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SOLAS (Surface Ocean – Lower Atmosphere Study) is an international research initiative that has as its goal:

To achieve quantitative understanding of the key biogeochemical-physical interactions and feedbacks between the ocean and the atmosphere, and of how this coupled system affects and is affected by climate and environmental change.

Achievement of this goal is important in order to understand and quantify the role that ocean-atmosphere interactions play in the regulation of climate and global change.

The domain of SOLAS is focused on processes at the air-sea interface and includes a natural emphasis on the atmospheric and upper-ocean boundary layers, while recognizing that some of the processes to be studied will, of necessity, be linked to significantly greater height and depth scales. SOLAS research covers all ocean areas including coastal seas and ice covered areas.

A fundamental characteristic of SOLAS is that the research is not only interdisciplinary (involving biogeochemistry, physics, mathematical modeling, etc.), but also involves closely coupled studies requiring marine and atmospheric scientists to work together. This conference presents the fruits of such collaborations, and aims to catalyse further work.

SOLAS deals with the following issues or foci.

Focus 1: Biogeochemical Interactions and Feedbacks Between Ocean and Atmosphere

Focus 2: Exchange Processes at the Air-Sea Interface and the Role of Transport and Transformation in the Atmospheric and Oceanic Boundary Layers

Focus 3: Air-Sea Flux of CO₂ and Other Long-Lived Radiatively Active Gases

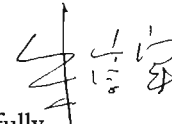
<http://www.solas-int.org>

On behalf of Xiamen University, I would like to welcome you to Xiamen for the SOLAS Open Science Conference, March 6 to 9, 2007.

Xiamen is an island city acclaimed as the most livable city in China, boasting its pleasant weathers, beautiful sands, clean and fresh air, and most importantly, its welcoming citizens. It is a city which grows on the visitor with every unveiling of its beauty and character, enticing you to explore as much as you can.

Xiamen University, located in the most attractive part of the City, is among the leading research universities in China. The University enjoys not only the most beautiful campuses across all Chinese universities, but a contingent of high quality faculty and 32,000 outstanding students.

There is much more to be said about both the City and the University than this space allows. We hope you enjoy the conference, enjoy your stay and enjoy your explorations.



Faithfully,
Zhu Chongshi
President
Xiamen University

As Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee of SOLAS it gives me great pleasure that we are holding our 2007 Science Conference in the beautiful city of Xiamen. China has a very active group of scientists working on SOLAS-related topics and I am looking forward to hearing more about their work during the Conference. The SOLAS project has held major scientific meetings in Europe (Damp, Germany in 2000) and North America (Halifax, Canada in 2004) and so it is entirely appropriate for both scientific and geographical reasons that the current one should be in Asia. I am sure we will all obtain great benefit from a wonderful week of science, as well as interesting social events and interactions. For all this I would like to thank our Chinese hosts and sponsors, as well as the Conference Scientific Committee and the SOLAS Secretariat for their help and support in making all this happen.

Have a great few days enjoying SOLAS science!



Peter Liss
Chair
SOLAS Scientific Steering Committee