

Abstract: Third International Conference on Ecological Sanitation

Title	Biogas and ecological sanitation - combining German and Chinese know-how
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Biogas and ecological sanitation - combining German and Chinese know-how

China's problems in human waste disposal are massive, and the country is seen by the UN as crucial to helping it meet the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of the world's population without access to basic sanitation. In addition, many of the country's rivers are badly polluted as raw sewage and animal manure often gets only basic treatment.

However, China created already a legislative framework for environmental protection, and in order to apply these laws more effectively, local authorities are seeking support from experts familiar with sanitation and environmental technology "Made in Germany" or experienced in other countries. Environmental protection and ecological sanitation not only secures the natural foundations of life for any population around the world; in many cases it is linked to economic advantages as well. In the wake of the globalisation of a number of markets, the success of foreign trade also depends upon compliance with international environmental standards.

There is a need for specialists with experience in the implementation of laws and guidelines and also in policies and incentives to induce private enterprise to adopt the "green technologies" that are in demand. Integrated Experts working in China have an additional task: to help master the complicated transition from a planned economy to a market economy.

After all, the Federal Republic of Germany has had to cope with the same problems in the east of the country in the wake of reunification. Here, too, the priority tasks were to privatise state-owned companies, encourage the founding of small and medium-sized enterprises and to provide an attractive climate for investment. This – together with the world wide experience with ecological sanitation gathered by German Development Cooperation Institutions - is a good starting point for the transfer of appropriate know-how.

The full paper will provide detailed information about the experience to which extend Chinese-German biogas and ecological sanitation expert teams combine their knowledge on how to manage integrated ecological sanitation systems, especially in respect to hygienic handling of excreta and manure, urban agriculture and environmental improvement, biogas production and its efficient use.