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## NEWS FROM IVPP

Spectacular field findings and continued research progress highlight IVPP activities around 1980. Discovery of a *Homo erectus* skull from Anhui Province and a *Ramapithecus* skull from Yunnan Province constitutes the most exciting news and has aroused great public interest. The *Homo erectus* skull was rather complete and came to light on the 4th of November, 1980, from Longtan (Dragon-pool) Cave in Hexian County, Anhui Province, in the lower Yangtze district. Rich mammalian fossils found in the cave include elements of both northern and southern faunas of Middle Pleistocene in China. This is the first *Homo erectus* skull ever found in southern China. Preparations are under way for further excavations in 1981. The *Ramapithecus* skull recently discovered by IVPP palaeoanthropologists from Pliocene lignitic beds at Shihuibar, Lufeng County, Yunnan, though much shattered, represents the first known *Ramapithecus* skull. After due preparation and restoration in the labs, this rare specimen may throw light on the systematic position of *Ramapithecus* and on related problems of human origin.

VP workers in other fields were no less busy and successful all this while. Devonian fish people followed up their 1979 expeditions by new trips to Yunnan, Guangxi, Anhui, Jiangxi and other provinces and research efforts are concentrated on the newly described crossopterygian material from the Lower Devonian of Yunnan and on the agnathans, antiarchs, and arthrodiroids from the unique Devonian fauna of southern China. Those working on Mesozoic fish went collecting in Sichuan, Anhui, Neimenggu and Jilin Provinces and further enriched China's Jurassic and Cretaceous fish fauna. Cenozoic ichthyologists have finished their recent study on the fish remains from oil-bearing strata in the coastal regions of the Bohai Sea. In Sichuan Province the dinosaur hunters struck upon two sauropod and one stegosaurian skulls together with other new materials, bearing out once more the rare good fortune that has always accompanied dinosaur hunters in the field. A reptilian mammalian team went to Lufeng County,

Yunnan Province, to try their luck in the classic Rhenish basin in winter and a few more skulls of tritylodonts were recovered. Palaeogene mammalian workers are diverting their attention from Palaeocene strata back again to Eocene and Oligocene beds in Yunnan, Guizhou and other parts of southern China and *Lushius*-like primates and abundant microfossils were recovered.

1980 was also a busy year for IVPP scientific exchanges with the outside world. A delegation of palaeoanthropologists and VPs paid a successful visit to the United States and all the ten members should like to thank their American colleagues once more for the great hospitality they have shown. Besides those who went abroad for meetings and short-term visits, people from IVPP going abroad in 1980—81 for long-term visits include Chang Mee-mann (again at the Swedish Museum of Natural History making a detailed study of the Devonian crossospts from Yunnan by the aid of her recently completed grinding series and wax-models), Li Chuankwei (at Pittsburgh working on micromammals), Ting Su-yin (at Baton Rouge on Early Tertiary mammals) and Zhao Zikui (at Bonn on ultramicroscopic histology). Meanwhile, IVPP members enjoyed the great pleasure of receiving recently a number of VP colleagues from France, West Germany, Japan and U. S. A., including the Russells (Paris), Tobien, Schmidt-Kittler (Mainz), Fahlbusch, Heissig (Munich), Storeh (Frankfort), Hasegawa, Uyeno, Shigihara, Aukaburi (Tokyo), the Olsens, the Simpsons (Arizona), Shapiro (New York) and Spencer Lucas (New Haven).

Besides personnel exchanges, a Peking Man Exhibition was sponsored in four Japanese cities in 1980 and will probably be held in Hongkong in 1981. (Incidentally, an Atlas of Fossil Man of China has just come off press in Chinese and English versions.) In 1981 another exhibition will be held in Japan devoted to important VP finds from China.

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