

## Verleihung der Leopold-von-Buch-Plakette an Prof. Dr. Chen Mengxiong

Laudatio von Wilhelm Struckmeier, gehalten von Michael Schmidt-Thomé während der Jahrestagung 2005 des „Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia“ (CCOP) in Beijing (China)



Dear Professor Chen Mengxiong,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to honour a wise Chinese colleague who is looking back on a very long and successful professional career in applied geology, in particular in hydrogeology.

The German Society for Geosciences (DGG) asked me to make use of my presence at the Annual Session of CCOP to present their well known award, the Leopold-von-Buch Medal, to Professor Chen Mengxiong, academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, for his outstanding scientific work in the field of hydrogeological investigations in China.

The Leopold-von-Buch Medal is awarded to non-German scientists who have substantially contributed to the advancement of geological sciences.

Leopold von Buch, born in 1774, was a well known German geologist and one of the founders of the DGG in 1848. He was a mapping geologist and contributed substantially to modern geosciences in Germany. But he did not only concentrate on his home country, Germany, since he was a very open minded geologist and keen to establish contacts and exchange ideas with scientists from neighbouring countries in Europe and later with foreign countries on other continents. In 1832, he published the magnificent Geological Map of Germany (42 sheets). You will see that the career of Professor Chen Mengxiong shows several similarities with him.

Professor Chen Mengxiong qualified for the award because he did not only remarkable investigations on the groundwater conditions in great parts of China, but he also was one of the pioneers who started a dialogue between Chinese geoscientists and colleagues outside China.

In particular, he established contacts with the International Association of Hydrological Sciences and the International Association of Hydrogeologists and presented the advancements in Chinese hydrogeological sciences to international expert group meetings.

Starting from his important work as a mapping geologist from 1942 to 1950 and as chief engineering geologist (1950–1954) and later, as a chief hydrogeologist in charge of the nation-wide regional hydrogeological mapping work at the scale of 1:200,000 (1954–1980), Prof Chen Mengxiong became a scientific advisor in the Consulting Centre of the Ministry of Geology in 1980, and he stayed in this position for ten years.

Since the 1980ies he explored the world and established many contacts with experts outside China, mainly to Europe. In 1989, he visited Germany, where he participated in the Symposium on Hydrogeological Maps in Hannover. Since then, Prof Chen Mengxiong actively took part in developing and adapting concepts for hydrogeological maps which are applicable world-wide, under various geological and climatic settings.

Therefore, the Leopold-von-Buch Medal award says:

“DGG verleiht die Leopold-von-Buch-Plakette an Chen Mengxiong für seine bedeutenden Arbeiten auf dem Gebiet der geologischen und hydrogeologischen Kartierung Chinas sowie bei der Förderung des geowissenschaftlichen Austausches zwischen China und Europa”.

Dear Professor Chen Mengxiong, I am proud to hand over the Medal to you, and I want to stress that with this award the excellent relationship between German and Chinese scientists is also rewarded.

I think you really deserve this award of the German Society for Geosciences, and I hope this will encourage younger geoscientists in China and all over the world to follow your example.

I wish you good health and all the best for the future!

Thank you.

