

SLAC China 2.0 The Rise of a Digital Superpower, Beijing and Stanford, Oct 18-19 2010

First Internet Link between SLAC (US) and IHEP (China)

Les Cottrell^{SLAC}, Xu Rong Sheng^{IHEP}




<http://www.slac.stanford.edu/grp/scs/net/talk10/china.pptx>

SLAC Early History

- ◆ 1987 BEPC2 (VAX 785) @ IHEP linked to CERN via packet switched data network (PSDN)
- ◆ May 1990 changed to CNPac (X.25 at 4.8kbps) from Ministry of Telecommunication, China
- ◆ Provided Email connectivity via CERN VAX VXNODE in Geneva

Les Cottrell, SLAC Slide: 2

SLAC Invitation

- ◆ Chinese scientists from IHEP, visit SLAC in April/May 1991
- ◆ They were interested in computing and networking and as assistant director of computing I was invited to attend a meeting with them
- ◆ They were particularly interested in a network connection to SLAC to support the Beijing Electron Spectrometer collaboration between IHEP, SLAC and other US institutions
- ◆ With a meeting in Tokyo on Computing in High Energy Physics starting May 11, I suggest extending trip to a visit to IHEP in Beijing
- ◆ IHEP were very supportive, invite me

Les Cottrell, SLAC Slide: 3

SLAC Be Careful what you ask for...

- ◆ Not knowing what to expect in Beijing
 - Just 2 years after the Tianamen Square
 - What was the technology available in IHEP
 - I was worried...
- ◆ I met with Pief Panofsky the Emeritus Director of SLAC
 - He was very encouraging
 - He had this vision of how excellent networking could make a worldwide physics collaboration really work well
- ◆ But outbound IHEP international calls needed an operator
- ◆ How to make this work with a digital network ...

Les Cottrell, SLAC Slide: 4

SLAC Pief to the Rescue

- ◆ Pief called Nobel laureate T. D. Lee of Columbia for help
 - Request top priority to installation of 3 phones with unattended international access.
 - Get me visa
- ◆ 3 weeks later after the CHEP conference in Tokyo I was met at the old Beijing airport
 - Taken to the Friendship Hotel used to be for Russian experts

Les Cottrell, SLAC Slide: 5

SLAC Working with IHEP staff

- ◆ I was amazed to find the phone lines in place and working
- ◆ They were excited about working with western "experts"
 - Determined not to let knowledge of English impede things
 - I was flattered to be considered an "expert", and by their attention, friendliness and enthusiasm
- ◆ However, soon found that despite nods and smiles I was talking way too fast
 - So wrote everything down as I talked, this forced me to go slowly and provided a written record

Les Cottrell, SLAC Slide: 6



Warning

- ◆ \$50K/year paid by SLAC/DoE
- ◆ Link moved from SLAC to the Energy Sciences network (ESnet)