

1. On 24 April, 2017 the IGU Secretary-General, Prof. Mike Meadows paid a visit to the Center for Regional Agriculture and Rural Development, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences. By representing the IGU, Mike was invited to unveil the nameplate of IGU-AGLE. Then, a field trip to Fuping, which is a national impoverished county was arranged for Mike and the IGU-AGLE secretary Yuheng Li and his colleagues joined this visit. There Mike found how land engineering plays an important role in supporting poverty alleviation and county development by creating agricultural terraces and industrial terraces in China's Taihang Mountain areas.



IGU Commission on *Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering*

Newsletter 2

18 October 2017

2. The first IGU-AGLE commission conference with the theme of "Global Rural Development and Land Capacity Building" took place on 26-29 August in Yulin, Shaanxi Province, China. Over 200 researchers from 17 different countries and districts attended the conference and shared with others their updated research. A Global Rural Plan was jointly initiated by the IGU-AGLE, and commission on Sustainability of Rural Systems, Land Use and Land Cover Change. The plan is intended to bring the world's rural scholars together and make the world a better place. Excursion was arranged to the Yulin research station on optimization engineering of modern agriculture. The station is run and managed by Dr. Yuheng Li.



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3. The executive committee meeting of the IGU-AGLE commission was held in Yulin during the first IGU-AGLE commission conference. The IGU Secretary-General, Prof. Mike Meadows was invited to join this meeting.

The members discussed the research focus, membership, future activities and collaborations with other commission members. Mike suggested that the new commission starts by organizing some activities and collaborating with other commissions such as Sustainability of Rural Systems, Land Use and Land Cover Change. People agreed with the initiative that the second IGU-AGLE commission conference is organized and held by University of Adelaide, Australia.



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4. The chair and secretary of IGU-AGLE, Professor Yansui Liu and Associate Professor Yuheng Li jointly published a paper titled "Revitalize the World's Countryside" at *Nature*. They argue while urbanization gets a lot of attention globally as cities grow, most particularly in Asia and Africa, the rural decline that has accompanied this seems to have gone largely unnoticed. Thus, a rural revival is needed globally to counter urbanization.



<https://www.nature.com/news/revitalize-the-world-s-countryside-1.22452>

5. The IGU-AGLE was invited to jointly organize the 29th Biennial Conference of North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) CUM XIth International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission Seminar which is to be held at B. Borooh College, Guwahati, 8-10 February, 2018.

<http://iguguwahati2018.org/>