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Film depicts China's green movement

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When Canadian director Gary Marcuse set out to make a film about China's environmental protection, he didn't expect to return with an optimistic story. But that's what he got.

After four years of production in China and Canada, his documentary *Waking the Green Tiger: A Green Movement Rises in China* on Wednesday won a Grantham Award of Special Merit, which includes \$5,000 in cash.

Established in 2005, the award is funded by Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham through their Boston-based Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment, which supports communication and collaboration in environmental protection.

Along with Betsy Carson and Chinese videographer Shi Lihong, Marcuse of Face to Face Media documented a citizen-led campaign in southwestern China's Yunnan province to stop a dam project

along the upper reaches of the Yangtze River. Shi, a well-known environmental activist and filmmaker in China, has followed the citizen-led green movement for years in Yunnan.

"In this lushly filmed documentary, Face to Face Media beautifully captured the spirit of this grass-roots movement in China with stunning images, superb writing and excellent use of strong, compelling personal stories," Grantham Prize juror Susanne Reber said.

Seen through the eyes of local farmers, activists and journalists, the documentary chronicles a successful campaign against a massive project to dam the Tiger Leap Gorge and thereby flood an ancient valley, forcing 100,000 people off their land.

Ultimately the government decided it was better not to build the dam. It also gained rare interviews with some government insiders about the environment protection development in China.

Waking the Green Tiger



SUN CHENBEI / CHINA DAILY

Gary Marcuse (far right) and Betsy Carson (middle) of Face to Face Media with videographer Shi Lihong of China (picture in the screen) win Grantham Awards of Special Merit.

"offers the world a rare glimpse at a growing movement with the potential to shape China's future," said Sunshine Menezes, executive director of Rhode Island's Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting, which administers the award.

"The film is a great example of what we hope to do with the Grantham Prize: draw attention to environmental stories that might not otherwise reach broad audiences."

Green Tiger is the third in

a series of films Face to Face Media has produced about the origins of environmental movements in North America, Russia and China. Marcuse and Carson received the award in Washington on Wednesday, while Shi is still in Dali, Yunnan province.

Seeing media reports about serious environmental problems in China, most people in the West would feel frustrated and pessimistic about the situation, the Canadian director said.

