

## Biography of Dr. Keqi Zhang

Dr. Keqi Zhang is a Full Professor of coastal morphodynamics in the Department of Earth and Environment at Florida International University (FIU). He received a Ph.D. degree in Geography from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1998. He joined the International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) at FIU as a Research Associate in 1998, and was an Assistant Research Professor in IHRC from 1999 to 2003. Dr. Zhang joined the Department of Earth and Environment as an Assistant Professor in 2003, where he was promoted to Associate Professor in 2007 and Full Professor in 2013.

Dr. Zhang's research interests include coastal response to sea level rise and storm impact, airborne light detection and ranging (LiDAR) remote sensing, storm surge modeling, and mapping coastal hazards using geographic information systems (GIS). He developed Coastal and Estuarine Storm Tide (CEST) model which has been used to conduct real-time storm surge forecast for the National Hurricane Center in the past three years. He has authored and coauthored 80 journal papers, book chapters, conference proceedings, and technical reports. His papers on coastal storm activity, global warming and coastal erosion, and LiDAR data classification were published in prestigious scientific journals such as *Journal of Climate*, *Climatic Change*, and *IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing*, and have been cited frequently. Dr. Zhang also presented his research results at more than 50 international and domestic professional conferences. His research has been reported and used by major news media such as the *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Newsweek*. To date, Dr. Zhang has received \$4.1 million in research grants as PI and \$6.1 million in research grants as Co-PI from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State of Florida, and The Nature Conservancy.

Dr. Zhang teaches courses on GIS, remote sensing, environmental modeling, and coastal hazards for graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Zhang has supervised 5 postdocs, 3 Ph.D. dissertations, and 5 M.S. theses as major or co-major advisor. He has served as committee member for 7 Ph.D. dissertations and M.S. theses. Dr. Zhang is supervising 2 postdocs and 2 Ph.D. dissertations as major or co-major advisor.

Dr. Zhang has served on major departmental committees such as graduate committee member and human resource committee chair. He created a new strategic plan for developing the IHRC into a national and international leader in hurricane impact research by serving as the Interim Director of IHRC from 2009 to 2013. He supervised 5 staff members and 8 core faculty members who are PIs and Co-PIs for hurricane related research projects and come from the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Computing, and College of Business Administration. IHRC also has a dozen affiliated faculty members who collaborate with core faculty members. The core faculty members are supervising more than 20 postdocs and graduate students and have active research grants at IHRC for a total of about \$5-10 million per year. Dr. Zhang has also played a leading role in managing a \$7.5 million Center of Excellence grant from the State of Florida and the creation of the 12-fan Wall of Wind (WoW) Facility. This facility, with an investment of \$8 million from federal, state and local partners, performs full-scale tests of the behavior of buildings when impacted by hurricane winds. Dr. Zhang has reviewed numerous manuscripts for professional journals, conference proceedings, book chapters, government reports, and proposals since 2003. He was also a member of various committees organizing several national and international conferences on remote sensing and coastal response to climate change.