



## **AAWRE President-Elect Ports Promotes Diplomate, Water Resources Engineer Credential to Chinese Engineers**

AAWRE President-elect Michael Ports led the Academy's presence at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Watershed Management and Urban Water Supply held December 13-15, 2004 in Shenzhen, China. Over 200 water resources professionals participated in the conference. Included were more than 30 water resources experts from the United States.

President-elect Ports was one of the keynote speakers. His address focused on the difficulties the developing world faces in managing their watersheds and highlighted the need for organizations such as the Academy, and the ASCE Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) to work with their counterparts around the globe. These partnerships can assist in bringing best practices to bear and allow developing economy countries to avoid some of the watershed management mistakes that more developed economy countries have overcome.



Credentialing also arose during the conference as a very important component in the professional development of Chinese water resources engineers. President-elect Ports introduced the conference attendees to the new AAWRE and encouraged them to pursue advanced education, superior experience and a dedication to professionalism in order to participate in the Academy as a Diplomate in the future.

President-elect Ports also met with officials from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Tsinghua University (Shenzhen and Beijing), the Shenzhen Hydraulic Association, and the Chinese Civil Engineering Society during his visit to China. Groundwork was laid for a future working relationship between these organizations and the Academy.

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