

and long-term training in Europe, Advisory Committee activities, and procurement of equipment and some building components.

A European consultancy joint-venture, with Dangroup International Consulting Engineers and Planners A/S as lead consultant, has been given the task of providing all the technical assistance services during the first phase of the project, which is estimated to last six years.

Further information may be obtained from the Chinese Director, Mr. Jiang Shilin, or from the European Co-Director, Mr. Jørgen Delman. The contact address in China is the Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing (Tel. +861 582331-221; Fax: 5002448). Dangroup International can be contacted at: CECAT Project Office, c/o Rambøll & Hannemann A/S, Bredevej 2, DK-2830 Virum, Denmark. (Tel.: +45 42 85 65 00; Fax: +45 45 83 13 05; Telex: 37108 ramhan dk.)

## **CONFERENCE HELD**

### **The Second European Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in China (ECARDC) Leiden, January 14-17, 1991**

On 14-17 January 1991, the Sinological Institute hosted the Second Conference on Agricultural and Rural Development in China (ECARDC) at Leiden University. The Conference was organized by Dr. Eduard B. Vermeer, Ms W.L. Chong, and Ms Pauline Millington of the Documentation and Research Centre for Contemporary China, and was sponsored by The Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences KNAW, the Faculty of Letters of Leiden University, Royal Dutch Airlines KLM, and AKZO.

ECARDC is an informal network of European and other concerned specialists and students working in the field of rural and agricultural development in China. Since the First Conference was held in Denmark in November 1989, ECARDC's membership has considerably expanded, which was reflected in the number of participants at the Second Conference. There were 58 people from ten different countries (The People's Republic of China, The Netherlands, Germany, UK, Denmark, France, Italy, Belgium, and Switzerland). There were ten Chinese researchers present, among whom were the Directors of two institutes under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). The participation of our Chinese colleagues was much appreciated. Thirty-three papers were presented under three main headings:

- i) the role of Chinese government organizations (national and local) in rural development;
- ii) agricultural diversification and mobilization of rural resources in China;
- iii) social aspects of rural development.

Since the start of the reforms in the Chinese countryside more than a decade ago, the reforms, after an initial period of rapid growth and diversification of rural activities, have been faced with a multitude of social and political, as well as infra-structural, managerial and technical problems. During the Conference, useful contributions were made to the analysis of many major issues in Chinese agricultural and rural development today.

The Conference successfully continued the multi-disciplinary approach of the first meeting in Denmark, bringing together a mixed company of people engaged in academic research, development projects, trade and consultancy, and international exchange and cooperation programs with China.

The Conference proved to be especially useful in bringing together those engaged in academic research and field-work on the one hand, and those involved in international co-operation and development programs on the other.

A selection of the papers presented at the First Conference has been published by Aarhus University Press, Denmark, in 1990: Jørgen Delman, Clemens Stubbe Ostergaard and Flemming Christiansen (Eds.), *Remaking Peasant China: Problems of Rural Development and Institutions at the Start of the 1990s*. Dr. Eduard B. Vermeer will edit a selection of the papers presented at the Second Conference, to be published by Kegan Paul International. The Third Conference is scheduled to take place in 1993 at the Justus-Liebig University in Giessen, Germany.

Specialists and students interested in joining the informal ECARDC network are welcome to apply for membership (free of charge) at the ECARDC Information Desk, c/o Ms W.L. Chong, Sinological Institute, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands (Tel.: (+31) 071-27 2531/ 27 2516, Fax: (+31) 071- 27 2615). The Conference Program and the second issue of the *ECARDC Network Newsletter* (if still available) can be obtained from the same address.

### **Dissertation on the Perception of Rural Backwardness**

On 27 March 1991, Leo Douw was awarded a doctorate by Leiden University for his thesis on "The Representation of China's Rural Backwardness, 1932-1937".

The thesis is intended as a preliminary analysis of the way in which Chinese intellectuals in the 1930s made selections from the various theories then available in Western social sciences explaining rural backwardness. The analysis is based on a study of the lives and writings of a selected number of "liberal", Marxist, and nationalist authors.

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