

## Register Early for May 2009 China-U.S. Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries

Next May, law librarians and other legal information professionals and decision makers from China and the United States will meet in Beijing to discuss issues of common interest and concern. Why should AALL members attend this conference? Barbara Bintliff, who is Nicholas Rosenbaum Professor of Law and Director of the William A. Wise Law Library at the University of Colorado, shares her perspective on what she expects to gain from participating in the conference:

“One of AALL’s most important functions is to take a leadership role around the world in legal information education,” she says. “As China solidifies its position as a global economic power, we need to learn more about its legal information environment to serve better our libraries’ users. The China-U.S. Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries builds on AALL’s experience in sponsoring the series of highly successful institutes focusing on the common law countries. I expect that the China conference will provide the substance and context for a much greater understanding of the Chinese legal system and its legal information structure and will provide us with strong

professional contacts for future collaboration.”

Join Bintliff and others in Beijing for this historic event, envisioned as the first of a series of conferences or institutes that will continue to foster and facilitate the sharing of professional knowledge, cooperation, and collaboration.

A delegation of Conference Steering Committee and Advisory Board members recently concluded its site planning visit to Beijing. That trip has imbued these planners with even more excitement about the venues and accommodations selected and the programs, activities, and special events planned for this inaugural conference.

Delegation members report that the Chinese legal community continues its commitment and generous support to ensure that this landmark conference will be an unqualified success for all participants. Official co-sponsors include AALL, Chinese Education Association of International Exchange, International Association of Law Libraries, People’s Republic of China, and the State Guidance Commission on Legal Education of the Ministry of Education. Chinese attendees are expected to number 200 or more, representing the legal information sectors of government agencies and related organizations, Ministry of Education-affiliated national

law school administrators, directors of university or law school libraries, and providers of predominantly Web-based legal information.

On-site conference registration begins in Beijing on May 27 with tour options to the National Library or area law libraries. A day-long workshop on professional organizations will be held the next day, and the formal conference program follows on May 29-30. Two separate day-long pre-conference tours will be available on May 25 and 26 (to the Forbidden City and the Great Wall); a longer post-conference tour option may be available as well.

Check the conference Web site ([www.law.du.edu/index.php/china-us-conf](http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/china-us-conf)) for conference developments and updates. Final program, registration, and hotel reservation information will be available this month. The early bird conference registration and housing reservation deadline is **December 15**. Thereafter, it is likely that conference fees will increase significantly and that availability of housing at the Beijing Friendship Hotel cannot be guaranteed. For more information, contact **Bob Hu** ([rhu@stmarytx.edu](mailto:rhu@stmarytx.edu)) or **Lei Seeger** ([seegerl@hawaii.edu](mailto:seegerl@hawaii.edu)).

Ming nian wu yue bei jing xiang jian! See you in Beijing in May 2009!



Members of the China-U.S. Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries Steering Committee and Advisory Board attend a joint planning meeting in Portland, Oregon, on July 12. Front row from left: Frank Liu, Janis Johnston, and Nonji Zhang. Back row from left: Bob Hu, Zhang Baosheng, Zhang Chu, Xu Weidong, Lei Seeger, Joan Howland, Ma Zhigang, and Joan Liu.