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INFORMATION

BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LAND RECLAMATION AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FOR THE 21st CENTURY (ISLR 2000)

Land reclamation work in China was started in the 50s of the 20th century. With the development of the national economy, large areas were destroyed by several mining and other industrial enterprises during their construction and operation. Land rehabilitation and reclamation was spontaneous at first. As the land is densely populated and land reserves are extremely limited, land reclamation has become an important part of the drive for land development and utilization. Afterwards, such work attracted the attention of the governments at all levels, and an organized land reclamation drive began.

Now all kinds of derelict lands reclaimed and reutilized nationwide make up nearly one million ha, accounting for about 8 % of the total wasted land.

The international symposium "Mine Land Reclamation and Ecological Restoration for the 21st Century" took place in China, May 16-18, 2000.

It was organized by China Land Society, China Land Reclamation Society, Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Center of the Ministry of Land and Resources. The purposes of this symposium were to promote exchanges of land reclamation technology and experience internationally, explore the developing strategy of land reclamation in the 21st century.

The major topics to be covered were: reclamation policies and regulations, reclamation planning and assessment; surface mined land reclamation; subsidence prediction and subsided land reclamation; mine wastes reclamation; theory and methods of ecological restoration in mining areas. Symposium attracted about 160 experts to contribute 93 papers from more than 16 countries. The presentations were divided between four sections: General Problems, Theory and Technology of Reclamation in Coal Mines, Theory and Technology of Reclamation in Non-Coal Mines, and Contaminated Soil and Mine Ecological Restoration. The presented papers are included in the volume of symposium proceedings.

Among the presentations, some of the themes touched the problems of oil shale excavation and environmental impact:

1. Ding Kefeng (Shangdong Zoucheng Land Administration) "Land reclamation and ecological reconstruction in the subsided coal mining area of Zoucheng city"
2. Liu Changyu (Land Management Bureau, Shangdong Province) "Study on land reclamation by filling coal mining subsided area with fly ash and soil"

3. Rui Yongqin (Department of Mining Engineering, Northeastern University): "Stability analysis and prediction for open pit slope"
4. Jüri-Rivaldo Pastarus (Department of Mining, Tallinn Technical University): "Environmental issues in oil shale mining"

Short characteristics of oil shale deposits in China are presented below.

1. The *Fushun* open pit mine is located to the east of Shenyang Province with an area of 54 km² and stable deposition of gentle dipping. It is one of the earliest and largest open pit mine for exploitation of oil shale in the world. The *East* open pit mine has been operated for more than 70 years, mainly for coal production and also for oil shale mining, as byproduct, which is lying on the upper layer of coal bed of the thickness of 70-190 m. Excavated rocks in *West* open pit mine are sand, green shale, oil shale, tuff, and basalt. At present, the mining level has already reached the depth of more than 300 m. Oil shale has been used for retorting in the Fushun refinery.
2. The Maoming mining area, located in the southwest of Guangdong Province, with the total area of 360 km². According to the geological conditions and structural features, the mining area is divided into six districts and is suitable for open pit mining. Only the *Jingtang* mine has been exploited. It started operation in the 1960s, and stopped in the 1990s due to the shut down of Maoming retorting plant.



Dr. J.-R. Pastarus visiting the Jianjiao-Da'an demonstration area

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3. The Huadian oil shale deposit is located in the Jilin Province. It is mainly composed of oil shale with some interbedded sandstone. Oil shale production began in the 1940s and stopped in the 1960s due to the high cost of underground mining.
4. The Huanxian oil shale deposit, located in Shangdong Province, is coexisting with brown coal. Two layers of recoverable oil shale are found in an area of 200 km², with burial depth of 0-1000 m. It is mined underground along with brown coal and used for power generation in small scale.

After the symposium a mine site tour in Tangshan City, Hebei Province, to the Jianjiao-Da'an demonstration area and South Lake Park took place. The area covering 110 hectares was reclaimed in the shallow subsidence trough through non-backfilling method. The experimental farm includes fishponds, greenhouses, rise and crops fields. These areas will become a tourism-vacation-recreation-production integrated modern scenic spot.

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2000 AAPG ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and of the Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) took place in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, April 16–19, 2000, simultaneously with the Exhibition “With the Prospect & Property Marketplace”. The AAPG and SEPM – together with other AAPG divisions, among them Energy Minerals Division (EMD) – had created a program in keeping with the theme “Marching into Global Markets – A World of Resources”. This program was characterized by a global view of mankind’s need and resources through the 21st century, a look at how different technologies will come together to shape the world industry and a vision of how people can work together in it.

The number of abstracts included in the Convention program was enormous – 742. Besides oral and poster scientific sessions, short courses (16 topics) and field trips (14 topics) were organized for participants. In addition to that various highlights (opening session, Society luncheons, receptions, etc.) and social activities (excursions, concerts, etc.) were arranged. More than 300 commercial and non-profit exhibitors made the Convention a major part of their marketing program demonstrating and discussing their products and services.



E. Maremäe and H. Leetaru – a petroleum geologist from Illinois State Geological Survey

Estonia was also presented at the 2000 AAPG Annual Convention with one abstract: Ello Maremäe and Endel Lippmaa "Estonian Dictyonema shale – occurrence, chemical composition and chemical technology" rendered by E. Maremäe. The abstract belonged to the Track-1 "Doing Business in the 21st Century" with the session title of EMD "Growth Industries of the 21st Century (Gas, Hydrates, Oil Shale, Tar Sands, Geothermal)".

All short abstracts are printed in the Convention program book, and the extended abstracts are available on a CD-ROM.

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