

"HAY RIVER BASIN" PILOT PROJECT
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE
IN NORTHERN CHINA
Cooperation agreement between France and China
COP21 – Paris 5 December 2015 – Action Day

China is facing a serious water crisis that the effects of climate change tend to aggravate. **In Northeastern China**, the two megacities located in the **Hai River Basin**, **Beijing** (the administrative capital; 21 million inhabitants) and **Tianjin** (fifth city of the country, 14 million people) are facing a **water stress comparable to that of Jordan or Palestine**, with only 150 m³ / capita / year (less than the absolute scarcity threshold set by the United Nations). Their aquifers, which cover up to 75% of water supplies, are broadly overexploited.

The water crisis in China is also qualitative. The rivers of the country are seriously polluted. The Hai River Basin is also the most polluted in China and the situation is getting worse: in 2013, 39% of its controlled sections were unsuitable for industrial and agricultural uses, against 33% in 2012.

Solving the water crisis in China requires the implementation of an effective policy for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). To this end, under the ministerial agreement between the French Ministry of the Environment (MEDDE) and the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources (MWR), an agreement on the governance of the strategic Hai pilot River Basin was signed during the World Water Forum in Marseilles (2012) in the presence of Mr. Chen Lei (Chinese Minister of Water Resources). The French-Chinese cooperation project aims to build China's capacity for IWRM to protect the country's water resources, to promote their sustainable use and to work on the **capacity for adaptation and resilience to climate change**. It thus tests the French integrated management tools and methods in the Zhou River sub-basin, a tributary of the Hai, supplying drinking water to the city of **Tianjin**.

The Chinese Government (MWR) has officially shown its great satisfaction of the achievements and its wish **to continue and expand this cooperation** with French partners during the Interdepartmental Steering Committee **in Paris on past 13 October**. The institutional cooperation project **in the Hai River Basin**, which has already enabled to obtain tangible results with the production of an assessment, a management plan and a program of measures, helped Chinese partners to better manage the resource.

This project also helped identify major Chinese challenges in the field of water allowing the establishment of many contacts and relations between public and private, French and Chinese stakeholders. Cooperation has also been strengthened particularly in new sectors such as ecological restoration, water quality monitoring, and adaptation to the effects of climate change on water resources.

The Chinese partners have thus wished for a continuation for another three years and for geographically expanding the cooperation on the Hai River Basin to other sub-basins emphasizing the theme of adaptation to climate change.

A project of a "Water cooperation agreement between France and China in the context of climate change", for this strategic HAI River Basin was prepared and signed on 2 December 2015 during the "water and adaptation" official day of the COP21 by the Hai River Conservancy Commission (China) and the Seine-Normandy Water Agency (France), in the presence of Mrs. Ségolène Royal, French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy

For the Chinese part, the project partners are the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR), the Hai River Conservancy Commission (HRCC), as well as the Water boards of the Municipalities of Tianjin and Hebei Province, and, for the French part, the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, (MEDDE), the Seine Normandy Water Agency (AESN), the Public Sanitation Utility of Greater Paris (SIAAP), the Seine-Great Lakes basin public authority and the International Office for Water (OIWater), which takes care of the technical coordination of the project



Funding:

- Total cost: €805,000 for three years