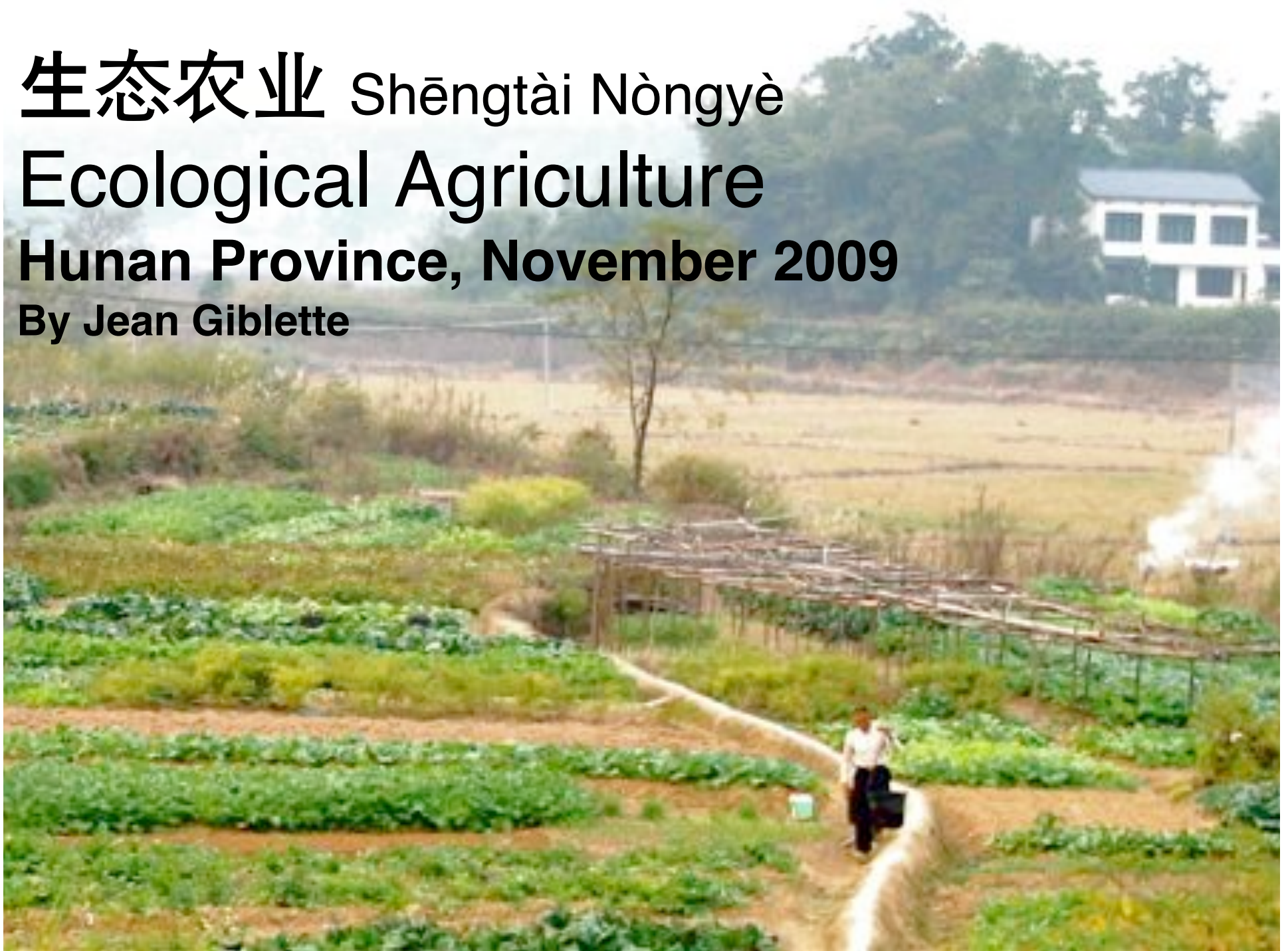


生态农业 Shēngtài Nòngyè

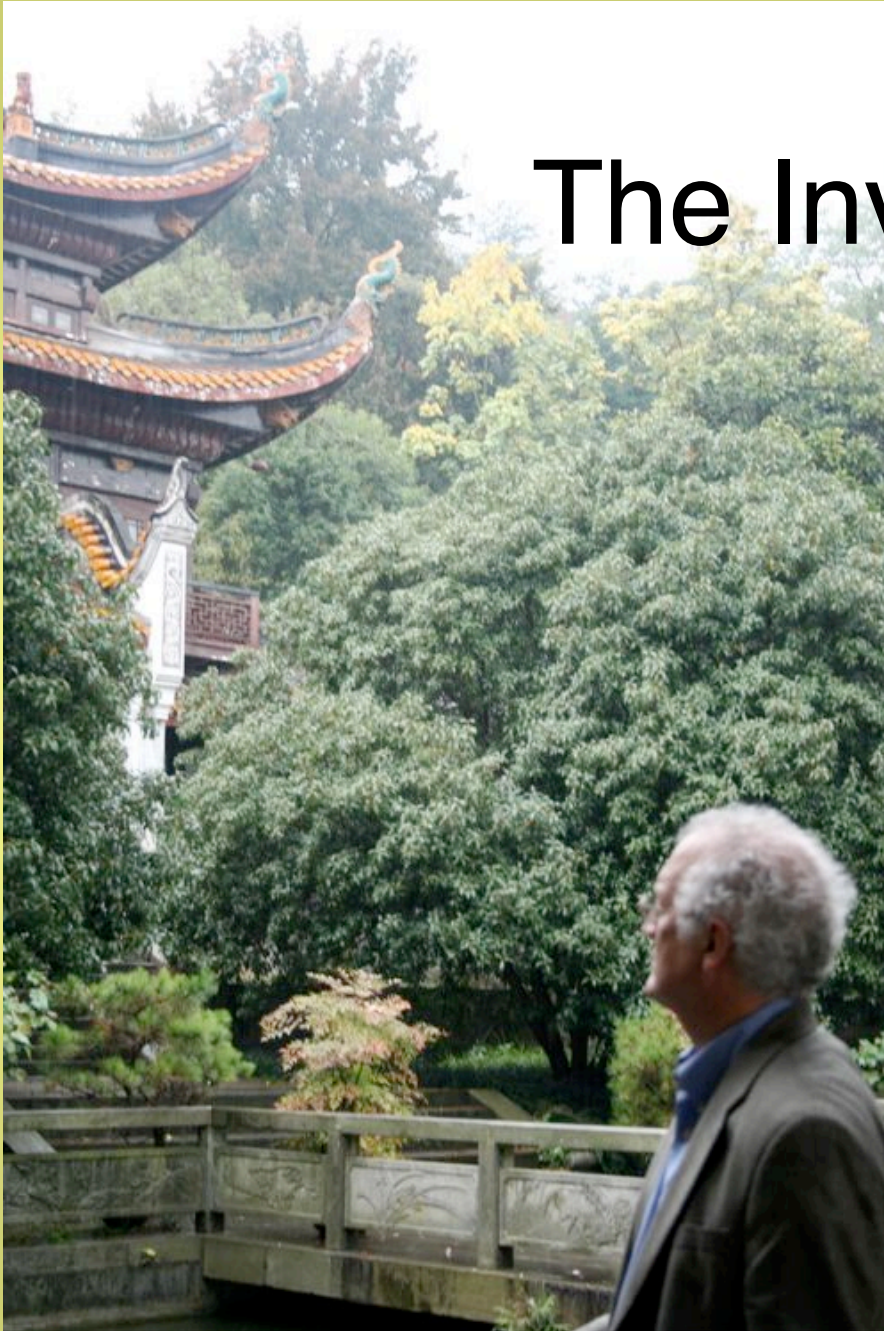
Ecological Agriculture

Hunan Province, November 2009

By Jean Giblette



# The Invitation



Christopher Hope Reed at  
Yuelu Academy 岳麓书院  
(est. 976 C.E.)  
Changsha, Hunan  
9 November 2009



**In the autumn of 2009** I was invited to give a presentation on the work of High Falls Gardens at a symposium on Ecological Agriculture in Changsha, Hunan.

My first visit to China, this was a quick glimpse of a small part of the Middle Kingdom but, for me, revelatory. Thank you, Dr. Wang and the co-sponsoring governmental agencies of Changsha, Hunan and Beijing, for your superb hospitality.

The way this invitation came about is an interesting part of the story.

It all started with my beloved spouse Chris Reed, who as an officer of Friends of Hudson helped to prevent construction of a huge coal-burning cement plant one mile from our County hospital. In this work over several years, he became allied with members of the “religious environmental movement,” like our friend Alastair McIntosh, author of *Soil and Soul* <http://www.alastairmcintosh.com>.

Here follows the chain of connections to Dr. Wang, who invited me to the symposium.

# 4 Degrees of Separation



Jim Cashen

<http://www.farmatmillerscrossing.com>



Miriam MacGillis

<http://www.genesisfarm.org/index.htm>



Mary Evelyn  
Tucker

<http://fore.research.yale.edu/information/index.html>



Zhihe Wang

<http://www.postmodernchina.org/cgi/index.php>

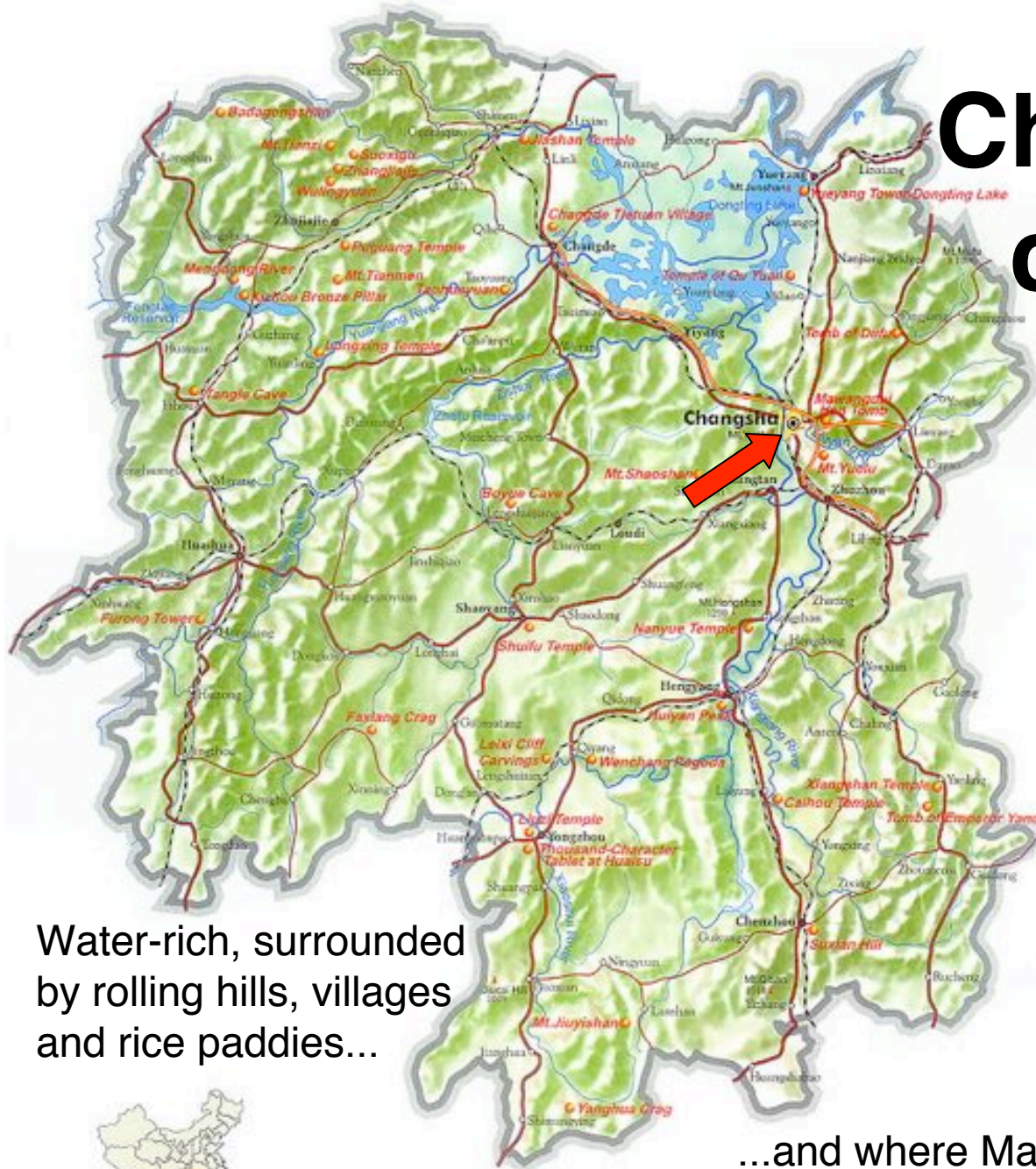
Incheon Airport, Seoul, a comfortable place to lay over 10 hours on a 29-hour flight.

# Halfway around the world





# Changsha, capital of Hunan



Water-rich, surrounded  
by rolling hills, villages  
and rice paddies...



...and where Mao converted to Communism.



Typical countryside landscapes viewed from roadway. Buildings are tucked into the bases of hills with fields between. No suburbs, it's either city high rises or villages.



# The City





A rainy day in Changsha, one of the 20 largest cities in China, most of it constructed during the past 60 years.



# Out our hotel room window



The Symposium was held at the Dolton Changsha Spa Hotel, a glittering new 5-star luxury resort hotel located in the midst of a development zone called Ninxiang.



# Hotel spa



Dozens of mineral and herbal pools, outdoors and in. Here's a steeping bag of Du Zhong (Eucommia bark).

Careful transplants of large trees lined roadways and decorated landscaped areas. This method of planting must be very labor-intensive but shortens the wait for shade.

## **Tree transplants**





**Construction  
everywhere**







**Vegies growing everywhere**



# Celebrating Agriculture



The front of the hotel on opening day of the Symposium, decorated to welcome officials of city, provincial and central governments -- plus the national media.

## Two Tracks:

**“International Symposium on Resource-Saving and Environment-Friendly Oriented Rural Society and Ecological Agriculture Development & The Fifth International Symposium on Chinese Agricultural Modernization”**





# Plenary session







**Simultaneous  
translation**



# Breakout session



# American participants







# American participants

(left to right in previous photo)

- Lester C. Young, Dean, College of Agriculture  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona CA
- Christopher H. Reed, Friends of Hudson, Hudson NY
- Jerry Aaker, Program Director, Heifer International
- Joanna E. Seibert, Program Coordinator  
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Morrilton AR
- Jean Giblette, High Falls Gardens, Philmont NY
- Zhihe Wang, IPDC, Claremont CA
- (Sophia Dong, Huazhong University of Science and  
Technology, Wuhan Hubei)
- Peter Grant deMarsh, President, Canadian Federation  
of Woodlot Owners, Taymouth, NB



**Korean participants**





# Korean participants

- Doe-Won Jho, Professor of Sinology  
Daejin University, Peocheonsi Gyeonggi-do
- Kim Wook, Exec. Dir. Division of Cultural Affairs  
Daesoonjinrihoe, Yeoju-gun Gyeonggi-do
- (Dr. Zhihe Wang, IPDC)
- Baek Kyung Un, Dir. Eco-Agriculture Research Dept.  
Daejin University, Peocheonsi Gyeonggi-do

# The Countryside





# Eco-village tours

## 关山村乡村旅游示意图 Village Sight-seeing Map of Guanshan



宁乡县旅游投诉咨询电话: 0731-8800168  
关山村乡村旅游咨询电话: 0731-7984999 8900088  
旅行社投诉电话: 0731-7983120



**Guanshan Village**











# Mixed cropping systems





# Environment-friendly trash cans



A farmhouse alongside the road in between eco-villages.





...includes free-range chickens.







**Rice drying in courtyard**

# Scorching the rice fields









光明村导览图  
Guangming Village Guide Map

Guangming Village Guide Map

[illegible]



# Guangming Village











The lady in hot pink is working, the rest of us are observing and taking pictures.







# More tree transplants







Saturday evening all-local food banquet including the village wine.  
This trip was a serious foodie's dream come true.



# Shi Yan at Little Donkey Farm



Shi Yan started the first CSA in China after interning at Earthrise Farm in Minnesota. She showed me the plastic replica of the Gopher State on her keychain, and I felt at home.



**...So I saw the other side of the world and found it beautiful and hospitable, but as schizophrenic as our own.**

**Our governments use science, at least in name, to guide policy. But in an absence of overwhelming evidence that current policies lead to disastrous effects, they are impotent. By the time the effects become known, the damage is done.**

**The spontaneous rise of the religious environmental movement is a counterbalancing response to this dilemma. What is more diverse than religion, which expresses those aspects of our shared existence we cannot prove to each other? Diversity is strength, and there lies the source of collective willpower to end the destructive impulses of modern culture, accept our adult responsibilities as stewards of the earth, and remediate our natural relationships.**



***So much to absorb, but one idea seems clear:***

**Our problems cannot be separated, and must be resolved through the cooperation of all people who want to live in harmony with the Earth. It's tolerant people who unite and lead, governments who follow.**

**All of us need to go home again but this time ripe with wisdom, bearing the fruits of a long maturation and painful lessons learned.**

***The motion of the Way is to return...***

**LaoZi, Dao De Jing 40**

***Every village an eco-village!***

复变