

RECONNECTING THE LUSHAN BOTANICAL GARDEN AND THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY - A BOTANICAL BRIDGE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE U.S.

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1 ABSTRACT

The collaboration between the Lushan Botanical Garden and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University formed a botanical bridge between China and the U.S. in the early 20th century. Founded in 1934, the Lushan Botanical Garden is China's first modern botanical garden, modeled after the Arnold Arboretum in several respects. The Arnold Arboretum played an important role in training the first generation of Chinese botanists, including the core founder of the Lushan Botanical Garden. From the early 1930s through the late 1940s, active engagement between the two institutions enabled the botanists in China and the U.S. to collaborate across cultures and borders, despite successive years of wars. However, the two lost contact after China's regime change in 1949, and only reestablished the connection 55 years later. Although some initial collaborative efforts were made, active collaboration between them is lacking at the present day.

This paper traces the long relationship between the Lushan Botanical Garden and the Arnold Arboretum. It celebrates their inspiring teamwork in the past, and emphasizes the importance of strengthening the bonds and carrying the collaborative endeavor by the Chinese pioneers in botany, and their American mentors and colleagues into the future.

Historical connections and current challenges are examined through literature reviews, observations, and dialogues with the researchers at both institutions. Recommendations are put forward as key strategies in order to fortify long-term collaboration between the Lushan Botanical Garden and the Arnold Arboretum - a botanical bridge between China and the U.S.

1.1 Keywords

Lushan Botanical Garden, Arnold Arboretum, Dr. Hsen-Hsu Hu, botanical bridge, collaboration