VI. Urban IPM

Urban Entomology Research Center—Hangzhou, China

The long-term collaboration between Virginia Tech and the Zhejiang Agricultural University (ZAU) in Hangzhou, People’s Republic of China, recently paid dividends with the dedication of the Urban Entomology Research Center (UERC) on 7 May 1993. Dr. William H. Robinson of Virginia Tech’s Department of Entomology has been instrumental in the UERC’s establishment.

Participating in the dedication ceremony were officials from the Provincial government, ZAU, and representatives from the private sector. Both the provincial and central government press were present and provided same-day radio and television coverage.

This ceremony dedicated the first such research/teaching laboratory in China, and only the second research building in the world dedicated to household and structural pests. Virginia Tech has the other, the Urban Pest Control Research Center, (UPCRC), located on Glade Road in Blacksburg.

Virginia Tech’s involvement with ZAU dates back to 1984, when the two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding. Dr. Robinson has traveled to ZAU every year since 1985. As a Visiting Professor, he lectures and conducts research on household and structural insect pests, and was involved with raising funds to build the UERC.

Nonggang Bao, a faculty member in ZAU’s Department of Plant Protection and a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Tech, will soon return to ZAU, where he and Dr. Robinson plan to develop an urban entomology program. No such program currently exists in China, yet 33% of the population lives in urban areas.

Tech’s UPCRC has working relationships with organizations, bureaus, and agencies involved in household and structural pest control in China and Hong Kong. The UERC will cooperate with the UPCRC to share data bases and research expertise, primarily in insecticide application and technology, cockroach biology and control, and biology and control of subterranean termites.

The overall goal is to make the UPCRC and the UERC cooperating partners in research on insect pests that impact upon urban residences everywhere in the world. With the dedication of the Urban Entomology Research Center, Zhejiang Agricultural University and Virginia Tech have accomplished a significant step toward this goal.

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