

## German-Chinese Cooperation in Water and Environmental Information Sciences

Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (UFZ)  
*et al.*

18 JUNE 2014  
13.45 – 15.30

BERLIN BOTANICAL GARDEN MEUSEUM

Rapid economic development and population growth in China go hand-in-hand with increasing urbanization, involving growing mega-cities, industrialization, and intensified agriculture. As a result, water resources are increasingly stressed and productive management strategies towards sustainable planning are urgently needed. Pollution containing hazardous substances for environmental and human health, depletion of water resources as a result of demographic change, and urbanization processes are increasing at an alarming rate. Consequently, the protection of aquatic ecosystems and the security of drinking water provision are becoming an economic challenge in water management. The Chinese government recognizes the importance and complexity of the situation and has initiated a program titled “Major Water Program of Science and Technology for Water Pollution and Governance” (MegaWaterProgram 2006-2020). The WaterScienceAlliance of German research institutions is initiating and fostering research activities abroad, and China urgently needs to find solutions to the raising problems.

A „German-Chinese Water Conference“ was encouraged by the Minister of Science and Technology of China, Prof. WAN Gang, and the President of the Helmholtz Association, Prof. Mlynek, in October 2013. The first conference will provide an overview of current water pollution status in China and related strategies for solving and mitigating water resources problems. It will serve to develop potential pathways for future water research in China, considering and building on research experiences gathered in the last decades in Germany. There are two co-events of the conference, the 1st RCEIS Workshop about the establishment of the Helmholtz-CAS „Research Centre for Environmental Information Science“ and the Kick-off Workshop of the BMBF-CLIENT China projects.