JOURNAL OF MARINE SYSTEMS (Vol. 44, 3/4, 123-254, 2004) with guest editors J. Sündermann and S. Feng.

Meanwhile most of the initiators of the cooperation on both sides are retired. In their institutes, however, a new generation of scientists is grown which continues the joint works under the scientific challenges and the frame conditions of today. The prospects for further 25 years of fruitful cooperation to the benefit of both countries are excellent.

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