

## NOAA Research Co-Chairs First U.S.-China Workshop on Polar Science



The NOAA Arctic Research Office and the NOAA Research International Activities Office, led a 13 member U.S. scientific team to the first U.S.-China Workshop on Polar Science, which was held in Qingdao, China, May 27-29, 2002. The workshop was co-chaired by Dr. John Calder, Director of NOAA's Arctic Research Office and Dr. ZHANG Zhanhai, Deputy Director of the Chinese Arctic and Antarctic Administration (CAA) of the Chinese State Oceanic Administration (SOA).

Sponsored under the auspices of the U.S.-China Marine and Fisheries Science and Technology agreement, this workshop brought together 58 scientists and experts from 24 organizations to provide presentations, discuss and exchange information on physical oceanography, atmospheric chemistry, ice physics, marine biology and chemistry, and international cooperation focused on the Arctic region. The U.S. contingent included participants from NOAA Research HQ, the Air Resources Laboratory (ARL), the Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory (CMDL), the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, the International Arctic Research Center (IARC), the National Ice Center, Texas A&M, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI).

The genesis for this workshop was that both China and the U.S. share a common understanding that a complex suite of significant atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial changes have occurred in the Arctic in the last decades. It is likely that these changes are affecting virtually every part of the Arctic and mid-latitude weather and are now having both direct and indirect impacts on transportation, natural resource use, agriculture, energy, health, infrastructure, not only in the Arctic, but also in the mid-latitude hemispheric regions. Based on this, both sides agreed during an exploratory meeting in October 2001 to further the development of ideas and thoughts on how to improve communication and research collaboration focused on the Arctic between the two countries.

The outcome of the workshop included: further discussion and refinement of plans for two arctic research cruises scheduled in 2002 and 2003, identification and initial development of joint research projects to be undertaken in the future, agreement to exchange experimental and

observational data, and announcement that NOAA Research will host the First U.S.-China Polar Sciences Panel meeting in early Spring 2003. This panel will establish a formal framework for discussion and collaboration, and ensure consistent and routine interactions between both countries on Arctic and Antarctic issues.