



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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USTDA GRANT PROMOTES INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEM IN CHINA'S YANGTZE RIVER



USTDA Regional Director for Asia Henry Steingass (left) and CWRC Director General of International Cooperation and Science and Technology Guo Yu (right) sign the USTDA grant agreement partially funding early investment analysis on the establishment of a non-point source water monitoring system in the Han River basin of the Yangtze River.

WHUAN, CHINA – Improving the management and efficiency of China's water supplies in order to address leading environmental and public health priorities is the goal of a USTDA grant awarded today to the Changjiang Water Resources Commission (CWRC), an agency under China's Ministry of Water Resources (MWR). The \$532,692 grant will partially support early investment analysis on the establishment of a non-point source water monitoring system that integrates real-time monitoring capabilities, bacterial source tracking technology and a decision support system to maintain clean water resources in the critical Han River basin of the Yangtze River.

The grant was conferred in a signing ceremony held at the CWRC Headquarters in Wuhan, Hubei Province. Mr. Henry Steingass, USTDA Regional Director for Asia, and Mr. Guo Yu, CWRC Director General of International Cooperation and Science and Technology, signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Chinese governments, respectively.

Accelerated industrialization, urbanization and agricultural activities along the Yangtze River area have resulted in an upsurge in bacterial pollutants resulting from non-point source discharges into local water supplies. This contamination poses significant health risks for residential and industrial areas served by the Yangtze River. In an effort to address water quality concerns, the CWRC is committed to upgrading its water quality monitoring capabilities and is planning to deploy a water quality monitoring and decision support system to identify, track and detect hazardous pollutant loads.

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The CWRC has selected MapTech, Inc. of Blacksburg, Virginia, a U.S. firm that specializes in watershed management, environmental monitoring and modeling technologies, to conduct the study supported by today's grant. The study will assist the CWRC in identifying and tracking water pollution through technical, financial and economic analyses. It will also include a pilot program that will demonstrate pollution tracking technology and the development of an implementation plan for system deployment. In addition to the USTDA grant, both the CWRC and MapTech, Inc. will provide additional resources towards the completion of the study.

Since 2001, USTDA has funded over 80 activities supporting important development objectives in China. The agency's China program targets projects that represent opportunities for U.S. commercial involvement in the areas of transportation, energy, the environment, and other priorities.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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