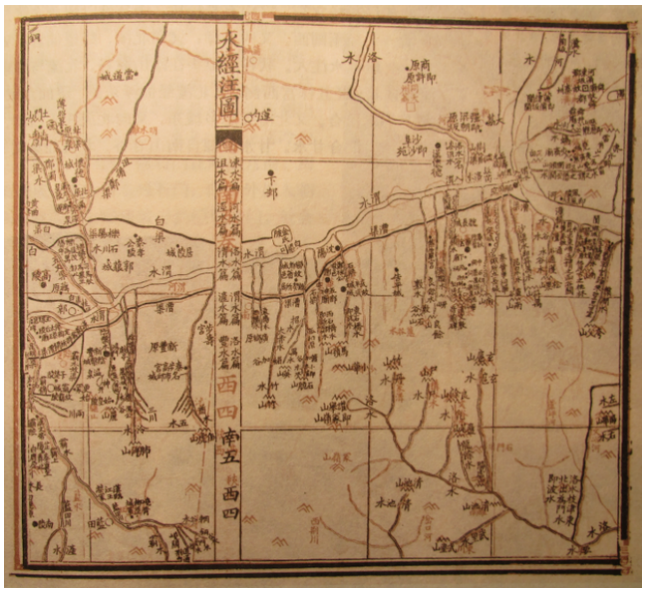
ICDP 2025 Training Course Program

Weinan, Shaanxi
People's Republic of China
14 – 20 September 2025



The map shows the Wei River in Shaanxi, China, as it flows eastward towards the Yellow River. It is from the Shui Jing Zhu, or Commentary on the Waterways Classic. The map is probably from the Three Kingdoms period (third century AD).
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Weishui.png Accessed 13 June 2025.

Introduction

Welcome to the ICDP 2025 Training Course!

The dynamic city of Weinan, located in Shaanxi Province, China, will host this premier training program designed to equip scientists and engineers with advanced knowledge and practical experience in continental scientific drilling.

Over the course of one week, participants will engage with leading experts, explore cutting-edge drilling and coring techniques, and develop essential skills through hands-on training and interactive sessions. Attendees will gain deeper insights into geology, geophysics, engineering, and project/sample/data management, as well as scientific outreach strategies. This comprehensive approach prepares participants to contribute as an on-site scientist in scientific drilling projects.

A key component of this year's program is the focus on effective scientific outreach. Through specialized sessions, participants will develop strategies to communicate their research to diverse audiences, making complex scientific concepts more accessible and impactful. To further strengthen these outreach skills, **Film and Art Director Will Leung** will collaborate with participants to explore the power of visual storytelling in science. This creative approach will help attendees translate their scientific findings into compelling narratives, enhancing both the reach and resonance of their outreach efforts.

This year's course is organized in collaboration with the WEIHE project, providing a unique opportunity to explore the frontiers of geoscience and expand professional networks within the global ICDP community. Participants will also have the chance to visit the WEIHE project drilling site.

In addition to the comprehensive scientific program, participants will enjoy a vibrant social schedule, including an evening tour of Xi'an and a visit to the iconic Terracotta Warriors at the Emperor Qinshihuang Mausoleum Site Museum. These activities offer valuable opportunities for professional networking and cultural enrichment.

As scientific drilling continues to provide critical insights into Earth systems across disciplines such as climate science, geophysics, microbiology, and resource development, structured training programs like this one are essential for sustaining research momentum and expanding capabilities within the global scientific community.

We look forward to an inspiring, productive, and enjoyable week of learning and collaboration!

Weinan, September 2025

Ana Rei and Ai Li

ICDP 2025 Training Course Practical Information

Date 14 - 20 September 2025

Venue **Wyndham Grand Plaza Royale Hi-Tech Weinan**

Hotel Adress: No.27 Jingye Street, High-tech Zone, Weinan, Shaanxi Province, China, Linwei District, Weinan, ShaanxiLinwei District, Weinan, Shaanxi

Hotel Front Desk Telephone: 0086913-8156666

Web Site: http://hotel1925488.round-world-trip.com/en

Concept

Structure: This comprehensive training is designed to prepare participants for leadership roles in scientific drilling projects worldwide.

The training course will combine engaging talks and teambuilding activities, utilizing interactive tools to foster collaboration and learning.

Participation: In-person attendance.

Training Course Locations & Key Sites

This map shows the relative distances between key locations:

- Weinan (located 60 km east of Xi'an – Venue Hotel: accommodation & sessions)
- WEIHE Scientific Drilling Site (field excursion)
- IEECAS Institute (excursion)
- Xi'an International Airport (arrival/departure hub)

Stay Connected: Join Our WeChat Group

群聊：ICDPTraining Course WEIHE

该二维码7天内(9月8日前)有效，重新进入将更新

Objectives

1. Technical Proficiency in Drilling Engineering

- Understand **drilling terminologies, technologies, and workflows**, including drill rig components, drill pipes, bits, mud systems, and cementation.
- Analyze the **economic considerations, health/safety protocols, and risk assessments** critical to drilling projects.
- Compare **mining versus oilfield drilling techniques** and evaluate coring equipment applications through case studies.

2. Geophysical Logging and Borehole Analysis

- Apply principles of **downhole geophysical logging** in sedimentary and crystalline rock environments.
- Integrate **core-log-seismic data** or subsurface characterization and stress field analysis.
- Conduct **borehole testing** (e.g., hydrofracturing, leak-off tests, VSP) and interpret results for crustal stress and rock mechanics studies.

3. **Fieldwork and Practical Applications**

- Gain hands-on experience during the **field excursion** to WEIHE drill site, focusing on real-world drilling operations and site evaluation.
- Master **sediment coring techniques**, including core handling, physical properties determination, and scanning technologies.

4. Sample and Data Handling / Management

- Implement best practices for **rock core and cuttings handling**, depth correlation, and lithoprofile creation.
- Address challenges in **sample contamination** and learn protocols for deep biosphere sampling.
- Sampling and monitoring of fluids in boreholes.
- Utilize mobile **Drilling Information System (mDIS)** for data acquisition, curation, and distribution.

5. Scientific and Societal Integration

- Design **outreach strategies** (e.g., social media, visitor centers) to engage communities and secure project buy-in.
- Understand **ICDP's structure**, proposal writing processes, and opportunities for collaboration.

6. Collaboration and Professional Development

- Develop skills in **international project coordination**, including data sharing policies and ethical considerations.
- Synthesize course learnings through **group discussions**, feedback sessions, and collaborative exercises.

ICDP 2025 Training Course Detailed Program

Sunday, 14 September (Day 1)

16:00 – 19:00 Reception of Participants and Icebreaker

- Reception of the participants at the Meeting Room with refreshments and snacks, with distribution of the printed materials
- Informal Welcome Address: **Ai Li (IEECAS/WEIHE) | Thomas Wiersberg (ICDP/GFZ)**
- Social event: Enjoy Shaanxi delicacies at the relaxed and inviting buffet, and network with fellow participants and instructors. **End of Day 1**

Monday, September 15 (Day 2)

08:00 – 08:45 Welcome & Introduction to ICDP 2025 Training Course | Thomas Wiersberg, Youbin Sun
Overview of the training course and its objectives. Participant introductions. Logistics.

08:45 – 09:15 Brief History of ICDP in China | Youbin Sun
This session will examine the historical development of the ICDP in China, with particular attention to its collaboration with the Institute of Earth Environment at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IEECAS). Youbin Sun from IEECAS will guide participants through these central collaborations and highlight their pivotal contributions to the progress of ICDP initiatives in China.

Coffee Break (30 minutes)

09:45 – 12:00 Fundamentals of Drilling Engineering | Said Kamrani
Foundational session, essential for participants from diverse scientific backgrounds who may have limited experience with the engineering aspects of drilling operations, but require this knowledge to effectively plan and carry out research projects involving subsurface sampling and measurements. This session, led by **Said Kamrani** from the ICDP OSG, begins with an introduction to drilling terminologies and technologies, followed by detailed explanations of drill rig equipment and components, drilling workflows, and essential hardware including drill pipes, bits, drilling mud, cementation, and casing systems. Advanced drilling engineering topics will be equally addressed, including economic considerations, health and safety protocols, risk assessment methodologies, and reporting requirements that form the administrative backbone of successful drilling operations.

Lunch Break (two hours)

14:00 – 15:30 Continuous Wireline Coring | Jan-Erik Rosberg
Presentation on continuous wireline coring techniques, comparing and contrasting mining versus oilfield drilling approaches and examining their respective advantages and limitations. In this session, **Jan-Erik Rosberg** from Lund University, will conduct a detailed discussion of coring equipment and techniques, supplemented by case studies from major ICDP projects including COSC-1, COSC-2, and the Eger Rift. Continuous wireline coring represents a specialized approach critical for scientific drilling where sample quality and recovery are paramount concerns, distinct from commercial drilling operations that may prioritize speed and cost-efficiency over sample integrity.

Coffee Break (30 minutes)

16:30 – 18:00 Lacustrine Sediment Coring | Nicolas Waldmann
This session will cover specific techniques for handling and preparing lake sediment cores, methods for determining physical properties, and advanced scanning technologies including Multi-Sensor Core Logging (MSCL), optical scanning, and X-ray fluorescence (XRF) scanning. **Nicolas Waldmann** from the University of Haifa will discuss how lacustrine sediments serve as important archives of paleoenvironmental information. He will highlight the need for specialized approaches to their recovery and analysis, which differ significantly from those used in hard-rock drilling environments. This topic underscores ICDP's commitment to advancing diverse scientific objectives across various geological settings and research disciplines

19:00 Welcome Banquet
End of Day 2

Tuesday, 16 September (Day 3)

08:00 – 10:00 Downhole Logging and Borehole Testing for Subsurface Analysis | Simona Pierdominici
Focus on methods for gathering data from boreholes, beginning with comprehensive sessions on downhole geophysical logging. **Simona Pierdominici**, from the ICDP OSG will lead this session, covering measurement principles, tools, and the ICDP's logging equipment capabilities, why the logging measurements are useful and how to interpret the borehole data. The discussion will address the specific challenges and approaches for logging in different lithologies, including both sedimentary and crystalline rocks. The session also highlights how modern scientific drilling extends far beyond sample recovery to include extensive in-situ measurements that provide critical contextual data about subsurface conditions. Practical exercises will conclude this session.

Coffee Break (30 minutes)

10:30 – 11:30 *Continuation of previous session. Practical Exercises.*

11:30 – 12:00 Preview of the WEIHE Project Drilling Site – Field Trip Introduction | Ai Li
This presentation prepares participants for the afternoon field trip to the WEIHE Basin drilling site. Key highlights include:

- Site significance: Overview of the WEIHE Basin's role in studying East Asian monsoon evolution and tectonic-climate interactions
- Drilling objectives: Summary of core research goals, target depths, and expected scientific outcomes
- Logistics: Safety brief, site accessibility, and what to observe during the visit
- Field focus: Guidance on notable geological features and sampling strategies to enhance on-site learning
- Attendees will gain essential context to maximize their field experience at this active ICDP research location.

Lunch Break (two hours)

14:00 – 18:00 FIELD TRIP – WEIHE Drilling Site

This field experience represents a crucial practical component of the training, allowing participants to observe drilling operations firsthand and connect the theoretical knowledge from classroom sessions with real-world applications. The visit to the WEIHE project scientific drilling site, offers direct insight into field operations and data collection.

- Drilling operations managed by the WEIHE team are designed to provide high-quality core samples and geophysical data, essential for understanding Earth's subsurface processes, geological structures, and the potential for natural resources. These operations are carried out using state-of-the-art drilling technologies and rigorous protocols to ensure data integrity and sample preservation.

- Participants will be split into two groups of 15 each, rotating between two stations (45 minutes per station) and learning from WEIHE project experts, Said Kamrani, and Jan-Erik at each location.

Click. Capture. Create: Prepping Visuals for Science Storytelling

Join award-winning film artist **Will Leung** for a hands-on field photography workshop. Learn composition, lighting, and action techniques while documenting drilling operations, equipment, and core samples — with live expert feedback. This session sets the stage for tomorrow's deep dive into visual storytelling, transforming today's shots into powerful narratives.

19:00 Group Dinner
End of Day 3

Wednesday, 17 September (Day 4)

08:00–10:00 ICDP in Action: Science, Society, and Global Engagement

Scientific drilling projects like those supported by the ICDP generate valuable insights into Earth's composition, structure, and processes, but their impact relies on effective communication with both the scientific community and the broader public. This session explores the vital role of science communication and outreach within the ICDP framework, highlighting how clear, accessible messaging and proactive engagement can foster public understanding, inspire future researchers, and ensure the acceptance and success of ambitious drilling initiatives.

What is ICDP and how does it work? | Leila Rezaei
Leila Rezaei (ICDP OSG) will introduce ICDP — a global initiative supporting deep drilling at key sites. Funding international teams since 1996, ICDP advances subsurface research, tests geological models, and tackles challenges like geohazards, climate change, and resource sustainability. Through cost-sharing collaboration, workshops, and open data, ICDP drives innovation in geosciences.

ICDP Project Planning & Management: Key principles for designing and executing successful scientific drilling projects. | Thomas Wiersberg
Thomas Wiersberg (ICDP OSG) will explain how ICDP funds and supports cutting-edge continental drilling projects. This presentation covers crafting a strong ICDP proposal — from defining high-impact scientific objectives that justify drilling, to aligning with ICDP's priorities. We'll walk through the submission process (Pre-Proposal, Workshop, Full Proposal) and key sections (abstract, methods, budget, co-funding). Attendees will also learn how proposals are evaluated by the Science Advisory Group (SAG) for scientific merit, feasibility, and societal impact. Practical tips will help you prepare a competitive, well-structured application.

Beyond Science: A Blueprint for Effective Science Communication in ICDP Projects | Ana Rei, Ai Li
Effective communication is key to maximizing the impact and success of ICDP projects. Well-designed strategies not only strengthen proposals, but also increase project visibility and promote public trust in science. **Ana Rei** (ICDP OSG) and **Ai Li** (IEECAS) will demonstrate how integrated communication plans enhance both the scientific and societal value of research. This presentation highlights the outreach framework of the WEIHE Project, which connects science with society through schools, universities, museums, and social media. The session concludes with the opening of an art exhibition curated by Ai Li, featuring works created by schoolchildren as part of the WEIHE Project's outreach activities.

Coffee Break (30 minutes)

10:30 – 12:00 Picture This: Building Effective Visual Stories for Science Communication | Will Leung
Visual storytelling is a powerful tool for making complex scientific concepts accessible, memorable, and engaging for diverse audiences. In this session, led by **Will Leung**, we will explore how narrative structure and visual communication can transform scientific information into compelling stories that resonate beyond the research community.

Lunch Break (two hours)

14:00 – 17:00 From Field to Frame: Photographing Research for Public Engagement | Will Leung

Through practical examples and this hands-on activity, participants will learn to craft clear, impactful visual narratives that enhance outreach efforts and promote deeper connections with the public, stakeholders, and fellow scientists:

- Discussion on narrative structure in visual communication.
- Participants share their photographs from the WEIHE site visit.
- The artist provides feedback on how these images can be refined for outreach purposes.
- Brainstorming session: Participants develop ideas for using visuals in their own science communication plans (e.g., social media posts, public presentations).

Expected Outcomes: Participants will learn practical photography techniques tailored to documenting scientific fieldwork. They will produce a set of high-quality images that can be used for science communication efforts or personal portfolios. The session will inspire participants to think creatively about how to visually communicate their research to non-specialist audience.

No dedicated Coffee Break in this session: Drinks and snacks in the room throughout.

17:00-17:30 The Terracotta Warriors: Historical context and their significance | Ai Li
Before we depart to witness one of humanity's greatest archaeological treasures, Ai Li will prepare us to view the Terracotta Warriors through both scientific and cultural lenses. This 2,200-year-old time capsule offers geoscientists remarkable insights about (1) Earth materials (the loess clay, mineral pigments, and bronze alloys that directly inform our Quaternary geology studies), and (2) World memory - How civilizations preserve their legacy, much like ICDP cores archive Earth's history. Sit back and enjoy the journey.

19:00 Group Dinner
End of Day 4

Thursday, 18 September (Day 5)

Day Excursion

8:00 – 12:00 Visit to the Terracotta Warriors at the Emperor Qinshihuang Mausoleum Site Museum

In March 1974, a severe drought affected Xiyang Village in Lintong County, Shaanxi Province. A group of farmers were digging a well to secure water for their crops. At around 1–2 meters deep, they struck hard, reddish soil, unusual for the area. Soon after, they hit something solid: a terracotta head, which they initially mistook for a broken jar or temple statue…

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 18:00 Tour the Cutting-Edge Research Facilities of the Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IEECAS)

Established in 1985 and later joining the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in 1999, IEE specializes in climate and environmental change, including East Asian monsoon evolution, abrupt climate shifts, and paleoclimate dynamics. Its research supports sustainable development and ecological restoration in China's drylands. Under Prof. AN Zhisheng, IEE has grown into a multidisciplinary hub with five advanced laboratories, studying past and present global changes. The institute now integrates monsoon-arid environment research and human-natural interactions, becoming a leading center for environmental science. Explore more: http://english.ieecas.cn.

19:00 Group Dinner

End of Day 5

Friday 19 September (Day 6)

08:00 – 09:30 Rock Core Handling, Sample and Data Management | Anja Schleicher
Session on rock core and cuttings, covering the various types of solid samples obtained during drilling, on-site handling procedures, depth correlation methodologies, and the identification and management of drilling artifacts. During this presentation, **Anja Schleicher** from the GFZ Potsdam, will compare the advantages and limitations of different sample types, particularly contrasting drill cores with cuttings, and demonstrate the construction of lithological profiles based on these materials. Case studies will illustrate how these methods have been applied in actual drilling projects, providing practical context for the technical information presented.

Coffee Break (30 minutes)

10:00 – 12:00 Data & Sample Management Strategies | Cindy Kunkel
This session addresses the critical steps that occur after cores are recovered and sampled but before scientific analysis begins, highlighting the importance of proper protocols to maximize scientific value. **Cindy Kunkel**, from the ICDP OSG will focus on data acquisition, curation, and distribution using ICDP's mobile Drilling Information System (mDIS), following the FAIR principles and assigning International Generic Sample Numbers (IGSN) for unique sample identification. This presentation will also address ICDP policies regarding sample access and data sharing, reflecting the program's commitment to open science principles while protecting the intellectual contributions of project participants. There will be practical exercises to allow participants to apply their learning to realistic scenarios, reinforcing key concepts and procedures.

Lunch Break (two hours)

14:00 – 15:30 Advanced Borehole Fluid Sampling and Monitoring: In-Situ Techniques for Subsurface Characterization | Thomas Wiersberg
Thomas Wiersberg from the ICDP OSG will be discussing borehole fluid sampling and monitoring techniques, including specialized methodologies such as downhole fluid sampling, OLGA, U-Tube, and gas membrane sensor applications. This session will showcase how these techniques have been applied in various ICDP projects, demonstrating their value in understanding subsurface fluid compositions, origins, and movements.

Coffee Break (30 minutes)

16:00 – 17:30 Fluid Research at Outokumpu | Riikka Kietäväinen
The Outokumpu deep drilling site in eastern Finland provides a unique natural laboratory for investigating deep subsurface fluids and their interactions with bedrock. In this presentation, **Riikka Kietäväinen** from the University of Helsinki, will share recent advances in fluid research at Outokumpu, focusing on the origin, composition, and dynamics of deep groundwater and gases. The session will cover key findings on fluid-rock interactions, microbial processes, and the implications for understanding deep biosphere ecosystems and geochemical cycles. Attendees will gain insight into the methodologies used, the significance of long-term monitoring, and the broader impact of Outokumpu research on continental scientific drilling and subsurface fluid studies.

19:00 Farwell Barbeque
End of Day 6

Saturday 20 September (Day 7)

09:30 – 12:00 Feedback & Wrap-Up
Course reflections, key takeaways, and future collaboration opportunities.

- **Certificate Distribution and Art Competition Awards**

Participants will be presented with their certificates of participation. Additionally, the winners of the art competition—school children—will be honored and receive their prizes during this session.

- **Closing Remarks & Farewell**: Course conclusion and departure.

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

19:00 – 20:00 Dinner (optional)
End of Training Course

icdp INTERNATIONAL CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC DRILLING PROGRAM

ICDP 2025 Training Course Program Overview

14-20 September, Weinan, China

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14 September	**15 September**	**16 September**	**17 September**	**18 September**	**19 September**	**20 September**
	08:00 – 09:15 Welcome Address Brief History of ICDP in China	08:00 – 10:00 Downhole Logging and Borehole Testing	08:00–10:00 ICDP in Action: Science, Society, and Global Engagement		08:00 – 09:30 Rock Core Handling, Sample and Data Management	
	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	8:00 – 12:00 **EXCURSION** Visit the Emperor Qinshihuang Mausoleum Site Museum	Coffee Break	09:30 – 12:00 Feedback & Wrap-Up (Drinks and snacks in the session room throughout)
Arrival	09:45 – 12:00 Fundamentals of Drilling Engineering	10:30 – 11:30 Continuation Previous Session 11:30 – 12:00 WEIHE Drilling Site Logistics	10:30-12:00 Visual Story Telling for Science Communication		10:00 – 12:00 Data & Sample Management Strategies	
	12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break	12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break	12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break	12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break	12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break	12:00 – 14:00 Lunch
16:00 – 19:00 Reception of Participants & Distribution of course materials	14:00 – 15:30 Continuous Wireline Coring	14:00 – 18:00 **FIELD TRIP** Visit the WEIHE Drilling Site	14:00 – 17:00 Hands-On activity From Field to Frame: Photographing Research for Public Engagement (Drinks and snacks in the session room throughout)	14:00 – 17:00 **EXCURSION** Visit the IEECAS	14:00 – 15:30 Advanced Borehole Fluid Sampling and Monitoring	
	Coffee Break				Coffee Break	Departure
	16:30 – 18:00 Lacustrine Sediment Coring		17:00 – 17:30 Terracotta Warriors: Historical Context		16:00 – 17:30 Fluid Research at Outokumpu	
Informal Networking over Refreshments and Local Delights	19:00 – 21:00 Welcome Banquet	19:00 – 21:00 Group Dinner	19:00 – 21:00 Group Dinner	19:00 – 21:00 Group Dinner	19:00 – 21:00 Farwell Barbeque	19:00 – 21:00 Group Dinner (optional)

ICDP 2025 Training Course Instructors

14 – 20 September 2025 Weinan, China

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14 – 20 September 2025 Weinan, China

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Privacy policy on the processing of photos

Data protection information in accordance with Art. 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR*):

We, the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP), hosted at the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), take photos at the ICDP 2025 Training Course in order to subsequently use them in the context of our public relations work. We intend to publish the photos in the following media:

- on the ICDP own website
- on the company's intranet
- in the following social networks: Instagram, LinkedIn, BlueSky, Facebook, YouTube
- in electronic newsletters, print media or other print products

Further information:

Responsible for data processing is the International Continental Scientific Drilling Program, Telegrafenberg, 14473 Potsdam, Germany, telephone: +49 331 6264-1097, email: icdp-outreach@icdp-online.org.

The legal basis for data processing with regard to photos that depict the event as such, without highlighting individual persons in any way, is our legitimate interest pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 lit. f GDPR. However, you can object to the data processing if you believe that certain photos violate your rights and freedoms.

The legal basis for data processing with regard to photos in which individual persons are depicted in any form is your consent in accordance with Art. 6 para. 1 lit. a GDPR, which we obtain individually and separately if necessary. You can revoke your consent in whole or in part at any time with effect for the future. Until you withdraw your consent, data processing based on your consent is lawful.

Possible data recipients are us and all persons who have access to the above-mentioned media.

You can contact our data protection officer at the GFZ: Telegrafenberg 14473 Potsdam, e-mail: datenschutz@gfz.de, phone: +49 351 30 711 875.

You have the following data protection rights:

Right to information (Art. 15 GDPR), correction of incorrect data (Art. 16 GDPR), deletion (if one of the reasons stated in Art. 18 GDPR applies and, in the cases of Art. 20 GDPR, the right to data portability. Under the conditions of Art. 21 GDPR, you have the right to object to processing in accordance with Art. 6 para. 1 lit. f GDPR. There is no automated decision-making and no profiling in accordance with Art. 22 para. 1 and 4 GDPR.

* General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): https://gdpr-info.eu

送別

山中相送罷

日暮掩柴扉

春草明年綠

王孫歸不歸

—王維

Farewell

On the mountain slope, we stop and bid farewell
Until the dusk descends, and I close my wooden gate
In Spring, the grass will again turn green
But will you my friend return?

Wang Wei

https://100tangpoems.wordpress.com/2017/05/07/farewell-wang-wei/ Accessed 13 June 2025

https://bsky.app/profile/icdpdrilling.bsky.social

https://www.instagram.com/icdpdrilling/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/74527546

YouTube https://www.youtube.com/@icdpDrilling

https://www.facebook.com/icdpDrilling

Weihe Basin Deep Drilling Project (Phase I) Mio-Pleistocene Asian hydroclimate variability and dynamics
https://www.icdp-online.org/projects/by-continent/asia/weihe-china/