

跬步集

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优秀花园

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卷首语 | 漂泊亦归途

秋光渐起，新一期《跬步集》如约而至。

落笔写下本期卷首语之前，又翻看了之前几期主编的优秀刊物，真是一场“酣畅淋漓”的审美积累，同时也让本来就没什么文墨的我更加的惭愧。记忆里从初中开始写作对我来说就是一件有压力的事情，以至于我整个初高中生涯的语文作文都是靠着公式化的模板和早读背下来的名人名言勉强应试。虽说长大后表达欲变得旺盛了一些，时而也会想写一点“随笔”记录一下当下的感受和心境，但也常觉“书到用时方恨少”！没想到这样的我有一天也会当上主编，非常欣喜和感激能接过笔来陪大家留存下这“一步”的记忆。

不知不觉已经步入研三，大学毕业后的人生好像被按了加速键，恍惚觉得才是刚拿到录取通知书的那天，马上又走到了人生的下一个岔路口。二十多岁的年纪，大家都穿着不同的鞋子，走着不同的路，看着身边工作成家的朋友，听着来自四面八方的声音，不由得生出迷茫。

想到前段时间很火的一个词“奥德赛时期”，这个概念最初由美国专栏作家大卫·布鲁克斯(David Brooks)提出，他借用荷马史诗中英雄奥德修斯战后十年漂泊的意象，描述现代人在二十多岁经历的那段没有终点、没有地图的人生阶段。在荷马的史诗里，特洛伊战火熄灭之后，英雄奥德修斯踏上归途。他本盼早日还乡，却因命运与神明的阻挠，在山海之间漂泊十年。前路遍布漩涡、海妖与迷雾，同伴接连离散，归旅一再迂回，可他始终没有放弃心中的方向。旅途中奥德修斯的伟大，不在于所向披靡的勇武，而在于漫长困顿之中重新找回了自己。

我们也曾以为人生有既定的路线。读书，工作，恋爱，结婚。于是稍微偏离航线就会感到焦虑，开始怀疑自己的选择是否正确，是不是别人都抵达了，自己还在漂泊？但是人生没有既定的航线，很多事情也无法按照我们的预想发展。但这并不意味着漂泊是没有意义的，奥德修斯漂泊十年，见过的风浪与迷雾让他逐渐变成另一个人，漂泊也是他归途的一部分。而我们的旅程，没有史诗里的神明与怪兽，却同样藏着一步一步的跋涉，每一步都塑造着未来的自己。

我想《跬步集》收集的就是这样一段段细碎的行走记录。不是宏大的叙事，只是普通人翻过山岭，看过云起之后，留下的所思所想。不必急于赶路，四面八方都有终点，好好感受沿途所有风景，总有一天你坚持的东西会反过来拥抱你。

本期我们将看到艺咄和淇靖丰富的雁栖湖生活、语鑫的第二次“出海记”、Professor Habib 和 Professor Jabir 的广州回忆录，以及新增特别板块。感谢他们对本期跬步集的供稿与支持。

主编：任雪琳

雁栖往纪

许艺咄

雁栖湖是一个很有诗意的名字，虽然在遥远的大跃进时期它还只叫做北台上水库。如果这篇文章的标题叫“北台上村往纪”，大概像一篇乡村文学或者县志文学，引不起多数人的兴趣，但用上“雁栖”二字就显得很有小资情调。我倒不是为了这浪漫的意象，而是觉得于己来说这个名字足够贴切实际，还真像只大雁一般短暂栖身于此，等待秋日的气息一到，便飞到南方去。所以这篇文章，也只是聊一聊栖身之地的往事，以消纪念。

本科在北京海淀长久地生活了4年，对这座城市并不陌生；大三暑假的地球化学专业燕山实习，在怀柔开展了一系列关于岩石、矿床、环境、土壤等地球化学相关的野外实习和采样，几乎将怀柔境内从南到北跑遍，每天都会从京加路上经过国科大，因此对周遭的环境也相对熟悉。但是郊区的长久生活，却是看待北京的另一视角。中国尊和CBD远在70km之外，天气好的时候从雁栖湖观景台可以远观，取代了摩天大楼和闹市喧嚣的是抬头可望的河防口段长城和鸟鸣山幽，加之良好的住宿环境，以及尚还可口的食堂，让我幻视此地不像我的雁栖湖，反而像梭罗的瓦尔登湖，使人能获取长久的平静和对生活的思考。



观景台上远观中国尊



天气晴朗的雁栖湖校区

在雁栖湖活跃最久的地方就是户外社团，在雁栖湖被推荐做了国科大科苑山缘科考协会的会长，于是搞社团工作、做领队培训、带户外队伍，拉起来了一个600余人的社群，社团一整个学年也平稳运行，组织了将近40次大大小小的户外活动，包括徒步、露营、飞拉达、攀岩、攀冰等等，最初消耗了不少精力在上面，但是在拉起规范的流程制度后，社团逐渐可以自我运行，省下了很多运行成本，自己玩得倒也蛮开心。国庆假期带队西太行徒步，看烟雨朦胧的天生桥和太行山；元旦在内蒙古乌兰布统的雪原，踏粉雪骑高马、包饺子烤全羊；清明在内蒙古的库布齐沙漠，在沙漠里围炉煮锅，漫步瀚海；五一在涞源的巨石阵长城扎营，赏巨石星空，看云霞蒸蔚；端午去山西的五台山朝台徒步，行走文殊佛国，遍览华北屋脊；暑假在梅里雪山的北坡重装徒步，在飞来寺惊羡于梅里十三峰，在4200m的垭口营地喟叹于奶日顶卡雪山的圣洁，无事的时间躲在村民的小木屋里喝上一口纯正的酥油茶。足迹虽然遍涉大江南北，但是出发的圆心依旧是雁栖湖畔，归来的栖息之地也是此处，每每带队回校，在深夜食堂点上一碗牛肉面，再来一些烤串，落得十分满足。



河南·西太行



内蒙古·乌兰布统



内蒙古·库布齐沙漠



河北·巨石阵长城



山西·五台山



云南·梅里北坡

除了混迹在户外社团里，这一年倒也玩了不少运动类项目，徒步、露营、攀岩、滑雪、骑行、游泳、越野跑、攀冰、瑜伽、马术等等。据前几年的学长说雁栖湖有两大隐藏玩法——“登野长城，游雁栖湖”。我的泳技只是个蛙泳水平，平时划一划游泳馆还可以，倒不敢在水库里弄水；也没幸运地抢到皮划艇或者桨板课，可以借船技不佳之名穿着救生衣落水畅游。“游雁栖湖”是无法了，不过在登野长城这块倒是颇有心得。

离雁栖湖最近的是河防口长城，就是国科大抬头可见的那段，经由某位大人物指点，要在雁栖国际会议中心可以看得到怀柔的长城名片，所以河防口山隘两侧的野长城竟然也修缮如新，不似他处作古。河防口长城上有一处鲤鱼背险峻异常，磨人胆量。门口怀柔北站能直通到古北口镇，此处有卧虎山和蟠龙山两处长城遗址，卧虎山陡险，蟠龙山绵长。此处打车20min，往古北口镇方向是司马台长城，往承德方向走是金山岭长城，这两段几乎邻居，但是却分属两地。在司马台长城上跑了一次20km的越野跑比赛，更险更美，犬牙差互，长城倒像从天而降来的。这段长城是在北齐长城基础上，由明代时任蓟镇总兵的戚继光重点整修来的，所以有些地方还出露着北齐的遗迹，在一众明长城里算是老资历的存在。再临近雁栖湖不远还有黄花城水长城和慕田峪长城，水长城下有大湖，能看到长城入水的奇观，慕田峪长城也是熟客，眼下对国科大的学子也免门票，不过这两段都是成熟的开放景区，长城修缮一新，虽然美丽但是失了一些真味，不过聊得能让远方来客一赏龙脉瑰丽。在我看来真正冠绝野长城的美景，倒是藏在慕田峪20号敌楼之后的箭扣段，此处被誉为“中国最美野长城”，大多数配以“望长城内外，惟余莽莽”名号的爆款长城美景皆出于此。胜在近水楼台先得月，住在雁栖湖校区，在雪夜和夏夜各登临过一次，雪夜自北沟村一路向上到正北楼，蹲守一夜等待“北国风光”；夏夜则搭乘朋友顺风车，从西栅子村上山，依旧蹲守一夜等待“长城云海”。每当日出时分，东方熹微，泛起鱼肚白，旋即小布达拉宫沐浴在金色的流岚中，长城两侧山林野马奔腾，豪迈无常。



河防口段长城



冬日清晨箭扣段长城



夏日清晨箭扣段长城

在雁栖湖另一个好去处，莫过于白河峡谷，寻常游客可能觉得此处只是游山玩水的寻常地，但是对于中国的攀岩者来说却是朝圣之地，中国的野外攀岩运动自此处萌芽，发展近20年形成了一片沿河而建的成熟岩场——精灵谷、秘密花园、小怪、老岩场、NB峡谷等等，春秋攀岩，冬季攀冰，尤其在读过《比山更高》之后对这片地区有着由衷的敬佩感。正巧此地去雁栖湖不远，车程40min即达，没课的日子总是呼朋引伴，凑上三五好友，在学校门口叫一辆村口的小黑车，负责了我们往返白河的交通。临水而攀，得境清凉，爬累了就下来破个瓜吃，趁着夜色朦胧时分匆匆收拾装备回校，在学校旁边的老马拉面聚餐吃肉，落得快活。不攀岩的日子，怀柔也水系发达，几个人约好携上烧烤架，租辆车到怀柔的农发地市场买些半成品烤串，然后到九渡河附近找块免费的露营地，支架烤肉，风乎舞雩，兴尽而返，真也应了孔夫子“吾与点也”之语。



白河野攀



京都第一瀑攀冰

得益于国科大成其大，安排的活动和选修课也是丰富非凡。印象最深的活动是两次越野跑比赛——西山画马 15km 越野赛和慕田峪长城 5km 越野赛，本身自己有一些入门越野跑的意愿，正好碰上学校免费的越野跑比赛，还有充分的补给和赛事保障团队，让我对自己的越野能力和身体素质有了充分的自我了解，所以在后续司马台 20km 的越野跑比赛中体感是非常不错的，越野跑作为一项风险较大的比赛，在中国境内高校能组织举办的寥寥无几，所以也是感谢国科大的魄力 and 能力，在课余为我们提供多种多样的丰富活动。此外就是选修的体育课也是多种多样，但就是有点太难抢了，在一片选课混战中捡漏到一门瑜伽课，抱着提升柔韧性的想法就去了，结果成了两个班里唯二的男生，充分体验了一下“第二性环境”的感觉，倒还幸好另一个男生是熟人，所以还一直坚持。老师人很专业也很负责，是学校从怀柔瑜伽协会外聘来的老师，每次打坐唱诵时，总要齐声诵“唵”，让人想起《悉达多》里主人公从河水中读出意为圆满的“唵”，得大自在的那幕。或许禅意是相通的，不失为一种新奇的体验。



西山画马 15km 越野赛



慕田峪长城越野赛



瑜伽课

清华老校长梅贻琦曾说：“所谓大学之大，非有大楼之谓也，乃有大师之谓也。”落在国科大则是大楼如林，大师如云。上课从不乏大佬名师，印象最深的是彭老师讲的《有机地球化学》部分和葛老师的《气溶胶化学》部分，眼界立足够高，加之旁征博引，深受学生喜爱，本科读地球化学专业时也修过有机地球化学的选修课，相比较下还是彭老师的课更深入浅出，更有逻辑也更系统。结课之时要求每个学生做一份课程报告，选题自由，我就任着兴趣选了一个“户外服装中的 PFAS：人体健康与环境效应”的题目，一来是对这么一种日益热门的有机污染物做一些系统的了解，二来也是纯属好奇每次外出徒步穿的冲锋衣上的 DWR 涂层对自己的身体究竟有哪些危害。其余日常的讲座也是丰富异常，总能请来一些名流大家，故宫博物院的老院长单霁翔、人艺话剧的院长冯远征、香港前特首林郑月娥等等，总使人眼花缭乱目不暇接，在这远离闹市的地方也不缺精神陶冶。

最后临近离开的一个月，正逢上东北冷涡的到来，天气十分好，盛夏刚刚来临，天气总是凉爽的。有时晚上出门，温度 16℃，出门到雁栖湖边跑步，跑过景区大门，跑过法官学院，跑过凯宾斯基酒店，站在湖边，游人如织，从西山处吹送徐来清风，荡起雁栖湖阵阵涟漪，如此良夜何！秋天里，在雁栖湖公园内赏红叶，秋高气爽，夕阳下湖边走过欢快的一家三口，踱步进栖湖饭店，在酒店花园的摇篮里窝着看日斜西山；初春来临时，去雁栖湖公园

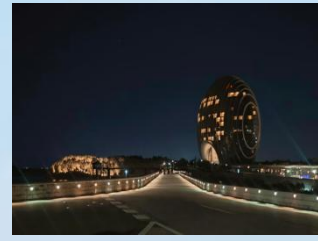
内看桃花新绽，看苍鹭飞来，漫步兴起也乘着游船，绕雁栖岛游行一周，水上群鸟掠湖而西，岸上的橘猫依着树荫沉眠，满园生机。



雁栖湖秋日黄栌红叶



雁栖湖初春



雁栖湖夏夜坝堤

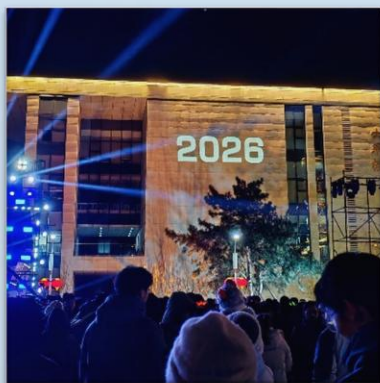
所以终于还是别了雁栖湖，世界上只有两种人——没来过雁栖湖的和爱上雁栖湖的，在这里匆匆栖息一年，即将飞向南方，似乎又是另一种评价体系的存在。心情有点像道士下山，多年习得的小六壬大黄庭，随着下山谋生求一口饭吃而变得无甚大用。从朔方的雪到南国的雨，未来想必还会有更有趣的事情等待探索。而现在回忆起雁栖湖最舒服的时刻，莫过于下午四点下课，回宿舍换上运动装到东操场跑个大汗淋漓，回宿舍冲上一个热水澡，换上新衣服，脏衣服随手丢进洗衣机，然后骑自行车出门吃晚饭赶晚课，迎着凉爽的傍晚，看天边晚霞明灭，此时的风是再好不过。陀翁在《白夜》里借幻想家之口说过这么一句话：“那可是整整一分钟的狂喜啊，这难道还不足以让人受用一生吗？”，的确，这一年是人一生中不可多得的，可以静下来，去感受生活并审视自己的时期，美好程度足够享用一生。希望日后每逢前路幽暗之时，都能想起那一段草长莺飞、携侣同游的美好时光。以三毛女士的一段文字作结，“回忆是美丽的，但人要往前面看。幸福的东西可遇不可求，我希望现在幸福，将来也幸福。”。

回所之后

曾淇靖

研一学年的结尾，可支配的时间忽然多了起来，我也开始更多地参与班集体和校园活动。冬天的新年跨年夜一群人挤在操场上倒数，寒风吹得脸发麻，却莫名地热闹。天气转热了班级大家就组织一起去参观清华园火车站旧址、去颐和园“踏青”等等。这些日子，我依然保持着观鸟的习惯，望远镜就放在宿舍的桌上，天气好的下午便拿去西区走走。

可我知道这样的日子是有尽头的。7月初我拖着箱子走出国科大的校门，最后一次抬头看了看雁栖湖蓝得过分的天空。离京那天，心里十分不舍。我忽然意识到，原来这一年我并非如自己以为的那样淡淡地度过了，那些独自观鸟的午后、穿行校园的傍晚、与远方笔友分享的日常，早已悄悄在我心里筑了一个小小的巢。而现在，我要把这个巢留在北京，独自飞回南方去了。



北京雁栖湖校区跨年夜



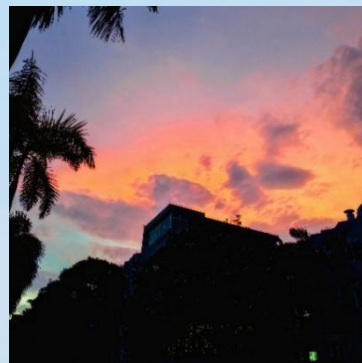
参观清华园火车站旧址班级团建

在家里休整了一两周，7月24日下午我正式踏入了广地化。办完回所报备、确定了办公室位置、领到宿舍钥匙，一连串手续走下来，我竟有种奇异的感觉：我的研究生生涯，好像此刻才真正步入正轨。北京的课程结束了，那些为期末周在教室疯狂背书的日子也结束了。取而代之的，是眼前这个相对陌生的环境。好在老师们都还是同往日一般，语气平静地交代了几句，让我先把生活安顿好。那种平静像一块石头落进水里，我刚刚开始泛起的涟漪慢慢也就止住了。回所又正好撞上周末，正好给了我一些缓冲的时期，我连着两天在宿舍里收拾卫生。所里的宿舍比起雁栖湖，空间上倒是更让我喜欢一些。窗外是广州七月闷热的空气，连蝉鸣声都听不见的安静，我看着干净的宿舍获得了某种踏实的安慰。

第一周正式开始了，我像个新生一样，在所里的楼里来回转，认各个房间的位置，找不同的老师签字。见我是刚回所的学生，老师们签字之余还会多叮嘱两句。这种被接纳的感觉很细微，却很重要。也是在这一周，我接到了回所后的第一个任务，高温假期间负责顶楼的常规采样。带教我的是邓馨师姐，她耐心地给我讲解采样的流程和注意事项。我跟着她爬上顶楼，第一次真正接触到所里的日常工作。高温假就这样在独自采样和适应中过去了。现在回想起来，那段时间其实是紧张又松了一口气。紧张在于，我确实来到了一个全新的、需要独自应对的环境。松了一口气在于，我终于有了一些努力的方向。



顶楼的常规采样



广地化的晚霞

回所之后,父母和朋友还是时常发来消息,问我相较于北京习不习惯、宿舍住得怎么样。意外的是,我其实没有怎么怀念雁栖湖,我还是更喜欢这边。我可能只会怀念雁栖湖的小鸟和比较清闲的时光。所里的生活没有雁栖湖那样宽阔的天空可以看,但偶尔抬头也能看见城市上空格外梦幻的云彩。我不是目标明确的人,大多时候依然是被推着走。和在北京时不同的是,现在推着我的不再是课程表和考试安排,而是采样任务、文献阅读和即将到来的组会。我可能还要适应一段时间,但是迟早可以独立地继续走下去。

珠江口航海记

张语鑫

时隔八个月，又一次出发了。
由于没有大体积采水需求，只需轻装上阵，带上大流量大气采样器和必备工具前往珠海。在船员和航毅的帮助下固定好大气采样器后，可以准备干饭了！

“吃什么？别问我啊，哥！”——从北京到广州，再到珠海，这段对话被无数次重复，而吃什么的核心问题还没有真正得到解决。“不晓得就给我吃川菜！”实验做不出来，川菜还能找不到吗？老妈蹄花，鱼香肉丝，回锅肉——研究生吃饭还是有把子力气，半小时后桌子上只剩骨头了。

航毅返回广州，我也即将开始一周的海上之旅。可能是得益于上次出海经验，这一次全程都没有出现晕船症状，可喜可贺。但本航次只有海水和表层沉积物的采样任务，少了底栖生物拖网，点与点之间也较为密集（大家任务繁重，交流也较少），比起上一次参与的北部湾航次要少了几分乐趣。

前两天海况和天气都不是很好，天上乌云一片连着一片，海上的涌浪也一波接着一波，船随着海浪起伏。等到晚上抛锚，浪一夜没歇，睡在上铺的我也辗转难眠。终于第三天开始天气变好，乌云消散，蓝天白云重现眼前。船正在驶向大陆架边缘，海越发的蓝了，船推开的波涛与涌浪相撞，激起雪白的浪花（尽管此时脑子里想的全是海洋飞沫气溶胶释放纳米塑料）。



越远离大陆，越靠近深蓝

在闲暇时会登上驾驶室旁的船头远眺，目之所及是一望无际的深蓝，令人心旷神怡。等到晚上一轮明月自海面升起，漫天繁星亦垂于头顶，不免有《给阿嬷的情书》中“行船入夜，恰江上升明月，圆如玉坠，仿若身在故乡，似与你并肩共赏。江海万里，心中念你，便不觉遥远”之感。月光如丝缕般将人与人的羁绊牵连在一起，千百年来古今共赏一轮明月，江河不断奔流入海，明月依旧朗照。



六天航程转瞬即逝，虽然期间CTD偶尔出现问题，最后还是顺利完成了采样任务。回到岸上后，由于当天只有我和汕头大学的一个女生留在船上过夜，船长担心我们两个无聊，便热情邀请我们去拱北口岸的地下商城吃东西，盛情难却。卸下海上的疲惫，沿着海边从九州港码头出发，彼时日落，海风轻抚，对面的澳门灯火渐亮，行人熙熙攘攘。

从珠海回来后朋友圈刷到：深海所的王同学刚在南海看完喙鲸、广东海大的曾同学第三次在海上过生日、汕头大学的卢同学又要送师姐去台湾海峡……。我们奔赴无尽的海洋，而海洋无言，只以深蓝和浪花作答。



Life in China during my PIFI fellowship tenure

Prof Habib

Since arriving in Guangzhou in December 2023 to begin my tenure as a CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI) fellow, my journey had been a blend of high-level scientific rigor and a profound cultural immersion. Stepping into the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry (GIG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, specifically within the State Key Laboratory of Advanced Environmental Technology, I wasn't just entering a new laboratory, I was entering a community that has become my home away from home.



A New Chapter in the “City of Flowers”

Landing in Guangzhou during the mild December winter was a stark but welcome contrast to the bustling humidity of Dhaka. Known as the “City of Flowers”, Guangzhou immediately struck me with its unique balance of ancient tradition and futuristic efficiency. As I traveled from the airport to the GIG campus, the skyline, dominated by the iconic Canton Tower, signaled the start of a chapter defined by growth and discovery.

The first few weeks were a whirlwind of firsts. Navigating the seamless digital landscape of China, from WeChat to the high-speed rail system, was an education in itself. I remember the initial challenge of ordering a simple meal; however, the overwhelming kindness of my Chinese colleagues, who patiently helped me translate menus and navigate the local markets, quickly bridged the gap. These early interactions set the tone for my fellowship: one of mutual respect and genuine hospitality.



The Pulse of the Lab: Harmony and Dedication

Working in Professor Gan Zhang's lab has been the highlight of my professional life, but the experience of it goes far beyond the two papers we published in *Atmospheric Environment* and *Environmental Research*. In Professor Gan's lab, there is a distinct "rhythm". It is a place where scientific excellence is pursued with a quiet, tireless dedication.

I often reflect on our afternoon academic exchanges. These were not just meetings about PAHs or heavy metal data, they were intellectual crossroads where my perspectives from Bangladesh met the advanced analytical frameworks of GIG. I remember a particular evening in the lab when we were troubleshooting a difficult set of active air sampler data. The collaborative spirit, the way senior researchers and students alike gathered around a screen to offer insights, reinforced my belief that science is a universal language that transcends borders.



Bridging Cultures through the Maritime Silk Road

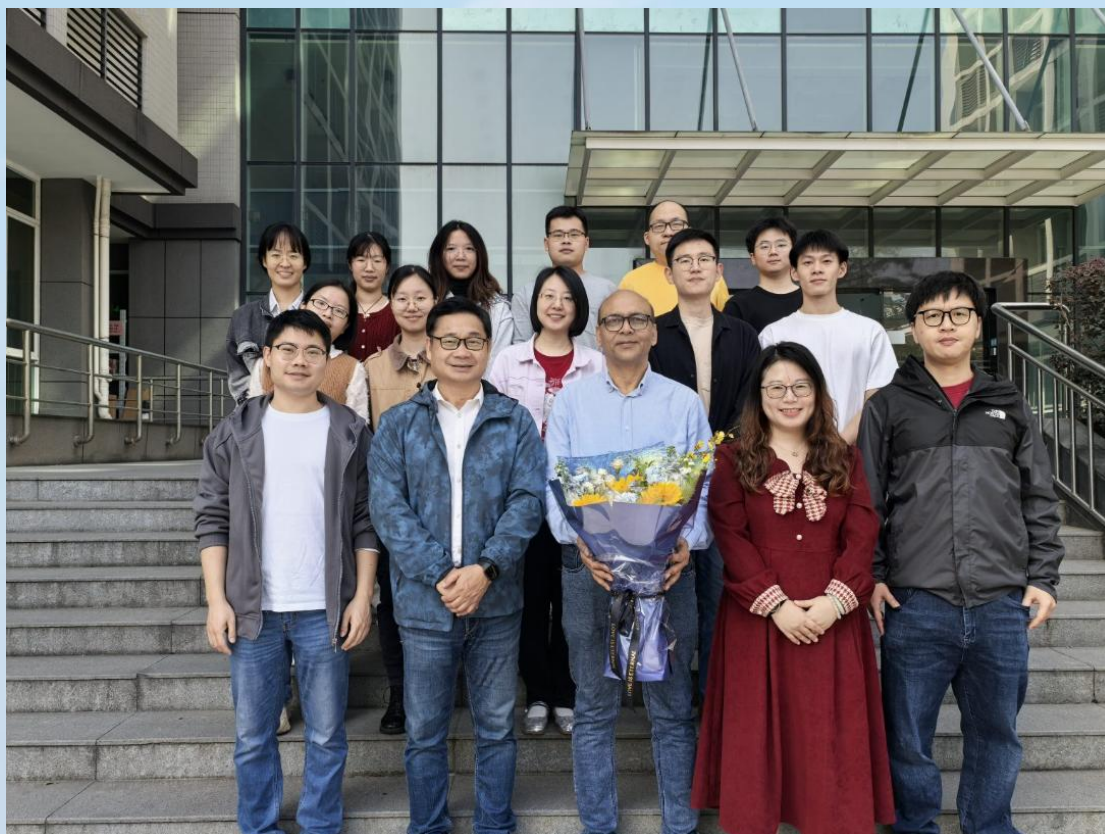
A truly memorable milestone occurred during the recent CAS training course for BRI and developing countries. My talk, “Heavy metals in the environment: problems and analytical chemistry”, was a significant professional moment, but the life story behind it was even more impactful.

During the program, I met researchers from across the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road. Over shared meals of Cantonese dim sum and tea, we didn’t just discuss persistent toxic substances (PTSs); we shared stories of our families, our hometowns, and our shared hopes for a cleaner planet. These informal “Silk Road” conversations taught me that while our geographic challenges differ, from the urban density of Dhaka to the industrial hubs of China, our commitment to environmental stewardship is a shared human bond.

Memorable Moments and Life Lessons

One story that stays with me is from a weekend trip to the Pearl River. Watching the city lights reflect on the water, I realized how much I had adapted. I had gone from a newcomer struggling with a translation app to someone who felt comfortable navigating the intricate streets of the Yuexiu district.

I’ve also learned to appreciate the Chinese philosophy of *guanxi* (relationships) and the deep-seated respect for teachers and mentors. This cultural nuance has shaped how I approach my research. It taught me that scientific success is not just about the number of citations, but about the quality of the relationships built during the process. Publishing two papers in nine months was a rigorous task, but it was the shared celebrations in the lab, the simple joy of a group lunch after a paper was accepted, that made the hard work meaningful.



Looking Forward: Nine Months and Counting

As I look back on these nine months (2023-2025), I see a transformation. I came to China as a researcher focused on monitoring PAHs and heavy metals in Bangladesh. I am leaving this phase of my fellowship as a global citizen who understands the power of international collaboration.

The PIFI fellowship has provided me with world-class facilities and the mentorship of Professor Gan, but more importantly, it has given me a window into the heart of China's scientific community. My time here has been a testament to the fact that when we share our "academic and research thoughts", we aren't just exchanging data, we are building a future where knowledge flows as freely as the rivers that connect our nations.

As I continue my work, I carry with me the discipline of the GIG labs, the flavors of Guangzhou, and the enduring friendships that have made this journey an unforgettable life experience.

Returning to My Second Home: Reflections on a Six-Month Scientific Journey in China

Jabir Syed



During Field Visit at Jiangmen, Heshan Atmospheric Environmental Monitoring Superstation

Returning to China as a PIFI Visiting Scientist was both professionally rewarding and personally meaningful. Although this was not my first visit to Guangzhou or the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry (GIG), Chinese Academy of Sciences, it felt like returning to a second home. Having previously completed part of my Ph.D. and postdoctoral research at GIG between 2010 and 2017, many memories resurfaced as soon as I arrived. One of the highlights of this visit was reconnecting with former colleagues and friends. It was inspiring to see how many had progressed in their careers while maintaining the strong friendships and professional relationships built over the years. These interactions provided opportunities to exchange ideas, share experiences, and explore new avenues for collaboration.

During my six-month stay, I worked closely with Professor Gan Zhang and colleagues to discuss emerging environmental challenges and future research directions. Although the visit was not focused on laboratory work, it was highly productive in terms of scientific planning. We developed several new research concepts, made significant progress on collaborative research proposals, and identified opportunities for future joint projects between China and Pakistan. These discussions helped strengthen existing partnerships and laid the groundwork for future scientific cooperation.

The visit also allowed me to travel to several cities, including Shenzhen, Qingdao, Jinan, and Beijing, where I met colleagues and delivered research seminars. These academic exchanges broadened my professional network and provided valuable opportunities to discuss environmental issues and research priorities with scientists from different institutions. Beyond academic activities, I enjoyed experiencing daily life in China once again. Learning a few new Chinese words, interacting with local people, and revisiting familiar places made the experience particularly memorable. The efficient transportation system, modern infrastructure, and welcoming environment contributed to a comfortable and enjoyable stay. One aspect that continues to impress me is the research culture within the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The combination of state-of-the-art facilities, strong scientific leadership, and talented researchers creates an environment that encourages innovation and excellence. Working in such a setting provides valuable learning opportunities and inspiration for future research.



During an International Training Workshop Dinner at GIG Canteen

Overall, this visit was much more than a professional assignment. It was an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, strengthen long-standing collaborations, develop new research initiatives, and renew my appreciation for China and its scientific community. I am sincerely grateful to the PIFI program, the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences for providing this opportunity. The experience strengthened scientific ties between China and Pakistan and further reinforced my commitment to international research collaboration. I look forward to continuing these partnerships and hope to return again to a place that I proudly consider my second home.



At Sample Building, GIG



Delivered a seminar at GIG

本期专栏

受张老师启发,本期专栏整理汇总了2026年1月至今课题组发表的研究成果。再次向各位师兄师姐表示热烈祝贺!期待大家产出更多亮眼成果~同时感谢张老师为本专栏提供思路与支持~

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Happy Tree:
No entry except
happiness

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