

ECONOMIC THEORY, APPLICATIONS AND ISSUES

Working Paper No. 66

**My Book “Economic Development in the
Context of China”: Its Origins plus Experiences
in China in 1989 and their Sequel**

by

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Clem Tisdell²

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¹ I plan to write a series of papers outlining the genesis and nature of my major books and the contexts in which they were prepared.

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For further information about these papers, contact Professor John Quiggin, Email: j.quiggin@uq.edu.au

My Book “Economic Development in the Context of China”: Its Origins plus Experiences in China in 1989 and their Sequel

ABSTRACT

Outlines how as a result of a chance meeting with Professor Mao Yushi in Toronto, Canada in 1986 I was subsequently invited to visit China to give lectures at Nankai University in Tianjin (which I did in 1989). This visit was extended by my being awarded an Exchange Fellowship Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and the Australian Academy of Humanities in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS). This enabled me to make further contact with Mao Yushi who was Professor of American Studies at that time. Presentations of papers and academic contacts were made at various centres of learning in Wuhan, Xian and Beijing. One of the results of my visit to China was the publication of my book *Economic Development in the Context of China*. This was put online in 2011 by Palgrave Macmillan. The nature and genesis of this book is outlined, together with my experiences in China in 1989 and the sequel to my visit. The sequel includes subsequent visits to The University of Queensland of several Chinese economists, including Mao Yushi, my involvement in several research projects focused on China, as well as several articles dealing with Chinese economic and environmental issues. Some biographical information about Mao Yushi and Clem Tisdell is also included in this article.

Keywords: China, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Democracy Movement, economic development, economic systems, John Longworth, Nankai University, Taree High School, The University of Queensland.

JEL Classification: B00, O10, P2

My Book “Economic Development in the Context of China”: Its Origins plus Experiences in China in 1989 and their Sequel

1. Introduction

In the first half of 1989, I was fortunate to make my first visit to China to give lectures at Nankai University in Tianjin and to visit, under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), many other cities in China to deliver lectures and seminars. My visit was made possible by my appointment as a Visiting Professor at Nankai University and by my being awarded an Exchange Fellowship of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in conjunction with the Australian Academy of Humanities. However, all of this would not have happened had it not been for a chance meeting with Professor Mao Yushi (then Professor of American Studies at CASS) in Toronto Canada at the Fourth World Congress of Social Economics held in 1986.

One of the several results of my first visit to China was the writing and publication of my book, *Economic Development in the Context of China*¹. This was based on my notes for lectures and seminars delivered in China in 1989 and was first published as a hardback in 1993 by Macmillan Press (Basingstoke and London) and by its associated St. Martin’s Press in New York. Subsequently, Macmillan Press was acquired by Palgrave. Palgrave Macmillan decided to make this book available online in October, 2011, see for example, Palgrave Connect, <http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/doi/10.1057/9780230380189> or eBooks.com, <http://www.ebooks.com/1040420/economic-development-in-the-context-of-china/tisdell-clement/>.

This article outlines the events connected with the production of this book, some of my experiences in China in 1989, and apart from the book, several of the other positive outcomes and consequences of my first visit to China in 1989.

The next section of this article focuses on the contents of the *Economic Development in the Context of China* and provides information about the origins of various chapters in this book. This is followed by an outline of events that led up to my visit to China in 1989 and an account of some of my experiences and impressions during that visit. Then, a summary follows of the sequel (apart from the publication of *Economic Development in the Context of*

China) to my first China visit.

2. About the Contents and the Way in Which Chapters of “Economic Development in the Context of China” Emerged

The Preface to *Economic Development in the Context of China* states:

“This book grew out of a series of lectures and seminars which I gave in China in 1989, mostly to university students and academics. I hope it will improve our understanding of economic development issues generally, particularly those confronting China, and provide a useful assessment of economic policies adopted by China in the post-Mao reform period.”

The view is taken in this book that developmental and economic issues should be examined from several different points of view because socioeconomic relationships are complex and no single paradigm is likely to provide an adequate understanding of these. I mention that “it is through diversity of analysis that we obtain fresh insights and improve our understanding of socioeconomic relationships”. I have continued to subscribe to this multi-faceted eclectic approach to academic/scientific enquiry.

Economic Development in the Context of China: Policy Issues and Analysis deals with a broad range of significant socioeconomic variables which influence the dynamics of economic development. The following description of its coverage prepared by Palgrave Macmillan for the online version of this book (see Figure 1) provides a succinct description of the coverage of this book:

“The author takes a fresh look at China’s economic policies, development strategies and economic experiences since 1978. General economic principles and analysis are applied in a comparative framework which provides useful insights for assessing China's economic strategies and its implication for other developing countries. Among the topics discussed are market reforms, new technology and technology transfer, foreign direct investment, regional development, poverty and income inequality, agricultural development, industrial development, enterprise management, the tourism industry, population policies and international issues raised by China’s economic development.”

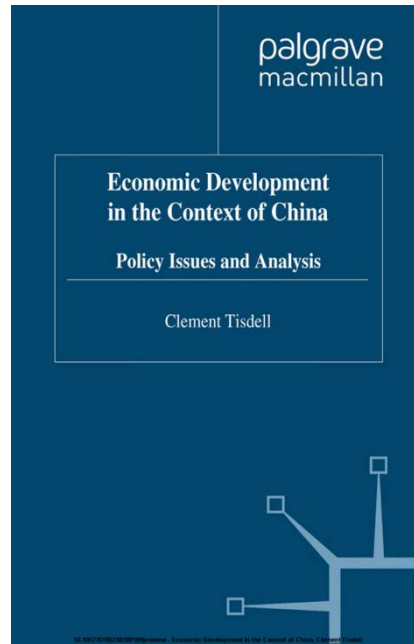


Figure 1: A copy of the cover page of the online 2011 version of Tisdell’s “Economic Development in the Context of China”.

The following condensation by Palgrave Macmillan of the Table of Contents provides a further indication of the coverage of *Economic Development in the Context of China: Policy Issues and Analysis*:

List of Tables - List of Figures - Preface - China and Its Economic Development in International Perspective - Major Policy Issues, Reforms, Protest and Economic Achievement - New Technology and Development: Policy Issues and Effects - International Technology Transfer, Direct Investment and Joint Ventures - Regional and Urban Development: Government Intervention - Poverty, Income Inequality and Development - Agriculture and Agricultural Research Priorities - Interindustry Development: Manufacturing, Services and Agriculture - Prices, Markets and Resource Allocation in China - Management of Enterprises, Separation from Ownership, and more on Markets - Foreign Tourism: Benefits to China and Contribution to Development - Population Policy, Environmental Protection and International Issues Raised by China’s Development - Notes – Index

Economic Development in the Context of China was one of the first books I completed after joining The University of Queensland in 1989. Although the copyright page of the hardback copy indicates that it was published in 1993, according to the Palgrave Connect website, its actual publication date was December 1992. As mentioned, it is based mostly on an expansion of my notes for lectures and seminars presented in China in the first half of 1989.

Chapter 12, “Foreign tourism: benefits to China and contributions to development,” was based on lectures to postgraduate students in Tourism Economics at Nankai University and also drew on a presentation made to the Tianjin Tourism Institute. Students in my Tourism Economics class were mostly studying for a degree in tourism studies, and most had a good grasp of English. Knowledge of foreign languages, especially English, was considered by Nankai University to be important for students wanting to pursue a career in tourism and hospitality management. I was pleasantly surprised to find that these students were interested in my lectures and asked many questions. This was a surprise because one of my history teachers at high school (Mr. Peisker) had told my class in the 1950s that he thought that one of the reasons why China had failed to develop in recent times was that its students depended too much on rote learning because Chinese society subscribed to the Confucian ethic. My experience is that this is not so among Chinese students today – they can be very outspoken. Mr Peisker always encouraged his own students to be constructively critical of whatever they read (see Note 7).

Chapter 4, “International technology transfer, direct investment and joint ventures” was developed from a seminar presentation given to students and staff at the International Cooperation Department of the Beijing Second Foreign Languages Institute. This seminar was arranged at short notice by Mao Yushi to replace a presentation which I was scheduled to give at CASS in Beijing. This was done because the venue at CASS was too close to Tiananmen Square and student demonstrations there in 1989 were becoming very noisy. There was also a feeling of impending danger and it was advisable for me to keep well clear of this square at that time.

The Beijing Second Foreign Languages Institute was on the outskirts of Beijing. Therefore, it took some time for me to reach it. It was well away from the upheaval in Central Beijing. In 1989, the approach to it passed through many market gardens but, given the rapid expansion of buildings in Beijing, they may no longer be there. The vegetables looked green and were thriving but the smell was not so rosy – they were being irrigated with sewage water.

One of the functions of the International Economic Co-operation Department of the Beijing Second Foreign Languages Institute was to prepare its students for managerial roles abroad. Hence, this is why I chose to address the subject matter covered in Chapter 4 of *Economic Development in the Context of China*. In 1989, China's direct foreign investment was in its infancy but today, China is a major international investor, and has been for several years.

The development of Chapter 6 on "Poverty, the income inequality and development" was (to some extent) stimulated by an interesting discussion with a then elderly professor who was Director of the Institute of Socialism at Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan. He was one of the few people I met who still wore a navy blue Maoist uniform². However my impression was that he was quite an independent thinker and a learned scholar. He pointed out to me that he was very familiar with the work of the English economist William Stanley Jevons (1835-1882). He seemed to like the economic contribution of Jevons³. We had an interesting time discussing whether the market system resulted in just distribution of wages and income.

Furthermore, while at Huazhong Normal University, I presented a seminar, the notes for which eventually became the basis for Chapter 3 on "New technology and development: policy issues and effects" in *Economic Development in the Context of China*. This was particularly relevant to China because it took account (among other things) of the consequences for development of the import of technology and the importance of interdependence with the outside world in stimulating economic advancement.

I also visited Xian. This was the most westerly point of my first visit to China. There I gave a seminar to members of the Shaanxi Academy of Social Sciences and this became the basis for Chapter 4 in *Economic Development in the Context of China* entitled "Regional and urban development: government intervention". This seemed appropriate because of the growing income inequality between the inland and coastal provinces of China. This regional inequality has increased further since 1989 and continues to worry China's government. Also while I was in Xian, I had an opportunity to visit the Shaanxi Institute of Zoology and have a worthwhile discussion with Professor Wu Jia-yan. I was invited to do this because of my continuing interest in the economics of nature conservation as discussed at several points in *Economic Development in the Context of China* (see its index). In later years, I became more deeply involved in research on this matter in China. For example, a few years later, I was involved in joint research on aspects of biodiversity conservation in a part of Yunnan Province (see later in this article).

Professor Wu's special interest was in the takin (*Budorcas taxicolor*) in Shaanxi and in Qinghai province where he conducted a lot of his field work. This species is considered to be endangered in China and to be vulnerable to extinction globally. He is the leading author of an illustrated book (in Chinese) entitled *The Rare and Economic Mammals of Shaanxi Province*. He presented me with a copy of this book (see Figure 2).⁴

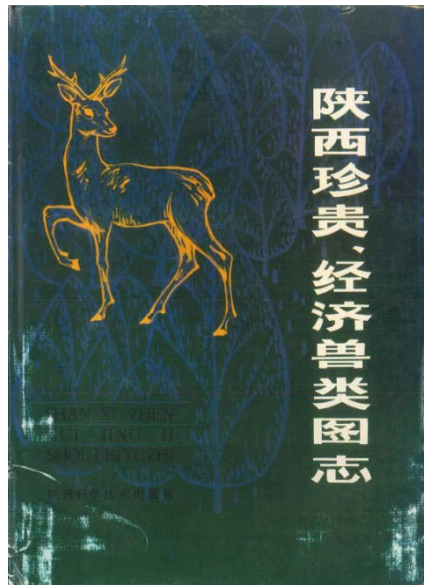


Figure 2: A copy of the cover flap of the book *The Rare and Economic Mammals of Shaanxi Province* authored by Professor Wu Jia-yan et al. This was presented to Clem Tisdell by Professor Wu in Xian in 1989.

While in Wuhan in 1989, I had an opportunity to visit Tongji Medical University which in 2000, was renamed the Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology. I had a very stimulating discussion with Dr. Hong Zhiyong about environmental issues in China. That discussion influenced the development of portions of Chapter 12 in *Economic Development in the Context of China* entitled “Population policy, environmental protection and international issues raised by China’s development”. My encounter with Dr. Hong Zhiyong also led to joint journal publication in 1991 about a significant environmental health problem in China involving cadmium poisoning. Dr Hong Zhiyong now lives in Canada and we still keep in touch.⁵

Inputs to other chapters in *Economic Development in the Context of China* came after my

visit to China in 1989. The visit in 1990 to the Department of Economics at The University of Queensland of Yang Ruilong (at that time) a PhD scholar at Renmin University (The People's University of China) and Professor Mao Yushi, then Professor of American Studies at CASS, and a similar visit in 1991 of Professor Cao Yang from Huazhong Normal University resulted in discussions which helped in the development (in the above-mentioned book) of Chapter 2, "Major policy issues, protests and economic achievement". Chapter 8 on "Interindustry development – manufacturing, services and agriculture" and Chapter 9, "Prices, markets and resource allocation in China." An additional factor which assisted my completion of the manuscript for *Economic Development in the Context of China* was the arrival from the University of Hong Kong of Dr Joseph Chai to take up a position in the Department of Economics at The University of Queensland. He is an expert on economic development in China⁶ and I soon benefitted from his expertise (see references to his work in my above-mentioned book).

This, therefore, provides an outline of the genesis of *Economic Development in the Context of China*. Now consider the events that made my visit to China in 1989 possible and eventually resulted in the production of this book.

3. Events Leading up to my 1989 Visit to China

I developed an interest in China as a school boy. While in primary school, I read a book about a Chinese boy who lived in a houseboat (sampan) on the Yangtze River. This story touched me very much. While at primary school, I was also fascinated by an article in the *National Geographic* which I found abandoned on top of a cabinet at my Grandma Lewis' house. It depicted the takeover of Beijing by the Communist Party of China in 1949 and other connected events⁷. However, I never thought I would have an opportunity to visit China. This opportunity arose due to chance.

Together with the late Associate Professor Maitra of the University of Otago, New Zealand, I organized several sessions of the Fourth World Congress of Social Economics held in Toronto (Canada) in August 1986. The papers presented in these three sessions were subsequently published in a volume edited by Priyatosh Maitra and myself (see Figure 3).

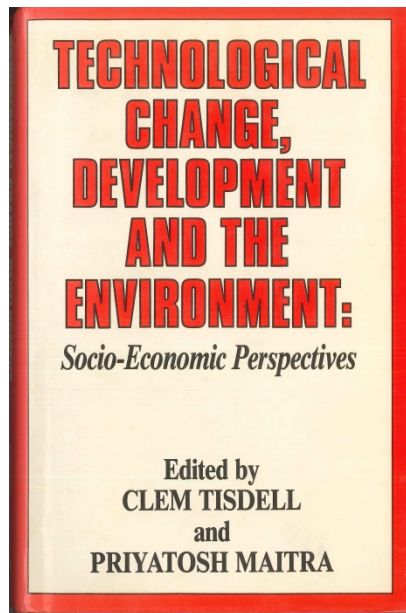


Figure 3: Copy of the front of the flap of *Technological Change, Development and the Environment: Socio-Economic Perspectives* edited by Clem Tisdell and Priyatosh Maitra and published in 1988 by Routledge, London and New York. ISBN: 0-415-00447-0

At this congress, Professor Mao Yushi (who was at the time, a Visiting Professor at Harvard University) presented a paper (but not in any of my sessions) extolling the value of free market systems as a means of allocating resources. At the time, this struck me as unusual for someone coming from Communist China. Therefore, I asked Dr Hsu O'Keefe (whom I had come to know as a result of a previous Congress of Social Economics held in Fresno, California) whether she knew Mao Yushi. She said yes and that she would be happy to introduce me to him. Consequently, Mao and myself met briefly at the congress and Mao invited me to come to Boston (MA) for a get together. This was because he was then visiting Harvard University and I was a Guest Investigator (on study leave from the University of Newcastle, NSW) in the Marine Policy and Ocean Management Centre of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) located in Woods Hole, MA. This made such a meeting convenient for us.

In due course, I travelled by bus to Boston for the day and had lunch with Mao. We had a pleasant discussion. He mostly talked about his family and some of his experiences, for example, the fact that because of the Japanese Occupation of parts of China (which he still

felt bitter about), he had to attend Nankai High School in Chongqing in western China rather than in Tianjin. Nankai High School (a prestigious private school) was relocated to Chongqing from Tianjin during the Japanese occupation.⁸ Actually we did not talk much about economics, but more about personal things. We got along well. Therefore, I decided to invite him to visit me for a stay at Woods Hole, a very pleasant part of the world.⁹

Since my accommodation was provided by WHOI, I thought I should at least ask the Director of the Marine Policy and Ocean Management (MPOM) Center, Jim (James) Broadus, whether it would be Ok to have Mao as a guest. This was readily agreed to, and in fact, WHOI 'rolled out the red carpet' for Mao. He was shown over their facilities and taken on board their oceanographic research vessel which (if I remember correctly) had the ability to stay at a fixed point at sea without anchoring. I imagine that must have interested Mao who had been trained as an engineer.

Mao stayed at my place in Woods Hole for a couple of nights and I remember that I cooked at least one hot meal for him. We both got along well. On leaving to catch his bus back to Boston, he said to me "when I return to China, I'll get you invited to China". I was very happy about that but naturally wondered if anything would really come of it. Apart from anything else, I had been an officially invited visitor to South Africa in 1984 when P.W. Botha was President,¹⁰ I thought that given past tensions between South Africa and the People's Republic of China, such a visit might rule me out as an invited visitor to China. My doubts were unfounded because, in due course (probably late 1987) Professor Mu Guogang,¹¹ then President of Nankai University, invited me to give a series of lectures to postgraduate students in the university's College of Economics. It was subsequently decided that those lectures would mostly deal with tourism economics, with most of the students being post graduates in tourism studies.

I am not sure why Nankai University was chosen for my first visit to China. It may have been that Mao Yushi had suitable contacts there. Whether or not it had anything to do with Mao having attended Nankai High School (relocated from Tianjin to Chongqing during China's eight years of war with Japan), I do not know. Mao graduated from Nankai High School in 1946, a year after the end of World War II. Nankai High School was a private school opened originally in Tianjin in 1904 with a view to following a Western approach to education. Many of the children of China's social elite attended this school. For example, Chou Enlai (the first Premier of the People's Republic of China) was a graduate of this school. Today, there are

two Nankai high schools – the original one was re-opened in Tianjin after the defeat of Japan and the one established in Chongqing continues in operation.

Before Mao attended Nankai High School in Chongqing, he was a student of numerous schools. Due mainly to the Japanese invasion of China, Mao changed schools many times during his school days. He attended schools in Guangxi, Guizhou and Chongqing. He wrote to me that in his twelve years of schooling he attended thirteen different schools (pers. comm., 26 July, 2013). To succeed academically (and otherwise), as Yushi Mao did, is indeed, remarkable given his frequent change of schools.

Nankai University offered to meet all of my out-of-pocket expenses (accommodation costs mostly) and give me a small allowance while I was teaching at Nankai University, but I needed to meet the cost of my return journey from Australia to Tianjin. To cover that cost and also in order to add to my scope for academic exchange in China, I decided to apply to the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia for an Australian-China Exchange Fellowship. This application was successful. It meant that I could extend my stay and increase my range of contacts in China beyond those at Nankai University through the auspices of CASS as well as once again, make contact with Mao Yushi who was then at CASS. Subsequently, Mao played a major role in arranging contacts for me in China.

Nevertheless, a possible obstacle to my visit to China arose. I was scheduled to visit China in the first half of 1989. After this was agreed with Nankai University, I then received an offer in 1988 to take up a Chair in Economics at The University of Queensland (UQ). It was expected that on taking up this post, I would also become Head of UQ's Department of Economics. I was anxious to accept this position. Although my time at the University of Newcastle (NSW) had been productive, I had been there for over 16 years and felt it was time for a change. I wondered if UQ would agree to my briefly joining its Department of Economics and then very soon afterwards tripping off to China. This was potentially problematic since one of the main motivations for my appointment to UQ by UQ's Selection Committee was for me to take over the headship of the Department of Economics which had been experiencing some problems. It seemed to be a big ask!

Fortunately, Dr George Kenwood (who had been Head of the Department of Economics) agreed to continue in that position for the first half of 1989. I would assume that position after I returned from China. It only remained for Professor John Longworth, the then Dean of the

Faculty of Economics and Commerce, to agree to my absence. He was interested in China. He had done joint work with Chinese partners on agricultural economic issues in China, for example, in Gansu and Ningxia.¹² He believed that China was on the path to achieving substantial economic development and that its status in the world would increase. He favoured increased contact with China. Therefore, he agreed to my proposal.

It soon dawned on me that I knew virtually nothing about the Chinese language. Although my lectures and presentations were to be in English, it seemed important that I should at least learn the rudiments of the Chinese language. Providentially, I found that an Adult Education Class providing an introduction to Chinese was to be offered at a high school (Oxley High School) nearby my home. So my wife, Mariel, and I attended classes there. This gave me a very basic grasp of Chinese.

Now it was time for me to depart for China. I travelled by plane to Sydney to join an Air China flight to Beijing in March, 1989. The atmosphere on the plane was very informal. For one thing, one could walk to the bar or serving counters and help oneself to as much drink or snacks as one liked. My plane landed in Guangzhou where customs was cleared. Passengers walked from the plane to the terminal which looked fairly drab (shabby) at that time. After clearing customs in Guangzhou, I continued on the same plane to Beijing where I was met by Professor Mao Yushi.

4. My Travels and Experiences in China in 1989

My travels in China involved going from Beijing to Tianjin by rail (not long after my arrival in Beijing). Then at the end of April, I travelled by rail to Wuhan where I was located in early May. Subsequently I journeyed to Xian by rail and then flew back to Beijing by plane. Figure 4 illustrates the geographical pattern of my travels in China in 1989.

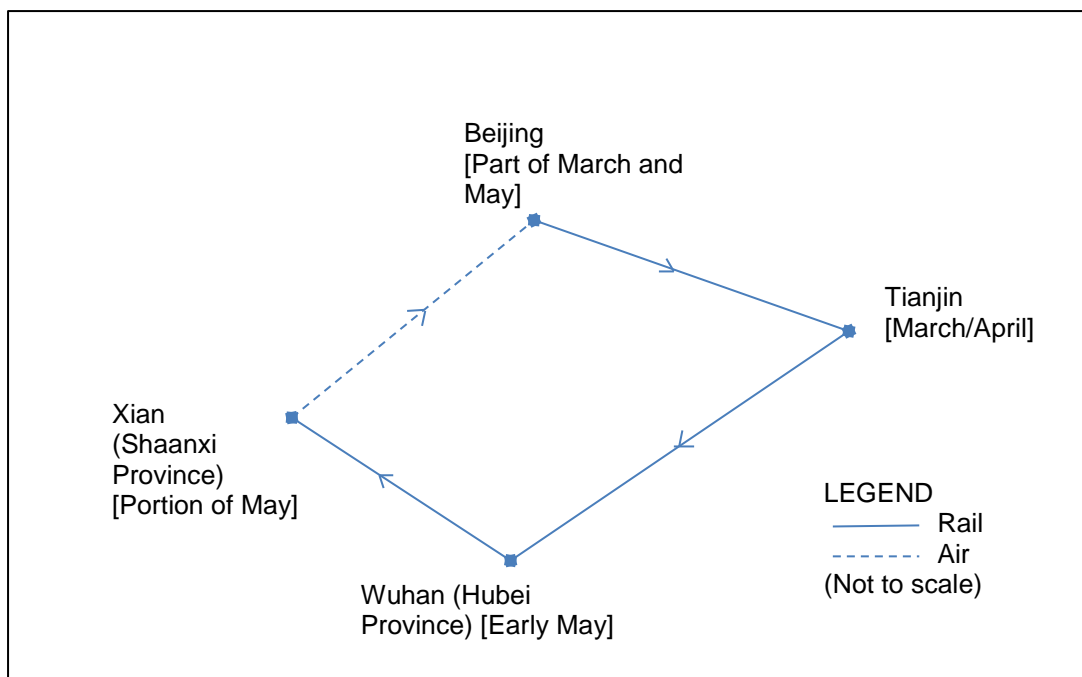


Figure 4: An indication of Clem Tisdell’s pattern of travel in China in 1989 with approximate timing of this travel

I think I only stayed in Beijing one night before travelling on by train to Tianjin. I guess I was fairly tired after my long journey. The hotel I stayed in was nothing to write home about. The toilet was ‘temperamental’ and the toilet paper was the pink thin stuff common in China at the time. There was also little paper on the roll around its thick brown cardboard core. However, I could manage without any difficulties. Incidentally, hotel standards have improved much in China since 1989. The streets of Beijing were crowded with bicycles and few, if any, cars were in sight. The main traffic otherwise seemed to be buses and old trucks. There was no need to put the bikes and slow moving traffic on side lanes, as is the pattern in Beijing today where the roads are now choked with mostly privately owned cars as well as taxis; necessitating some car owners to keep their cars at home on particular days designated by the authorities.

In Tianjin

My *Lonely Planet Guide to China* had indicated that there was little in Tianjin to attract the visitor. It was far from a ‘must see’ destination in China. Therefore, I did not expect much from a tourism point of view. However, I must admit that I found plenty of interest in Tianjin (and its surrounds) and overall, my visit was a memorable and rewarding one.

When I arrived in Tianjin, I was met by several members of the Department of Tourism of Nankai University and taken to the residential college where I was to stay for my visit. This college seemed to cater mostly for postgraduate students both from China and from overseas and was opposite the Guest House for overseas visitors. I appreciated being accommodated in the residential college rather than the Guest House because this made it easier for me to mix with students and become aware of their living conditions. I was shown to my room which had an attached bathroom. I would eat in the dining room of the college. My room also had tea-making facilities. Being a 'tea-guzzler', this was a bonus for me even though I had to get used to drinking green tea.

My future colleagues at Nankai made me feel comfortable in my new setting at the college. We shared a cup of tea and I was then informed that a student would come the next day to show me to my class. For now, I should take a rest.

At the residential college, we all ate in the collective dining room. There was some choice of food which was served by staff behind counters. Two types of food were available: halal food for those of Islamic persuasion (at a separate counter), with the remaining food being for all others. The available food consisted mostly of rice and vegetables with very little meat, which was probably a healthy diet. Since I did not know much Chinese, I usually pointed to what I wanted and said 'jage' (this). I had to get used to using chopsticks but managed reasonably well with these throughout my visit to China.¹³

Hot water for the bath and sink of my college room was supplied by a coal-heated boiler but it was only fired up for a part of each day. Therefore, one had to choose one's time for a warm bath. My room was cleaned regularly and the cleaner also washed the cups. However, I was a bit concerned one day when I returned to my room and found her drying them using my bath towel. Therefore, I washed them up again each time before I used them.

One of the attractions of being at Nankai University was that regular outings were arranged by the university for overseas visiting scholars, including postgraduate students. I was able to participate in three such outings while there. The first was to the Eastern Qing Tombs. On the way to these tombs we passed through farmland, which I always find interesting. I could see that at that time, some farmers had compost heaps and some old-fashioned three-wheeled tractors were in use. It is probably true today that compost from compost heaps has been replaced in China almost entirely by chemical fertilizers. China is a heavy user of chemical

fertilizers, the use of which results in several unfavourable environmental spillovers. The Eastern Qing Tombs (unlike the Western Qing Tombs near Beijing) have been stripped bare of their removable valuable objects. We were told that they had been plundered by the Nationalists and taken to Taiwan. The second visit was to a village near Tianjin where the buildings were being constructed in a colourful 'traditional' Chinese style. It was hoped that this village would become a magnet for tourists.

One of the most interesting outings was a visit to the Yancun Military Camp located not too far from Tianjin. Apparently, there was some debate whether the foreigners at Nankai should be allowed to visit it. In the end, it was decided that such a visit would be fine for us. The idea was to give us an insight into a day in the life of a soldier in the People's Army.

As we entered the military camp, the first thing I noticed was a white statue of Mao Zedong in a typical pose with an outstretched hand and the prominent mole on his chin. I imagine that many military establishments had the same statue. Then, we noticed a group of soldiers in uniform cultivating vegetables. The army was then still practising 'the economic reliance principle' of Mao Zedong.¹⁴ Women were also busy at the camp producing consumer goods for the army.

In the morning, we were shown the various techniques that the army unit located at Yancun used for scaling cliffs, walls and similar obstacles. We were told that these techniques were used in a previous conflict of China with Vietnam. The exhibition involved soldiers scaling a tall building. This was followed by lunch which consisted of many courses. At the table where I sat, we were joined by a general with several stars. I have never had an opportunity since to sit with such a high ranking military officer. Then, there was a presentation about the roles of a soldier in the People's Army. This mainly emphasised how the army's soldiers assist in national emergencies, such as natural disasters in China.

After lunch, we had an opportunity to visit the living quarters (mess) of the soldiers. Among other things, this area contained machines for playing games for entertainment and on the wall were photos depicting the military encounters of this army unit. I felt strange looking at these photos because they included several from the Korean War, which I remembered from my high school days. At that time, China was a formidable enemy of Australia, the United States and its allies. I could not help thinking about how much the situation had changed. There was also an opportunity while at the mess to handle a bazooka which I had not done

before.

Following this sojourn, we were taken to the camp's rifle range where some soldiers displayed their shooting skills. There was also a remarkable display of the martial arts by some of the soldiers. The visit to the rifle range reminded me of my involvement in my high school days in the army cadets. During this period, the cadets from my school (Taree High School) went by train to Singleton Military Camp (in the Hunter Valley of NSW) on the bivouac for several days.¹⁵ During that time, we practised shooting at the camp's rifle range and participated in various military exercises, including a mock battle.

While I was at Nankai University, my students also invited me out to visit various venues in Tianjin. For example, we went to the food hall downtown for some nice meals and to the local art gallery and museum. At the art gallery, there was an exhibition of Chinese calligraphy showing how the styles had altered over the centuries. The museum contained various examples of artistically decorated china pillows (actually rests for the neck). I wonder how comfortable/uncomfortable they were for sleeping on. They are about the size of little logs and just as hard.

My students and I always travelled by bus (quite crowded ones). I was told that food was cheaper in Tianjin than in Beijing and that some people from Beijing visited Tianjin on occasions to dine out and take advantage of this. Also, one of my students was worried that he might be called up by the army to serve in Tibet (Xizang). This prospect did not appeal to him at all. I was also invited home by a Nankai staff member for a party at his apartment. This was welcomed but I am afraid I misjudged the alcoholic strength of rice spirits (Maotai, a very strong spirit) and responded too eagerly to calls for 'ganbei' (that is, downing the glass of drink in one go) and so I got thoroughly intoxicated. I was wary of Maotai in the future.

Lectures at Nankai began fairly early (at 8.00 am) but there was a long (three hour) break in the middle of the day from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm. Lunch was early, so one could have a rest (nap) before returning to work at 2.00 pm. As a result, I felt that instead of one day, I had two! I rather enjoyed that pattern. Originally, it seems to have been the pattern of peasants in the countryside.¹⁶ I remember reading somewhere that one Westerner attributed this pattern to a lack of protein in the Chinese diet and claimed that this required the Chinese to take extra rest in the middle of the day. However, I am not sure that is true because siesta is common in Spain and some other countries where protein deficiency is not a problem.

I found that the students were interested in my lectures but varied considerably in their abilities and knowledge of English. The best students, such as Julie Jie Wen, were outstanding and were very interactive. Occasionally, I spoke a few words in Chinese to the group. This was not always a success. One student told me that “the students could imagine what I said”. At least I tried!

The smooth pattern of events was broken on April 4, 1989; the day on which the Chinese traditionally remember their dead.¹⁷ This was a holiday. When I returned to my class after this holiday, I found many messages written in Chinese on pieces of paper attached to strings and hung between trees and other objects. I asked my students what is going on. They said they could not tell me because I was a foreigner. On returning to the residential college, I found out from others that pro-democracy demonstrations had begun. They had obtained the information from a broadcast of the BBC.

Every day at the college a copy of the *China Daily* was available and I always looked forward to reading it. At that time Zhao Ziyang was Secretary of the CCP and seemed to be in charge of the media and adding fuel to the fire. I was surprised that it contained fairly frank accounts of the pro-democracy disturbances in China. After China’s troubles at that time, Zhao Ziyang was put under house arrest.

Some of my students at Nankai joined the demonstrations but none skipped class because of the demonstrations. One of the American postgraduate students at my residential college also joined some of the demonstrators. I thought this was a foolish thing for him to do.

Some other memories from Tianjin, included dust storms in March bringing yellow sand (loess) from the upper reaches of the Yellow River. During such storms, many women when outdoors covered their nose and mouth with a scarf.

Sometimes, I just liked to go into the city and stand on the side of a street and watch all that passed by. One day, an old peasant was walking by carrying a large hessian sack over his shoulder. He came to me as I stood at the edge of the road and I think, he asked me the way. But I could not help him because I did not know Tianjin to any extent and I did not know Chinese. However, I felt very happy that he tried to talk to me.

I also managed to make my way to Chou Enlai’s old school; Nankai High School in Tianjin. The part I visited had been converted into a museum to house many photographs and

memorabilia of Chou Enlai, the first Premier of the People's Republic of China. On either side of the entrance, there are two large mirrors. Students could look into the mirrors to make sure they were properly dressed before entering the school building. Chou Enlai always seemed to be very tidily dressed; probably a consequence of his training at Nankai High School.¹⁸ The school had a Western appearance and I thought it might have been established by American Presbyterians but that was just my imagination. However, I was correct in believing that its development was influenced by Western private educational systems.¹⁹

Nankai University was proud that Chou Enlai was one of its students. However, as one of my students at Nankai told me, he was only a student there for one year after which he was expelled for revolutionary activities. He subsequently went to Japan to continue with his political agenda.

The architecture of the buildings at Nankai University followed an interesting pattern. The buildings constructed early in its history had Georgian style pillars. This seemed to be an American influence. In the next period, came Soviet style, box-like buildings; practical but not very appealing. This reflected the influence of USSR. However, while I was there a new building was being constructed designed by a Chinese architect. It was to be in an innovative Chinese style and to me, indicated that China was 'going to do its own thing'.

Tianjin to Wuhan by Rail: First Class Travel in a Confined Space

Spring was progressing in Tianjin and towards the end of April the beautiful peach blossoms on Nankai's campus were just starting to lose a few of their petals. It was now time for me to leave Nankai for Wuhan. I travelled to Tianjin station (where I was approached by the only beggar I encountered in China) and joined a first-class train compartment in which there were four passengers; myself, an American (probably in his late twenties) and two middle-aged Chinese men who sat opposite the American and myself. They were probably Party officials. I was told that only male Party officials and foreigners travelled first class. The Chinese officials seemed to know no English and kept their own company throughout the journey.

Our compartment had no corridor to the rest of the train. Although better appointed, it was like the old second class 'dog boxes' on the New South Wales Railways which were in use in the 1950s in which I travelled a few times. The Chinese in the compartment chain smoked. There was no way one could escape the fumes from their cigarettes. Apart from that, they ate cold duck and threw the duck bones out of the window. I noted a lot of litter along the

Chinese rail tracks. Throwing rubbish from the train seemed to be a common practice!

The American and myself naturally got talking. He had been teaching the English language at Tianjin University but given the unrest in China, he was in the process of leaving China (on the advice of the US government) and returning to the United States.

He told me that he had had some problems at Tianjin University. He had been told by the authorities there that in order to make his lectures more interesting he should distribute some contemporary Western reading material to his students. Consequently, he distributed some items from the *New York Tribune*. These were disapproved of by the authorities and he was told to withdraw them. He also got into trouble with the University authorities for lending his camera to some individuals who took pictures of the democracy demonstrations.

I wondered why he was going to Wuhan if he was leaving China. He explained to me that he was going to meet his Chinese wife so he could take her back to the US with him. He had been to China before and had taught English at a teacher's college on its east coast. I think that is where he had met his future wife. He also taught English in Japan for a time. He said to me that he did not know if he would be allowed to visit his wife's rural village near Wuhan. He thought that villagers in this part of the world (unlike those in the east of China) did not welcome marriages with Europeans. He also seemed to be concerned that he did not have his marriage certificate with him.

However, his main concern was that he did not know what he would do for his employment on his return to America. He had a Bachelor of Arts degree but had always worked abroad teaching English. He thought he might apply for the Foreign Service. It brought home to me the problems that young people face if they go abroad for a series of relatively short-term periods of employment for any significant length of time. Few, if any, suitable points of entry into the labour force are available to them when they return to their home country. In a sense, they are left behind.

Initially, the train travelled through country areas where wheat was the main crop. I saw a hand-held plough being drawn by a combination of a mule and an ox. It was a peculiar combination but I guess the poor farmer had no choice. The earth was quite dry – the rains had not arrived yet. As we moved south, wheat was replaced by rice-growing, the landscape became greener, and buffaloes were to be seen in the fields. Livestock were still important beasts of burden at the time of my visit.

In Wuhan, Hubei Province

I arrived in Wuhan in the daylight hours. While there I was a guest of Huazhong Normal University. I did not do much sightseeing in Wuhan but was mostly involved in academic discussions and seminars. However, I did do some sightseeing and I participated in several social events. My host at Huazhong Normal University was Professor Cao Yang. At that time, he was Head of the Department of Politics and subsequently, he became the Dean of the Faculty of Economics of Huazhong Normal University.

The main tourist attraction for me was the five-storey wooden Yellow Crane Tower. From its top, I had a magnificent view of the Yangtze (Chang Jiang) River, the many large ships on it, and the Wuhan Yangtze River Big Bridge. The Yellow Crane Tower was constructed in the Warring States period (403-221 BC) during the time of the Zhou Dynasty and was originally used as a military observation post. The Big Bridge (which sits high, 80 metres, above the river and is over a kilometre long) was engineered by Mao Yushi's uncle, Mao Yishang, an accomplished engineer. It was completed in 1957 and "marked one of Communist China's first great engineering feats" (Harper et al., 2005). It was a boon for Wuhan because it connected Wuhan with Hanyang and linked the city on both sides of the Yangtze by road for the first time.

For a time during the Japanese invasion of China, General Chiang Kai-shek (leader of the Kuomintang) had his headquarters in Wuhan. I visited these. His offices there have been well preserved. Nearby, in a bath house many men were enjoying the warm steaming water from natural springs.

While travelling in Wuhan, I also noticed several lakes in the Wuchang District (actually Wuhan has several). I enquired about them and asked if they were good for fishing? I was told that they were polluted by heavy metals as a result of effluent being discharged from engineering works. Therefore, eating fish from these lakes posed a serious health hazard. I mentioned that in *Economic Development in the Context of China*.

As for social engagements, my first one was on Youth Day, May 4. I was told that there probably would be few students at the Youth Day celebrations because many had gone to join the democracy demonstrations. Nevertheless, a significant number of students did turn up for the celebrations. These involved playing games and having fun. Blindfolded, I joined in by trying to pin the tail on the donkey. I also attended a pleasant party at my host's apartment.

There was a lot of discussion about whether China should have a multi-party system. However, I do not think any conclusion was reached.

The other social event was a staff concert of Huazhong Normal University held at the end of the term. It was held in the early evening and I walked to the venue at dusk. The weather was warm. I passed a few ponds full of croaking frogs. Some people were wading in the ponds, I suppose to catch some frogs to eat. On the way to the venue of the concert, there were several small stalls selling treats and lit by flickering candles. The concert consisted of several songs and skits performed by university staff. They were amateurs rather than professionals. It was very entertaining for me even though I did not know Chinese. The entertainers had appropriate costumes for the occasion, their stage props were good and all performances were backed up by music. I did not need to know Chinese to be entertained. Many of the songs were of a popular variety. Afterwards, there were awards or prizes for the performances. I thought it very Chinese that every participating group received an award. This was done by giving several first, second and third prizes.

There was still a rural character about Huazhong Normal University. As was usual, all staff lived on campus. I think some had pigs on the balcony of their apartments. At times, I heard pigs grunting and squealing! However, that could have been my imagination.

Soon it was time for me to leave Wuhan for Xian. The Huazhong Normal University authorities were worried! They had planned for me to fly to Xian but for some reason (at the last moment) this proved to be impossible. Not having made a train booking earlier, it also looked as though I could not get a seat on a train to Xian in time to keep to my travel schedule in China. However, at the last minute, someone from Huazhong Normal University managed to secure me a second class sleeping berth on the train to Xian. The university authorities were very apologetic about this. I guess they thought that if I had to go by train, I should travel first class.

By Train from Wuhan to Xian by Second Class Sleeper

Actually, I was more comfortable with the second class rail journey to Xian than with the first class trip to Wuhan. First, the compartment was not isolated from the rest of the carriages on the train. It was, therefore, possible to escape to the corridor and get some fresh air. Second, many of the Chinese passengers were professionals and knew English (one was a space scientist on his way to Lanzhou in Western China, another was a medical practitioner)

and they struck up conversations with me. A hot topic at the time was the social unrest in China.

The train was pulled by a massive steam locomotive and travelled very fast. One of the amenities I enjoyed on this train was being able to make my own tea. Luckily, I had brought my own mug and some tea leaves. At the end of the carriage, a large iron water urn boiled vigorously fuelled by a coal fire. The steaming water was obtained by turning a tap but as the carriage swayed somewhat, care had to be taken not to get scalded when putting the water into a mug. Most Chinese were drinking their tea from re-used glass jars which previously had contained coffee or something similar. I wondered how they could possibly hold these jars when they contained hot water.

Because the train travelled mostly by night, there was little to see outside. However, towards morning as we approached Xian, the train line crossed a tributary (Wei He) of the Yellow River. The river bed looked very sandy and dry and the shrubs on the surrounding landscape were stunted. The land appeared to be very infertile.

In Xian

After arriving in Xian, I stopped there for three or four nights and made only one presentation during this visit. For most of the time, I was free to look around and walked a lot. I visited the Muslim Quarter wandering around its laneways noticing bearded men in white skull caps, some of whom were preparing lamb and goat in their butcher's shops. For one group of Muslims, it was either the start of Ramadan or of Eid but not for another. Near the Muslim Quarter, I visited the Drum Tower and was impressed by the old large peppercorn trees growing in the dusty soil nearby it. I also visited the Big Goose Pagoda as well as the Little Goose Pagoda. I found the latter to be the more impressive of the two. The former was built in AD 652 and the latter in the period 707-709 AD to house Buddhist scriptures brought back from India by Chinese pilgrims.

I made a visit to the Forest of Steles Museum and was impressed by one stone stele²⁰ that listed the natural attractions of China in the Tang period. Quite a few of these attractions have now disappeared, as I noted in *Economic Development in the Context of China*.

In the dining hall of the hotel where I stayed in Xian, I got to speak to a visiting American Chinese. She had brought her own chopsticks with her because she was afraid that in China

the chopsticks at eating places were not very clean. While wash basins were in an adjoining area near the dining hall, I noticed that towels were shared by diners for drying their hands. This certainly was not hygienic even though the presence of towels was intended as a hospitable gesture.

Towards the end of my stay in Xian I joined a small group of tourists to travel on a mini-bus to view the Army of the Terracotta Soldiers. This mausoleum was built in the third century BC by one of the Qin emperors and is an unforgettable sight. The Chinese (like the ancient Egyptians) have had a long history of preparing tombs for the dead replete with provision for the afterlife. The excavation of these tombs has shed a considerable amount of light on China's past achievements.

Returning from the visit to see the terracotta soldiers, our mini-bus stopped at a small factory which was making 'antique' terracotta soldiers and similar objects. In our tour group, we had an Iranian born journalist who worked for *Le Monde* in Paris. He was returning from Urumqi in Xinjiang Province where he had completed an assignment for a book to be about one day in the life of China. He got into a heated argument with the producers of the 'antiques' when he tried to photograph their operations.

After returning to Xian, I left the next day for Beijing by plane. The plane was late, which was not unusual in 1989. In those days, plane services were few. The Chinese passengers carried on so much luggage that there was absolutely no spare space anywhere. However, we did make it safely to Beijing.

Back in Beijing

Back in Beijing, I was lodged in the Minzu (Minorities) Hotel. This was of a very high standard but almost in earshot of Tiananmen Square. During the early morning university students would ride past chanting their slogans on their way to occupy Tiananmen Square. Therefore, after a few nights, it was decided to move me further away, namely to the Xiyuan Hotel, located near the National Library of China.

While in Beijing, I met with Professor Mao Yushi at his office in CASS, with a professor of Industry Economics at CASS, and as mentioned above, gave a seminar at the Beijing Second Foreign Languages Institute. Mao's office was not far from Tiananmen Square and as we talked, I could hear the din coming from this square. I was supposed to give a seminar at

CASS while in Beijing but because of the proximity of the relevant CASS offices to Tiananmen Square, the seminar at the Second Foreign Languages Institute (mentioned above) replaced the one intended for CASS. I had a frank discussion with the professor of industry economics from CASS. He was concerned about some of China's minority groups. He thought they liked to drink too much alcohol, and also to sing and dance excessively. He believed that they should be more like the Han Chinese. He suggested that, like the Hans, they should work conscientiously and save for the future. However, the fact of the matter is that some Han Chinese also like to drink alcohol to excess and to gamble a lot (love of gambling has a long history in China, as has been pointed out by Macdonald et al., 2003). Whether Han Chinese are more likely to do these things than some minority groups in China, I do not know. I had previously heard similar views expressed by dominant ethnic groups in other countries (including Australia) about their tribal minorities.

I visited some interesting places in and around Beijing. In Beijing, I went to an establishment where ivory was being carved. Some large elephant tusks were being carved and the place had a strong smell of teeth being drilled for fillings, as in an old fashioned dentist's surgery. I wondered whether any of these elephant tusks came from poachers. In addition, I visited a factory making very colourful kites. I purchased one which was in the form of a butterfly and which hung on the wall in my study for several years. This production unit also supplied striking traditional Chinese New Year (Spring) Festival prints. I obtained a few and still have two. These prints depict young children holding objects associated with the Spring Festival such as a fish each in one case, and in another, a ripe watermelon cut in two (this contrasted very effectively its red centre with its green skin) half of which is held by each of the children, and at the side is a bowl of pomegranates and peaches. I managed to go to the Friendship Store and buy some nice gifts to bring home. I tried to buy a white cotton shirt at a state-owned store but there was little choice and therefore, I could find nothing suitable. Today, shops in China have many choices because China's economic system has changed. I also visited the Foreign Languages Bookstore and purchased a book (in English) which contains a wonderful collection of poetry and prose from the Tang and Song dynasties, a renaissance period in China.²¹

I toured the Forbidden City and was fascinated by my visit to the Temple of Heaven. I was able to walk around Zhongshan Park and take in the sights of the Summer Palace. Furthermore, I had a chance to explore the Eastern Qing Tombs and visit the Western Hills

near Beijing with its beautiful gardens. When I visited Western Hills, the peonies were blooming and at their best. I also had a day trip to the Great Wall at the Badaling. It was a long day. Of course, the wall is very impressive but I was struck by the height of each step. This does not make climbing to the top all that easy. Since my first visit, there is now a chairlift to the top for those not wishing to walk up these steps.

I have visited Beijing several times since my first visit. There is always something new to see and the changes continue to amaze me.

As I mentioned above, during my second stay in Beijing I was moved from the Minzu Hotel to the Xiyuan Hotel. Because this was near the National Library of China, I decided to visit the library. I found that it had copies of some of my books, including my first text book, *Microeconomics: The Theory of Economic Allocation* (1972) which had been published by John Wiley as a Wiley International Edition. I am not sure if it was a copy printed in Taiwan: the Taiwanese had pirated it. I was, of course, very pleased to find that this national library held copies of my books.

While I was at the Xiyuan Hotel, Mikail Gorbachev, then General Secretary of the Politburo of the Soviet Union, visited China and advised the Chinese Government that it should adopt similar political reforms to those of the Soviet Union. This message was not welcomed by China's leaders. While I was at the Xiyuan Hotel, Gorbachev paid a visit to the National Library, which is reported to be the largest library in Asia.

Meanwhile, the democracy demonstrations intensified. Now there were lots of individuals walking along the roadway near my hotel on their way to Tiananmen Square, some had commandeered public buses and taxis. Some carried children on their shoulders. To me the scene looked chaotic. I could not see the democratic movement restoring law and order easily if they succeeded. I felt uneasy. Although I had previously not taken any photos of demonstrators, the demonstrators were keen for me to do so. In the end, I did take some photos.

The time came for me to leave Beijing and return to Australia. It was planned that I should leave on the 21st of May. This was the day in which martial rule was declared. My hosts were worried that they would be unable to get me to the airport. Ring roads one and two were blocked due to the demonstrations. So it was decided to try ring road three. If it happened to be blocked, I would have to stay in Beijing. Fortunately, we were able to get through and I

was able to return to the safety of Australia.

After my return to Australia, I was shocked by the events of June 4 in Tiananmen Square. Nevertheless, I was determined to the extent possible, to keep up with my contacts in China even though for some time, my university advised against sending correspondence to China.

5. The Sequel to My First Visit to China

My first visit to China shaped many future events in my life. Somewhat to my surprise in 1990, Yang Ruilong, who was a PhD scholar at Renmin University, indicated that he wanted to visit me at UQ. He was accepted as a Visiting Fellow and I was asked to jointly supervise his research for his PhD thesis being completed at Renmin University. Not long after this, Cao Yang (my host when I stayed at Huazhong Normal University) arrived from Huazhong Normal University to be a visitor in Economics at UQ. While they were at UQ we wrote some joint research articles. In 1990, Professor Mao Yushi also came to my Department at UQ as a Visiting Senior Lecturer. He lectured on microeconomics. I gathered from his presentation in Toronto, Canada, (mentioned earlier) that he had a sound knowledge of the subject. In 1993, I was honoured to be appointed a Visiting Honorary Professor of the People's University [Renmin University] (See Figure 4).

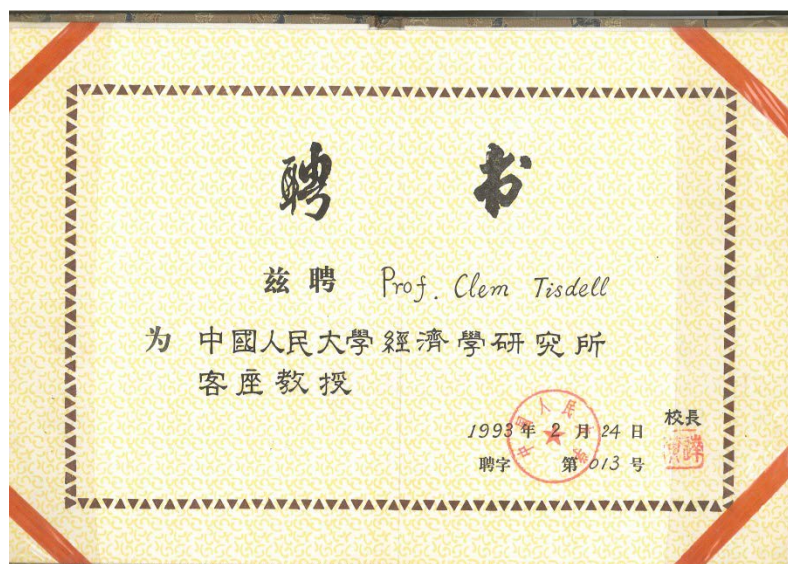


Figure 4: Copy of a document appointing Professor Clem Tisdell a Visiting Honorary Professor of Renmin University

I was, in addition, quite excited when Yang Ruilong and others decided to translate my book *Economic Development in the Context of China* into Chinese for publication in China. The details of this publication follow:

Tisdell, C.A. (1995). *Zhong Guo De Jing Ji Fa Zhan (Economic Development in China)*, Beijing, China: Development Publishing House (translated by Yang Ruilong et al.), Ma Hong and Sun Shangqing (Chief Editors), Development Series, 248 [ISBN 7-80087-183-5/F.112]. The front cover of this book is reproduced in Figure 5.

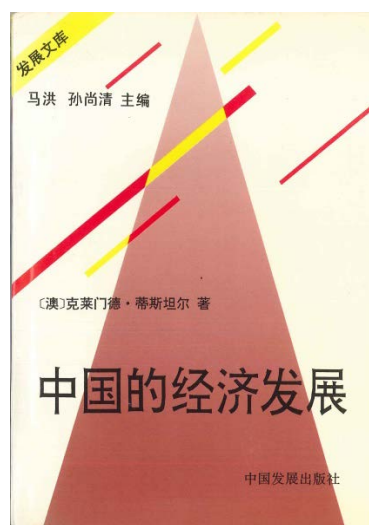


Figure 5: Front cover of the Chinese edition of *Economic Development in the Context of China*

About this time also, Julie Jie Wen, one of my former students from Nankai University came to UQ so I could supervise her PhD thesis. Her thesis was about tourism and the economic development of China and gave particular attention to tourism in Yunnan. In 2001, we published a jointly authored book entitled *Tourism and China's Development*, the cover of which is illustrated in Figure 6.

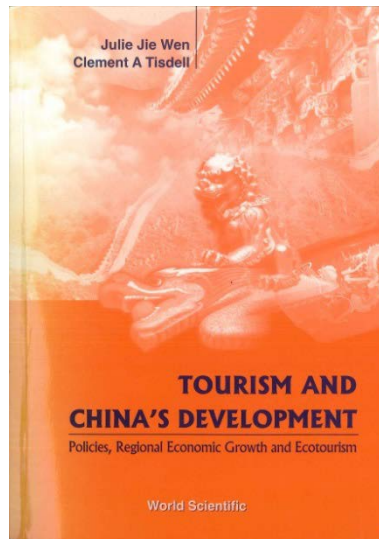


Figure 6: A copy of the cover of the book on tourism and China's economic development jointly authored with J.J. Wen

The focus in Julie Wen's PhD thesis was partly influenced by a joint research project which I commenced in 1993 in cooperation with Zhu Xiang of China's Ministry of Forestry. This project entitled "Economics of Rural Adjustment to Nature Conservation (Biodiversity Programmes: a Case Study of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan, China)" commenced when Zhu Xiang was a staff member at the Southwest Forestry College, Kunming. It was financed by a small grant from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Consequently, I was already following up my interest in biodiversity conservation in China. Over the period 1994-1996, this research resulted in some 40 working papers in a series focusing on nature conservation as well as some chapters in my book *Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainable Development* published in 1999 by Edward Elgar. The topics considered included tourism development and conservation of nature in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan.

In conjunction with Dr. Joseph Chai and others, I also helped organize an "International Conference on China and Asian Pacific Economy" in 1996. This resulted in two edited books:

Tisdell, C.A. and Chai, J.C.H. (eds.), (1997), *China's Economic Growth and Transition*, Commack, NY: Nova Science Publishers, xx + 517. [ISBN: 1-506072-530-3]

Chai, J.C.H., Kueh, Y.Y. and Tisdell, C.A. (eds.) (1997), *China and the Asia Pacific*

Economy, Commack, NY: Nova Science Publishers, xx + 358 [ISBN: 1-56072-5230]

Copies of the covers of these books can be seen in Figure 7.

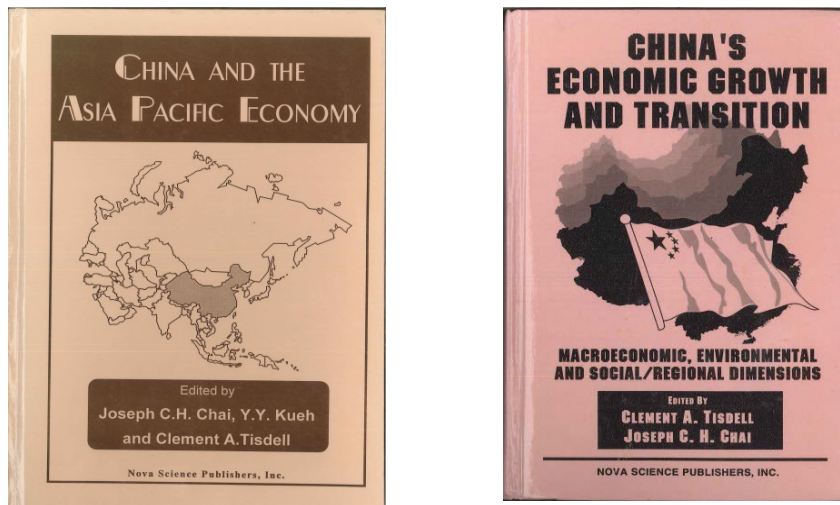


Figure 7: Copies of the front covers of the two edited books which emerged from an international conference (dealing with China’s economic growth and its growing external economic influence) organised at The University of Queensland in 1996.

Several other opportunities also emerged for my interaction with Chinese scholars. In the early part of this century, Dr Xue Dayan came to the Department of Economics at UQ as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow when he was a researcher at the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences. He had a special interest in matters involving the economics of environmental conservation and issues surrounding the introduction of genetically modified crops. We wrote several joint articles. He subsequently became a Professor and Dean of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences in Minzu University Beijing.

A more recent visitor to the Department of Economics at UQ was Professor Zhao Xufu from the Textile University in Wuhan. He visited in 2009 and we published a couple of articles involving a comparative analysis of China’s and Australia’s cotton industries. This subject continues to be of interest to me. I was the lead author of a book published in 1978 namely, C.A. Tisdell and P.W. McDonald (1978), *Economics of the Fibre Market*, Pergamon Press, Oxford. In the process of writing the above mentioned articles, Zhao and I visited several

cotton gins and farms in South Western Queensland.

For many years, I also took an interest in the development of aquaculture. In the pursuit of this interest I attended a World Aquaculture Conference in Beijing, went to another aquaculture conference in Shenzhen and visited several aquaculture firms around Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

My involvement in several research projects gave me an opportunity to visit China and cooperate with Chinese partners. These projects included:

1993-95 “Economic Impact and Rural Adjustment to Nature Conservation (Biodiversity) Programmes: A Case Study of Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan, China” (Research Grant of Australia Centre for International Agricultural Research)

1999-2000 “Globalisation Trade and Environmental and Sustainable Development: Implications for China and WTO” (Research Grant from IDP Education, Australia).

2002 “Rural Poverty and China’s entry to WTO” (funded by World Vision as part of AusAid Project TN60, Capacity Building for Participatory Poverty Alleviation in China)

In 2008, Professor Yang Ruilong invited me to give a presentation at Renmin University assessing the first 30 years of China’s economic reform and its increasing openness. Renmin University was very generous and paid for all of my travelling expenses. I was also invited by Professor Xue Dayuan, in conjunction with this visit, to give a guest lecture at Minzu University (Beijing) on environmental issues and to participate in an international biosafety forum focused on risk assessment and safety regulation of genetically modified organisms. More recently, I was pleased to be asked by Professor Xue Dayuan to give a series of lectures to postgraduate students in the College of Life and Environmental Science at Minzu University. These were given in 2012 and introduced students to the economics of environmental and ecological issues associated with economic growth and environmental change, particularly in China (see Figure 8). It is planned to expand the notes for these lectures and to publish these as a book. Edward Elgar has agreed to publish this book when it is ready

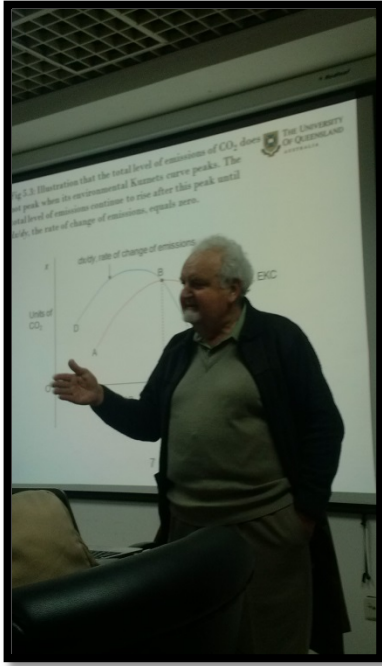


Figure 8: Clem Tisdell explaining the concept of the Environmental Kuznets Curve to his class at Minzu University. He is pointing out that if this curve falls, it does not imply that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions fall because it is an average rather than a marginal curve. The rate of change of aggregate GHG emissions must be negative before emissions start to fall.

All of these developments, and several other China-related ones would not have happened had it not been for a **chance** meeting with Mao Yushi in 1986 in Toronto. My view that Mao was a supporter of liberalism formed at that Conference proved to be correct.

In 2012, Mao Yushi was awarded by the Cato Institute the Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty. He was an ardent critic of Mao Zedong's policies and as a punishment was sent to the countryside for labour reform in 1960. He has remained an outspoken critic of many policies of the Chinese government, particularly those associated with leftists. The worldwide web contains many entries about his career and activities. They demonstrate his controversial remarks and writings which can cause outrage among conservative Chinese and Communist Party officials.

Mao Yushi was trained as a mechanical engineer at what is now Jiatong University in Shanghai. Like Vilfredo Pareto, (who was also trained as an engineer) he subsequently became interested in economics. In 1985, he published a monograph entitled *The Mathematical Foundation of Economics: The Principle of Optimal Allocation*. Probably, his conference paper in Toronto drew on that publication.

As I mentioned, in 1990, Mao Yushi was appointed a Visiting Senior Lecturer in Economics at The University of Queensland. He recently wrote: "That was a very memorable event because as a Chinese, I was not educated in Western Universities nor did I have a doctorate.

Such an opportunity did not happen before nor again. I am very grateful to you.” [my paraphrasing of pers. comm. from Mao Yushi on 26 July, 2013]. To this I replied that we were honoured to have had him visit UQ as a Senior Lecturer in view of his outstanding talent. Furthermore, from events I have described, I am indebted to and extremely grateful to Mao Yushi for making my first visit to China possible.

One of his positive social initiatives of Mao Yushi has been to establish a charity in Beijing to assist women from rural areas to adjust safely to city life. He donated the money from his Milton Friedman award to this charity.

Incidentally, after he won the Milton Friedman Prize I had a call from Beijing to find out what I know about him and my connection with him. However, I was only partly aware of his political activities. He was my friend as a person, as I made clear. Figure 8 is a recent photograph of Mao Yushi. He was born in Nanjing on 14 January, 1929.



Figure 9: A recent photograph of Mao Yushi who was awarded the Cato Institute’s Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty in May 2012²⁴

We have been friends since 1986 (and I have usually met with him each time I have been to Beijing) but he actually never discussed Chinese politics with me. However, I knew he was critical of some Chinese policies, especially those of Mao Zedong. I also got the impression that he continued to be critical of some Chinese policies in the post Mao-Zedong era, especially those policies he believed to be anti-liberal or which encouraged questionable practices. I only became more aware of the extent and nature of his courageous dissent and social commentary when I consulted (in late July 2013) some of the entries about him on the

worldwide web.

When he visited my home in 1990 for dinner with my wife (Mariel) and self, he expressed horror at the way that the Democracy Movement had been crushed in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989. I also sent him a copy of my article 'Economic reform and openness in China: China's development policies in the last 30 years' (Tisdell, 2009). His only comment was 'this is how you think it might have been'. He obviously assessed the situation differently to me. It is sometimes said that 'birds of a feather flock together', but not all birds in a flock have identical feathers. I am not a great fan of the extreme form of economic liberalism expressed, for instance, on occasions by Milton Friedman (1962; 1980) and Hayek (Hayek, 1948). Even if their proposed liberal economic systems were very efficient in using scarce resources (which is by no means apparent), I cannot accept that it is socially responsible to concentrate only on the pursuit of economic efficiency based solely on what individuals want. To do this is to ignore the fact that economic systems need to be managed to promote social justice and social harmony and desirable aspects of sustainability. Thus a balance between socialism and economic liberalism is needed, such as the type of balance usually aspired to by the Australian and British Labor Parties and the Democratic Party in the United States. Nevertheless, no matter what type of socioeconomic system is in place, constructive and open criticisms of it can be an important mechanism for social improvement; a lesson well taught to me by Mr Peisker, one of my history teachers when I was at Taree High School.

6. Concluding Comments

My chance meeting with Mao Yushi opened up a new world to me. It was like crossing the high arched bridge at Shinto temple which I once visited in Japan because you never know what is on the other side until you get to the top.

It also reminded me of a Taoist story in a book which I purchased in Washington on a visit to the World Bank. It tells the tale of two travellers. One traveller carefully plans his travel before beginning on his journey and has a miserable time. The other makes no specific plan but just walks out and informally journeys and has a wonderful time.²⁵ My experience of China has been a bit like that of the latter traveller. At least a lot that was unanticipated happened! Although diverse in our psychological make-up, in our behaviour and our habits, pleasant surprises add spice to the life of most of us. I was lucky to have so many as a result of my first visit to China in 1989.

7. Acknowledgement

I want to sincerely thank all those, especially Mao Yushi, who made my first visit to China possible and everyone who welcomed me in China. I am especially indebted to those Chinese university students who helped (along with others) to show me around and increase my awareness of features of China's society.

8. Notes

1. This is one of the many books I have authored or edited either alone or jointly with others. See the Appendix of this article for a current list.
2. Actually, the Mao suit predates the wearing of it by Mao Zedong. It is a traditional Chinese style of suit (known as the Zhongshan suit) and was introduced as a form of national dress by Sun Yat-sen soon after the establishment of the Republic of China. More information is available from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_suit (accessed 2 August, 2013).
3. *A General Mathematical Theory of Political Economy* (1862) is the principal economics book by W.S. Jevons. It adopts a marginalist approach to economics and introduces utility as an important component of economic value.
4. The endorsement on this book reads: "For Dear Prof. Clem Tisdell – my friend: Wu Jia-yan".
5. Zhiyong Hong now resides in Canada. He is a Senior Epidemiologist in the Health Agency of Canada located in Ottawa. Apart from our earlier joint article, Hong, Z., K. Bao and Tisdell, C.A. (1991), 'Cadmium exposed in Daye Country, China: environmental assessment and management, health and economic effects'. *Environmental Management and Health* 2(2), 20-25, we also completed another joint article more recently; Hong, Z., J. Wun, C.A. Tisdell, C. O'Leary, J. Gomes, S-W. Wen and H. Njo (2010). 'Cost-benefit analysis of preventing bloodstream infections among hemodialysis patients in Canada in 2004', *Value in Health*, 13(1), 42-45.
6. Joseph Chai has recently published a very interesting short economic history of China. The reference is JCH Chai (2011), *An Economic History of China*, Cheltenham, UK and

Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar. I was delighted to be asked to endorse this book and wrote in part: “Joseph Chai places the recent phase of China’s spectacular growth in its historical context in his well-researched interesting and accessible overview of the economic history of China”.

7. To some extent also, my interest in China was reinforced by my history lessons at high school (history was a subject I really enjoyed) which included a few lessons on China. At high school, one of my best friends was Frank Dark. On the weekends, I sometimes visited his home riding my little 24 inch bicycle to his place. His father Ralf Dark was a primary school teacher and Secretary of the Taree Branch of the Australian Labor Party (ALP). Sometimes I joined the family for Sunday lunch and sat in their lounge looking at some of the literature that Frank’s father had. There were several magazines from the USSR and from Communist China. These included the well-illustrated *China Reconstructs*. I found the latter interesting but realized that it probably contained a lot of propaganda. Ralf Dark was, I believe, a committed socialist.

One weekend, Frank Dark invited me to join the family and travel to a site on Hastings River north of Taree. This river enters the sea at Port Macquarie. I discovered that the visit was part of a working bee (group) to establish a camp for ‘Young Pioneers’ but I do not know if they were supposed to be communist pioneers or not. Afterwards, the whole group of workers returned to Taree and lots of pancakes were made for supper at the home of one of the volunteers. Whether the ALP members present were also a part of a secret cell of the Communist Party, I do not know. However, I do know that Sir Robert Menzies, who was Australian Prime Minister at the time, wanted to crack down on communism in Australia and ban the Australian Communist Party. This was the so called McCarthy era, an era in which it was feared that the whole world would succumb to communism. An Australian Referendum was held to ban the Communist Party in Australia. This proposal was hotly opposed by Ralf Dark and the ALP. I think that the Australian public wisely rejected Menzies’ proposal.

Furthermore, when I was an undergraduate at Newcastle University College, I was also interested to hear the views of Bruce McFarlane about communism. He was at that time, a recent graduate of the University of Sydney and lecturing at the Newcastle University College was his first teaching assignment. Eventually, he became a Professor of Economics. Nevertheless, I took all that I read and learned with ‘a grain of salt’. My first

history teacher at high school (Mr Peisker) taught his students to be critical, for example, read political commentaries and articles about international affairs in the newspapers and write critical reviews of these.

8. For details about the history of Nankai High School see Tianjin Nankai High School available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tianjin_Nankai_High_School [Accessed 2 August, 2013].
9. I was able to do quite a lot of exploration of the area around Woods Hole and parts of New England. I was lent a bicycle and MPOM was very generous in making an Oldsmobile car available to me. There were lots of ponds around which I could ride to on my bicycle and nature was in abundance. I was reminded of David Thoreus *Walden Ponds* which I referenced in my first textbook (*Microeconomics: The Theory of Economic Allocation*, John Wiley, 1972, p.11). It was also a remarkable sight to see the Canadian geese migrating and honking at the start of Fall. This type of migration of geese does not occur in Australia. I also visited Martha's Vineyard and passed by one of the residences of Jackie Kennedy set well back in the woods. The Kennedy's have donated the land around it to the government for parkland, thereby avoiding the cost of its upkeep, any taxes associated with this land, and at the same time, retaining a forested area around this residence which afforded them some privacy.
10. I was a guest of the South African Government in 1984, and I hope to write about that visit separately. Here, it is sufficient to note that I was an Academic Guest of the Department of National Education of South Africa when F.W. deKlerk was its Minister. He was subsequently Prime Minister and in negotiations with Nelson Mandela, he dismantled apartheid.
11. Professor Mu Guogang was an accomplished physicist with a particular interest in optics. He was President of Nankai University from 1986 to 1995. Further information is available at 'Nankai University' http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nankai_University [Accessed 2 August, 2013].
12. The following are some of Longworth's book publications:
Longworth, J.W. (1995), *Agribusiness Reforms in China: The Case of Wool*, Wallingford: CAB International.
Longworth, J.W., C.G. Brown and S.A. Waldron (2001), *Beef in China: Agribusiness*

Opportunities and Challenges, St Lucia: University of Queensland Press.

Brown, C.G., S.A. Waldron and J.W. Longworth (2008), *Sustainable Development in Western China: Managing People, Livestock and Grasslands in Pastoral Areas*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

13. However, I still am a long way from being an expert-user of chopsticks. This was brought home to me on a trip (in the second half of the 1990s) I took with the Director of the Xishuangbanna State Natural Reserve (Yunnan) in order to visit its various sub-reserves. He joked on this trip that you know persons are expert-users of chopsticks if they can hold two glass marbles in their chopsticks. I have not yet mastered that art!
14. This visit also sparked my interest in the principle of self-reliance in Chinese thought. This has since resulted in the forthcoming publications. Tisdell, C.A. (in press) "Economic self-reliance and China's development: changing perspectives". *International Journal of Development Issues*.
15. Our accommodation at Singleton Army Barracks was much less comfortable than that provided for soldiers at Yancun Military Camp. I suppose this was because it was temporary since we were on bivouac. We slept about four to a tent on hessian palliases filled with straw placed on wooden duckboards. The beds were hard. Luckily, we were still young! The food dished out in the mess was memorable because it was so poor. For example, it included over cooked oatmeal porridge for breakfast and for the evening meal, we sometimes had very smoked cod poached in milk. To me, the latter was a bit hard to stomach. I am sure the army food is very much better today. It was hot during the day and we were all required to take a salt tablet each day to counteract the loss of salt from our bodies as a result of perspiration. However, the hot weather did not deter some army officers from punishing some students who had misbehaved by requiring to run around an oval while holding heavy guns high above their head. Such discipline would not be tolerated today.
16. With the growing urbanization of China, it is becoming more difficult to retain this work pattern.
17. Chou Enlai was also an accomplished artist and poet. In general, he was cultured with a genuine interest in the arts. Most likely, this was developed as a result of his schooling at Nankai High School. I was fortunate to be able to see an exhibition of his paintings,

calligraphy and poems during a visit to Beijing in the early part of this century. I stumbled on this exhibition by chance.

18. Actually, the Day for Remembering the Dead in China is either April 4 or 5, according to the Gregorian calendar. China has not adopted the Gregorian calendar which is used in the West. On the Day for Remembering the Dead, I walked to a park near Nankai University. It was quiet there. There was no one there, except for a couple of boys. They came to stare at me. They were still getting used to the presence of foreigners like me.
19. For information about its development, see the reference given in Note 8.
20. These are large stone tablets which record historical events and other important information by engravings in Chinese. They were intended as a permanent record of such matters. One wry comment on this collection is that it is the heaviest library in the world!
21. This book is entitled *Poetry and Prose of the Tang and Song* (translated by Yang Xianye and Gladys Yang) Beijing, Chinese Literature (1984) ISBN: 0-8351-11644. I found the essay entitled “Camel Guo, the Tree Planter” by Liu Zonguan (773-819) of particular interest. The gist of it is as follows: No one knew Camel Guo’s real name but he had a hump like a camel. He was a very successful tree planter. Everyone wanted to know his secret. He told those that enquired, after you have established a tree, leave it alone. Others kill trees, they interfere with them too much. For example, they scratch the bark to see if it is still living, they dig them up to see if their roots are firm and so on. The trees soon wither. He then suggests that governing men successfully is rather like planting trees. If they are left alone by governments, they will prosper. Here is an early example of the advocacy of liberalism in government!
22. He is currently the Chief Biodiversity Scientist at Minzu University.
23. A short entry about him is available in Wikipedia. It is ‘Mao Yushi’ available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mao_Yushi [Accessed 2 August, 2013]. A longer and more informative article about him is entitled ‘Mao Yushi’ is in the China Story (Compiled by the Australian Centre on China in the World) available at <http://www.thechinastory.org/key-intellectual/mao-yushi-%E8%8C%85%E4%BA%8E%E8%BD%BC/> [Accessed 2 August, 2013]. The latter material highlights the controversial nature of Mao Yushi’s criticism of various policies

of the Chinese Government.

24. This photograph appears in the Wikipedia entry cited in Note 23.
25. Considerable evidence has been found (Tisdell and Wilson, 2012, Ch. 7) that individuals differ greatly in the extent to which they pre-plan their tours and outings. Some do a lot of planning whereas some to little or no pre-planning. Diversity in human behaviour has been a frequent theme of mine. I have allowed for it in many of my books, including my first book (Tisdell, 1968) and a more recent book (Tisdell, 2013).
26. Note that the above does not provide a full account of my Chinese related writings and endeavours. Possibly, I'll add more information about the gaps in this information at a later time.

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- Tisdell, C.A. and C. Wilson (2012), *Nature-based Tourism and Conservation: New Economic Insights and Case Studies*, Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing.

APPENDIX

List of Books Authored, Edited (or Jointly so) by Clem Tisdell

2013

1. Tisdell, C.A. (2013). *Competition, Diversity and Economic Performance*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar. [ISBN: 978-1-84720-746-3]
2. Tisdell, C.A. (Ed) (2013) *Handbook of Tourism Economics – Analysis, New Applications and Case Studies*. Hackensack (NJ), London, Singapore: World Scientific Publishing.

2012

3. Tisdell, C.A. and Wilson C. (2012) *Nature-based Tourism and Conservation – New Economic Insights and Case Studies*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar. [ISBN: 978-1-84844-867-4]

2011

4. Aurifeille, J-M., Medlin, C.J., Tisdell, C.A., Gil Lafuente, J. and Gil Aluja, J.(eds) (2011). *Globalisation, Governance and Ethics: New Managerial and Economic Insights*. New York: Nova Science Publishers . [ISBN: 978-1-61209-123-5]

2010

5. Kiriti, T. and Tisdell, C.A. (2010). *Gender Inequality in Agricultural Households in Kenya: Economic Analysis*. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing [ISBN 978-3-8383-4189-7].
6. Bandara, R. and Tisdell, C.A. (2010). *Economic Management and Evaluation of Human-Elephant Conflict - Sri Lankan Empirical Evidence and Analysis*. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing [ISBN 978-3-8383-2746-4].
7. Gao, Z. and Tisdell, C.A. (2010). *Technology Transfer and China's Industrial Development: Consequences, Policy Reforms, Significant Case Studies*. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing [ISBN: 978-3-8383-5314-2].
8. Moepeng, P. (2010). *The Pattern of Livelihoods in a Typical Rural Village – The Importance of Subjective Poverty and Inequality Measures in Botswana: New Perspectives*. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing. [ISBN: 978-8433-6194-1]

2009

9. Tisdell, C.A. (2009) *Resource and Environmental Economics – Modern Issues and Applications*. London, Singapore, NJ: World Scientific. (Pages v – 491) [ISBN 978-981-283-394-5] Vol 7 in *World Scientific Series on Energy and Resource Economics* [ISSN: 1793-4184]
10. Aurifeille, J-M., Medlin, C. and Tisdell, C.A. (eds) (2009). *Trust, Globalisation and Market Expansion*. New York: Nova Science Publishers Inc. [ISBN: 978-1-60741-812-]

2008

11. Hartley, K. and Tisdell, C.A. *Microeconomic Policy – A New Perspective*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar. (Pages v – 440) [ISBN 978-1-85278-556-7]

2007

12. Tisdell, C.A. (ed) *Poverty, Poverty Alleviation and Social Disadvantage*. New Delhi: Serials Publications. Vol I vii + 406. Vol II 415 + 762. Vol III 771+1240 [ISBN 978-81-8387-111-2].
13. Aurifeille, J-M., Svizzero, S. and Tisdell, C.A. (eds) *Globalization and Partnerships: Features of Business Alliances and International Co-operation*, New York: Nova Science Publishers. vii + 264 [ISBN 978-1-60021-636-7].

2006

14. Tisdell, C. A. (ed) *Economics of Leisure*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar. Vol I xxxviii + 484. Vol II x + 474 [ISBN 13: 9781 84064 823 2].
15. Prasad, B.C. and Tisdell, C.A. (2006) *Institutions, Economic Performance and Sustainable Development: A Case Study of the Fiji Islands*. New York: Nova Science Publishers. x + 278 [ISBN 1-60021-088-0].
16. Aurifeille, J-M., Svizzero, S. and Tisdell, C.A. (eds.) *Leading Economic and Managerial Issues Involving Globalization* . New York, USA: Nova Science Publishers. vi + 272 [ISBN 1-59454-565-0]

2005

17. Tisdell, C. A. *Economics of Environmental Conservation*, Second Edition. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar, xx + 288 [ISBN 1-84376-614-0].
Given the Choice Award of the American Libraries Association, January 2007.
18. Tisdell, C. A; (ed.) *Globalisation and World Economic Policies: Effects and Policy Responses of Nations and their Groupings*, New Delhi, India: Serials Publications, xi+811 [ISBN 81-86771-81-6]

2004

19. Tisdell, C. and Sen, R. K. (eds) (2004) *Economic Globalisation: Social Conflicts, Labour and Environmental Issues*. Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar. xvii + 360 [ISBN: 1 84376 315 X]

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2000

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31. Lakshman, W.D. and Tisdell, C.A. (eds.), (1999), *Facets of Development of Sri Lanka Since Independence: Socio-Political, Economic, Scientific and Cultural*, Department of Economics, The University of Queensland, x + 388. [ISBN 186499 0945]

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32. Alauddin, M. and Tisdell, C.A. (1998), *The Environment and Economic Development in South Asia: An Overview Concentrating on Bangladesh*, Hampshire, UK: Macmillan, xxii + 240.
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