IN MEMORIAM

REN MEI-E (1913–2008)

Professor Ren Mei-e, who was a member of the Editorial Board of *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* (1986–1996) and *Journal of Coastal Research* (1985–1990), died at 12:05 pm 4 November 2008 (age 95) in Nanjing. Ren was a famous Chinese geomorphologist, marine and coastal scientist, educator, and professor. He was the main founder for the study of many related subjects in modern mainland China.

Ren was born in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province on 8 September 1913. In 1934, Ren graduated from the National Central University (currently the University of Nanjing, Jiangsu Province). Ren went to Britain in 1936 as a scholar supported by the Sino-British Boxer Indemnity Fund Foundation to study for a Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor E.B. Baily FRS. In 1939, Ren received his Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. During his study in Glasgow, as the secretary of the Glasgow Chinese Student Union, Ren, with the generous support of Mr. Arthur Brady, secretary of Glasgow Labour Party, organized a flag day in Glasgow in 1938 and raised about £500 for Chinese refugees of the Sino-Japanese War. In June 1939, Ren convened a summer conference of Chinese students in Welyn Garden City near London. Since 1939, Ren was a professor of Zhejiang University, Fudan University, and later Nanjing University, chronologically. He was the head of the Department of Geography, the University of Nanjing, China. In 1986–1987, he was Fulbright Visiting Professor in U.S.A.

In 1985, Ren was invited by the British Council to visit Britain for 2 weeks, during which time Ren became acquainted with Dr. Graham Evans of Imperial College, Professor Richard Chorley (1927–2002) and Dr. David Stoddart of the University of Cambridge, Professor Michael Collins of the University of Wales Swansea, and Dr. Chris Vincent of the University of East Anglia. In 1991, Ren invited Dr. M.B. Collins and Dr. G. Evans to visit the Yellow River Delta, China. Ren was Emeritus Professor of the State Laboratory for Coastal and Island Exploitation, the University of Nanjing, and Honorary President of Geographical Society of China and Oceanography Society of China.

Ren was elected to be an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1980. Ren received the Victoria Medal from the Royal Geographical Society of London in 1986. He has published or co-published about 200 scientific papers in Chinese and English and more than 10 books (some in English). Ren's main contributions to estuarine and coastal sciences are as follows: (i) Ren was leader of the Comprehensive Survey of Coastal and Tidal Flat Resources in Jiangsu Province. The outcome of the Survey was granted the Supreme Award in Advancement of Science and Technology by Jiangsu Provincial Government in 1985. (ii) Ren proposed the Construction of Telu Port, Hainan Island, and Huanghe Port, Yellow River Delta against opposition of many Chinese scientists. These two ports were constructed according to his proposal and there is no difficulty in port maintenance. (iii) Since 1983, Ren focused his research on the Lower Yellow River and its delta. His paper on *Environmental problem of no-flow of the Lower Yellow River and its response strategies* was highly evaluated by Chinese scientists in this field.

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