

Comments on “Decision-Making Framework for Large Dams in China”



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Changes in decision-making mechanism of dam construction

- The improved legal system of EIA

Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (2003)

Project EIA and Planning EIA (SEA)

Regulations on Planning Environmental Impact Assessment (2009)

Planning EIA (Utilization and Development; Specific Planning)

- The enhanced and strengthened rights of public participation

Implementation Outlines for Fully Improving Administration by Law 2004

Provisional Measures for Public Participation in EIA (2006)

Regulations on Governmental Information Disclosure (2008)

Rules on Environmental Information Disclosure (Govt. & Enterprises)

Measures on Public Participation in Environmental Protection (draft)

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Changes in decision-making mechanism of dam construction

- The development of resettlement policy

Law on Land Administration (2004)

under a new round of amendment.

new and dynamic compensation criteria

Regulations on Land Compensation and People Resettlement in Medium and Large Hydraulic and Hydroelectric Projects (1991, revised in 2006)

to combine people resettlement with economic development

--- Incorporation of the core requirements of the World Bank Guidelines and of the ADB's mechanism

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Internalization and implementation of international standards

- China has joined some international organizations, and accepted gradually international standards during the course of international exchange and cooperation (*two-way?*).
- Social mobilization press the government to safeguard and strengthen public participation and to internalize and implement international standards.

Activities of NGO, non-voluntary resettled persons, environmentalists and public media, eg. Nujiang Project

- China has the willing to receive international support and to reinforce cooperation in the dam construction in order to gain loan and technology assistance.

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Two methods to verify the three hypotheses

- Comparison of situations of internalizing and implementing international standards in different stages.

Situation in today's china is better than that in the past

- Comparison of different projects with and without international loan.

Example of Xiaolangdi Project and Nu River Project



Points that need more attentions

- China is still a developing country with low hydroelectric development and needs more electricity to maintain its rapid economic growth.

China is a country with the coal-dominated energy mix and thermal power is the main competitor of hydropower in China. In the context of climate change, any restriction to hydropower development will lead to grave negative environmental effect because of the continuing use of coal.

- China is not a country disregarding its environmental responsibility.

Willing vs Capacity



Two typical and rational cases

- Nu River Hydropower Development Project

——*A significant role in promoting the development of both the system public participation in environmental protection and the system of EIA*

- Xiaolangdi Project

——*A successful case of the cooperation between China and the World Bank which actively promoted the introduction of international norms on resettlement into China*



Conclusion

- A objective, rational and scientific report. The author has very deep insights on this issue in China.
- Decision should only be decided on the basis of the local realities of that time, and should not apply blindly a unified standard.
- China shall be given more time and patience.

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Thank you!

Dank schön!

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