

2013

ANNUAL REPORT

## CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH



# ANNUAL REPORT 2013

TRUNG TÂM NGHIÊN CỨU MÔI TRƯỜNG VÀ CỘNG ĐỒNG - CECR

## INDEX

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### Introduction

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### Opening

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#### 1. Programme: “Promoting the active participation of the civil community and the approach to ecosystem in Hanoi lakes protection affair”

##### 1.1. Reality assessing and building the model of community participation in improving and protecting các vùng đất ngập nước

- Project summarization
- Experience Lesson
- The model of building the community participation in urban ponds/lake protection affair

##### 1.2. Traditional programme to raise community’s awareness of Hanoi lake protection

- Ngày Đất ngập nước 2/2/2013
- Earth Day April, 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013
- Environment Day June, 5<sup>th</sup> 2013
- Achievements

---

#### 2. Programme Training School for young pioneers in environmental protection and climate change in Vietnam

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#### 3. Chương trình cộng đồng giám sát môi trường

Inspecting the ability to monitor the environment of the community in the industrial zone in the northern delta

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#### 4. Coalition to Advocacy for Water Pollution Control and Clean Water Act

##### 4.1. Introduction

##### 4.2. Activities

- Evidence-based research
- Workshops
- Communications
- Ability Enhancement

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#### 5. Development Orientation in 2014

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## INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2009 of the Vietnamese Union of Science and Technology Associations, Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR) is the co-operation of passionate scientists and officers to research and carry out environmental projects based on community participation which aim to help enhancing quality, developing economy and society, solving poverty problems in Vietnam. The center concentrates on researching into issue of managing resources, institution, policies, conversing on policies and recommending resolutions of modifying the management method, reviving and protecting the environment, enhancing the efficiency of using social and economic resources.

### VISION

With a view of helping to improve the surface water sources in Vietnam for today and the next generations, CECR is trying to become a science and technology organizations (or civil society organizations) pioneering in managing, protecting and recovering all the water resources in Vietnam including lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, swamps; and các vùng đất ngập nước; các bề mặt và tiểu bề mặt của hệ thống thủy văn để từ đó mọi người dân Việt Nam có thể hưởng lợi tích cực từ các nguồn này.

### STPROPORTIONGY

CECR is heading forward the construction of water sources protection model with the community participation (policy makers, managers, scientists, communicators and people) in order to create a sustainable model of water sources management and protection for the present and the future.

We believe that this can be achieved by the cooperation, the approach cách tiếp cận từ dưới lên and the participation associated with the communications enforcement to raise awareness, ability of the community and assist them to take part in environmental protection, sustainable water sources use and management combined with advocacy for water pollution management and control at all levels.

## OPENING

In 2013, with the aid of sponsors, partners and the community, CECR continued making effort to protect natural resources including water resources and lakes in Vietnam. In 2013, we went on carrying out activities following the planned orientation so as to help the community protect the environment. Within the framework of Hanoi lakes programme, CECR kept on organizing academics activities, environmental events to raise the community's awareness of Hanoi lakes protection.

2013 was also the year in which the Coalition to Advocacy for Water Pollution Control and Clean Water Act coordinated by CECR was officially established. With the attempt of CECR and co-oranizations in CCW, we hope that the project will make particular differences to policy on WPC in Vietnam, furtherly advocate for the creation of a specific set of law on WPC, which wil partly protect water resource from industrial pollution and other sources of pollution. In addition, 2013 was also the summary year of two projects: cộng đồng giám sát môi trường with impressive achievements.

On this occasion, I want to thank all the sponsors, co-operators, scientists, students that have worked efficiently with the center. This efficient co-operation is an important indication of the necessary participation of all sides in environmental protection task. We hope that this co-operation will expand in both its size and depth.

**Director of the Center for  
Environment and Community  
Research**



**NGUYỄN NGỌC LÝ**



## HERITAGE PRESERVATION – HEADING FORWARD FUTURE

### *1. I. Programme “Promoting for the active participation of the civil community and the approach to ecosystem in Hanoi lakes protection affair”*

#### **1.1. Reality assessing and building the model of community participation in improving and protecting các vùng Đất ngập nước**

For the last 3 years, the project has managed to identify the entire conditions of ponds, lakes in Vinh Tuy, Nhat Tan and Quang An precinct. The conditions consists of the area reality, the coordinate of each pond/lake; the eco-reality; the use and exploitation reality of each pond/lake; impacts on the entire ponds/lakes system on account of the economics and social development. This is the basis to analyse characteristics of each of them, then make a protection and management plan for each one.

The project has organized 12 training events, 12 consultation events for people in 3 precincts in order to raise people’s and the local authorities’ awareness so that they can actively and efficiently participate in plan-making process, activities and local lakes management.

By being carried out activities flexibly and creatively, the project has brought about success in developing the model of community participation in protecting hệ đất ngập nước in Vinh Tuy, Nhat Tan, Quang An precincts, especially the model of the community participation of Quang An precinct in improving and managing the area surrounding Pho Ninh pagoda and Cheo pond.



Cheo pond before improvement



Cheo pond after improvement

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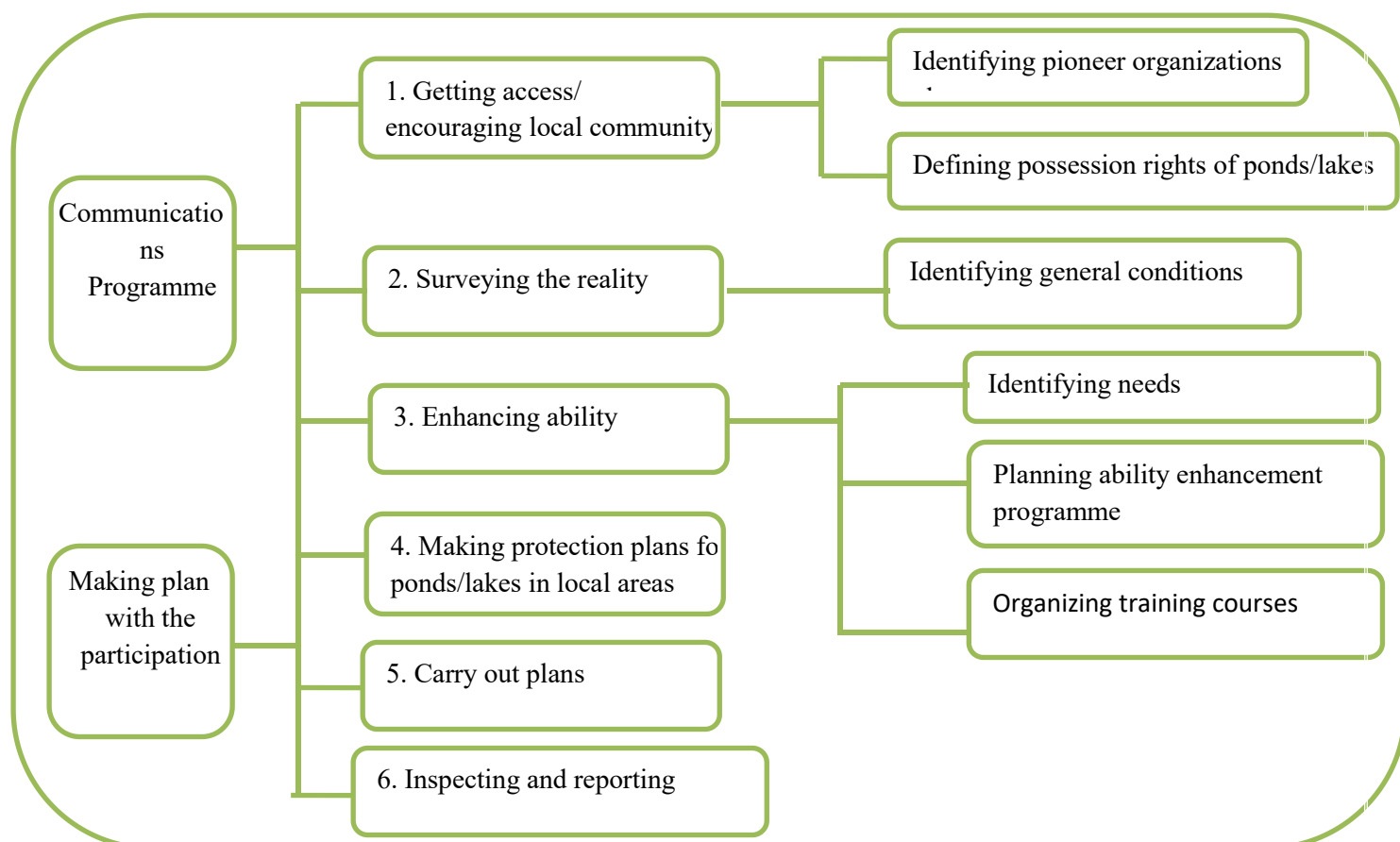
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## Experience Lesson

1. The participation and support of the authorities at all levels are the key to lake ecosystem restoration
2. The community participation especially the participation of Women Associations, volunteers and stakeholders is the main factor of lake sanitation maintainance and protection
3. Carrying out communications affair successfully helps raise community's awareness and responsibilities for lakes environment

### THE MODEL OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN URBAN PONDS/LAKES PROTECTION AFFAIR





## 1.2. Communications Programme to raise the community's awareness of Hanoi lakes protection

Organizing events to support environmental days is an opportunity for CECR to spread the message to protect water sources in general, to protect Hanoi lakes in details to the large community.



### NGÀY ĐẤT NGẬP NƯỚC (2/2/2013)

Together with the Agency of Biodiversity Preservation, Hanoi Lakes Club organized an event to support ngày Đất Ngập Nước 2013. With the core message “Together protect clean water sources, where life begins” with a view of encouraging people to act together to protect water

quality.

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### EARTH DAY (22/4/2013)

Together with Viet Nam Environment Administration and US Embassy in Hanoi CECR organized the Earth Day event 2013 to urge the community to raise awareness of environmental protection and to stop actions that pollute water sources.





The event attracted the participation of nearly 1500 volunteers with many meaningful activities such as exchanging trash for plants, drawing for environmental protection, exhibiting environmentally friendly products, running for environment....

### ENVIRONMENT DAY (5/6/2013)

Aiding Hanoi Lakes Club and Women Association of Quang An precinct to organize the pioneer event to clean up Cheo pond in the Environment Day 2013.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

After a chain of environmental events organized in 2013, the communications effect created through these events was considerable. For details:

- Attracting over 2000 volunteers from Viet Nam Environment Administration, the volunteer club For Community, For Environment – VFEC; students from Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment, Hanoi University; students from pioneer classes for Environmental Protection and Climate Change; Hanoi Lakes Club; the Intellectual Women Association for Environmental Protection and Climate Change; businesses (FPT, Newquantum) participating in the event.
- Urging for the participation and engagement of the Union of Women



Associations of Hoang Van Thu, Quang An, Ngoc Khanh, Nhat Tan precincts; youth Union of Nam Dong precinct in lakes protection affair in local areas at weekends.

- Managing to collect nearly 200 signatures of engagement in lakes protection of people surrounding 4 lakes (Hai Bà Trưng lake, Nam Đồng lake, Ngọc Khánh lake, Cầ pond)
- More than 5000 disseminating posters for protecting water sources, encouraging people not to throw worshipping goods, nilon bags into the lake have been sent to them in person.
- The Earth Day event 2013 has been broadcasted on the News of big TV channels such as VTV1, HN1, VTC1, VOV, HTV and posted on more than 50 online newspaper.

## THINK GLOBALY, ACT LOCALLY

### II. Programme “*Training School for young Pioneers in Environmental Protection and Climate Change*”.

The second course of programme “Training School for young Pioneers in Environmental Protection and Climate Change” lasted from September, 2012 to September, 2013. The content of the whole course included:

#### ACTIVITIES 1: ENGAGEMENT AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

In the engagement process, there were over 300 pupils, students from schools in Hanoi registered for participation. By selecting files and interviewing, there were 80 excellent students from 11 universities (Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Hanoi School of Public Health, Hanoi University, Hanoi University of Agriculture, Hanoi University of Natural Science, Hanoi University of Languages and International Studies, National Economics University, Foreign Trade University, Vietnam University of Commerce, University of Science and Technology of Hanoi, University of Economics and Business) chosen for the course.



#### ACTIVITIES 2: ORGANIZING TRAINING EVENTS

The course was divided into two classes: the first one lasted from November, 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 to November 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 and the second one lasted from July, 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 to July 6<sup>th</sup> 2013. Training classes were organized at the principal office of

Students Organization for healthy life of Sóc Sơn, Hà Nội, which has the natural ecosystem that is helpful for trainers to practice monitoring right after theory lessons. The programme consisted of two parts:

- Theory part comprised of lectures: The fragile and unstable Earth – The need of sustainable development; Climate Change and sustainable development; Introduction of Hanoi lakes ecosystem, the reality of Hanoi lakes and the community’s awareness of current ponds/lakes; Lakes ecosystem exercises; Hanoi lakes – Adaption Tools to Flood Control; Lake Water Treatment with the current approach to ecosystem – Some examples of Hanoi lakes; Tahoe Lakes Protection – USA; Instructions of project presentation; Instructions of agriculture ecosystem in Vietnam – practice on tea hills and plants gardens;

**TRUNG TÂM NGHIÊN CỨU MÔI TRƯỜNG VÀ CỘNG ĐỒNG - CECR**

Theory of lake water monitoring and safe method of monitoring; Leadership and teamwork skills.

- Practice part comprised of lectures: Instructions of environmental data monitoring: pH, temperature, DO, coastal observation; Monitoring practice; Development and Suggestions of Hanoi lake protection ideas.

Lecturers came from universities, US Embassy, CECR, IOGT. They were Pros.Dr. Mai Đình Yên – Vietnam National University, Hanoi; Dr. Hoàng Thị Thu Hương – Environment Institute, Hanoi University of Science and Technology; Pros.Dr Trương Mạnh Tiến – Hanoi University of Natural Resources and Environment; MSc. Nguyễn Ngọc Lý – CECR; MSc. Nguyễn Trâm Anh – CECR; MSc. Lê Thanh Bình- The Agency of Bio-diversity; Mr. Tinney Taylor – US Embassy; Ms. Tarlise Townsend- Indiana University, Mỹ; Ms. Megan Mills - Nova – Indiana University, Mỹ; Cn. Vũ Văn Trụ- Center for Monitoring – Hanoi University of Science and Technology; Ms. Đỗ Thị Phương – IOGT.

### **ACTIVITIES 3: PRACTICING MONITORING LAKES AFTER TRAINING**

After training, trainers were divided into 20 groups and continued to have 3 weeks to practice monitoring on ponds and lakes in Hanoi.



### **ACTIVITIES 4: SUGGESTING AND IMPLEMENTATING LAKES PROTECTION IDEAS IN LOCAL AREAS**

From theories about making projects taught in the training courses, 20 groups made an idea suggestion themselves about environmental protection and lakes protection. These ideas were aided by CECR to be carried out in the community.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COURSE

- 80 trainers graduated.
- 20 reports on monitoring results, results of interviewing the community and 20 reports on domestic and industrial waste water release system into 20 ponds and lakes in Hanoi (Ba Mẫu lake, Hữu Tiệp lake, Chùa Phổ Ninh pond, Chéo pond, Ngọc Khánh pond, Dài pond, Công Viên Tuổi Trẻ lake, Đầm lake, Đại học Lâm Nghiệp lake, Thiền Quang lake, Văn Chương lake, Nam Đồng lake, Phủ Tây Hồ pond, cá Béc Hồ pond, Quỳnh lake, Kim Liên lake, Nhà Thờ Nam Đồng lake, Hồ Mễ lake, Thanh Nhàn lake, Hai Bà Trưng lake) were completed and sent to CECR for materials.
- Many ideas were carried out:
  - The community living around ponds and lakes in Hanoi signed in the agreement not to dump trash or release waste water into rivers and to protect them (Received more than 150 signatures of agreement at 4 lakes, which were Nam Đồng lake, Hai Bà Trưng lake, Ngọc Khánh lake, Cầu pond).
  - Propagandizing to widen people's knowledge of environmental protection and Hanoi lakes protection: Designing the communications poster and directly transfer to the community – more than 2000 posters were transferred in the Earth Day.
  - Developing, implementing ideas for Earth Day activities: exchanging trash for plants, storing tree for ideas and messages on environmental protection from participants, running for the environment.
  - Urging for the community participation (voluntary clubs of universities) in activities for environmental protection and lakes protection.



### III. Programme “Cộng đồng giám sát môi trường”

#### Inspecting the ability to monitor the environment of the community in the industrial zone in the northern delta



Regarding information collected and investigated in the last two years, 2011 and 2012, in 2013, CECR started to intergproportion, analyse information and complete the final report. Results of the project were reported to Science Council of VUSTA and were highly evaluated by the Council.

Below are main conclusions and findings of the project:

1. Investigating the environmental reality in industrial zones, benefits and influences of industrial zones on local people's lives showed that the majority has better economics conditions (people's income increases due to the transformation of economics structure, improvement of some service quality especially transportation, electronics, water supply). However, the cost on environment and people's health is worth worrying. 100% of local areas suffer from serious water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, the proportion of people suffering from diseases is increasing (despite the absence of official figures). Especially environmental pollution also has an impact on agriculture, breeding and aquaculture.
2. Managing to collect a set of data on the reality of monitoring ability in the community of 10 local areas (Ngọc Hồi industrial zone and Ngọc Hồi commune Hà Nội; Nam Sách industrial zone and Ái Quốc commune Hải Dương; Phố Nối A industrial zone and Minh Hải commune Hưng Yên; Nomura industrial zone and An Hưng commune Hải Phòng; Nguyễn Đức Cảnh industrial zone and Phú Xuân commune Thái Bình; Đồng Văn I industrial zone and Đồng Văn commune Hà Nam; Hòa Xá industrial zone and Mỹ Xá commune Nam Định; Khai Quang industrial zone and Khai Quang commune Vĩnh Phúc Khánh Phú industrial zone and Khánh Phú commune Ninh Bình; Tiên Sơn industrial zone and Tiên Sơn commune Bắc Ninh) on the basis of investigation of 2161 objects, 24 group discussions in 10 local areas, which reflects in ignorance of 4 problems including environmental impact of industrial zones on people's lives, institution framework, the role and



responsibilities in monitoring the environment and the reality of environment monitoring.

3. The proportion of people showing good ignorance of environmental impact on lives just 12.1%. This ignorance depends on many factors: gender, occupations, level of interest in the environment and the frequency of environmental information receipt. The survey results reflect the fact that ignorance doesn't depend on locations or regions.
4. The proportion of people aware of institution framework (Law on Environmental Protection 2005) is quite small, with 10.1% having qualified ignorance and 89.9% having unqualified ignorance. This ignorance depends on occupations, the frequency of law/policy information receipt and level of interest in environmental issues.
5. Local people have strong awareness of their role and responsibilities for participating in environmental monitoring activities. The proportion of people having qualified ignorance is 75.1% and that of people having unqualified ignorance is 24.9%. This ignorance depends on the frequency of information receipt, occupations, level of interest in policy/law on environment protection.
6. The proportion of people directly involved in environmental monitoring activities is 6.1%. This participation depends on occupations, ignorance of institution framework, awareness of role and responsibilities in monitoring and the encouragement of local authorities. These monitoring activities are mainly implemented by people when pollution starts to occur.



## IV. The Coalition to Advocacy for Water Pollution Control and Clean Water Act

### 4.1. Introduction

From the idea of Center for Environment and Community Research and other organizations on building the network of water pollution monitoring in Vietnam, October 2013 the Coalition to Advocacy for Water Pollution Control and Clean Water Act (Coalition for Clean Water for short) has officially been established under Advocacy Coalition Support Programme of Oxfam.

The Coalition to Advocacy for Water Pollution Control and Clean Water Act is a network of NGOs, management agencies, science agencies, communications organizations, public, scientists, lawyers and environment experts working together with a view of monitoring the development and implementation of policy on water pollution prevention and control, therefore making Law on Water Pollution Control in Vietnam.

The network of CCW includes: Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR) – with the role as the coordinator and other members: Center for Environment and Community Development (CECOD), Vietnam Cleaner Production Center (VNPC), University of Tây Bắc, University of Cần Thơ, Ho Chi Minh University of Science and Technology, Environment Magazine and Quang Tri Trading Company, scientists, environment experts and lawyers.

The general objective of CCW is to protect the water resource from industrial pollution and other sources of pollution, to ensure the safe approach to clean water for economics and daily activities. Below are specific objectives:

- Promoting water pollution prevention and control with the participation of community and stakeholders.
- Developing legal and scientific basis for completion of currently legal framework of water pollution control and making Law on Water Pollution Control.
- Coalition for Clean Water has great capacity and is ready to take actions on water pollution prevention and control.

## 4.2. Activities from October to December 2013

In order to have appropriate policy recommendations for Law on Environmental Protection 2005 (amende) which will be passed by the Parliament in the 7<sup>th</sup> parliamentary agenda in May, 2014, as the coordinator of CCW, CECR has started to make plans, urgently develop and coordinate a lot of different activities for timely advocacy.

### RESEARCH

**a. Policy Analysis Research:** Researching, checking and analysing legal documents relevant to WPC.

- Responsibilities for WPC according to Law on Environmental Protection, Law on Water Resource and other relevant documents to identify the overlapping, barriers between ministries, agencies in water pollution management and control (Implementer: Lê Thanh Bình – Expert from CCW).
- Making suggestions to the draft Law on Environmental Protection (5<sup>th</sup> version) with the focus on chapter 5 – Environmental factors protection, clause 1 – Protection of lake water, clause 2 – Protection of other water sources (Implementer: Nguyễn Ngọc Lý – Director of CECR).
- Examining the efficiency of environmental impact assessment in the amended Law on Environmental Protection, Law on Water Resource and other relevant documents concerning WPC (Implementer: Lê Sơn – The Hai Phong Agency of Environmental Protection).

**b. Foreign Experience Research:** Researching into experiences and policy of other countries on water pollution prevention and control, pollution treatment methods, to aid the development of legal policy relevant to WPC in Vietnam.

- Lessons on Law on WPC of USA and the cost of water pollution in China (Implementer: Nguyễn Ngọc Lý – Director of CECR)

**c. Issue Research:**

- Surveying, researching into the role in monitoring the environment of People Committee, Fatherland Front, NGO and the community in the implementation of law, resolutions, policy on water quality protection in Hung Yen (Implementer: Center for Environment and Community Development – CECOD).

- The reality of water quality management in Hung Yen province (Implementer: CECOD)
- Researching into aspects relevant to pollution of the Bung Cu mysterious stream (Implementer: Huỳnh Công Hoài – Ho Chi Minh University of Science and Technology)
- Researching to assess the threats to water quality at the upper reaches providing water for Son La city (Implementer: University of Tây Bắc)
- Researching into the role of communications in reflecting the reality of water pollution and influence the punishment decision regarding law (Implementer: Environment Magazine)

## WORKSHOP



quarter of 2013”:

- The internal professional workshop: Organizing 2 internal professional workshops to make a plan and the path for CCW's Activities.

**Workshop “Discussing and identifying issues for CCW’s research in the 4th**



The workshop was held on October, 30th 2014 in Hà Nội. The discussion also aimed to share updates on information about the currently amended Law on Environment, the information basement, knowledge of WPC and to analyse prior issues needing mentioning and researching.

Workshop **“Developing the communications strategy and Urging for the press involvement for CCW”** was held on December, 13th 2013. Participants were experts/consultants and core organizations of CCW. The objective of the workshop is to make a communications plan, to urge for the press involvement, which is the basis of CCW's Advocacy activities in 2014, and to contribute in recommendations for the amended Law on Environmental Protection in the Parliamentary Agenda in May, 2014.



– National Workshop

The workshop “Discussing and contributing to the amended Law on Environmental Protection on the WPC subject” was held on December 27th 2013 in Hà Nội.

Participants were 40 delegates from the governmental management system such as International Corporation Department, the Agency of Pollution Control – the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Hung Yen’s, Vinh Phuc’s, Hai Phong’s Agency of Environmental Protection; international NGO such as the Asia Foundation, World Bank...; universities such as Ho Chi Minh University of Science and Technology, University of Cần Thơ, Hanoi School of Public Health, university of Civil Engineering.....with other individual experts.

Objective: identifying recommendations on WPC for the amended Law on Environmental Protection which will be discussed by the Parliament in May, 2014.

Main conclusions drawn from the workshop:

- Recommending that there be consistence between Law on Environmental Protection and Law on Water Resource in order to put more emphasis on WPC
- Environmental Impact Assessment is currently inefficient: It’s essential to elaborately examine the community consultation, gradation for application, implementation process of development of environmental impact assesstment, rejection mechanism...
- Monitoring: What is the role in monitoring of stakeholders? Especially what is the role of the community in monitoring? How to get access to information and reporting mechanism?
- Communications: What is the role of communications in promoting people, civil organizations and the community to pake part in WPC? Avoid formalist and do not break the press law.

- In water pollution treatment method, the approach to technology is still simplistic, and how to apply technology in water pollution control? There is a need to have a materials basis on WPC.
- Finance: How important is finance in WPC? What is the mechanism of financial aid provocation for businesses in WPC? What is the relationship between WPC and financial benefits?

## COMMUNICATIONS

In the span of two months in 2013, communications activities are to develop a communications strategy and to urge for the press involvement and to start making a website for CCW.

## CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

Members of CCW participated in training classes and workshops organized by Oxfam:

- Advocacy Coalition Support Programme – Orientation Workshop for CCW, September, 23<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2013.
- Advocacy Coalition Support Programme – Training Workshop to enhance monitoring, evaluation and learning capacity for CCW on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2013.
- Advocacy Coalition Support Programme – the first Communications Training Workshop on November, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2013.



## V. Activities Orientation in 2014

As an coordinator of Coalition to Advocacy for Water Pollution Control and Clean Water Act, in 2014, CECR will continue to coordinate and enforce evidence-based activities, organize professional workshops on WPC at various levels in order to create a forum for policy formers, scientists, researchers, managers, environment experts, actors to present the evidence-based research results, share ideas, discuss and identify barriers of institution, causes of water pollution in Vietnam, share foreign experiences in WPC so as to give specific policy recommendations for institution framework of WPC and make s specific set of Law on WPC in Vietnam. Beside internal communications activities, external communications activities will also be the focus that CECR will plan to develop.

Continueing to concentrate on activities “Promoting the active participation of civil community and the approach to ecosystem in Hanoi lakes protection” will also be one of the main focus of CECR in 2014.

2014 is also the year in which CECR put emphasis on development and enhancement of organization capacity and keep on building the partner network and local network, extend the sphere of influence of results of widely applying the institution policy develoment for preservation governance and environment.

