

Welcome to the COAA e-Newsletter!

As previously announced, this electronic newsletter is being published to supplement our traditional semiannual publication by providing approximately monthly updates of the activities and events occurring within our community. In this first issue, we begin by catching up with some "old" news ... **(1) the successful COAA 2002 Annual meeting held last October, (2) the panel discussion at the conclusion of the meeting, and (3) the visit of Dr. Kuo from UCAR,**... then, current news about **(4) the COAA website development, (5) the status of COAA2003, Beijing, and (6) the upcoming COAA workshop in March.** The last item is **the minutes of November COAA Board meeting.**

As also mentioned in our previous announcement, all members are strongly encouraged to submit a news item or two, whenever an occasion calls for. (COAA has no news reporter.) The cohesiveness of COAA community depends on maintaining a strong communication among our members. The participation in the newsletter by you - each individual member - is what will ultimately make this communication strong and vibrant. Remember, a news item can be about, but is not limited to, any one of the following:

Meeting/conference report/announcement
Research work/activity
Honors/Award/research grant
Promotion/graduation/change of position/employment/sabbatical
Latest publication/abstract
Job/research grant opportunity
Visit/exchange/collaboration
New member
Community outreach
Social event

The email address to submit the news to is "coaa.news@cox.net", and the news messages need not be long (similar in length to the postings in this issue).

Looking forward to your continuing support as well as any feedback concerning the online newsletter - Editor.

===== **COAA e-Newsletter. Issue #1. March 2, 2003** =====

(1) Report on COAA 2002 Annual meeting: Conference on Earth-observing and atmosphere-land-ocean interactions.

Over fifty people participated in the COAA 2002 Annual Meeting: Conference on Earth-observing and Atmosphere-Ocean-Land interaction, held October 26, 2002 in Enterprise Hall, George Mason University. The full day conference includes four invited

talks, twenty poster presentations, and panel discussions by past COAA presidents. Four invited talks include "Sea level changes in HK and its relation with ENSO" by Prof. Zheng Dawei of HK Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, "A coupled atmosphere-hydrological modeling study of the 1996 Ha! Ha! River basin flash flood in Quebec, Canada" by Prof. Charles Lin of McGill University, Canada, "Sediment control of China's Yellow River" by Prof. George Leung of University of Massachusetts, and "AVAccess/MAGIC: remote sensing and GIS for regional environmental applications" by Prof. Menas Kafatos of George Mason University. The three-hour luncheon/poster session provided participants ample opportunities for in-depth discussions and networking. The poster session participants include Universities such as University of Delaware, University of Maryland College Park, Johns Hopkins University, George Mason University, Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere and government agencies such as NASA and NOAA. Eight of the nine COAA past presidents participated in the panel discussion and shared their visions on research trends and future direction of COAA. In the evening, over thirty members and guests attended the annual banquet, held at China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia. Banquet guests were treated to the humorous and thought-provoking keynote speech "Understanding the impact of cultural behavior to our careers" given by Dr. Paul Chan of USDA Economic Research Services, in addition to good food, good company, and drawing of many gifts. **(Long Chiu; lchiu@gmu.edu)**

(2) Panel discussion at the COAA 2002 Annual Meeting.

In celebration of entering the 10th year of COAA, the COAA 2002 annual meeting (held in the George Mason University, VA, on October 26, 2002) organized a special panel discussion. COAA's past presidents were all invited to serve as the panelists; and all but one did, including, in chronological order, Paul Hwang (NASA), William Lau (NASA), Frank Pao (Catholic U.), Tsann-Wang Yu (NOAA), Eddie Shi (NOAA), Wilbur Chen (NOAA), and Tony Liu (NASA) (Norden Huang of NASA couldn't make it that day). COAA's vice president Ben Chao (NASA) served as the moderator.

The panelists were first asked to present their forward-looking views on what the big science issues are and what they see in COAA's future (expanded) roles and directions. The presentations were very lively; the speakers also shared their personal stories and experiences with an enthusiastic audience of about 40 COAA members. The forum was then open to the floor, which saw active participation from the audience. Originally scheduled for 1.5 hours, the discussion had to be cut short at the 2-hour mark.

All panelists and attendees recognizing the tremendous success COAA now enjoys, it was reassuring to see that many COAA issues directed to the future were raised and discussed, sometimes debated, in a very upbeat, pleasant atmosphere. These include COAA's expansion of membership and participation in terms of ethnic background, geographical location, age group, and even gender; expansion in terms of types of COAA activities such as conferences/workshops, scholarships, and especially outreach activities related to local and Taiwan/Mainland China schools, websites, relationship with other professional societies, and COAA's role in benefiting and feedback to the society. The

discussion has provided valuable input and food for thought in future planning of the growing COAA as an organization. (**Ben Chao; chao@bowie.gsfc.nasa.gov**)

(3) A welcome party for Dr. Bill Kuo on December 3, 2002.

On December 3, 2002, COAA hosted a welcome dinner party in Oriental East restaurant in honor of Dr. Bill Kuo during his business travel to DC. A total of 24 COAA members attended the party. Dr. Kuo is UCAR's Program Director of COAMIC (Constellation Observing System for Meteorology, Ionosphere, and Climate) and one of COAA's Regional Directors. After a few introduction remarks by COAA's President, Da-Lin Zhang, Dr. Kuo gave a talk on the possible regional expansion of COAA's activities into the area. Recruiting new members, holding workshops and annual meetings, and enhancing the professional network were also discussed. (Da-Lin Zhang; dalin@atmos.umd.edu)



(Photo by William Tseng; william.tseng@noaa.gov)

(4) The development of COAA website.

As some of you may have already observed, COAA has been recently redesigning and reconstructing its Webpage. This is a long over due and much needed effort, which is also made as a response to an issue (to improve the quality of the COAA Website) raised by some members at the 2002 annual meeting. At the last board meeting, COAA formally set up a Webpage committee, which consists of Long Chiu, Yixiang (Eric) Nie, Colin Shen, Song Yang, and Da-Lin Zhang. The redesign and reconstruction of COAA's Webpage are aimed at an improvement of the association's outreach activities, a better service to the worldwide members, and a more effective management of communications among COAA members and other professionals. The new COAA Webpage is substantially different from the previous one. A preliminary design of the new Webpage is about to be completed. Please join me to thank Mr. Eric Nie of the George Mason University for his diligent work. Without his excellent effort, the new generation of the Webpage would never be possible. Please visit the Website at <http://www.coaweb.org> and provide your comments. However, it should be understood that while we strive to achieve our goals at high standard, not all of the suggested work can be performed very quickly because COAA does not have a full time Webmaster. (**Song Yang; song.yang@noaa.gov**)

(5) The current status of COAA2003.

As of February 25, 2003, we have received 195 abstracts, with about 2/3 from the atmosphere and interdisciplinary topics and the remaining 1/3 from the oceans. There were 10-12 double or more submissions. An ad hoc organizational committee met on February 8th to discuss various issues related to COAA2003. This ad hoc committee consists of overseas co-chairs and vice chairs of COAA2003 committees, COAA's current Vice President and Program Directors, and some of COAA's past presidents. The Committee discussed prospective plenary session speakers and topics that might be of interest to many of the conference participants, publication of the conference proceedings as extended abstracts vs. papers, possible registration fee and conference financial support from China, and the other conference-related activities. In order to accommodate the many abstracts received, it was recommended that each participant be given only one oral presentation, including the plenary talk, with the other one(s) presented in the poster session. The above-mentioned issues have been communicated to the conference host, i.e., Dr. Yifen Pu of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics. The pertinent participants will be informed once

our plans are finalized. All of the prospective participants would be notified of our decision on the acceptance of their abstracts by February 28, 2003. Finally, each committee member was asked to serve as a disciplinary organizer to i) assess the quality of the submitted abstracts, ii) assign them into proper sessions; iii) suggest overseas session chairs, and iv) collect conference papers. **(Da-Lin Zhang; dalin@atmos.umd.edu)**

(6) COAA 2003 Scientific Workshop: Research and Applications in Atmospheric, Ocean and Earth Sciences.

You are invited to the COAA 2003 Scientific Workshop: Research and Applications in Atmospheric, Ocean, and Earth Sciences to be held on 25 March 2003 Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, Room 2400, Computer and Space Science Building at the University of Maryland at College Park. Free parking is available on the Q-lot next to the building, except for the first row.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for members and guests to present their research works, facilitates discussions and exchange of ideas and promotes networking among colleagues and fellow members. All participants are invited to attend a dinner at a nearby Chinese restaurant, probably Seven Seas Chinese Restaurant on route 1 in College Park, after the presentations. Registration can be done by sending an email, indicating if you will attend only the technical session or both technical session and dinner to Program Chairs Long Chiu (lchiu@gmu.edu) or Xiaofeng Li (xiaofeng.li@noaa.gov).

Abstracts, include title, name of author(s), affiliation(s) and contact information (phone and email address), of 200-500 words, together with a short bio should be sent to the above mentioned Program Chairs Long Chiu (lchiu@gmu.edu) or Xiaofeng Li

(xiaofeng.li@noaa.gov). The short bio should include work experience, education, and areas of interests. Oral presentations are allotted 15- 20 minutes, but longer presentations can be accommodated. (**Long Chiu; lchiu@gmu.edu**)

(7) Minutes of COAA-Extended Board Meeting (Song Yang; song.yang@noaa.gov)
11:00AM - 2:30 PM, 23 November 2002
6415 Kilbrogan Court, Clarksville, MD 21209

Attendants: Julian Wang, Te-Jung Wang, Song Yang, Ben Chao, Da-Lin Zhang, Yuejian Zhu, William Tseng, Colin Shen, Shi-Keng Yang, Chung-Lin Shie, Quanan Zheng, Long Chiu

Absentee: Xiaofeng Li

1. Transfers of duties

- a. The duties of President and Board members of Treasurer, Secretary, Publication, Program, and Publicity were transferred from the previous (2001-02) board to the current (2002-03) board.
- b. Da-Lin and William to the bank for signature transfer in order to co-sign COAA's checks.
- c. CFC-related activities and COAA's telephone will still be maintained by Eddies Shih.

2. COAA2003 in Beijing

- a. Da-Lin updated information from IAP, including committees and financial sources.
- b. Send information about Taiwan participants to IAP by the end of December 2002 - Ben and Chung-Lin lead and may ask Regional Directors in Taiwan for assistance.
- c. Complete the Website items for all purposes by 10 December 2002 (responsibility of Quanan - in charge, Da-Lin, Ben, Long, and Nie).
- d. COAA may consider providing travel support up to \$2,000 for the conference after using up all external funds. (Da-Lin to check with Eddie for CFC regulations.)
- e. Organize a session about Zheng-He (Ho) within the 2003 conference (Ben)

3. Planning activities

- a. First workshop will be held on the afternoon of Friday, 28 March 2003 at UMD (Long and Xiaofeng). Da-Lin to reserve the room. [Editor's note: This date has been changed. See item 6 above.]
- b. The first Newsletter will be out in April 2003, and a second one likely in June, before COAA2003. (Colin).
- c. Spring Festival gathering on 8 February 2003, maybe co-organized with other groups (Long, Xiaofeng, and William)
- d. COAA's banner will be replaced (Da-Lin).
- e. Next board meeting will be on 28 March 2003.
- f. COAA will contribute \$200 and co-sponsor the 2002 U.S.-China Conference on Business and Technology (Song).

- g. Yuejian will prepare membership fee receipts (for life, regular, student members) for COAA2003.
- h. Prepare Christmas greeting cards; also to regional directors and corporate members (Chung-Lin, Shi-Keng, and Da-Lin). Cards will be co-signed by Tony, Song, and Da-Lin.
- i. Da-Lin and Quanan will finalize the establishment of sister association issue with China's Society of Oceanography.
- j. Prepare plaques or others for COAA2003 organizers and sponsors (Shi-Keng, Xiaofeng, Song, Jianping, and Da-Lin; \$30 - \$50 each). Have them made in China.
- k. Send another note for CFC contributions (Da-Lin).
- l. Membership drive and plan a future non-local workshop in Boulder - subjects for discussion with Dr. Bill Kuo on 3 December 2002.

4. COAA Webpage

- a. COAA will pay \$200 for re-design and re-organize the current Webpage. COAA will pay \$20/month to maintain the Webpage. Long will contact Mr. Eric Nie for this issue.
- b. Establish a Website committee: Song (Chair), Da-Lin, Long, Colin, and Eric.
- c. Try to use email system in the COAA Website - Song to check with Wilbur.
- d. Da-Lin will contact Wilbur for turning off some of the current presentations.
- e. Include the following information in the Website:
 - Member's request for Membership Directory (Y/N?)
 - Links of corporate members
 - Links of sister associations
 - COAA committees

5. Others

- a. Issues of scholarship and modification of COAA's mission statement were raised but related actions would be delayed.
- b. More information, including the minutes of board meetings, will be sent to COAA's advisory committee members (former presidents) and regional directors. A summary of the minutes may be published in Newsletters and COAA's web.
- c. Returned checks need to be taken care of (Da-Lin and Song).
- d. Issue of summer camp was raised but action would be delayed because of COAA2003.

End.

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