

**Safeguarding our rivers:** Rivers are the lifelines of not only our lives but our economies. Yet, they have suffered as CWR's Hu shares in his reflections from Zhejiang. But this doesn't have to be the case as we look at actions to safeguard rivers this month. At the regional level, managing Asia's key rivers falls on China and India. Dr Ho from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy looks at this more. Meanwhile, domestically, China has said by 2018 all of its rivers/lakes will have an appointed river chief. We review. Plus, we also share five facts you need to know about the strategic but relatively unknown Tarim River basin. Rivers also matter to industry. Unit cost in China's coal-to-chemical sector could increase by up to two-thirds due to environmental risks. Trucost's Kaboo Leung expands. Then there is action on ground. See key findings from the Kunshan Industrial Park Water Stewardship project, run by AWS, WWF & the Qiandeng Environmental Protection Bureau. Reduced water flows, pollution, reappropriation into roads, if this continues what rivers will there be left to safeguard?



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

## EDITORIAL 🌱

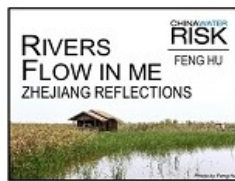
**Safeguarding our rivers:** Rivers are the lifelines of not only our lives but our economies. Yet, they have suffered as CWR's Hu shares in his reflections from Zhejiang, "rivers from my childhood memories became sad endnotes to the success of my home city". But this doesn't have to be the case as we look at actions to safeguard rivers this month.

At the regional level, managing Asia's key rivers falls on China and India, the region's two hydro-hegemons. Dr Selina Ho from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy looks at why they cooperate and how well they are doing along the Mekong & the Ganges.

Meanwhile, domestically, China is clearly making rivers a priority. By 2018, all of China's rivers & lakes are to have an appointed river chief. We review what this means and how it will work. Plus, we also share five facts you need to know about the strategic but relatively unknown Tarim River basin, which is China's 'Water Tower' as it holds 41% of its ice.

Rivers also matter to industry. A new report by Trucost finds that costs in China's coal-to-chemical sector could increase by up to two-thirds due to environmental risks such as floods. Trucost's Kaboo Leung expands. Then there is action on ground. Zhenzhen Xu, Aihui Yang & Dadi Feng share key findings from their Kunshan Industrial Park Water Stewardship project, run by the Alliance for Water Stewardship, WWF & the Qiandeng Environmental Protection Bureau.

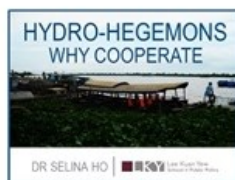
Reduced water flows, pollution, reappropriation into roads, if this continues what rivers will there be left to safeguard? It is time to follow China's lead and prioritise rivers, there are actions for everyone.



### Rivers Flow In Me: Reflections From Zhejiang

CWR's Hu shares childhood memories of rivers in Zhejiang & laments over their pollution now. But as government & business marry economic decisions with water, things are looking up

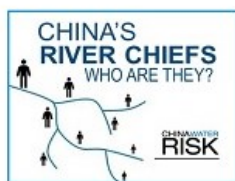
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### Why Do Hydro-Hegemons Cooperate?

Cooperation & conflict exist on a spectrum in transboundary rivers. Dr Ho from Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy explores how & why China & India work with other states on the Mekong & the Ganges

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### China's River Chiefs: Who Are They?

River chiefs were first implemented in 2007 following a pollution incident. Now, by 2018 all of China's rivers/lakes will have river chiefs. We look at how this will work & what they will do

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### 5 Facts About The Tarim River

Compared to the Yangtze or the Yellow, the Tarim River Basin is relatively unknown despite being China's 'Water Tower' with 41% of the country's ice. See five facts you need to know

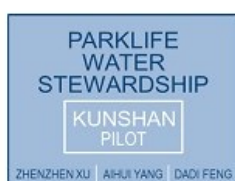
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### The Hidden Cost Of China's Coal-to-Chemical Sector

Environmental risks could increase unit costs of the sector by up to 2/3. Trucost's Leung shares a new framework from their recent report to stress test environmental risks & embed them in financial analysis

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### Water Stewardship In Industrial Parks: The Kunshan Case

Kunshan, China's most developed county-level city, is facing serious water challenges. To help tackle this, AWS' Xu, WWF's Yang & Qiandeng EPB's Feng share key findings from their industrial park water stewardship project

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## TAPPING IN 🚰

## Government

- General Office of the CPC, General Office of the State Council: [Establishing a Long-term Monitoring & Alert Mechanism on Environmental & Resource Capacity](#): red alert regions to stop production or shut down certain enterprises
- General Office of the CPC, General Office of the State Council: [Deepening Environmental Monitoring Reform to Improve the Quality of Environmental Monitoring Data](#): unify monitoring standards & information disclosure
- General Office of the State Council: [Second National Census of Pollution Sources](#)
- MEP, NDRC, MIIT, MoF, MLR et al: [Announcement on the Entry into Force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury](#): no new mercury mines allowed, mercury production & trade to be prohibited
- NDRC, MWR, AQSIQ: [Measures for the Administration of Water Efficiency Labels](#): publish catalogue for water efficiency labelling

## Reports

- OECD: [Water Risk Hotspots for Agriculture](#)
- CBI: [Bonds and Climate Change: State of the Market 2017](#)
- ADMCF, Civic Exchange, WYNG Foundation: [The Illusion of Plenty: Hong Kong's Water Security, Working Towards Regional Water Harmony](#) (Chinese version)
- CERES: [Feeding Ourselves Thirsty: Tracking Food Company Progress Toward a Water-Smart Future](#)

## Interest

- Fines total RMB466 mn in latest environ inspections
- New pesticide office set-up to combat pollution
- Green barrier to be built to protect S-N water diversion canals
- New water diversion project from Yangtze to Huai river approved
- Beijing: 23mn population limit set for 2020; end of 2016 at 21.7mn
- Monitoring standards for Hong Kong's drinking water to go beyond WHO levels
- Asia's glaciers to shrink by a third by 2100

## Hot on Weibo:

- >100,000 tourists watch "Silver Dragon" tidal bore race up China's Qiantang River

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