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VIII International Rangeland Congress

Multifunctional Grasslands in a Changing World

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Foreword

Human have created huge ecology crisis when they produce well-developed material civilization over the last century . A radical changing world is ahead of us , where global climate is warming , grain safety is getting urgent day by day , energy resource sinks rapidly , while mankind living surrounding worsens and biodiversity reduces .

A century change is so great that a serious problem is raised whether people can have sustainable survival and development on earth or not . It indicates that grassland making up 33.5% of the total land is a tremendous resource for mankind with various functions . Grassland is not only the material base but also a natural defense for setting plant , defending and harnessing sand , controlling soil erosion , preventing flood , water-logging and other natural calamities . Moreover there is a broad prospect for grassland to play its role on the industries of green safety food , sightseeing tourism and culture . Most importantly , grassland not only relates to the improvement of global economic development and people living standard , also refers to the living surrounding protection . In this changing world , multifunctional grassland will increasingly display its contribution and function .

The IGC/IRC is the premier forum for world grassland scientific problem . Under the support of Chinese government , Chinese grassland society bid for the 21st International Grassland Congress and the 8th international Rangeland Congress ; it is the first time that IGC and IRC will be coordinately hosted on 29th June—5th July , 2008 in Hohhot , China .

The main theme "Multifunction Grassland and Rangeland in a Changing Word" will be spilt into three simultaneous sub-themes :

- Grassland/Rangeland Resources and Ecology
- Grassland/Rangeland Production Systems
- Grassland/Rangeland People and Policies

This joint congress has wide contents ranging from protection and reasonable utilization of grasslands resources ; grassland variety breeding , cultivation , transportation and processing ; ecology of grasslands ; theory and practice of grasslands agricultural ecological system ; to policy issues , education , science and technology for grasslands , amenity and conservation turf and turf grass .

During the meeting , the forum on Chinese Grasslands will be planned within subject C . Furthermore , all delegates and registered accompanying persons are welcome to attend a series of investigations and visits so as to learn more about China and Chinese grassland/rangeland .

There are over 1738 papers in conference colloquia , which are divided into two volumes . In the first volume , 4 plenary papers and 21 invited papers presented at the main congress of the 2008 IGC/IRC , as well as other 747 offered papers related to subject A are included in . The other volume includes 34 invited papers referring to subject B&C and 932 offered papers .

We are very grateful to all thesis authors for their support to this joint meeting , to Dr . Nan Zhibiao and Dennis Hodgkins for their collecting and checking all the invited papers . Thanks are also due to Dr . Gao Hongwen , Dr .Li Xianglin and Dr .Hou Xiangyang for their revising offered papers , as well as to Dr . Lu Xinshi for his organizing and publicizing all the papers .

It is believed that the theme and exploration spirit of 2008 IGC/IRC in China will be encouraged through the academic exchanges of these colloquia . Facing a constant changing world , we are further aware of the importance of broadening the grassland research on ecology and living function except deeply continuous studying the function of grassland production , and exploiting some new field of Practaculture Science . All these will make grassland play bigger role in this changing world .



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