



# PREFACE

An international group of more than 100 invited people gathered in Lijiang, China in May of 2004 to discuss what may be the most ongoing threat to humanity over the next 40 years – climate change. The international body of thousands of scientists known as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that climate change is occurring, and results in a set of diverse and regionally-specific impacts on natural ecosystems and human societies. The Panel says that while climate mitigation strategies are necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from anthropogenic sources, those alone are unlikely to be sufficient to eliminate the negative impacts of climate change. The impacts of climate change from emissions of greenhouse gases over the past 150 years will have to be confronted by all countries now. Therefore, pursuing a complementary strategy of enabling countries to adapt to climate change and negate many of the expected adverse impacts is equally, if not more, urgent.

The international conference, and this collection of peer-reviewed papers from that conference, is one step in addressing that urgency to build our adaptive capacity, that is, our ability to respond to changes in climate and reduce our vulnerability to the negative consequences.

The conference assisted in:

- showcasing the most recent science, management and policy options available in the climate change adaptation community;
- strengthening the capacity of key Chinese institutions, and sectors such as agriculture, to identify and assess the sensitivities and vulnerabilities associated with climate change;
- promoting the integration of adaptation strategies into Chinese government development and planning initiatives; and
- enhancing the adaptive capacity of Chinese agencies to employ techniques, tools and approaches to climate change adaptation.

*We hope that you enjoy this collection of peer-reviewed papers. The papers are organized in this book around the themes of the conference including the keynote paper on the adaptation deficit; Canada-China Collaboration in Adaptation to Climate Change Research; Climate Change Impacts, Indicators and Assessments; Agriculture; Energy, Infrastructure and Growth; and Ecosystems and Biodiversity.*

As the head organizers of this conference, we wish to thank the attendees, our kind hosts and the wonderful administrators who handled all of the logistics. And finally, thanks to the editors of this book, who quickly published these papers so that they may stand as a continuing contribution to our attempts collectively to build our adaptive capacity.

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