



The International Institute for Industrial  
Environmental Economics  
Lund University, Sweden

## Protect our lake, as well as Sweden

Chao Zhang

The objective of this project is trying to introduce the Swedish experience of protecting inland lakes to the common citizens in my hometown, China, and help improve their life-style, benefiting the local ecological wetland environment protection.

**L**earn: Wetland habitat is the most ecological productive area and a remarkable site for nature protection, eco-tourism as well as scientific research. However, in the past decades of years, the ecological environment in Khanka Lake, my hometown, has been severely damaged, caused by chemical pollution from paper industry, excess fishing which has already caused numerous biodiversity extinction, irrational irrigation, and beach pollution from local tourism.

**A**ct: To achieve the goal, I collected pictures of Swedish lakes, connected with local citizens, youth students, administrators of related blogs & websites and officers of environment protection agencies in local government, held (and going to hold) several photographic exhibits in different sizes and organize a seminar in one middle school. More importantly, I melt lots of Swedish environmental-protection experience into the comments of pictures and the seminar, to improve local people's awareness of environmental protection and their future behavior.

**C**ommunication: Lots of people in my hometown have been shocked by contrast pictures and would like to change their behavior to help improve our common environment, especially the Khanka Lake, where people and their future generations depend on.

If you would like to know more about my project, you are more than welcome to join my online presentation:

<https://connect.sunet.se/lac/> (2012-6-13, 11-12 AM, CET)

Several pictures used for the photographic exhibition:



**Picture 1:** [The calm surface of Lake Vanern]

**Explanation:** The kingdom of Sweden is the largest Northern European country and famous for its beautiful scenery and well-protected marine ecology. There are about 85,000 lakes with a surface area larger than 0.01 km<sup>2</sup>. About 9% of the country is covered by lakes.



**Picture 2:** [Little lake in Sundborn, Dalarna]

**Explanation:** In 1950s, there were also scary environmental problems, as acidification, eutrophication, physical destruction of habitats and general pollution of waters, in Sweden, along with its industrial development. However, now, benefited from systemic environmental protection and ecological recovery, its lakes will absolutely trick you to believe “nothing happened here before”.



**Picture 3:** [Entertainment house by Swedish lake]

**Explanation:** Attracting business corporation to help improve marine environment and discover the tourism value is one of the main ways to protect natural lake and gain economic profits. Sweden has various ecoregions, which is absolutely an advantage for the development of tourism.



**Picture 4:** [Well-protected tree polishing the beauty of Swedish lake]

**Explanation:** Lake acidification is an environmental problem that has received much attention during recent decades. In Sweden, deposition of sulphur (S) and nitrogen (N) peaked in the 1970s and remained high during the 1980s. However, Swedish environmental protection groups and especially green parties play an essential role in improving natural scenery. Benefited from people's combined efforts, between 1990 and 1998, deposition of S has decreased by about 50% and deposition of N by about 20%



**Picture 5:** [Sunset, Faro Island]

**Explanation:** Lies in Gotland Island, Faro's scenery attracts lots of international tourists there, who not only support ecological improvement, but also contribute the local economic development.



**Picture 6:** [Evening at Lake Siljan]

**Explanation:** People's happiness is basically generated from the harmony with nature. Let's take every minor action today and enjoy a better life tomorrow!