



provincie Gelderland

leven met water



Invitation:

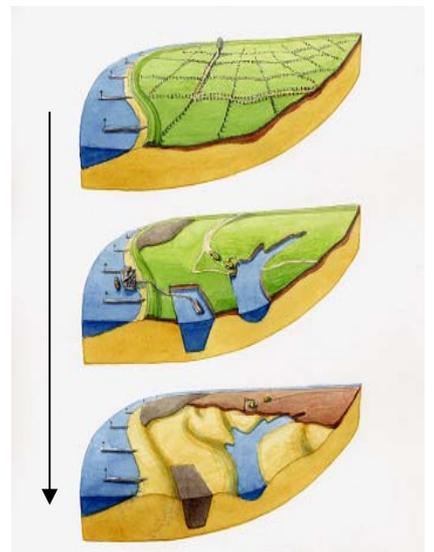
launching of the “Healthy Yangtze” project



“Flood proof” housing

Chinese-European cooperation on water management innovations

June 11th
Shangri-la Hotel,
Wuhan



Launching of the “Healthy Yangtze” project

June 11th, 2007

Wuhan, China



During the visit of the governor of Gelderland to the Province of Hubei in 2006 the “Healthy Yangtze” project was signed by both Chinese and Netherlands/German partners. The objective of the “Healthy Yangtze” project is to promote the exchange of experiences and scientific cooperation between China and Europe on sustainable land use and water management. The “Healthy Yangtze” project is an initiative of the Radboud University of Nijmegen (Netherlands) the Yangtze Forum secretariat^[1], WWF China and is based on the recommendations of the Taskforce on Integrated River Basin Management of the CCICED^[2].

A symposium on Chinese-European water management innovations is one of the first activities of the “Healthy Yangtze” project. The symposium comprises new insights in how to combine flood protection, urban development and nature restoration. In addition also new approaches in involving local and regional stakeholders in planning and decision making will be addressed.

You are kindly invited to attend the symposium on June 11th, Shangri-la Hotel, Wuhan.

Because there are limited places please indicate your interest by sending a mail to:

profsmits@gmail.com

and cc to:

yangyihui420@126.com

With the text:

“Yes, I would like to attend the “Healthy Yangtze symposium”

Name:

Job title:

E-mail:

We will send you a confirmation mail with details of venue as soon as possible.

^[1] See: <http://www.wwfchina.org/english/downloads/Yangtze%20Forum%20Organigram.pdf>

^[2] see: http://english.people.com.cn/200411/02/eng20041102_162453.html

Program

9:00-9:10

Importance of Netherlands-Chinese cooperation on water management innovations.

mr Clemens van Cornielje (Governor of Gelderland, The Netherlands).

- The main tributaries of the Rhine river are flowing through the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel. The governor will address the challenges and problems which have to be solved with respect to water management and alternative land use within the context of climate change. He also will address shared fields of interest between Province of Gelderland, Province Overijssel (The Netherlands) and the Province of Hubei (China). Key words are: urban expansion along the river banks, flood forecasting, alternative land use to cope with natural dynamics.

9:10-9:20

The “Healthy Yangtze” project; goals and activities.

Prof. Toine Smits (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)

- Introduction to the “Healthy Yangtze” project. Goals and deliverables. Relation to the Yangtze Forum. Scientific cooperation between China and Europe. The role of the “Healthy Yangtze” project to promote this cooperation.

9:20-9:40

Public participation in design, decision making and realization in sustainable flood protection.

Ir Henk de Hartog, (Province of Gelderland, The Netherlands)

- Mr de Hartog is involved in the implementation of the national “Room for River” project in The Netherlands. The “Room for River” project comprises various measures ranging from dike relocations to modifications of river bed groynes. Although the national government has made many efforts to raise public support for the Room for River project the realization of the project encountered many problems. Recently the province of Gelderland launched a new approach in which local communities play a key role in the design, realization and maintenance of flood protection measures. He will illustrate this approach with the project “Wealthy Waal River”. Keywords: co-production, role of the provincial organization in the spatial planning process, dike set backs, how to involve enterprises in making more room for the river.

9:40-10:10

Maptable; river engineering tool for stakeholders.

Ir. Claus van de Brink (Director “Sustainable River Management”, The Netherlands)

- Co-production between stakeholders appears to be one of the most effective methodologies to raise public support and to make use of ecological and economic opportunities. Co-production means that local and regional stakeholders cooperate from the very beginning of the planning process and that they also participate in the design and realisation process. The process of co-production is facilitated with knowledge and experience of governmental agencies and universities. One of the conditions for a successful co-production in river basin management is that stakeholders are able to compare various alternative land use scenarios in a river basin by themselves. It is very important for stakeholders to know what the effect of certain alternative land use scenarios or river engineering measures will be on the water discharge capacity of the river. The latter is important for flood protection. Recently, a so-called map-table was developed which can be used by non-experts to determine the hydraulic effects of specific measures in the river bed or floodplain. This instrument allows administrators but also students to assess the hydraulic consequences of changes in the river bed or floodplain. In this presentation mr Claus van der Brink will demonstrate the map-table (see also photo front cover).

10:10-10:30

Coffee/tea break

10:30-10:50

Yangtze River Forum

Mr. Xiong Wen, Deputy Director-general, Office of Chief Engineers of CWRC

- In 2004 the task force Integrated River Basin Management of the CIGED delivered a number of recommendations to premier Wen Jiabao to implement IRBM in China. One of the recommendations was to focus on the Yangtze river basin. A prerequisite for implementing IRBM successfully is a “round table” approach among stakeholders. This idea has resulted in the “Yangtze Forum”. Recently the Yangtze Forum convened for the second time and has become a powerful tool in river basin management.

Mr Yu Jicheng will discuss the present status of the “Yangtze Forum” its ambitions, challenges and the results achieved so far.

10:50-11:10

WWF China; nature and economics.

Dr Gang Lei (WWF-HSBC 'Investing in Nature')

- HSBC, one of the world's largest financial services organizations, and WWF's eco-partnership will support sustainable river management in Brazil, China, the USA, and UK . The project not only aims to improve the long-term availability of water for people in these regions, but will do so in a way that also conserves and restores nature. In addition, HSBC and WWF will work together with other members of the financial community to develop an international protocol for the financing of projects that may have an impact on freshwater systems, to ensure they are sustainable. In China, US\$2.1 million of HSBC's donation will go toward conservation of the Central Yangtze region, the 'Land of Fish and Rice.' The River Yangtze is very important in the culture and history of China but for recent generations it has become more difficult to appreciate the Yangtze as a living river, it is now more of an engineered channel. Intensive land reclamation has sited agricultural and urban settlements on former floodplains and lakes whilst thousand of kilometres of dykes have cut off the river's links to lakes which used to form a complex wetland network, fulfilling important natural functions such as spawning and feeding for fish. Not only are many unique species endangered such as the Yangtze dolphin and Chinese sturgeon, but the engineering has not prevented Yangtze floods. Over 2000 people died in the 1998 floods. WWF advocates a natural management solution for the Yangtze, finding a way to work with rather than against the river. With existing successful pilot wetland projects flourishing, WWF is using the HSBC grant to embark on exciting new demonstration sites and to work at the policy level towards restoration of the balance of nature and people in the Central Yangtze.

11:10-11:30

Water management innovations and the EU-China River Basin Management Programme.

Mr. Paul van Meel (DHV Consultants, The Netherlands)

Team Leader EU-China River Basin Management Programme [1]

- Mr Paul van Meel was the former project leader of the "By-pass Zutphen" project (IJssel river, The Netherlands). Recently he became team leader of the EU-China River Basin Management Programme.
The programme purpose is to establish integrated river basin management practices in the Yellow and Yangtze River basins that are environmentally sustainable and address global environmental concerns as well as those of the local population and which will be replicated in other regions of China.
Mr Paul van Meel will address the latest innovations on water management and its use in the Chinese-European cooperation.

11:30-11:35

Closing remarks by representative of Hubei Province

[1] See: <http://www.delchn.cec.eu.int/en/Co-operation/RBMP.doc>