

**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 3 (17 November)

We woke up at 0800 this morning. After having a fruitful breakfast(油炸鬼, pure congee, Chinese-style appetizer, mini-white bun and beef bun), Wang gave up a briefing about the coming survey. His computer is very small and modern. He showed us our location and the routes of surveys. In order to know whether there's a population movement between Poyang Lake and Yangtze, a acoustic data log is used. The sensor is very expensive, one pair costs him \$10,000!

We departed around 0845. Wei is so nice and he bought me a raincoat package. As raincoat package is not common in HK, I wonder whether it's good to buy it as a souvenir for SWIMS. This is because a good & durable rain coat is very important for someone who needs to have field work frequently. Um...I'm positive about this at this moment.

We saw the boats finally, they're not so bad. They are just like sampan but about one third larger in size. We went upstream today. At the beginning of our journey, we are so lucky that we saw three porpoises swimming near the mouth of Poyang Lake. Throughout the morning journey, we saw about 9 porpoises in total, I'm really excited. But at the same time, we saw many sand dredging boats. Wang said dredging is not longer allowed now, but they continue at night. This activity makes water much more turbid and sometimes hurt the porpoises directly by cutting them or affecting their echolocation.



The boatmen's wives prepared lunch for us. All of the dishes are (Fried tofu and meat, fried fish, sour vegetable, fried vegetable) very delicious. I start thinking that maybe all boatmen's wives are good at cooking!



Since there's no toilet nearby, we gained our first experience to go to the washroom in front of the Yangtze. How close we are with the Yangtze?!

When we continued the survey in the afternoon, the wind was stronger and colder. My face felt so cold though my upper part body is warmed by 6 clothes (including life jacket). As it's quite boring to observe the small no. of porpoises in such a large area, we found hardly. So, I was so sleepy and always felt asleep. Around 1530, we got back and I'm now waiting for my supper!!!

We went to a stall (大排檔) this time, the smell from kitchens there has already very spicy and make me cough. We ordered a "lap 鴨豆卜粉絲生菜煲, 炸魚, 酸辣豬肚, 炒薯絲), all of them are very delicious. They love beer so much and ordered a dozen this time. We had a happy time.

After dinner, we went to sing karaoke on 3rd floor of our hotel. Wei was so active, he danced and sang at the same time. Although the facilities and the quality of the videos are not very good, we enjoyed.