

Working together for healthy rivers

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Knowledge Hub for Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems

IWC MEMBERS & PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT-BASED ORGANISATIONS



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



INDUSTRY



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



Working together for healthy rivers

The Asia-Pacific Region is rich in water resources. It comprises more than 100 major river basins and has some of the highest biodiversity in the world. This region is also the most populated on the planet, and faces immense challenges as it balances the protection of its water resources, rivers and the aquatic ecosystems that depend on them with the need to provide safe, clean water and sanitation services, food and energy for a growing population and a changing climate.

The Knowledge Hub for Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems (Healthy Rivers Knowledge Hub) works alongside river basin managers across the Asia-Pacific to access the knowledge, expertise and capacity required to create healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems.

A network of knowledge

The Healthy Rivers Knowledge Hub is a network of organisations, committed to the protection of river basins, which collectively house a breadth of knowledge and experience rarely found in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Healthy Rivers Knowledge Hub provides a single point of access to a unique combination of academic 'know-how' and on-ground practice. The network comprises:

- government organisations representing national, state and local municipality interests
- world-class universities working across all aspects of the water cycle and sustainability dimensions
- highly-experienced independent consulting organisations
- non-government organisations working independently across multiple sectors in waterway management.

IWC works with its knowledge partners to disseminate best practice from Australia and around the world on the management and protection of healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems. Knowledge partners are internationally recognised for their innovative approaches to developing real solutions specific to local contexts. Collectively, the Healthy Rivers Knowledge Hub's expertise:

- represents the latest thinking across all aspects of the water cycle, including the bio-physical, socio-economic and political sciences
- examines policy, planning and management dimensions from national, state, local and non-governmental perspectives
- encompasses a wide range of climatic zones, including the tropical and sub-tropical
- applies best practice technology and decision making tools.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

River Health and Environmental Flows in China

The Australia-China Environment Development Partnership (ACEDP) is a five-year Australian Government AusAID and People's Republic of China initiative. The largest ACEDP project is the two-year, AU\$3.4 million River Health and Environmental Flows in China Project (RH&EF). Managed by IWC, the project draws on multi-disciplinary water experts from our four world-class member universities, and the South East Queensland (SEQ) Healthy Waterways Partnership, the Queensland Government and various independent experts.

This project has trialled international approaches to river health monitoring and environmental flow management in three pilot locations – the Pearl, Yellow and Liao Rivers – to determine the wider application of these approaches in China. River health and environmental flow assessments have been undertaken and river health report cards developed to raise awareness among policy makers and stakeholders. The project has supported the development of a draft national framework for Environmental Flows and Ecological Restoration, which includes a range of policy mechanisms. Importantly, the project has helped to build the capacity of a group of technicians in China to develop and conduct river health and environmental flow assessments in other locations.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Asian Water Development Outlook 2010

As the Knowledge Hub for Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems, IWC was contracted by the Asian Development Bank to participate in the development of the Asian Water Development Outlook 2010 (AWDO 2010) by providing an in-depth analysis of its fourth key dimension of water security – restoring healthy rivers.

The goal of this project was to provide a high-quality publication with important messages for leaders in the region to increase water security for all. The work was led by IWC's Dr Eva Abal. It involved using indicators and collected data to develop a water security index for restoring healthy rivers, formulating key messages and policy options for leaders, and producing a final report for outputs.

The key message of the publication was the need to manage water resources and services, while at the same time restoring healthy rivers and ecosystems. Restoring vital river functions and ecosystems will ensure that the rivers continue to provide the benefits that human beings enjoy.



An integrated approach to knowledge sharing and capacity building

The Healthy Rivers Knowledge Hub builds relationships and delivers state-of-the-art knowledge and networks and the capacity to tackle complex river health and integrated water resource management problems in the Asia-Pacific Region. Utilising the capabilities of our Healthy Rivers Knowledge Hub's knowledge partners provides a unique combination of inter-disciplinary expertise across multiple sectors of healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems.

The Hub:

- provides access to best practice knowledge including case studies, key publications, tool kits and resources
- undertakes on-ground projects using multi-disciplinary teams in collaboration with local stakeholders
- designs and delivers education, training and capacity development programs tailored to local needs

Healthy rivers knowledge hub – focus areas

Across its many focus areas, the Healthy Rivers Knowledge Hub can assist river basin managers and its stakeholders to:

- design strategies and frameworks to support whole-of-river basin planning and management
- develop and implement frameworks to support ecosystem health monitoring of rivers, including the development of score cards
- identify and design management actions such as river restoration to support healthy river outcomes, and
- design processes and frameworks to support strong governance and community engagement in the development of river management.

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Publications
& resources



Case
studies



Websites



Networking



Education
& training

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum KnowledgeHubs

The International WaterCentre was appointed by the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) as a centre of excellence committed to improving water security in the Asian-Pacific Region within the knowledge domain of healthy rivers and aquatic ecosystems.

“IWC in Brisbane serves as the Asia-Pacific’s portal to water resources expertise in Australia.”

Wouter Lincklaen Arriens
Lead Professional (Water Resources Management)
Regional and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank



Asia-Pacific
Water Forum
KnowledgeHubs

The APWF was launched in 2006 to improve sustainable water management in the region by capitalising on its diversity and rich history of experience in dealing with water as a fundamental part of human existence.

KnowledgeHubs is the APWF’s network of regional water knowledge hubs. Each hub promotes knowledge sharing and champions feasible solutions for its priority water topic. The KnowledgeHubs approach emphasises knowledge partnerships and networking to improve knowledge generation, sharing and capacity development.

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