

INFORMATION FOR THE DESIRE PLENARY MEETING IN XI'AN, CHINA 11-18 OCTOBER 2010

Wang Fei – ISWC, Chinese DESIRE team, Li Rui – ISWC, Chinese DESIRE team, Rudi Hessel - ALTERRA

Dates

- The **plenary meeting** will be held from **11 to 13 October 2009**.
- The **field trip** will be on **15-17 October**
- **Additional training for study sites** will be given on **14, 17 and 18 October 2009**, so study sites are expected to be present from 11 until 18 October.

Below the program of the meeting (you will receive a more detailed program later).

BLUE COLOR indicates activities that are combined with the LANDCON1010 conference, and **GREENCOLOR** indicates DESIRE individual activities.

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Stay in
Su Oct 10	Arrival & registration (DESIRE & LANDCON)		Xi'an
Mo Oct 11	WB-SS day for DESIRE		Xi'an
Tu Oct 12	Opening Landcon	Plenary Session at Landcon (Welcome Banquet in the evening)	Xi'an
We Oct 13	Feedback WB/SS	WB6 training (dissemination, translation HIS)	Xi'an
Th Oct 14	Session at Landcon	WB5 training	Xi'an
Fr Oct 15	Cultural excursion (with Landcon) : Museum of Terra-cotta Warrior	Hukou Waterfall	Hukou Hotel Yichuan County
Sa Oct 16	Excursion Yan'an catchment - Ansai Experimental Station for Soil and Water conservation - soil and water conservation practices of the Loess Plateau - interview with local stakeholders		Stone-cave Hotel Yan'an
Su Oct 17	WB4 results (in hotel Yan'an)	Excursion (return to Xi'an); visit Luochuan Loess National Geopark on the way	Xi'an
Mo Oct 18	WB4 training, closure DESIRE	Time off / Departure	Xi'an
Tu Oct 19	Departure		

DESIRE and LANDCON

There will be about 16 presentations in the 2 DESIRE sessions at the LANDCON conference. If this is not enough, we will try to arrange in some other related sessions

In case you would like to stay longer in China, we can contact some good tourism companies for you and prepare an invitation letter with longer time according to your planning. We would also be happy to welcome all participants to Yangling as private guests (Professor Li Rui and me will be very glad to prepare everything for you) or as visiting scientists of our institute for scientific exchange and we will prepare transportation, meal and so on with budget for cooperation.

Venue

The meeting will be held at Paradise Resort Xi'an.

Registration

A registration form will be implemented on the Desire website. You will receive an email when the registration page for the meeting becomes operative. DESIRE participants do not need to register separately for LANDCON; this registration will be combined with the registration for DESIRE - with a reduced fee for LANDCON.

Hotels

There are two options:

1- Paradise Resort Xi'an (Qujiang Xian Hui Yuan Bin guesthouse, a garden-style five-star hotel)



http://www.87663333.com/php/en_index.php

Room (Single or Double in Building I): **400 Yuan** RMB (45 Euro) per night

Room (Single or Double in Building II): **500 Yuan** RMB (56Euro) per night

2- Xi'an International Conference Center (QujiangHotel)



<http://www.qujianghotel.com/index.htm>

Room (Single or Double in Building I): **350 Yuan** RMB (39 Euro) per night

When you register for the meeting you are asked to make reservations for one of these two hotels. Both hotels do accept common credit cards. The rates of both hotels include breakfast and use of internet.

The venue (hotel 1) can be reached from Hotel 2 (Xi'an International Conference Center, Qujiang Hotel) on foot within 5 minutes. The addresses of both hotels are given in the guide on 'How to Get Your Hotel'.

Field trip

During the field trip we will visit the famous **Terracotta army**, the **Hukou falls** on the Yellow River, the **DESIRE study site** (YanRiver catchment) and **Luochuan Loess National Geopark**.

The distance from Xi'an to Hukou Waterfall is 310 km, Hukou to Yan'an 230 km and Yan'an to Xian 450 km. It is therefore too far to go to Yan'an in the afternoon Oct 15, so we will stay overnight at Hukou hotel.

Weather

The month of October generally has dry weather and pleasant temperatures. See table below for some climate data for October.

	Xi'an City	Yan'an City
High temperature (°C)	20	17.3
Low Temperature (°C)	9	4.2
Average Monthly Precipitation (mm)	58	44
Average Percent Sunshine (%)	40.5	56

Travel Information

The easiest way to reach Xi'an Xianyang International Airport is via Beijing. From Beijing to

Xi'an there are several flights each day. Xi'an airport is about 30 km from town and 55 km from the hotels. If you arrive on October 10 or 11, you will be picked up from the airport if you give us your flight details. Otherwise, you could take a taxi for about 120 Yuan RMB. For more information about getting to your hotel, see The Guide on *How to Get Your Hotel*, which is attached in English and Chinese. Should your taxi driver not speak English, you can show him the name of your hotel in Chinese.

Money

The official currency of China is the Yuan RMB. 1 Euro is equal to about 9 Yuan RMB, although this might change.

Most hotels will exchange at the same rate as the banks, and without charging commission. To exchange money in Xi'an, you would need to go to a bank (there is one close to the hotels). It is also possible to change at the airport. ATMs are scarce.

Registration Fees

The DESIRE partners have a reduced fee for LANDCON1010 of **240 EURO** (Covering lunch, dinner, banquet, drinking, meeting room and Cultural excursion in the morning of OCT 15, this fee is **NOT** covering the hotel and other business expenditures). The fee for students will be **180 EURO**.

For the DESIRE partners, **another 260 EURO** per person should be paid for all other cost including the hotels where we will stay during the excursion (in Hukou Hotel in Yichuan County and Stone-cave Hotel, Yan'An City), transportation, lunch, dinner, water, tickets, meeting room in Oct 11 and from Oct 15 afternoon to the end of the meeting. Separate receipts for hotel costs can be provided if you need these.

The combined LANDCON/DESIRE fee (= 240+260=500) should be paid by participants themselves on Oct 10, 11, 17 and/or 18. Payment should be in cash, either in Yuan RMB or in Euros. Please note that the fee in Euros might change because the price has been fixed in Yuan RMB and the exchange rate between Yuan RMB and Euro is variable.

Please note that you need to pay for the hotel cost for your stay in Xi'an, before leaving for the excursion and before leaving for home. This can be done either by credit card or in cash.

Visa

Almost all nationalities require a visa to come to China. We can provide you with a personal invitation letter. **As applying for a visa might take a while, please take the necessary steps on time.** When you request ISWC for invitation letters, the following information is needed: name (exactly as in passport), passport number, date of birth and nationality.

Contact

The meeting is organized by ISWC.

Wang Fei, mobile phone number: +86 1377211 9949, Email: wafe@ms.iswc.ac.cn,
Li Rui, mobile phone number: +86 1389281 2012, Email: lirui@ms.iswc.ac.cn