



The Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability is an integrated research, education and engagement focused center within Virginia Tech's College of Natural Resources and Environment dedicated to building leadership for sustainability in a rapidly changing world. As part of this mission, CLiGS is building a global network of partners working towards building a more sustainable world around the world with a particular emphasis on regions experiencing rapid economic development that challenges the sustainability of ecosystems. Currently, CLiGS is working in the Brazilian Amazon, India, Yunnan Province in China, the Western Cape of South Africa, Cappadocia Turkey, Bali Indonesia, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed in the US.

Having worked in Yunnan for the last five years, CLiGS and its collaborators recognized there were a number of individuals and organizations all working and studying the same general issues around sustainable development in the region. A knowledge-sharing network was developed that became known as the Yunnan Sustainability Network/ CLiGS is staffing the initiative by stakeholders that share a common interest in advancing sustainability concepts and practices across the Yunnan Province of southwest China that includes the following:

- Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability, <http://www.cligs.vt.edu>
- Sidwell Friends School, Chinese Studies Program, <http://www.sidwell.edu/upper-school/chinese-studies/index.aspx>
- Dali University - <http://www.dali.edu.cn/>
- American Institute of Architects; Housing Knowledge Community <http://www.aia.org/hkc/home>
- Linden Centre, <http://www.linden-centre.com>
- Banyan Tree (Ringha), <http://www.banyantree.com/en/ringha/>

YSN aspires to be both interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral, and has immense untapped potential to merge research, community engagement, and education in one of the most critical economic, cultural, and natural nexuses in the world. YSN may also serve as a template that can be in other developing regions.

YSN's preliminary mission is:

The Yunnan Sustainability Network will build the capacity of its members to support sustainable development in the region. The Yunnan Sustainability Network facilitates interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration and partnerships between local and international scholars and educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, private businesses, local governments, and other stakeholders. The network creates opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, sharing of news and information, leveraging of resources, cooperative project design and implementation, and greater mission support.

The primary focus of the YSN is on the sustainable development of the Yunnan region by:

- Respecting the crucial relationship between the landscape and the people
- Encouraging awareness of the environmental benefits and harms that are associated with development activities
- Contributing professional advice and assistance to local communities

- Understanding best practices for natural resource management and cultural heritage conservation through research and engagement.

AIA Program

The goal of the collaboration between CLiGS and the AIA Knowledge Community with YSN is to develop a program in Yunnan Province that:

- 1) Explores the implications of development on housing
- 2) Examines strategies for ensuring cultural and historic preservation in architecture
- 3) Builds capacity in the local and international architectural community and local education programs to embed concepts of health, community, and sustainability into the planning and design of housing

In order to prepare for this program, CLiGS has assembled a team of high-level Executive Master of Natural Resources students to produce a preliminary report on the issues around sustainable housing in Yunnan Province. This team, in conjunction with the program faculty and a leadership delegation from the AIA, will have an opportunity to groundtruth their findings and scope out projects and sites for the AIA/ CLiGS/YSN Program in March 2014.

The AIA delegation will work with faculty members at Dali University in their newly established architecture program to advise on curriculum development, project and demonstration sites, etc. This could take the shape of developing a studio course that embeds the concepts of sustainability as advanced by AIA's Housing Knowledge Committee into the curriculum.

Faculty:

The faculty involved in developing the curriculum for this program is more extensive than who will be participating in the trip itself. The following affiliates of CLiGS are members of that faculty team (complete biographies to follow):

John Flower, PhD – Chinese history
 Pamela Leopard, PhD – Chinese anthropology
 Courtney Kimmel, PhD – social ecology
 Tom Howorth, FAIA - architect
 Michael Mortimer, JD, PhD – Chinese policy
 David Robertson, PhD – landscape architect
 Kathy Dorgan, AIA, LEED-AP – architect and planner
 Brian Linden – Asian economics and history, developer in China
 Xiaotang JIANG – YSN coordinator