

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2009 by the Viet Nameese Union of Science and Technology Associations, The Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR) is the co-operation of passionate scientists and officers to research and carry out environmental protection studies and projects based on community participation, which help enhance quality of socio-economic development and poverty alleviation and hunger eradication in Viet Nam. The center concentrates on researching resource management, institutions, policies, dialogues of policies, and recommending solutions on modifying management modalities, reviving and protecting the environment, enhancing the social and economic efficiency of using resources.

VISIONS

The long-term vision of CECR is to protect, revive and manage the water sources in Viet Nam, including: lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, canals, swamps, wetlands, and surfaces and sub-surfaces of the hydrological system, so that the locals could benefit from these water sources.

STRATEGIES

Developing CECR to become a top research center on water pollution control policies in Viet Nam.

PREFACE

2014 marks the five-year process of the establishment and development of CECR. With help from sponsors, partners, communities, CECR has been making a lot of effort, gradually to achieve its strategic objective, which is to become the top professional organization on water pollution control (WPC) in Viet Nam. Our aim is to protect, revive water resources that are on the verge of being terribly degraded, to ensure the access to safe and clean water used in economic and daily activities.

With its role as a coordinator for the program on Coalition for Policy Advocacy on Water Pollution Control and Prevention (Coalition for Clean Water - CCW), in 2014, CECR has pushed research activities to gather evidence, communication on WPC to the public, establishment of contacts and trust building with legislature and management of the National Assembly, the Government and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. It can be said that 2014 is the key year for CECR and CCW to build their brands and trust with the partners.

After one working year, the program of CCW has achieved initial results when bringing forth the issue of water pollution control to the public. The biggest success that the program has achieved in 2014 is the roadmap for making a new law on water pollution control in Viet Nam. The roadmap was mentioned and committed to work together with the Alliance in the process of policy advocacy by heads of agencies, which are important in proposing laws (Committee on Science, Technology and Environment of the National Assembly, VUSTA, the Viet Nam Environmental Administration).

The advocacy to develop a new policy on water pollution control is a difficult one, but it is hoped that with the increasingly thorough participation of our members, we hope the project can make specific amendments to the policies of water pollution control in Viet Nam.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors, partners, scientists, and students whom have worked efficiently with the Center. This efficient co-operation is an important indication of the participation of all sides in environmental protection. We hope that this co-operation will expand in both its size and depth.



I. Program on Coalition for Policy Advocacy on Water Pollution Control and Prevention

The Program on Coalition for Policy Advocacy on Water Pollution Control and Prevention (in short Coalition for Clean Water) coordinated by CECR is part of the Oxfam’s Program on Support of Coalitions for Policy Advocacy. The program started in October 2013. 2014 was the stage in which the program gathered evidence for advocacy; communicated on WPC to the public; established relationships and trust with legislature and management agencies of the National Assembly, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, etc.

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION

In 2014, CCW has carried out over 30 thematic studies and investigations including the policy analysis research to identify gaps and shortcomings within the policy on water pollution control; research on experiences and policies of other countries on controlling and preventing water pollution, pollution treatment measures in order to support legal policy development process related to the water pollution control in Viet Nam; and research on other specific issues.

a. Policy analysis research

- Identifying the responsibility for water pollution control according to the environment protection law, the water resources law and other related documents to identify overlaps between ministries and sectors in the water pollution management and control.
- Making suggestions for the environment protection law (the fifth version), especially chapter 5 – Protecting environmental elements, clause 1 (protecting the river environment) and clause 2 (Protecting other water environments and resources).
- Considering the effectiveness of the environmental impact assessment in the amended environment protection law, the water resources law, and documents related to WPC.
- Water pollution control in Viet Nam: Opportunities and challenges.
- The environmental protection law (amended) on preventing and controlling water pollution.

- The current status of inland surface water – challenges in management.
- The necessity to develop the water pollution control law from the perspective of policies.
- Thoughts on financial issues and the water protection task.
- Gaps in the investment policy and management and operation of drainage infrastructure and urban wastewater treatment.
- Discharge standards of barriers to wastewater treatment technology.
- The current status of water pollution in Viet Nam – The legal framework and the orientation of water pollution control in the near future.
- Researching and analyzing legal barriers on reviving water quality and creating landscapes around lakes in Hanoi with the community's participation.
- Heading towards the perfection of the legal system on preventing and controlling water pollution in Viet Nam.

b. Study on lessons from other countries

- Lessons from the US's water pollution control law and the consequences of water pollution in China.
- Policies on water pollution management in Japan.
- The efficiency of mobilizing communities to participate in controlling water pollution in Thailand.
- The US's experience on preventing and controlling water pollution.
- China's Law on Preventing and controlling water pollution: a lesson for Viet Nam.

c. Thematic research

- Surveying, researching on the environmental monitoring role of the People's Councils, the Fatherland Front, NGOs and communities in the implementation of laws, decrees and policies on water quality protection in Hung Yen.
- The current status of water management in Hung Yen.
- Researching and investigating to assess the threats to water source quality in the watershed area, from where water is provided for Son La city.
- Researching and assessing the role of media in reporting the actual water pollution status and its influence on decision making to handle the violation by law.
- The participation of non-state science and technology organizations in controlling water pollution.
- Investigating some typical pollution places.

- Water pollution in the noodle-making craft village in Khac Niem commune, Bac Ninh city.
 - The actual environmental monitoring status in Da Nang city - the role of community in controlling water pollution.
 - Investigating the aspects related to the pollution of Bung Cu mystical stream.
 - Pollution in Binh Yen craft village, Nam Dinh.
 - Implementation of the environmental protection law by businesses along Cau Luong River.
- Overview research on impacts of water pollution on human health and economic activities.
 - Overview research: Impacts of water pollution on agriculture production activities.
 - Overview research: Impacts of water pollution on human health and the economy.
 - Overview research: Impacts of water pollution on aquaculture production.
 - Research on the example businesses in protecting the environment
 - Controlling water pollution and raising the profit value for the business in a tapioca factory in Huong Hoa, Quang Tri.
 - Protecting the environment and bringing benefits to businesses.
 - Bao Minh – The eco-industrial area.

BUILDING THE MONITORING MODEL

Surveying and digital mapping of both surface water and wastewater sources in Tien Du District, Bac Ninh; mapping the monitoring of wastewater sources from Stream 4, at Hap Linh Commune, Lac Ve, Tien Du District, Bac Ninh Province, to Cau Tram, Tien Du District as a foundation for the monitoring model in 2015

COMMUNICATIONS

a. Workshops

Organizing various workshops to create a forum for policy and legal makers, scientists, researchers, managers, environmental experts, businesses and the communities to present evidence-based research findings on the impact of water pollution on health, economy, as well as to share international experiences in controlling water pollution, discussing and identifying barriers of institutions,

causes of water pollution in Viet Nam, in order to bring forth new suitable policy recommendations that could lead to a new water pollution control policy in Viet Nam.

Professional workshop

Co-organizing the professional workshop with the Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations, the Viet Nam Environment Administration, the Center for Scientific Information – the Legal Research Institute has effectively helped spread the message “Viet Nam needs to have its own separate water pollution control policy.”

International workshop: “Water pollution control in Viet Nam: Reality and policy.”

Together with the Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology, the Viet Nam Environment Administration to organize the International workshop: “Water pollution control in Viet Nam: Reality and policy” held on April 17th and 18th 2014 with the participation of nearly 100 delegates from environmental and legal sectors scientists, sociologists, businesses, Government agencies, communities and non-government organizations,... Especially, the workshop was joined by the experts from the US and Thailand’s Ministry of Environments. The workshop had, for the first time, mentioned that in order to control the current water pollution status, it’s time Viet Nam needs to develop a separate, specific policy on water pollution control, and this message was spread widely through mass media and attracted a great deal of attention from the public.

Workshop: “Making comments to develop a decree on the management of scraps and wastes – Section on wastewater management”

Co-operating with the Agency of Wastewater Management and Environmental Improvement - the Viet Nam Environment Administration to organize two workshops that aim to gather comments on “ The development of a decree on the management of scraps and wastes - Section on wastewater management”. Participants were representatives from ministries and branches related to the wastewater management activities (the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), management agencies under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the management boards of industrial zones and experts. The comments of CCW in the workshop focused on the enhancement of the doable ability of clauses on wastewater management in the draft decree when it officially comes into effect, for example the integrated approach to solve problems, to manage wastewater based on subjects, to clearly identify responsibilities of

management agencies at all levels, etc...and especially the need to have a specific clause on the community's participation in water pollution monitoring.

Workshop: “Water pollution and consequences on human health and economy: From the perspective of policy.”

Co-operating with the Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations, the Viet Nam Environment Administration to organize the workshop: “Water pollution and consequences on human health and economy: From the perspective of policy” on November 22nd 2014. Participants were representative delegates of the parliamentary Committee on Science, Technology and Environment, the Committee on Laws, parliamentary delegates of Ca Mau, managers from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, scientists and experts from many institutes, universities, NGOs. Reports from the workshop showed that water pollution in Viet Nam was increasing, causing negative impacts on human health and the economy of Viet Nam. While the legal framework of water pollution control (WPC) has limits and/or overlaps, it would remain difficult to carry out WPC. Thus, it's necessary to develop a separate law on WPC. All comments made in the workshop came to an agreement that building a new law on WPC requires a proper and detailed roadmap. At this stage the focus of the law-building process will be activities such as to review, assess the current legal documents concerning WPC to detect any shortcoming and barrier; examine the actual application of the legal documents concerning WPC that has been brought out recently; study other countries' experiences on building, issuing and implementing legal documents concerning WPC; propose a new WPC law in the Parliament Agenda in the next term, particularly carry out and prepare a draft law to submit to the authorized agencies. The roadmap of building a WPC law has been supported and accompanied by the representative leaders of the Committee on Science, Technology and Environment of the National Assembly, the Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Associations, the Viet Nam Environment Administration.

Workshop: “The role of the National Assembly in shaping a new system of water governance.”

Assisting the Legislature Research Institute to organize the workshop: “The role of the Parliament in shaping a new system of water management” on December 12th 2014. The chairman of the workshop was Mr. Uong Chu Luu, a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly; co-chairmen were Mr. Dinh Xuan Thao, director of the Legislature Research Institute, Mr Ha Huy Thong, the vice

chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nguyen Thai Lai, the vice minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Participants were many parliamentary delegates, experts, scientists and environment managers. The aim of the workshop was to provide the parliamentary delegates with information during the discussion process and to urge for the passing of the resolution on water management, use and protection in the 132nd General Assembly of Coalition of International Parliaments held in Viet Nam in March, 2015. Assisting the Legislature Research Institute to organize this workshop was also an opportunity for the CCW to put across its suggestions to the parliamentary delegates. During her presentation in the workshop, Mrs. Nguyen Ngoc Ly, the leader of the CCW, had suggested that in order to manage water successfully, at first the water sources pollution must be controlled. Only by controlling water pollution properly can we manage water properly. She proposed that Viet Nam needs to have a specific policy on WPC and have only one ministry be in charge for implementing this policy.

Community Workshop

Organizing a separate specific workshop for the community to share issues concerning WPC and local pollutions that they are currently facing, with the aim to identify shortcomings and barriers in implementing policies on WPC.

Workshop: “Gathering local suggestions to help make the resolution of wastewater management”

The focus was to make suggested resolutions in order to enhance the implementing clauses concerning wastewater management in the draft resolution of wastewater management in local areas. On August 29th 2014 in Bac Ninh, the CCW co-operated with the Environmental Protection Agency of Bac Ninh to organize the workshop: “Gathering local suggestions to help make the resolution on wastewater management”. Participants were 60 delegates from the Environmental Protection Agency of Bac Ninh, Hung Yen, Vinh Phuc, Son La, Bac Giang, Hai Duong, businesses in Bac Ninh such as Canon, Orion Vina, Lac Ve company, food production Company Dabaco, Vinamilk, Nokia, Pepsico; the local community such as the Soldiers’ Association, the Women’s Association, the Farmers’ Association from Lac Ve and Tan Chi...

Workshop: “The role of Community and Genders in protecting the environment”

On the morning of December 23rd 2014 in Hanoi, CECR and CCW organized the workshop: “The role of Community and Genders in protecting the

environment”. Participants were the delegates of communities from Bac Ninh, Ninh Binh, Son La, Binh Duong, members of Hanoi Lake Club (the Women’s Association of Hoang Van Thu, Quang An, Ngoc Khanh, the Living Green Club of Ha Dinh, volunteers from HUST and HUNC) and many experts from the CCW. The seminar was an opportunity for CECR and the CCW to create and connect the network of communities taking part in the program: “The model of community monitoring water pollution”. It was also a mean to help the community network of CECR to get acquainted and share experiences in protecting the local environment. In addition, this is considered a chance for CECR to find out more and further push the matter of genders in environmental protection in local areas.

Press Workshops

With the aim to raise journalists’ and reporters’ awareness of institution and policies concerning WPC, and to create a network of core reporters for the CCW, on March 19th and 20th 2014, the CCW organized a press workshop: “The role of press in controlling water pollution: From reality to policies”.

b. Events

Making use of environmental days joined by the whole world to organize environmental events to spread messages of WPC to the larger community.

- ***World Water Day on March 22nd 2014***
 1. The opening event for “Protecting lakes in Hanoi” month from March 22nd to April 22nd
 2. Attracted over 500 volunteers to join in
 3. The media message “Stop activities polluting water sources” was broadcasted on The News Report on VTV1 channel at 9PM, on The News Report on HN1 channel at 11.30PM and was reported by over 30 online newspapers.
- ***Earth Day on April 22nd 2014***
 1. The closing even for “Protecting lakes in Hanoi” month
 2. Attracted over 2,000 volunteers from the local community, students, businesses
 3. The news were spreaded widely on mass media: 40 online newspapers, five big channels (VTV1, HN1, VTC14, TTXVN, VOV)

c. Printing magazines

800 copies of “Preventing and Controlling Water Pollution – Policy recommendations for the Amended Environmental Protection Law heading towards a Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law” have been edited, printed and transferred to the Parliamentary delegates in the 7th National Assembly meeting in May, 2014.

800 copies of Environment Magazines with the theme: Water Pollution Prevention and Control in Vietnamese, and 800 copies in English, have been edited, printed and transferred to the environment managers of 63 provinces, cities, organizations within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, many embassies in Viet Nam and INGOs.

Making five specific reports about water pollution, the limits of giving permission for wastewater discharge, which were been broadcasted on TTXVN, InfoTV, ANTV.

d. External Communications

Introduction to CCW

Quartely bulletins on water policy sent to the network

e. Press Mobilization

Nearly 200 articles (some of which are of newspapers considered core ones by CCW, such as People’s Delegates, The Communist Party of Viet Nam online website, Vietnamnet, The Government Online, People, the news online of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment), and seven channels (VTV1, VTC14, HV1, VOV, TTXVN, ANTV, HTV, INFOTV) reported about CCW and specific matters on WPC.

RESULTS

- Able to draw a great deal of public’s attention to the matter of WPC through mass media.
- Was supported by the Committee on Science, Technology and Environment of the National Assembly, the Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Association and Viet Nam Environmental Administration during the process of making and putting forward the new WPC law.
- Proposals on roles of the community in monitoring and the responsibilities of ministries in WPC have been taken into account and amended in the

drafting process of the decree on WPC by the Agency of Wastewater Management and Environmental Improvement.

- Co-operating with the Agency of Pollution Control – Viet Nam Environment Administration to make a new decree on WPC in 2015.

II. PROGRAM ON COMMUNITY MONITORING THE ENVIRONMENT - PROJECT: THE MODEL TO TREAT AND IMPROVE WATER IN PONDS, LAKES IN NINH BINH WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Overall Objective: Building and completing the model of reviving, protecting, and managing the environment, pond and lake landscapes with the community's participation and an ecosystem approach suitable for the current socio-economic development requirements.
- ❖ Specific Objectives:
 - Developing and building a model of natural lake management in suburban areas with the community participation and with an ecosystem approach.
 - Establishing a model for monitoring water quality and biodiversity in Mang Ca lake with the community's participation.

LOCATION

Mang Ca Lake, Yen Son Commune, Tam Diep town, Ninh Binh Province.

APPROACHS

This project is carried out based on ecosystem approach with the community participation and watershed management.

The ecosystem approach requires community participation, with humans as the center of protecting the environment, natural resources and with the ecosystem protection as the foundation (protecting the balance of natural fauna and flora system and the lake's water quality). The project is joined by the community in which the women's unions of Yen Son and Quang Lac Communes were the leading core force. The Women's Unions of Tam Diep town and province will support the project with guidelines. The experts of CECR together with the Women's Unions and the local people co-operate to carry out the project.

The watershed management approach is to integrated and unified management of water, land, and other related resources in the watershed; maximize economic benefits and social welfare in an equity way but also would not harm the sustainability of the watershed's critical environmental system; maintain the long-term environmental conditions for people's lives. In this case, the watershed management will only focus on the wastewater source of the watershed, at the same time, raising the capacity and awareness of the community and carrying out sustainable and long-term plans.

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS

❖ Quantitative Method

- Measure the lake's geological parameters (depth, area, digital mapping the lake area) by traditional, manual ways.
- Analyze the indicators of water quality and identify the biodiversity indicators of the lake.
- Identify the lake's wastewater sources
- Estimate the amount of wastewater from households living in the lake basin and Vinh Khuong market area.

❖ Qualitative Method

- Assess the lake water quality by the organoleptic indicators (colour, odour)
- In-depth interview the local communities
- Concentrated group discussions
- Model for processing waste by using the domestic compost method: Apply the domestic compost method in UNDP small grant program.
- Model for processing waste from markets: applying the on-the-spot compost method. In the communities (with sanitation teams), the method includes classifying and composting organic waste, while inorganic waste is collected and processed according to the local conditions.
- Build a lake management plan with the community participation.
- Train the community to raise their efficiency on protecting the lake.
- Train the local people to monitor the water quality and the local biodiversity.

ACTIVITIES

- Investigate and evaluate the current state of socio-economic development and the current environmental state of Mang Ca lake basin.

- Investigate and evaluate the current state of socio-economic development and the current state of environmental management of Mang Ca lake basin (Yen Son Commune),
- Investigate and evaluate the current state of the environment, the causes of lake pollution, the water quality, the current state of ecology and the lake bank area of Mang Ca.
- Build a long-term lake management model (5 years) with the participation of the community around the basin (Vinh Khuong, Nguyen, Yen Phong hamlets (Yen Son Commune), Dam Bong hamlet, Vinh Khuong market (Quang Lac Commune)).
- Build a Mang Ca lake basin management plan with the community's participation.
- Carry out the Mang Ca lake basin management plan with the community's participation.
 - An environment management plan of Mang Ca lake with the leadership of the Women's Union of Yen Son Commune and the participation of community groups.
 - A plan to raise people's awareness and train local people
 - A plan to manage domestic waste in Vinh Khuong, Nguyen, Yen Long, Dam Bong hamlets and Vinh Khuong market.
 - A plan to clean Mang Ca Lake with the community's participation.
 - A communication plan for the community of Mang Ca lake basin (Vinh Khuong, Nguyen, Yen Long, Dam Bong hamlets)
 - A monitoring and reporting plan.
- Develop and carry out the plan on basin management of Mang Ca lake with the community's participation
- Monitor and report the plan's execution
- Build a model to monitor the water quality and biodiversity of Mang Ca Lake with the community's participation.

III) DIRECTIONS OF ACTION IN 2015

After an active year with the focus of building scientific proof to advocate a policy on WPC in Viet Nam, building relationships and gaining trust from legislatures and management agencies, in 2015, the CCW will have important activities (those can be said to be the most important ones in the policy advocacy path of CCW) which includes co-operating with the Agency of Pollution Control

to make a new decree of WPC, and at the same time, preparing a file which will make a new law on WPC that will be sent to the Committee on Science, Technology and Environment, with the aim of transferring the draft decree of WPC to the law-making list in the Parliamentary meeting in the next term. To reach the goal, communications will be further pushed with the focus of organizing more professional workshops, making expert reports and articles, broadcasted and posted on influential channels and online websites (VTV1, People’s Delegates, The Communist Part of Viet Nam’s online, Viet Namnet, The Government Online.

Carry out plans to encourage the community’s participation in environmental protection and climate change activities through two projects: “Responding to Climate Change: Local ideas to reduce natural disasters and climate change based on community participation and surface water management of urban areas” and the project “The Ha Long Coalition Idea: encourage the participation of civil social organizations for the sustainable development of Ha Long Bay”.

Strongly enhance the construction process and improve organization abilities. Continue to expand partner networks and local network, show the affect of the result of widely applying implemented institutional policies on managing conservation and the environment.