



Spoonbills Speak

echoes across the Pacific

A Project of Earth Island Institute

<http://saveinternational.org/>

SAVE UNVEILS PLANS TO RESTORE HABITAT AT BUDAI

Just after the last spoonbills left Taiwan for their summer homes in Korea, SAVE members arrived in Budai, on Taiwan's southwest coast. Working with colleagues at National Taiwan University (NTU) and local NGOs, SAVE members collaborated on a plan to restore mud-flat habitat by reintroducing tidal influence to the salt flats and fish ponds within the site's boundaries. Graduate students from Berkeley's Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning program and NTU's John Liu presented the plan at a meeting with ornithologists, hydrologists, landscape architects and members of the National Scenic Area. SAVE then met with hydrologists and National Scenic Area representatives to resolve the logistics of implementing the plan. After the completion of a detailed topographical survey of the site, SAVE will continue to work with local organizations to transform the former salt flats around Budai into an environmentally and economically productive area benefitting both spoonbills and local residents. --- BY LAUREN STAHL



Budai salt pond design site

SAVE DELEGATION IN SOUTH KOREA: GANGHWA, SONGDO, AND FOUR RIVERS

A delegation from SAVE International's Executive Committee visited South Korea for one very busy and productive week this June. The delegation included Professor Randolph (Randy) Hester, Ye Kang Ko, Alyssa Machle, Derek Schubert, and Lauren Stahl.

From June 18-20, the delegation participated in an international symposium focused on sharing research and strategies for preserving the habitat of the Black-faced Spoonbill. The event, which took place in Ganghwa was organized by the Ganghwa Tidal Flat Center. Participants included scientists; bird and wetland specialists; and environmental NGOs from Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and the United States. At the conference SAVE presented its new plan for the redevelopment of the Budai salt flats in Taiwan [see the article on Budai in this issue—editors] as a model for ecotourism development in South Korea. The symposium also provided an opportunity for SAVE to initiate a dialogue about its recently developed summer habitat geometries for the Black-faced Spoonbill. A meeting aimed at facilitating international cooperation among the participants capped off the event.



Ganghwa Boat Ride- Gaksi Rock

Incheon City, home of the beleaguered Songdo Tidal Flats, was the second stop in the SAVE delegation's busy week. Our friends at Green Incheon led the delegation on a tour of Songdo, where we saw the remaining area of tidal flats (designated "Section 11" and scheduled to be filled soon), buildings under construction for the proposed "Joint University Campus" [see the article on U.S. universities in this issue—editors], and a nesting site for some spoonbills. SAVE had noticed several nesting pairs of spoonbills in 2009 on an artificial island in the industrial lagoon north of Songdo, and this year, thanks to the pre-season work of some concerned Incheon citizens to improve the island, even

more spoonbills were nesting there and raising over 30 chicks. Green Incheon also arranged a meeting where SAVE presented our alternative plan for Songdo to members of Incheon's City Council, members of the press, a local fisherwomen's group, and other citizens. This was an opportune time for SAVE to present the plan – in early June progressive candidates swept the local elections in Incheon and throughout Korea. Reversing course at Songdo would be an ideal way for Incheon's new councilmembers to put change into action. Devised in conjunction with graduate students at UC Berkeley, the alternative plan includes a component of ecotourism which has proven very successful and lucrative in Taiwan. This caught the ear of the councilmembers. At the councilmembers' request, SAVE's colleagues in other Korean NGOs are conducting a cost-benefit analysis to compare the approved plan (which would fill 70% of Section 11) with SAVE's alternative plan.

After this meeting, SAVE took part in a citizens' protest at the headquarters of the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ), the entity promoting the filling of Songdo. Later that day, the SAVE delegation met with the officers and scientists of the Secretariat of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership, located with some irony in one of the new office-towers at Songdo. SAVE found many potential allies in Incheon, but it will take more work by SAVE and Incheon residents to stop the last tidal flats of Songdo from being filled.

[For background on Songdo and ways to get involved, look at the Summer 2010 issue of Spoonbills Speak and the "SAVE in Action" page at our website, www.saveinternational.org/saveinaction.—editors]



Songdo Construction South View

To cap off the week in South Korea, the SAVE delegation focused on the "Four Major River Restoration" project. On June 22, we visited several construction sites with members of the prominent Korean professors' group that opposes the project (POMAC).



Four Rivers- Nakdong River Destruction

First, we visited Naesungcheon, a branch of the Nakdong River whose unique natural landscape—a beautiful sandy river—still remained but would be ruined by a new dam upstream. Then, we moved to the construction sites: Sangju dam on the Nakdong River and Kangcheon dam on the Han River. It was devastating to see the severe contrast between the peaceful sandy banks of Naesungcheon and the excessive dredging that has already destroyed habitats for endangered plants and animals. At the Korean National Assembly the next day, Randy Hester presented "Ten Principles of River Restoration and Four Rivers Project of Korea" with his impressions from the site visit. As a discussion panelist, Derek Schubert presented his opinion as a representative of SAVE International. Several politicians including Du-Kwan Kim, a new governor of Kyungnam Province, participated in this meeting. Kim is now actively opposing the Four Rivers Project by using his veto to block the projects in Kyungnam Province, but President Lee Myung-bak is threatening to proceed despite the governor's opposition. Keep watching our website for news of the Four Rivers Project and all of our work in Korea. --- BY ALYSSA MACHLE, DEREK SCHUBERT AND YE KANG KO



Four Rivers- Han River Destruction

SAVING SPOONBILLS IN HAKATA BAY, JAPAN

Hakata Bay in Fukuoka is one of the largest wintering places for Black-faced Spoonbills in Japan, but recent years have seen a decline in the number of migrants. Wajiro tidal flat, which used to support a lot of migratory water birds, is shrinking due to landfill from the Island City Project. This project, begun in 1994, involves construction of an artificial island in the frontal waters of the Wajiro tidal flat to develop port and harbor facilities and a new urban area. Fukuoka city has a plan to develop a Wild Bird Park, and although the proposed area has been increased from 8.3 hectares (about 21 acres) to 12 hectares (about 31 acres), it's still not enough. The Landscape Architecture and Community Design laboratory at Fukuoka University, directed by Hisashi Shibata, is launching activities to protect the habitat of Black-faced Spoonbills in Hakata Bay. The laboratory invited Randolph Hester and Marcia McNally of the SAVE Executive Committee to Fukuoka and hosted a symposium on September 17, 2010 in which Hester and McNally participated. --- BY HISASHI SHIBATA



Fukuoka Aerial View

New York at Stony Brook). After our delegation visited Songdo in June and met with local activists tracking the process, SAVE set out to notify the presidents of the faculty senates of these universities. Working with Birds Korea, the Australasian Wader Studies Group, and James Hadley (an engineer with expertise in the LEED system for green building), we put together a packet of letters detailing the issues for the senates. This packet was sent to Professor Michael Schwartz, Faculty Senate President of Stony Brook, who agreed to send it on to the other presidents. In addition to the universities above, the following have been reported by the Korean press in connection with Songdo: University of Missouri, University of Southern California, George Mason University, University of Delaware, Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), University of Illinois, Carnegie Mellon University, Boston University, Columbia University, University of California Berkeley, University of California San Diego, and University of Florida. The University of Surrey in Guildford, England has also been identified with Songdo. If you have connections to any of these universities and would like to participate in our letter-writing campaign, please let SAVE know. --- BY MARCIA MCNALLY



Hester and McNally with Fukuoka Partners

SAVE FLUSHES U.S. UNIVERSITIES NAMED AS SONGDO PARTICIPANTS

In January 2010, SAVE launched a campaign to notify the chancellors of U.S. universities that had been linked to the Songdo international campus as to the environmental problems with the project. Since that time, it has become clear that the list is fluid: some of the named universities have never been involved (such as Duke), while others' campus involvement is on hold (such as North Carolina State University and State University of

HELP SAVE IN JAPAN!

Dear SAVE Members:

Randy Hester and Marcia McNally just returned from Fukuoka where they spent two days with local environmentalists, professors, and students learning about yet another landscape of the Black-faced Spoonbill – its migratory habitat! This area hosts over 100 spoonbills each year during migration and is considered a spoonbill “gateway”. This means more work for SAVE – defining this habitat geometry, starting up a campaign to protect the remaining wetlands, and helping activists to secure Ramsar designation for Hakata Bay. This work will start next semester in the UCB studio and continue with a delegation trip in Summer 2011.

We need your support. Please renew your annual membership to SAVE if you haven't already, or join us if you don't have a membership!

- _____ I would like to be a sponsoring member of SAVE for \$25
- _____ I would like to contribute to the spoonbills' nest egg for \$50
- _____ I would like to be an adoptive grandparent of a spoonbill for \$100
- _____ I would like to be an adoptive parent of a spoonbill for \$250
- _____ I would like to adopt an entire spoonbill family for \$500
- _____ I would like to donate the following: _____

Please return to: SAVE International, c/o Earth Island Institute, 2150 Allston Way Suite 460, Berkeley, CA, 94704. Make your check payable to SAVE/EII. You can also donate through the SAVE website: www.earthisland.org/save. Just click on the “donate” link.

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