

Preface

Climate change adaptation is a new challenge for vulnerable societies such as China, and I am honored to be involved in finding solutions for China's development dilemma. As an indispensable response to adaptation issues, our legal system is expected to be developed for better resilience and higher adaptive capacity. Yet, as a legal issue, climate change adaptation is distinguished from traditional environmental problems and mitigation in a variety of ways. Its legal challenges to extant regulations and regimes need to be clarified and profoundly understood before possible legal responses are proposed, and before a brand new Climate Change Law is enforced. All my past five years of reflection and research has been centered with these questions and this book marks the culmination of it.

Wuhan University has always been an important place for me, since it is there my academic journey set sail and my life was greatly enriched. Professor Ke Jian of Wuhan University has kindly been my mentor of both academic dedication and personal life in the past seven years. His vision and passion for environmental law, his sympathy for those marginalized, and his perseverance of academic independence have influenced me in various ways. I would also like to show gratitude to Prof. Xia Jun from the Chinese Academy of Science. Without his help of introducing some key government officials to me, I could not conduct effective interviews and field visits in order to get fresh information on adaptation for the completion of this book.

My Ph.D. study in the University of Western Sydney (UWS), co-financed by UWS and the Chinese Scholarship Council, was a very delightful and enjoyable experience. Motherly Professor Donna Craig and late Michael Jeffery had academically supervised me and constantly provided me with a lot of inspirations and insights. Michael entrusted Donna to help me finalize my thesis before he passed away. Publishing this book is the best way to commemorate him and express my condolence. My colleagues in the UWS are such a bunch of kind and generous people that they are always ready to offer help and provide valuable suggestion on academic research. I am very privileged to be part of them.

I feel greatly indebted to those friends who support me during my stay in Australia. For Craig, Kym, Chris, Olga, Danielle, and all other friends who listen to my English very patiently and encourage me continuously, I sincerely thank them so much. Special appreciation belongs to Kym who has taken so much time and patience to read and revise two of my long articles and track the changes word by word, even though she has a heavy workload. Her love and consideration gives me so much courage when I face challenges and difficulties. I have also been so lucky to know Marie and Pak, the couple who have treated me just like their own daughter. They have come and picked me up for dinner and bible study nearly every Friday for three years, no matter rain or shine. Their dedication and passion for God's mission and their unconditional love to Chinese students set a very good example for me to treat other people likewise.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude and love for my parents who are very diligent. I am so proud of them for they are so open-minded, humble, and trustworthy. My wise and thoughtful dad has always been my mentor who would like to listen to me, share, and grow with me. Mum always keeps me in her prayer. Only after being far away from them have I started to understand the Chinese saying 'a mother always worries about her travelling son.' Their endless love and support have made the completion of this book possible.

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