

China and the Netherlands join forces

Three universities from China: the Xi'an Centre of Geological Survey, China University of Geosciences in Beijing and the Hohai University in Nanjing have set up the Asian Facility Project in cooperation with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft and Eijkelkamp Agrisearch Equipment. The aim of the project is to develop teaching modules for hydrological/ecological research that can then be taught at universities in China. The demand for experts in the field of hydrology has arisen from the enormous economic growth that China is experiencing. During building projects the consequences for water systems and the ecosystem are sometimes overlooked. And then there is the fact that around 50% of China consists of low-rainfall areas. A balanced water and ecosystem is of great importance and water cycle professionals are necessary to ensure this.



Besides the necessary theory lessons, the students will also be given practical schooling by going into the field. Cor Verbruggen, trainer at Eijkelkamp Training & Consultancy, went to China together with Prof. Zhou of UNESCO-IHE at the end of 2009 in order to look for suitable test areas. A number of Chinese students and staff from the universities came to the Netherlands in February 2010 under

the auspices of the project, to get extra training. In May, Cor Verbruggen will travel to China again to arrange various courses. These courses will be aimed at charting a catchment area in relation to its water and ecology. The project runs until 2012 and during this period Eijkelkamp Agrisearch Equipment will supply the required know-how and equipment for monitoring groundwater, surface water, soil water and water quality.