BASIN MANAGEMENT AND TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION IN THE YANGTZE RIVER

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Yangtze (Changjiang) Water Resources Commission
The Yangtze river is the largest river both in China and in Asia.

It is 6,300 km long with catchment area 1.8 million km²

The Yangtze River runs through nine provinces and two municipalities---Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Anhui, Jiangsu, and Shanghai.
Yangtze (Changjing) Water Resources Commission

- As a inter-provincial administrative agency, the Yangtze commission has engaged in comprehensive planning, development, and management of water resources basin-wide.

- Its plans focus on public goods and common interests across the river basin such as inter-province water quality, formulation of flood warning & forecasting system, water resources allocation and water disputes settlement.
Formulate comprehensive planning

★ In 1958, a Report of Comprehensive Development Planning for Yangtze River Basin was proposed.

★ In 1990, the Report was officially approved by State Council, which had established the legal status of this planning for guiding comprehensive development and protection of water resources.

★ At present, comprehensive planning is revised to meet social and economical requirement on water demand as well as ecosystem demand.
At present, about 6,400 hydrological and meteorological stations have been set up by CWRC and provinces in the river basin.

The information is available for decision making by CWRC and central government.

The experience has shown that Nonstructural flood protection programs, such as flood forecast and warning systems, flood insurance, flood education and flood plain management, can be extremely cost-effective.
Water using permits system

- Water withdrawal and wastewater discharge permit rule is adopted in the Basin.

- Water allocation plan has set up for this trans-boundary river. A group of reservoirs upstream have been operated to release water to the downstream.

- Maintain adequate flows and set limit values for the discharge of Chemical substances to protect the environment and ecosystem.
Water resources protection

- Water quality monitoring, assessment and prediction in mainstream and important tributaries have been taken since 1985.

- Especially trans-provincial river sections have been monitoring for trans-boundary cooperation.

- Since year 2002, <Water Quality Bulletin in Yangtze River Basin> is published monthly by CWRC, it contents water quality of rivers, as well as trans-provincial river sections.
Dialog and Negotiation to Settle Water Disputes

The Yangtze commission provide a platform for dialog and negotiation and find solutions to settle trans-boundary water disputes.

- Drafting trans-boundary river agreement—to settle dispute on developing hydropower station in Lin-qi River of Hunan-Hubei provincial boundary.

- Building flood control dikes—to settle dispute on flood in Jin-Zi-Guan of Shanxi-Hubei provincial boundary.

- Setting water resources allocation—to settle dispute on water resources in Tongmi River of Sichuan-Gueizhou provincial boundary.
Thanks