

## **2<sup>nd</sup> National China Concrete Canoe Competition**

Last year, 3.29 billion tons of cement was produced worldwide. Of that amount, 1.87 billion tons were produced in China where the largest group of college students in the world major in concrete. In 2010, China was the 17<sup>th</sup> country to hold a concrete canoe competition. The competition captured the attention of students by challenging their knowledge, creativity and teamwork.

The second annual China Concrete Canoe Competition will be held at Mianyang City on September 17~19. Mianyang City is the second largest city in Sichuan province. The competition will be organized by China Concrete Canoe Competition Committee, and hosted by Mianyang Vocational Technical College. Races will take place at Xianhai Lake which means “Faerie Sea” in Chinese. The surrounding area is famous for its beautiful landscape.

So far, there are eight registered concrete canoe teams which include the Wuhan University of Technology, Beijing University of Technology, Southwestern University of Science and Technology, and Mianyang Vocational Technical College. Teams from Hongkong, Taiwan, Macao, and the Chinese mainland are welcome to take part in, or, simply visit this competition.

Weiguo Shen, a professor from Wuhan University of Technology introduced the concrete canoe competition in China in 2008 to make the concrete materials more interesting to students studying there by providing them with a practical application of the engineering principles that they learn in the classroom, along with the important team and project management skills that they will need in their careers. With the participation and support of Minghua Li, the China Concrete Canoe Competition Committee was set up at 2009. The Committee organized the fist China Concrete Canoe Competition held at Huangshi City.

This year, the length of the racing concrete canoe was changed from 6 meters to 4.1 meters by Chairman Weiguo Shen. The 4.1 meters is equivalent to 123 China inches. His inspiration came from Daoist; the code means “The Dao gives birth to one, the one gives birth to two, the two gives birth to three, the three gives birth to the myriad of creatures.” Dr Shen hopes the concrete canoe competition develops rapidly and captures widespread attention in China.

Competition awards are distributed as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place overall winner; 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall winner; 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall winner; Best Design Paper and Oral Presentation; Best Final Product; Spirit of Competition, and so on. The competition for trophies and fellowship awards are expected to be very competitive. Each team will receive a commemorative plaque for their participation in the China Concrete Canoe Competition, and all official team members will receive a certificate of participation.