

Statement of Intent
For Implementation of an EcoPartnership
Between Tulane University and East China Normal University

This is a Statement of Intent regarding voluntary cooperation between Tulane University, U.S.A. and East China Normal University, China, for the purpose of developing collaborative projects that further energy security, promote economic sustainability and advance environmental sustainability in the United States and China and prioritize finding solutions to the energy and environmental challenges that both countries face. This cooperation is under the EcoPartnerships Framework pursuant to the Framework for the Ten Year Cooperation on Energy and Environment between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed on June 18, 2008. More specifically, this EcoPartnership addresses the framework's fifth goal: "Conservation of Forest and Wetland Ecosystems." The Payson Center for International Development in partnership with the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research (CBR) and ECNU propose, in partnership with additional US and Chinese research colleagues, to foster and institutionalize "EcoPartnership" that will provide for long-term wetland protection, wetland ecology repair and restoration (including urban rural and natural systems), enhance the environmental and economic sustainability of wetland in both sides through joint research and knowledge sharing, local capacity building, and exchange of best practices, demonstration and dissemination.

I. Objective:

The goal of the EcoPartnership is to facilitate a cooperative relationship between the EcoPartnters for sharing of best practices and implementing targeted pilot programs that can serve as a model for other enterprises, academic/research/ management/training entities, other nongovernmental organizations and associations, and various levels of sub-national governments in the United States and China.

The purpose of this Statement of Intent is to memorialize the mutual understanding of the EcoPartners regarding their expectations and respective roles under the EcoPartnerships Framework. This Statement of Intent provides an overview and sets forth the general operating principles and guidelines for cooperation between the EcoPartners.

II. Background:

- China is a nation of rich wetlands. Especially in eastern coastal area of China, there are dense river wetlands, sea coastal wetlands and lake wetlands. At the present time, this area has high population density along with fast paced economic development; it also faces serious environment challenges. In certain areas, environment challenges have become a bottle neck of economic development and hinder the quality of life improvement due to water pollution, lack of clean headwaters, loss of natural wetlands, and threat to the diversity of living things in wetlands, the Yangtze River Delta and Yellow River Delta, in particular. The Chinese government has already initiated natural preservation zones, wetland parks, and artificial wetland restoration projects, striving to greatly enhancing the environmental restoration efforts based on scientific development principles to realize full scale, coordinated, sustainable development. Because a wetland a sophisticated system, we have to reach a balance between economic development and environmental restoration. Further we have to carry out more scientific and policy research through international collaborations.
- USA with than 40 years of experience on wetland protection and restoration has accumulated rich engineering experience and it has established “no net loss” type of environmental protection policy. But, during the long urbanization processes, environmental problems similar to Chinese east costal wetland problems have emerged. For example, Louisiana has more coastal wetlands than any U.S. continental state and was created by the Mississippi River over the past 7,000 years and its

coastal systems produce the largest domestic supply of oil and gas in the United State's mainland. Both U.S. and China coastal systems have been modified extensively over the past two centuries to accommodate urban expansion, transportation, and other agricultural and other land use conversions. The eastern coastal marshes of China were designated as a Biosphere Reserve under the United National Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme in November 1992. New Orleans serves as a UNESCO hub in its Urban Biosphere Programme, which emerged from the MAB program.

- Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005) and Gustav and Ike (2008), we have learned that an ongoing challenge to disaster recovery long-term sustainability is the difficulty in discovering and understanding the guiding principles that will ensure both urban renewal and resilience as well as the restoration and conservation of the coastal wetland and river delta systems upon which our societies depend. Urbanization proceeds in a variety of ways in different parts of the world and affects the environment at all levels. However, plans for sustainable cities frequently lack a sound scientific or institutional basis and either stop at the city boundary or include the hinterlands through a simple footprint analysis. The challenge is to manage a city and its surroundings as an inextricably connected ecosystem. Sustainable development of wetland systems and its practices must take a multidisciplinary approach. To date, the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary study of this problem have been relatively limited. For this EcoPartnership, a formal institutional team will be instituted with an overall project goal of creating a global framework model of coastal/delta city sustainability (e.g., restoration, conservation, and enhancement), initiated through U.S./Chinese academic, government agencies, non-profit and industry partnership. With the EcoPartnership, we are committed to make some breakthroughs on wetland research, development and restoration.

- For the United States, this partnership will be enhanced by Dr. ST Hsieh's existing clean energy technology transfer activities with China through the U.S.-China Energy and Environmental Technology Center (EETC) as well as Dr. Douglas Meffert's existing representation on UNESCO's Urban Biosphere program his collaboration with Kyoto University and the Ministry of Construction (Japan) on the flooding and other disaster vulnerability of Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka. The additional partnerships that will be used as a foundation for this EcoPartnership include the CBR's Long-term Estuary Assessment Group consortium and the CBR/Louisiana State University/University of New Orleans/University of Louisiana at Lafayette's emergent Coastal Louisiana Sustainability Initiative (CLSI).
- For China, the primary partner will be Professor Lu Jianjian of ECNU. There are two state key disciplines in East China Normal University (ECNU): Ecology and Geography. Many fundamental researches have been done in the fields of coastal wetland ecosystem, landscape structure, eco-economy, environment evolvement and human economical and regional development, eco-city etc. in State Key Laboratory of Estuarine & Costal Research, Institute of Resources and Environmental Science, Institute of Life Science, Key Laboratory of Geography Information Science of Ministry of Education of China and many data about wetland have been collected. Specifically, since 1986 this research team has established a series of wetland research projects along the east coast and accumulated rich wetland research experience. Since 1994, it has established some "wetland research bases" on the Chongming Island at the mouth of the Yangtze River and created the Chong Xi Wetland Scientific Research Station including a 300-hectare Ecology Restoration Research Base, a 15,000-Squaremeter Research Forest Park (Station). As of now this research base is a member of Global Wetland Coalition (GWC) and the Asia Training Center for the Wetland International (WI.)

- Additional Participants can include, but are not limited to, the following:

U.S. Government Participants (e.g. municipal, state, regional, federal, etc.)

- Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
- Louisiana Applied Coastal Engineering and Science Program
- City of New Orleans, Office of Recovery and Development Administration

U.S. University and Non-Governmental Participation

- Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
- Xavier University, New Orleans, LA
- Rand Gulf States Policy Institute, New Orleans, LA
- University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
- Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette, LA
- Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA
- The Nature Conservancy

Proposed Chinese Partners

- State Forestry Administration
- Other Universities
- NGO's

III. Operating Principles and Guidelines

In order to further the goals of the EcoPartnerships Framework, the participants understand that participation in the Framework is based on the following structure:

1. The EcoPartners anticipate that their cooperation will last a minimum of two years.
2. Each side of the EcoPartnership should identify a Team Leader responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan and cooperation with the other participant(s). This Team Leader also serves as a point of contact for the Ten Year Framework Joint Working Group. This Team Leader should be actively involved in the implementation of the partnership and be part of the Task Force (below).
3. A Task Force should be established to manage cooperation between the EcoPartners. The Task Force should be comprised of at least three members from each country. The members should be representatives from the participating organizations, participating levels of government (if any) and other sectors of society with an interest in the partnerships goals. The Task Force member list should be provided to the Ten Year Framework Joint Working Group within six weeks of signing this Statement of Intent.
4. The Task Force should submit an Action Plan to the Ten Year Framework Joint Working Group within six months of signing this Statement of Intent, and this Action Plan is intended to serve as the first semi-annual report, as well. The Action Plan should provide an overview of the partnership, milestones for the first two years of the partnership, medium-term goals of the partnership, and a long term vision of the goals intended by the EcoPartners. The Action Plan should become the basis for future reporting to the Joint Working Group.
5. The Task Force should provide semi-annual reports in writing to the Joint Working Group of progress towards the milestones and goals of the partnership. Milestones may be reassessed in the semi-annual

reports to adapt to the changing economic and policy environments faced by both the U.S. and Chinese partners.

6. Recognizing the roles of national governments of the U.S. and China to provide advice, coordination and support for these EcoPartnerships, the Task Force should cooperate with the Joint Working Group to communicate best practices and the success of the partnership broadly.

Participation under this Statement of Intent is to commence on the date of signature and may be modified or extended subject to mutual approval in writing between the participants, and may be discontinued if one of the participants notifies the other in writing of this intention.

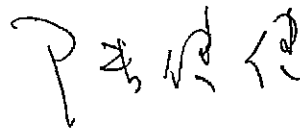
This framework is signed in Beijing on this date of fourth of December 2008, in the English and Chinese languages.

For Tulane University

For East China Normal University



S. T. Hsieh



Lu Jianjian