College of Engineering
Department of Electrical
and Computer Engineering

ARIZONA
TUCSON, ARIZONA

1230 E Speedway Blvd.
Tucson, Arizona 85721
Tel: (520) 621-6193

Report: China DL tour October 18-27

Professor Richard W. Ziolkowski
IEEE AP-S Distinguished Lecturer (2026-2028)
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
The University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

Email: ziolkows@arizona.edu



I arrived in Chongqing late evening on 18 October. Professor & Dean TANG Mingchun, Prof. LI Mei, and Prof. YI Da gave me an extremely warm welcome at the airport – along with a beautiful bouquet of flowers – and drove me to my hotel. My presentation was scheduled for 10:00 the next morning.

As an IEEE AP-S Distinguished Lecturer (DL), my first presentation was given in the School of Microelectronics and Communication Engineering at the new campus of Chongqing University (CQU). Dr. HUANG Hao, a member of Prof. TANG's Electrically Small Antenna Research Group, made sure that I got to the correct building and room.

While I had been to the old CQU campus, which is in the city and not far from the Jialing River, this was only my second time to the new campus. It is really nicely designed with many trees and walking paths. It is near the western edge of city.

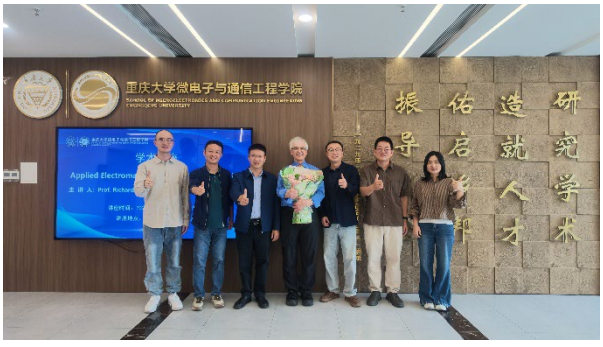
While Prof. TANG established the Chongqing IEEE AP-S/MTT-S Joint Chapter, Associate Professor PANG Jingzhou is its current Chair. He introduced me and my DL to the audience. While I have made many electrically small antenna presentations for Prof. TANG's team during my previous visits, I suggested – and it was accepted – that I give my *Applied Electromagnetics in the Time Domain* DL this time. The majority of the attendees were graduate and post-doctoral students. Several professors were present as well. The audience asked some brilliant questions. The ensuing discussions were fun. Overall, my presentation was well received 😊

The group photo was taken immediately after my presentation. Prof. PANG is to my immediate right. Then Prof. TANG and Prof. Yi are to his right. Professor & Vice Dean LIU Min, Assoc. Prof. YANG Jianing (Vice Chair of the Chapter), and Prof. LI are too my left.



The next photos were taken just before heading to a wonderful lunch hosted by Profs. TANG and PANG. One can readily see that my presentation was very well advertised throughout the building 😊 The afternoon was spent in very interesting technical discussions on a variety of electrically small antenna topics with Profs. TANG, LI, YANG, and YI and related presentations by several of their graduate and post-doctoral students.





The city of Chongqing is famously known as the “Mountain City”, having been built across steep hills and mountains. It is also called the “Cyberpunk City” because of its multi-layered "8D" vertical terrain, neon-drenched nightscapes, and futuristic infrastructure built directly into those steep mountain cliffs. Geographically, it is also well-known because the central part of the city rests at the confluence of the Yangtze and Jialing rivers. It’s hot-pot cuisine is also particularly famous.

While I had never seen a mountain on my previous visits, I had intimate, breath-taking knowledge of hot-pots 😂 😂. If you are unfamiliar with hotpots, they are similar in concept to Swiss Fondue or Japanese Shabu-shabu. You order meats and vegetables and cook them yourself in the hot-pot simmering broth. The difference is that the simmering broth in the hotpot in Chongqing is not cheese nor light dashi, but is essentially chili peppers upon chili peppers 😅

The evening and night of the 19th were spent on the Nanshan Mountain, also known as being the ultimate "hotpot hotspot". My next DL was scheduled for 10:00 the next morning at the Chongqing University of Posts and Telegraph (CQUPT), which resides on this mountain. It is one of the four China University of Posts and Telegraphs, the others being Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NJUPT), and Xi'an University of Posts and Telecommunications (XUPT).

Several of the CQU electrically small antenna team and several CQUPT AP research specialists, e.g., Drs. LIN Qingli and CHEN Zhiyuan, joined me to a fun dinner experience. We enjoyed a late hot-pot meal in the top compartment at the Pipa Yuan Shi Wei Xian Hotpot (Pipa Yuan / Loquat Garden) restaurant shown in the photo. It is the world's largest hotpot restaurant according to the Guinness World Records! It is a massive outdoor hotpot complex built directly into hillside terraces. It was a fabulous dinner and experience 😊



I met my official CQUPT hosts and AP research specialists, Drs. YU Yaqing and LI Dajiang, who are with the Department of Electronic Science and Technology, after dinner as I checked into the hotel next to their campus. As I had co-authored AP papers with Drs. LIN, YU, LI and CHEN during their PhD research years, it was my great pleasure to meet then in person at their institution in their new academic roles!

The CQUPT AP researchers requested my electrically small antenna DL. This has been my most requested DL this year – I have given it in-person and virtually a total of 13 times since March.

My DL began in another very full conference room at 10 AM on Oct. 19. Dr. YU kindly introduced me and many more interesting questions ensued after I finished it. This photo shows the room was totally max'd out with attendees 🥳



The following group photo was taken immediately after I finished. Drs. YU and LIN are immediately to my right. To my left are Profs. LI and YI, and Dr. CHEN. I was then treated to an very excellent lunch arranged by my CQUPT AP hosts 😊



Next, I was on a medium-speed (only 188 km/hr) train ride to Guiyang in Guizhou Provence. We explored the city in the evening (the "White House" in the left picture is a very popular photo stop) and then we spent the 21th Oct. visiting the Huangguoshu National Park. We did the Huangguoshu Waterfall (photo on the right), the Water Curtain Cave underneath the waterfall, and the smaller Doupotang Waterfall along with a short boat ride on an underground river with a beautiful scenery of stalactites illuminated with colored lights. The Huangguoshu Waterfall is the most famous and largest waterfall in China. It very much reminded me of Niagara Falls, which I visited frequently during visits to my relatives when I was growing up.





The Water Curtain Cave under the falls is famously known as the real-world inspiration and primary filming location for the mystical home of the Monkey King, Sun Wukong, in the classic 1986 television series *Journey to the West*.

I was on the medium-speed train back to Chongqing the morning of the 22st Oct. I was very fortunate to see the stage show performance: *1949*, that afternoon in the Chongqing 1949 Grand Theater. The show was historical about the final days before the city's liberation in 1949. The "8D" Stage, Auditorium, and show were amazing. The venue features a custom-designed, 360-degree rotating auditorium with five rotating levels that continuously shift the audience through massive multi-level sets, stilted buildings, and prison re-creations during the show.



Having been a Fulbright Scholar, I very much appreciated coupling the many technical discussions I had with the several cultural, historical, and nature activities! This approach is a core aspect of any Fulbright experience. It is a wonderful way to get to know each other better 😊

I was then on a high-speed train (301 km/hr) ride that evening to Chengdu and a hotel next to Sichuan University. My next DL was scheduled for 10:30 there on the 23rd Oct.

My Sichuan University IEEE AP-S host was Prof. ZHANG Bing. Prof. ZHANG is also a 2026-2028 AP-S Distinguished Lecturer. I have known him since the early 2010s, but this was the first time we met in person in 12 years. It was my great pleasure to visit with him at his university. He and members of his team picked us up early and gave us a quick tour of the campus.





The selfie photo shows Profs. ZHANG and TANG with me at the main gate of Sichuan University. Prof. ZHANG then gave us a very nice tour of his research facilities. He selected my electrically small antenna DL. Another full room and even more interesting questions!

I was treated to an outstanding lunch after I finished with questions from the audience arranged by Prof. ZHANG. I was then taken to the airport to catch my late evening flight to Haikou for my invited presentation at *ISAPE2026* at 10:00 on the 24th Oct.

My Plenary DL, “Multipole Engineering – in Space and in Time” at The 15th International Symposium on Antennas, Propagation and EM Theory *(ISAPE 2026)* shown in the left photo, was a combination of several aspects of my time domain and superdirective DLs. The facilities were excellent, and well over a hundred attendees were present. Being an AP-S Past-President, I was also asked to help distribute the Young Scientists awards (right photo) later in the afternoon.





This selfie with Prof. Steven Gao, the *ISAPE 2026* Technical Program Committee Chair and the EIC of AWPL, was taken during the lovely conference banquet that evening. Prof. Gao had organized an impressive program that included Plenary Presentations by other AP Past-Presidents: Ahmed Kishk and Stefano Maci, as well as several well-known AP IEEE Fellows: Koichi Ito, Kwai Man Luk, Oscar Quevedo-Teruel, Ari Shivola, and Ioannis (Yiannis) Vardaxoglou. It was great fun sharing time and the experience with these many friends.



It was also very fortunate for me to be with my former Post-doc, Prof. LIN Wei (currently an Assistant Professor at the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong), who was the Technical Executive Chair of the Program Committee (taking the selfie), and with Dr. WEI Gengming, my former UTS (University of Technology Sydney) PhD advisee (and now my mentee) who is currently a post-doc with Prof. Takashi Tomura (newly elected AP-S AdCom member) at the Institute of Science Tokyo, at the banquet. Lin organized a YP special session, and Gengming gave his invited presentation in it.



I caught my flight to Xi'an on the 25th Oct. for my final DL at 9:40 on 26th Oct. Prof. LIU Ying (IEEE Fellow, IEEE AP-S AdCom member, and Director of the National Key Laboratory of Science and Technology on Antennas and Microwaves) and Prof. GUO Lixin (Dean of the School of Physics and Head of the Radio Wave Propagation Committee) very kindly arranged for my DL presentation: "High-Directivity Pulsed Beams for Effective Power and Information Transfer" during the International Workshop on Optoelectronic Perception (*IWOP2026*) organized by Xidian University. It was yet a different combination of several aspects of my time domain and superdirective DLs. It was well attended by Xidian University PhD and Postdoctoral students, Professors, as well many workshop attendees from other universities and stakeholders. Profs. Quevedo-Teruel and Tomura also gave invited presentations that day.



I was again very fortunate that Gengming, who also has a separate PhD degree from Xidian University, was able to arrange to be in Xi'an concurrently with me. He was exceptionally helpful with additional special activities in Xi'an, e.g., getting me to the airport on time for my flight back home on 27th Oct. – not in the morning this time, but rather at 12:30 😅

A busy 12 days, but my hosts at each event and everyone associated with them were wonderful! Many thanks go out to all of you. You made it a very special DL tour in China for me 🎉🎈🎊