

Changsha Declaration on Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Context of Urbanization

May 22-23, 2014, Changsha, China

The ASEM Seminar on Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Context of Urbanization, organized by the ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center, co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, the People's Government of Hunan Province, and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), and in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, UNESCO-IHE, the Hungarian Water Cluster, and the ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN), was held on May 22nd and May 23rd, 2014, in Changsha, Hunan Province of China. After in-depth discussions on policy innovation of urban water management, aquatic ecosystem-oriented urban planning, and innovation and application of water technologies, we jointly issue the following declaration:

WE REALISE that water is the source of life, the birthplace of a city and its soul.

With rapid urbanization, issues like balancing supply and demand of water resources, public health, safe drinking water and water sanitation, combatting pollution, water-related natural disasters under extreme climatic conditions, wearing out of water-related equipment become a challenge to sustainable urban development. Green, low-carbon and sustainable new urbanization that promotes harmony between human beings and water requires more attention and study.

WE RECOGNISE that during the process of urbanization, sustainable use of water resources should be given equal consideration as land index, industrial distribution, and employment. Integration of urban water system management and aquatic environment should be adopted. Sustainable utilization of water should be incorporated into policies, planning, service and assessment of urban development in order to reduce risks, realize social security, achieve economic stability, create a clean environment and improve public health.

WE REFLECTED on valuable experiences and advanced technologies of developed countries in Asia and Europe in urbanization and sustainable water management. As developing countries in Asia and Europe are sparing no efforts in pursuing a sustainable urbanization approach, huge potential for cooperation exists. In conjunction with the ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center, we will enhance sustainable water management under the framework of ASEM, and continuously support the Center to carry out relevant activities related to urbanization and sustainable water management in Asia and Europe, so as to realize the complementary advantages among ASEM members, which is of substantial and pragmatic significance.

We hereby pledge that

WE shall utilize our respective strength to seek common interest and joint participation. We shall submit the meeting's outcome to the 10th ASEM Summit, the 5th ASEM Environment Ministers' Meeting and the Board of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), and promote policy dialogue, planning and research, joint initiatives, and other practical activities.

WE shall strengthen Asian-European regional exchange and collaboration, create a platform for urbanization and sustainable water management, and jointly cope with a series of challenges in the field of water pollution control, ecological protection and pollution restoration, flood prevention, water sanitation and security, the balance between supply and demand of water, and publicity and education on water-saving.

WE shall jointly promote policy innovation and management, research and development, and demonstration and transfer of applicable technology, break through the barriers of cooperation in water technology innovation, enhance regional exchange and cooperation in experience, and data sharing and information, and jointly facilitate the demonstration, transfer, and diffusion of integrated water innovation technology across Asia and Europe.

WE shall work together to build an innovative platform set forth by the ASEM Water Resources Research and Development Center, promote the establishment of an ASEM Network for Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation in Water Resources, and give support in terms of projects, information, and modeling operation mechanisms. We shall explore mechanisms of consultative and coordinating cooperation for environmental protection in relation to urban

water management, synergize the strengths in Asia and Europe in water conservation, and create a mutually beneficial pattern of complementary advantages and resource sharing.

Participants from the following ASEM countries and organizations:

Australia, Cambodia, China, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lao PDR, Norway, Pakistan, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom; Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), ASEF University Alumni Network (ASEFUAN), UNESCO-IHE, WWF