River Chief System of China

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1. Four Major Challenges of Water Security in China

- Intensification of water shortage
- Worsening of ecological degradation
- Severity of water pollution
- Frequent occurrence of water disasters
2. Outstanding issues related to Rivers and Lakes

- Encroachment of river courses
- Reclamation of Lakes
- Excessive discharge of pollutants
- Illegal sand mining
- Destruction of water ways
- Fishing by the use of poisons, explosives and electricity.
3. Legal Framework

- Legal system for water governance has been built under the framework of Water Law, Flood Control Law, Law of Soil and Water Conservation and Water Pollution Control as well as other water-related regulations and policies.

- Chinese government elevating the concept of Ecological civilization to a national level strategy

- In April 2015, State Council released “Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution” Ministry of Water Resources and other 12 Ministries and Departments together participated in implementation.
4. Establishment of the River Chief System

In 2012, a New Concept of Building Ecological Civilization was first proposed.

In Nov 2016, the Central government issued the "Opinion on Comprehensively Promoting the River Chief System".

In Dec 2017, the Central government issued the "Guidance on the Implementation of the River Chief System".

Vision to Reality:
The central government explicitly requested that the River Chief system be fully established by the end of 2018.
5. Institutional Set-up of River Chief System

Jointly Work together to investigate problems and develop measures

River chief system

- 01 Chief at provincial level
- 02 Chief at city level
- 03 Chief at county level
- 04 Chief at township level

Departments involved:

- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Ecology and Environment
- Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

River Chief Office
6. Mandate of the River Chief

- Water resources protection
- Law execution and supervision
- Water environment restoration
- Shorelines of rivers and lakes
- Water pollution prevention and control
- Ecological restoration
7. Overall Progress

1. The River and Lake Chief System has been fully established in China by end of 2018.

2. River and Lake Chiefs at all levels fulfilled their duties and responsibilities.

3. The management of rivers and lakes has been effectively implemented.
8. Achievements

■ 14th Five Year Plan and Vision 2035

➤ Improve the quality and stability of the ecosystem, adhere to the management of landscape forest, land, lake and grass system and build a natural reserve system with national park as the main body.

➤ Strengthen the river and lake system, strengthen the ecological protection and management of the wetlands of major rivers and lakes.

➤ Implement the Ten-Year Fishing Ban on the Yangtze River.
Thank you