



Initial meeting of Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) for China & Eastern Asia (22 Dec 2020)

Agenda

1. Self-introductions
2. IYRP initiative: where does it come from and where are we going?
 - Background information on IYRP and approval process this far
 - Main purposes of the RISG
3. Remarks by Prof Dr James O'Rourke
4. Remarks by Dr Ann Waters-Bayer
5. Self-organisation/coordination of the RISG
6. Selection of chairperson and representatives
7. Proposal for next meeting

Welcome

We would like to welcome the participants from different regions in China and Eastern Asia, and the representative from International Support Group (ISG) Communications Team, Dr Ann Waters-Bayer. This webinar meeting aims to launch our work together as a Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) in China & Eastern Asia (CEA) and facilitate the group's self-organisation. On behalf of the IYRP International Support Group (ISG), Prof Long Ruijun will moderate this initiative meeting to get things started.

In addition we would like to express our regards to the ISG Chair, Prof Dr. James O'Rourke, who did not attend this meeting due to the difficulties with the network.

1. Self-introductions by participants

Dr Ann Waters-Bayer from Agrecol Germany and ISG Communications Team

Dr Wolfgang Bayer from Agrecol Germany

Prof Dr Deng Bo from Chinese Grassland Society

Prof Dr Rong Yuping from Chinese Grassland Society

Prof Dr Han Guodong from Inner Mongolia Agricultural University

Prof Dr Song Qian from Chinese Agricultural University

Mr Zhao Zhong from Gansu "Green Camel Bell" Environment and Development Center

Miss Dai Huxuan from Shan Shui Conservation Center

Mr Da Lintai from Tsuuria Center for Study of Ecology in Inner Mongolia's Pastoral Region

Dr Du Juan from Lanzhou University

Prof Dr Long Ruijun from Lanzhou University

Prof Long's research group: Dr Huang Xiaodan, Dr Guo Na, Mr Jing Xiaoping, Mr Guo Wei, Mr Zhang Qunying, Mr Rang Fengfu, Miss Dang Siqi, Mr Li Zhenggang, Mr Yang Fengfu

2. Background information on IYRP and approval process thus far

Prof Long presented a PPT prepared by the ISG for all RISGs.

Prof Rong asked about the current status of IYRP, and if there was any competition?

Ann explained that the IYRP must still be approved by the United Nations General Assembly. Competition meant that the year will be held only in 2026.

Prof Rong asked about the type of sponsorship, financial or other?

Ann explained that countries wanting to co-sponsor the IYRP proposal together with the Government of Mongolia would probably be expected to commit to some financial support.

Prof Rong asked about what the sponsor should be – the government or another agency?

Ann declared that China had supported the proposal during the COAG meeting in the October and might therefore be a "candidate" for co-sponsoring the proposal in the future. She also emphasised the importance of going beyond the Ministry of Agriculture and trying to get the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as these will be the people who decide on the proposal in the UN General Assembly in September 2021.

All the participants agreed with that and will try to push the progress in the further.

Prof Long suggested that the CAE RISG could still function on its own when organising activities to support the IYRP.

Prof Rong, Prof Han and Prof Deng agreed with that and suggested that we need to pay special attention to the importance of economically helping herders in pastoral areas to get more income and better life.

3. Remarks by Prof Dr James O'Rourke

Unfortunately, Prof Dr James O'Rourke was not able to attend this meeting because of difficulties with the network.

4. Remarks by Dr Ann Waters-Bayer

Ann expressed her thanks to be invited to this RISG meeting. She stressed the importance of gaining support of more countries for the Mongolian Government's proposal to the United Nations for an IYRP in 2026 before the General Assembly in September 2021. Also letters of support and commitment from numerous more organisations in the region would be welcomed. The ISG hopes that the RISGs in East and South Asia will update their page of the IYRP "online booth" (<https://www.iyrp.info/east-south-asia>) with information, photos, videos and logos of supporting organisations.

5. Self-organisation/coordination of the RISG

Do we want to remain a combined China & East and South Asia group, or subdivide?

The ISG originally wanted South Asia and East Asia to form a RISG together. However, the South Asia representatives held their RISG meeting at the beginning of the month, so our Eastern Asia RISG became an independent group and holds a meeting today.

Geographical and gender composition of the group

A total of 26 people expressed interest thus far to be in the CEA RISG, including 10 people within Prof Long's research group; of these 26 people, 18 are in today's webinar meeting. The group of 26 consists of:

- 23 people from China
- 1 from Korea
- 2 from Japan

Of all the 26 people, only 7 are women.

6. Selection of chairperson(s) and representatives

Chairperson(s)

How many and who will be the chairpersons of the CEA RISG? By (sub)region maybe?

Prof Long suggested three chairpersons should be selected by region according to the division of rangeland types. In this case, they can be responsible for each of the subregions.

Prof Rong also suggested subregional chairpersons. Prof Han agreed with this, and participants suggested Prof Long as chairperson of CEA RISG. Prof Long recommended Prof Han as co-chairperson in charge of the Inner Mongolia area, Prof Rong as co-chairperson in charge of Beijing and surrounding areas, and he himself can oversee the Qinghai Tibetan plateau area.

Representation of CEA RISG in IYRP ISG

Who will represent the CEA RISG in the ISG (take part in meetings and by email; bring in views, suggestions and concerns from the region)?

Following Ann's suggestion, we would like to pend this selection until the next meeting.

Selecting person(s) to link CEA RISG with global Communications Team

Who will be the link between the ESA RISG and the global IYRP Communications Team? This could be one or more people (i.e. a small team); at least two people would be good who are very much involved with communication about the IYRP in the region.

This representative needs to work with Ann and the other members of the Communications Team. Prof Long suggested Dai Huxuan and Zhao Zhong from NGO and Huang Xiaodan from Lanzhou University to take charge of this.

7. Proposal for next meeting

When: 3rd week in January 2021 and 3rd week of March 2021

Because of difficulties with the network, Prof Dr James O'Rourke failed to attend this meeting; likewise the representatives from Japan and South Korea who had wanted to join. Next time, we will select a hybrid meeting type and contact as many relevant representatives as possible beforehand. A small offline meeting within China will be held in January 2021 in Beijing to discuss activities of IYRP within China and actions in the coming 2021 IGC/IRC joint events, and the second meeting for the China and Eastern Asia RISG including more diverse country members will be held in March 2021.

