

Boost for Yellow Sea collaboration

In late April 2010, migratory waterbirds, and people concerned with their conservation, congregated at Yalu Jiang National Nature Reserve near Dandong (China). Activities included training in wetlands and waterbird conservation, surveys of waterbirds involving people from the sister site in New Zealand, and a workshop to promote the importance of Yalu Jiang and strengthen the network of site staff around the Yellow Sea.

The training workshop on wetlands and waterbird conservation was conducted on April 25-26. It involved 16 trainees from selected Nature Reserves, bird clubs and colleges in China. Three experts from Miranda Naturalists Trust (New Zealand) were invited to lead the training on shorebird ecology, shorebird identification and counting. This training workshop was supported by the Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia. Mr. Maurice Lineman introduced the activities of the Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia during the course. After the training course, all the participants had field activities in the Nature Reserve.

On 27-28 April, over fifty people from Nature Reserves and administrators from China's Central, Provincial and local governments convened at Donggang, Dandong. Ten people from overseas (Wetlands International, Miranda Naturalists' Trust, EAAF Partnership and Republic of Korea's Local Government officials) also attended the workshop. This workshop was organized by Wetlands International – China and Oceania with part funding from the Australian Government under their project to support collaboration for migratory waterbird conservation in the Yellow Sea.

The EAAF Partnership Secretariat was represented at the workshop by the Communication & Information Officer (Aram Lee). On the first day of the workshop participants reaffirmed the importance of each site for migratory waterbirds and sought further mechanisms and activities to strengthen the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. On the second day, workshop attendees participated in the opening of the 5th Yalu Jiang Bird Fair.

Following the workshop, delegates from the Miranda Naturalists' Trust travelled via Incheon (South Korea) on their way back to New Zealand. This enabled them to visit the EAAFP Secretariat and experience watching migratory waterbirds in the Incheon area. Miranda Naturalists' Trust expressed their interest in joining the Partnership in the near future.