



In China with a friend I

Guangzhou-Xi'an



A photoessay by
Samran Sombatpanit
and **Karika Kunta**



Trip to China, June 03-13, 2010



We went to China during June 3-13, 2010 with a mission to

- Strengthen the activities of WASWAC in this country where its Secretariat has moved to since April 2003 and to set up the Secretariat office at IRTCES, Beijing
- Establish research relationship between the Land Development Department of Thailand with various institutions in China

This PHOTOESSAY is in four parts. This part is Part I.

Travel routes and vehicles

Guangzhou-Xi'an by **train**

Xi'an-Yangling by **car**

Yangling-Beijing by **train**

Beijing-Guangzhou by **air**

WHO'S WHO IN THIS TRIP

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The journey began



Day 0 – Evening of June 3, 2010 at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok. We traveled by AirAsia flight FD3648 at 19.10, arriving in Guangzhou, China at 23.10.

Karika's husband, Tarsan, kindly drove us to the airport to see us off.





From upper left clockwise: Main building of the Guangdong Institute of Eco-Environmental & Soil Sciences, Guangzhou; entrance to the building; stock of soil monoliths for displaying at the Guangdong Soil Museum (brown building in the plan below) soon to be built; the nearby Suntrap Hotel where we stayed; construction of the rainfall simulation building in progress; general landscape of the institute.





Director Li Dingqiang



*Land Development Department,
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
&
Land Use Planning Work*

Karika Kunta, Dr.Sc. ETH-Zurich
Land Use Planning II Division
Office of Land Use Policy and Planning

Day 1, June 4. First lecture of Karika was given to the staff of the Guangdong Institute of Eco-Environmental and Soil Sciences in Guangzhou.

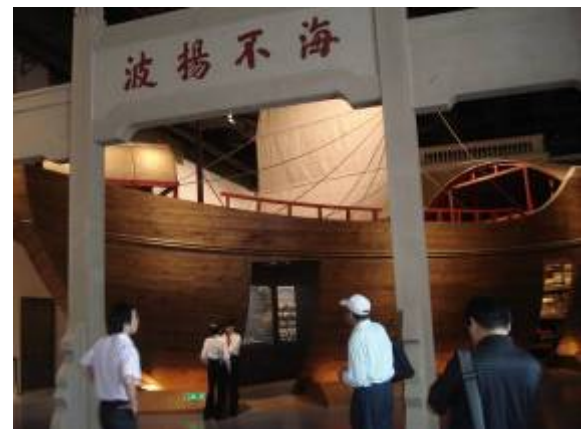




省博物馆
广东省博物馆
Guangdong Museum



We had a chance to visit the recently constructed Guangdong Museum.



Dinner cruise along beautiful Zhujiang River, Guangzhou



Zhujiang (Pearl) River at night



Newly built Telecom Tower, an important landmark of GZ

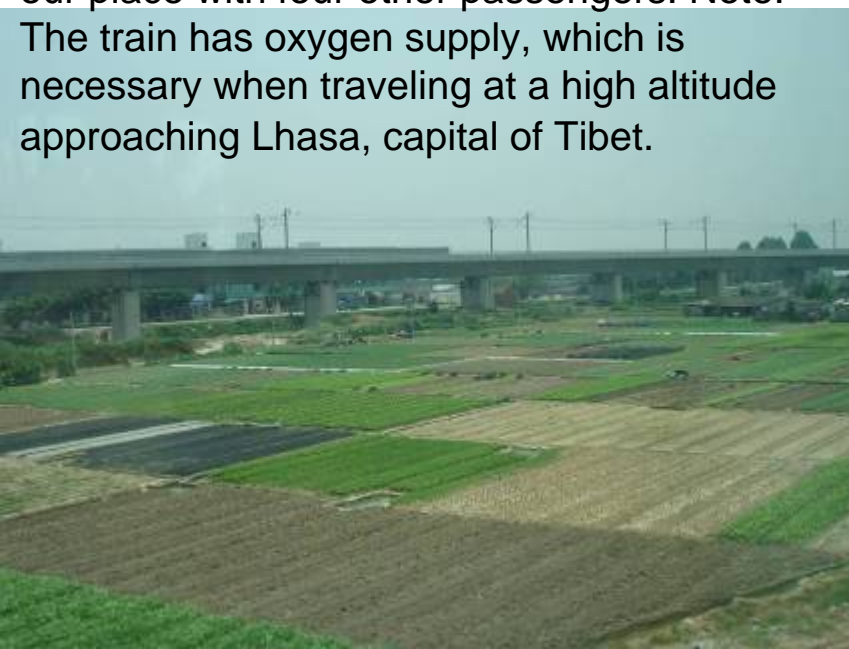


Day 2, June 5. World Environment Day.
We made a quick look at the famous South China Botanical Garden just opposite our hotel. Left: Champi Sirindhorn tree (*Magnolia sirindhornia*) planted by HRH Princess Mahachakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in October 2003.





We took a Tibet train from Guangzhou station to Xi'an. It was a good time to rest and mingle with passengers on the train. In one compartment there are six beds, so we shared our place with four other passengers. Note: The train has oxygen supply, which is necessary when traveling at a high altitude approaching Lhasa, capital of Tibet.





Passengers may sit/stand on the corridor of the train during the travel.

For a long journey, it is comfortable as there is a restaurant car to cater for every meal and vendors always come with something to 'bite'. We may interact with others or work or read when we want to.





Day 3, June 6. We arrived in Xi'an. Mr Wang and Ms Wang met us at the train and took us to eat before going to the Terra Cotta Museum (30 minutes by car east of Xi'an). Xi'an is a big city; it is several thousand years old.



Terra Cotta Museum near Xi'an

This important site, dated from over 2,000 years ago, was discovered by farmers since spring 1974 and more areas are to be unearthed in the future.

一号坑概况

一号坑是秦俑三坑中最大的一个。它东西长230米，宽约62米，总面积14260平方米。截止目前已发掘4000平方米，出土陶俑、陶马近2000件，木质战车20辆。估计一号坑埋藏有陶俑、陶马6000余件，战车约50多辆。

Briefing of Pit 1

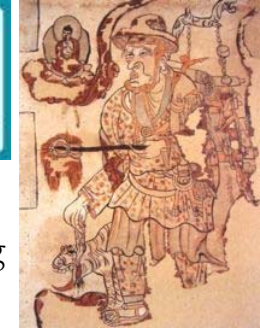
Pit 1 is the largest of the three pits. It measures 230 meters long from east to west, 62 meters wide from north to south, covering an area of 14,260 square meters. Up to now, about 2,000 pottery warriors and horses, 20 wooden chariots have been unearthed within an area of 4,000 square meters. It's assumed that more than 6,000 terra-cotta warriors and horses, 50 chariots were buried in Pit 1.





大雁塔

DA YAN PAGODA



Master
Xuan Zang
in pictures



The Daci'en temple was built (648-652 AD) to honor the Empress Wende by the Tang crown prince LiZhi. There were 300 monks who lived there. It was the most famous temple of Chang'an city during the Tang Dynasty. The famous monk Xuan Zang (602-664 AD) made a pilgrimage to India and brought back Buddhist scriptures, which he translated during his last 19 years of his life here.

Today the Da Yan (Big or Wild Goose) pagoda is 64.7 m high, with seven stories. The brick pagoda, in the shape of a truncated square pyramid, was built in the Tang style with typical Chinese national characteristics. It is a model piece of Buddhist architecture. The State Council declared on March 4, 1961 that the Da Yan pagoda be protected as one of the most important historical monuments.

From top left clockwise: Landscape of Da Yan pagoda, with Xuan Zang's monument in the foreground (see white arrow); drawing of Xuan Zang from Song Dynasty; Xuan Zang known to Thais as Phra Thang Sam Jang (พระถังซัมจั๋ง); 9th century Xuan Zang's picture at Dunhuang cave; grand statue of Xuan Zang at Daci'en temple.

*Da Yan pagoda today;
it is the most famous
landmark of Xi'an.*



Da Yan pagoda and how we saw the city of Xi'an from the top!



Ticket to the top of the pagoda costs 30 yuan each.

Wall murals at vihara showing Buddha's Life

Far left: The **Birth**

Left: He tortured himself by fasting for a long time and not successful. He returned to normal way of life and eventually got **Enlightenment**

Far left: **First sermon**

Left: Meditation

Far left: Meditation

Left: Nirvana



An ornamental tree in the temple ground



Happy hours at Yangling, agricultural town of Shaanxi Province where there are several highly learned institutions located. Dinner today was hosted by Prof Li Rui and staff of the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (MWR-CAS). Insets: *Right:* Hou-Ji – god of farming, the statue of which is located prominently at the town entrance; *Below center:* Yangling International Hotel where we stayed; *Below left and right:* popular Yangling dishes – fried chilies and steamed fish.





Part II

Day 4, June 7. We arrived at the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (ISWC) with many books from WASWAC. ISWC has agreed to serve as a technical center of WASWAC.