The New Progress of the Starry Sky Project of China

IDA Beijing & Starry Sky Project of China
5/F, South Tower, No: 9, Financial Street Center, Xicheng District, Beijing, China
1. Enhanced the team function of the Starry Sky Project of China

- Established the contact with IAU Committee 50, Dark Skies Advisory Group of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Astronomers Without Borders (AWB) and International Dark Sky Association (IDA), etc.
- Since December 2012, we have begun to undertake the work of the IDA Beijing Chapter.
- Got supports from China’s National Astronomical Observatories, Beijing Planetarium and Shanghai Science and Technology Museum etc.
Signed cooperation agreements with Beijing Lighting Research Center, Shanghai English Education Group and Shandong law Firm.

Invite Bi Shumin, a famous Chinese writer, as an adviser of Starry Sky Project of China.
2. Put forward the first dark sky proposal to the top national institution

Submit a proposal to the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

The title is: “Draw Attention to the Night Sky Protection and Tourism”.

This is the first proposal about night environment in China.
3. Introduced the international criteria and guidelines of dark sky protection

Organized more than thirty volunteers to translate 9 documents of IDA, including 4 projects criteria, 2 lighting guidelines, and 3 related introductions. These Chinese documents have been officially published on IDA website, and provided a reference standard for Chinese dark sky protection.
4. Continuously promote to establish dark sky places

The Starry Sky Project of China needs to “implement to the ground”; and the key point of implementation is to establish dark sky places. It needs support of the local government, cooperation of related organizations and fund input. Although there are many difficulties, but we never give up the goals.
First: Ali Dark Sky Reserve

Ali Prefecture Government of Tibet, Ali Astronomical Observatory, and IDA Beijing, around the astronomical observation area, planned a 2,500 square km of Dark Sky Reserve. The elevation is 4,500-6,000m, including the Core Area, the Buffer Area and the Peripheral Zone.
Second: Naqu Dark Sky Park

Cooperate with Naqu County Government of Tibet, combining with Hangcuo Lake, a National Natural Reserve and Scenic, to plan and establish the Dark Sky Park.
Third: Jinan Dream Sky Theme Park

Cooperate with Shandong Longgang Tourism Group, to construct the big Park in the suburb of Jinan city, the capital of Shandong province. In the center of the park, we built a planetarium and an observatory, and set a telescope of 600 millimeters. We hope it making children learn astronomy knowledge and raising dark sky awareness in entertainment.
This year is International Year of Light. Around the topic of Cosmic Light, we will further promote the Starry Sky Project of China.
• The Chinese Government put forward the ecological strategy of “Beautiful China”. We think “Beautiful China” needs “Beautiful Sky”, and hope through our work make the dark sky protection become a part of national ecological strategy.

• We will continue to establish Dark Sky Reserves, Dark Sky Parks and Theme Parks; and develop to become new-style starry sky cultural industry.

• We will continue to strengthen the contact and cooperation with international organizations, and get guidance and help.
The adviser of Starry Sky Project of China, Chinese famous writer, Bi Shumin wrote the following words for us:

“When I was in Ali Plateau, looking up to the vast and infinite starry sky has influenced my whole life. As one who lived and worked there for 11 years in young age, I heartily wish that the starry sky of Ali could jump into Chinese people’s eyes and could engrave in people’s mind, adding profound color to the beautiful China.”

Chinese writer: [Signature]
Follow Our YouTube Channel: IDA Beijing chapter

Video Link: https://youtu.be/7OssAcvBLKY
Thank You  To preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies.

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- Xuejia Wang: Member of International Dark Sky Association Beijing & Starry Sky Project of China.
- Ruoyu Li: Undergraduate Student, Steward Observatory University of Arizona.
- Xia Guo: Senior Engineer, Beijing Planetarium.
- Yujie Chen: Member of Shanghai WORLD Education Group.