

GWP China: A Decade of Impact

2010 marks 10 years of GWP China. With financial support during the first five years from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and from governmental agencies, the GWP China Regional Water Partnership has grown into five sub-national partnerships reaching out to stakeholders in four provinces and the Yellow River basin.

GWP China's added value is its provision of a neutral platform for dialogues and cooperation in an effort to promote the sustainable development and management of water resources, ensure sustainable economic growth and provide service to the society as a whole. GWP China facilitates knowledge-sharing between sectors and organizations involved in water, enhances international exchanges and collaboration, and raises awareness of IWRM.

Main Achievements toward Water Security

Influencing and implementing water law

GWP China had a significant influence on the development of the 2002 China Water Law. The process of assisting in the water law was led by GWP China Honorary Chair Mr. Yang Zhenhuai. The IWRM concept and importance of conservation, protection and rational allocation of water resources were incorporated or emphasized in this Law which is leading to the sustainable development of water resources. The Provincial Water Partnerships are also involved in working out the implementation of local regulations coming from this law.

Policy facilitation

At the policy level, GWP China has successfully organized High-Level Round Tables (thanks to support from the Ministry of Water Resources and other stakeholders) on important issues requiring consultation and recommendations to policy makers. These Round Tables invite high level leaders from water-related ministries as well as scientists and public societies. It has been a mechanism for



dialogue and cooperation. The ability of GWP China to get such high level participation is testimony to its convening power which not many organizations of its kind enjoy in China. This success has been earned by GWP China through its professional work and the leadership provided

GWP China's mission is...

...to assist, promote and facilitate integrated water resources management (IWRM) at all levels. This engagement resulted in the inclusion of IWRM into China's 2002 Water Law. GWP China is now supporting its implementation. Website: www.gwpchina.org

by ministers such as Chen Lei, Wang Shucheng and Yang Zhenhuai and operational leadership provided by Prof. Liang Ruiju (First Chair) and Dr. Dong Zheren (Second Chair). Last but not the least many outstanding members of its Council and various committees have contributed immensely to the stature that GWP China now enjoys among water organizations in China.



Improved management of the Yangtze River

The Yangtze is one of the world's great waterways, contributing more than a third of China's GDP through energy generation, agriculture, fisheries, industry and human livelihoods. Subject to flooding, pollution and soil erosion, the Yangtze basin has long been in need of an integrated planning strategy for its sustainable development and management.

The Yangtze River Forum, which GWP China was involved in designing from the very beginning, provided advice on management objectives and water resources protection. As co-sponsor GWP China has provided a platform and mechanism for bringing all water stakeholders in the basin together. The Yangtze Forum's inaugural meeting in 2005 was the first multi-stakeholder event in China to discuss the strategic issues of river basin development. Emerging from the Forum was the Yangtze Declaration and a newly launched movement for a "Healthy Yangtze River."

Adopted by consensus, the Declaration appeals for water management to move away from the present fragmented approach based on sectors and regions. It urges harmony between humans and the environment, a balance between protection and development and strengthened communication and cooperation among all those involved with water in the basin.

Restoring the health of the Yellow River

GWP China, with the support of the Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC), set up in 2005 the first ever River Basin Water Partnership in GWP. The Yellow River Partnership helps the YRCC to organise consultations between the nine riparian provinces and sectors such as agriculture, environment, industry and urban planning. As they explore and agree on ways for restoring the health of the Yellow River, the consultations assisted in the river basin law and its regulations when they were being formulated or revised.

An unforeseen outcome of the work of the GWP Yellow River Partnership is the awarding of the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize 2010 to the YRCC, which recognised YRCC's progress in overcoming natural and man-made challenges through innovative and sustainable policies and solutions that have enabled the Yellow River to flow unabated.

Supporting countryside development

Four GWP Provincial Water Partnerships have been established in Fujian, Hebei, Hunan and Shaanxi. They are actively involved in the implementation of China's current policies on *The Water Saving Society* and *The New Countryside Development* vision as well as rural water supply and ecological campus building, starting at grass-roots level with farmers organizing themselves into Water Users Associations. Water users have begun to own and manage the rural development process around water resources, where safe drinking water, irrigation, sanitation, environment and energy are at the core of making the countryside economically sustainable. In the process, livelihoods are being improved.

High Level Round Tables

2003	Water Governance
2004	Sustainable Development of Soil and Water Conservation
2005	Comprehensive Planning of Water Resources and IWRM
2006	Drinking Water Safety
2007	Protection of Water Resources and Water Environment
2008	Water and Sanitation
2010	Global Climate Change and Water Security in China

A Water Secure World

The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation with a worldwide network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 73 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,000 Partner organisations in 150 countries. The GWP network is committed to building a water secure world.

www.globalwaterpartnership.org

www.gwptoolbox.org