The Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) is a multidisciplinary research institute focusing on physical geography and global change, human geography and regional development, natural resources and the environment, geographical information systems and surface simulation, the terrestrial water cycle and water resources, ecosystem network observation and modeling, and Chinese agricultural policy. The institute aims to solve major natural resource and environmental problems related to national sustainable development and improve its own innovative capacity at the same time.

**CASE STUDY**

IGSNRR developed a surface modeling method which aims to simulate climate change, DEM, soil properties, and other environmental variables; set up a dynamic model for simulating spatial distribution of human population; detected land-cover changes with higher spatial and temporal resolutions and established a distributed hydrological model and simulated evolution process of water resources under different climatic scenarios. These models were used in many regional areas in China, such as in the Poyang Lake basin in South China.
The Opening Ceremony for the RCEIS took place in Beijing at the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (24.11.2014).

RCEIS OVERVIEW
The Sino-German Research Centre for Environmental Information Science (RCEIS) was established in March 2014. It shall become a Sino-German competence center and research platform for Earth systems observation and prediction by combining expertise in the fields of environmental and information sciences using modern information technology. RCEIS will develop novel concepts by using infrastructures for Earth system observation and analysis in order to better understand the evolution and dynamics of environmental systems under global change and globalization (anthropogenic pressure).

TEAM UFZ
The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ is a national centre of excellence for integrative environmental research established in 1991. Founded in response to the severe pollution prevailing in East Germany, the UFZ has become a world-wide acknowledged centre of expertise in the remediation and restoration of contaminated landscapes, as well as the preservation of biodiversity, natural landscapes and water resources. The Department of Environmental Informatics is developing workflows for analysis of environmental systems including Computational Mechanics (OpenGeoSys scientific software), Data Integration and Visualization.

CASE STUDY
UFZ developed a regional groundwater model in the context of the SUSTAIN H2O project which aims to develop and demonstrate management tools and practices for pollution reduction in the Songhuajiang-Liaohe River Basin (SLRB). The best possible implementation of the groundwater system in the area was implemented as an OpenGeoSys simulation model in order to simulate water and water transport in the subsurface under changing conditions. The investigation focusses on the impact of urban development as well as potential groundwater pollution threats on the drinking water safety in the area.

TEAM DLR
The German Aerospace Centre – DLR is the national aeronautics and space research centre of the Federal Republic of Germany. Its extensive research and development work in aeronautics, space, energy, transport and security is integrated into national and international cooperative ventures. The Earth Observation Center - EOC of DLR conducts research in the field of remote sensing and seeks answers to urgent social questions relating to the environment and climate, mobility and planning, prevention and management of natural catastrophes, and civil security.

CASE STUDY
Among other activities, DLR conducted first data processing and analyses to reveal inundation dynamics on Poyang Lake based on a daily-resolved intra-annual time series of optical and radar satellite data. Furthermore, colleagues of EOC of DLR brought and bring in their expertise gained in numerous Sino-German projects, such as the BMBF funded DELIGHT project, which dealt with development transition in the Yellow River Delta, and supplied an environmental information system – including extensive capacity building – to local authorities.

TEAM FZJ
Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH – FZJ develops technologies that benefit research in Germany and world-wide in the areas of health, energy, and environment including climate and terrestrial system research, as well as information technology. Innovative instrumentation, e.g. supercomputers, tools for research with neutrons, nanotechnology, and imaging techniques for medicine, plant- and geosciences, allow science to break through to new knowledge for societal benefit.

CASE STUDY
JÜLICH developed a model system which aims to simulate the regional water and energy cycle. Spaceborne observations of soil moisture, soil temperature, and leaf area index are implemented into the system to improve the representation of the real conditions as well as the model performance for hydrological predictions. The system can be used for water resources management e.g. by optimizing irrigation schedules in semi-arid regions to increase the water use efficiency. Research has been focused on the Heihe river basin, Gansu, in a strong cooperation with Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute (CAREERI-CAS) and Beijing Normal University.