CALA Delegations to China

This summer, two CALA events took place in China, and both proved to be very successful. From July 17th-21st, the CALAMW Chapter delegation, which consisted of Shuyong Jiang, Xudong Jin (group leader), Haipeng Li, Haiwang Yuan, and Lisa Zhao, held a 5 day workshop on topics of librarianship at Yunnan University. The workshop, entitled “CALA Twenty-first Century Librarian Workshop Series (中美图书馆实务培训研讨会),” was co-sponsored by the Yunnan Provincial Library Commission, the CALAMW Chapter and Yunnan University. The focus of the workshop was to provide a practical way to examine librarianship in the United States. More than 100 librarians from China participated in the event. Topics covered include library management, reference and instruction, cataloging and digital libraries, library consortium and outsourcing, challenges and opportunities, and many others. Feedback from participants was very positive. In fact the workshop turned out to be so successful that the Yunnan Provincial Library Commission requested that we go back next year. After some discussions, the Yunnan Provincial Library Commission and CALA signed an agreement to conduct the training project for a three year period: year one (2006) with Yunnan University (already done); year two (2007) with Yunnan Normal University; and year three (2008) with the Kunming Polytechnic University. Future collaboration will be explored further after the initial three-year period.

Two other universities in China also made contact with Haipeng Li, CALA President, and expressed serious interest in collaborating on similar projects. These were Northeast Normal University in Changchun, Jilin Province and Shanxi Agricultural University in Taigu, Shanxi Province. Haipeng signed an initial agreement with the Northeast Normal University and made a verbal agreement with the Shanxi Agricultural University for collaboration next year. The CALA International Relations Committee will be starting soon to work on the details of these projects. Also while there, Xudong Jin, CALA International Relations Committee Co-Chair and immediate past president of the CALAMW Chapter, was authorized by Haipeng Li, CALA President, to sign an initial agreement with the Yunnan Provincial Library Committee to conduct a similar project with public libraries in Yunnan Province next year.

From July 24-26, the Library Society of China Annual Conference was held in Kunming. A 14-member CALA delegation headed by CALA President, Haipeng Li, attended the conference and was well received. The Conference was divided into the general meeting section with 5 keynote speakers, and interest group meetings on the following topics: 1. Libraries for users; 2. Building legal environment for libraries; 3. Digital libraries, building, sharing and services; 4. Literacy and society.

Proposals for presentation from nine CALA members were accepted and won the best paper awards of the conference. Eight CALA members made presentations on various issues of librarianship. The Conference provided an opportunity for participants to visit local libraries. It was a good time for CALA members to learn from our Chinese colleagues, exchange ideas, and explore options. More information about the Conference
can been seen at the web site of the Library Society of China (http://www.lsc.org.cn/CN/2006nh.html).