

Report of KSEM2006 in Guilin

by Tian Jing

The First International Conference on Knowledge Science, Engineering and Management, was held in Guilin, Guangxi, China, August 5-8, 2006. The aim of this interdisciplinary conference was to provide a forum for researchers in the broad areas of knowledge science, knowledge engineering, and knowledge management to exchange ideas and to report state-of-the-art research results. While each of these three broad areas has had dedicated conferences, so far there has been no event bringing together researchers from all three areas, and KSEM aims at filling this gap. The technical program of KSEM 2006 comprised four invited talks, given by Thomas Eiter, Ruqian Lu, Yoshiteru Nakamori, and Kwok Kee Wei, and 51 refereed contributions selected by the Program Committee out of 450 submissions.

Guilin is one of China's most picturesque cities, situated in the northeast of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China on the west bank of the Li River. Its name means "Forest of Sweet Osmanthus", owing to the large number of fragrant Sweet Osmanthus trees located in the city. The strangely shaped hills, or karsts, with the verdant vegetation ranging from bamboo to conifers together with wonderful caves make Guilin such an attraction for tourists. Major attractions include Elephant Trunk Hill, Li River, Reed Flute Cave and Seven-Star Park that boasts a Stone Museum where amazing geological finds are displayed. We visited Li River and Reed Flute Cave.

The Li River cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo is the centerpiece of any trip in Guilin. Gorgeous Karst peaks gave us surprises at each bend of the river under the blue sky. Water buffalo patrol the fields, peasants reap rice paddies, and fisherman float by on bamboo rafts. We enjoyed very much the eye-feasting landscape and country scenery. The only one pity was that we missed the chance to see the crystal clear waters and the inverted reflection of Karst peaks on specular waters because of the big rain in the up-river area.

With its location five kilometers northwest of Guilin, the Reed Flute Cave is a brilliant cave marked on almost all travel itineraries. The cave got its name from the verdant reeds growing outside it, with which people make flutes. Inside this water-eroded cave is a spectacular world of various stalactites, stone pillars and rock formations created by carbonate deposition. Illuminated by colored lighting, the fantastic spectacle is found in many variations along this 240-meter-long cave. Walking through the serried stone pillars, we feasted our eyes on changing spots, feeling it is in a paradise where the Gods live.