



Thursday, June 30, 2011

Oceanographer Invited to Lecture at New Ocean Dynamics and Climate Center in China

Tal Ezer, a professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences at Old Dominion's Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, spent two weeks earlier this month in Qingdao, China, on the shores of the Yellow Sea (see photos below).

Ezer, who has been involved in scientific collaborations between the United States and China since he first visited Qingdao in 2003, was invited this time to the opening of the new Ocean Dynamics and Climate (ODC) center, a regional training and research center established at the First Institute of Oceanography (FIO) by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

Like the Hampton Roads area, Qingdao is a major center for ocean-related research, education and commerce. In addition to the FIO, part of the State Oceanic Administration at Ocean University of China, navy bases and one of the largest seaports in the world are located in Qingdao, which hosted the 2008 Olympic sailing events.

The new ODC center will provide training on ocean dynamics, air-sea interaction and numerical modeling to young scientists, particularly from developing countries in the region, Ezer said. The first regional training on ocean models was held June 10-15. Ezer was among 10 of the world's leading ocean modelers who served as lecturers at the gathering, which also invited some 70 trainees from different countries, including Australia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The training included lectures on ocean dynamics, coastal sediment transport and global climate modeling, as well as practice sessions on how to run computer codes that model ocean processes.

Prior to this training, Ezer attended the 3rd International Workshop on Modeling the Ocean (IWMO-2011), June 6-9, which was also held in Qingdao and included some 100 scientists from more than 20 countries. This workshop followed the 2nd IWMO meeting Ezer hosted at ODU in May 2010. Ezer serves on the scientific committee of the IWMO meetings and as an editor for IWMO special issues of refereed papers resulting from the meetings. (Three special issues have already been published in the journal *Ocean Dynamics* in 2010 and 2011.)

"With the growing interest in climate change and oceanography research in the Far East, establishing research and educational collaborations between ODU, China and other Asian countries with emerging science will hopefully help to foster more joint research projects and recruit international students interested in science, engineering and oceanography to ODU," Ezer said.



Ezer talks to students during a training class.



Ezer, second from right, joins the other lecturers (seated) and Chinese students for a group photo.



All of the trainees and lecturers gather for a group photo.



Ezer gets a chance to do some sightseeing at the Summer Palace near Beijing.

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