

**University Sponsorship Programme 2005-06:
Student's diary**

**Project : Baiji (Yangtze river dolphin) and Finless
Porpoise – Population Monitoring**

Date : 15 to 24 November 2005

Student: Milla Fok



Day 2 (16 November)

Today, after taking a full breakfast (congee, white Chinese buns, fried eggs and beef buns) at 0835, we departed from Wuhan to Hukou with Weizhuo and 張新橋 at around 0930. It almost took us seven hours to get there. During the travel journey, we had a chance to go toilet. The toilet is so smelly but that's also what we expected. However, we were really shocked when we saw a woman spit on the floor!!! It's a kind of scary, huh?!?! Although the driving skills of the driver is quite okay, he is an absolute dangerous driver! He always did other things (phone-talking, smoking, drinking) when he was driving...

When we were in transit at Jiujiang(九江), we had lunch (boiling fish soup, spicy tofu and spicy egg plant pot) there. The next mini-bus was so crowded and people are very impolite. They did not line up and always pushed you. When I thought we'd arrived, we're actually moving to take another mini-bus. That mini-bus was even more horrible. Not because we did have seat, it's because of the dirty environment. Suddenly, the bus was filled with an odor of pig/cow faeces when a woman got onto. Although it's quite difficult to withstand, we had to.

The Zhong Sheng Hotel was much better than we expected, as Dr Wang Ke Xiong said there might be no bathroom. In our room, it just looked like an old but three-star hotel.

Around 1730, Dr Wang and his colleague came back, we went to Dr Wei's room to meet them.

We had dinner all together at 1800. The dishes (羊肉煲, 炒豆苗, 肉片炒野菜, 煎蛋, 爆醬肉) were good. All of us were quite shy and passive at the beginning. I think Dr. Wei thought so and he always tried to make us talk. We did later. Now I can remember all their names and their current projects, as follows:

1. Wang Ke Xiong – Monitoring of Porpoise and Baiji abundance and movement
2. 李松海 – Porpoise echolocation
3. 王先艷 – Chinese Alligator
4. 趙修江 – Ecology of porpoise
5. 魏卓 – Baiji & Porpoise
6. 張新橋 – Porpoise in Dongting Lake

After dinner, Wang and Cheng went back hotel with us while others went play snooker.

When I was going to bathe, I found that the bathroom is quite disgusting and badly designed. There are some brown stuff on the brown and the door is actually transparent!!!

Wei is so good that he bought us some apples and bottle water. Thanks very much!!

Tomorrow, Tracy and I will be on separate boat, hope everything will be fine!!