

## **An Introduction to the APA's Panel on International Developments in Polygraphy**

**Frank Horvath**

In 2005, at the APA seminar in San Antonio, the first-ever APA "International" panel was organized. The purpose of the Panel was to serve as a forum for discussion of contemporary events in Polygraphy and Credibility Assessment in countries outside of the U.S. The advent of the internet, changes in social, political and legal areas, the menace of terrorism and the growing problem of trans-national crime have raised the need for an awareness of developments in the field of Polygraphy. The panel was the APA's initial step in that direction.

The International Panel presentations, hopefully, will be a continuing feature of the annual seminar. Generally the organization will be as follows: Each Panel will consist of three or four presenters, each from a different country. Panelists will make a 20-30 minute presentation, after opening remarks from the moderator. After the featured "country" presentations, the moderator will summarize and integrate the important points. That will be followed by a question and answer session, with questions posed by audience members to the panelists. This organization is intended to promote greater interest in international issues and a better understanding of how practices and policies in other countries are related to those in the U.S.

In addition to a presentation at the seminar, each panelist also agrees to prepare a more detailed paper, in a relatively consistent way, that will be submitted to the APA's Editor for publication consideration. Examples of items that are to be covered in each of the papers include: Who is credited with the initial development of polygraph testing in the country? When? Who uses polygraph testing? How many examiners are there and how are they selected and trained? What kind of instrumentation is used? What are the dominant procedures ("techniques") in use? What are the legal issues of most

concern? What is the public perception of Polygraphy?

In this issue of Polygraph we are pleased to publish a paper from the fifth International Panel in 2010. In this paper, XiaoHong ("Dawn") Zhang describes Polygraphy in the People's Republic of China.

About the author:

Ms. XiaoHong ("Dawn") Zhang received her Bachelor of Arts degree at Peking University, with a major in Russian Language and Literature in July 1990. She was then hired by the Peoples Republic of China, Ministry of Public Security, where she was employed as an interpreter, researcher and polygraph examiner from 1990 to 2000.

In 1999, Ms. Zhang received her initial polygraph training at Argenbright International Institute of Polygraph located in Atlanta, Georgia, followed by a one-year internship with the Michigan State Police in Lansing, Michigan. Ms. Zhang became a member of the American Polygraph Association (APA) in June 1999.

Ms. Zhang was teaching and conducting polygraph examinations in the People's Republic of China from December 2000 until 2003 with Beijing TongFang ShenHuo United Science and Technologies Development Co. and the Chinese Academy of Sciences Automation Institute.

In 2003, Ms. Zhang emigrated to South Florida where she has been continually employed conducting polygraph examinations. Ms. Zhang is co-owner of Dawn Associates LLC and Slattery Associates Inc., she has conducted thousands of polygraph examinations both in English and Chinese languages.