The role of local knowledge in China's water resource management: A comparative study of the challenges to Landscape Integrated Water Resource Management (LIWRM) of Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta regions

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Dissertation Abstract
The aim of this research is to explore the growing significance of local knowledge in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in 'Green era' of China, in which the construction of the environment has been anchored in the government achievements. Functional water management has been incorporated into the landscape design as a way of 'return to nature' political ideology. However, the Landscape Integrated Water Resource Management (LWIRM) as a decentralized application of IWRM obtained little attention, especially on the extent to which it is able to address context specific issues as well as the role of evolving local knowledge. The multidimensional knowledge structure includes various water related perceptions, principles, institutions and approaches to interact with the ecology. Using the lens of political ecology and anthropology, this research will conduct a comparative study of Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta regions. By enquiring in the physical, political and social forces of LWIRM, this research will bring new insights in contextualized adaptation of IWRM, an imported 'umbrella approach', in water resource discourse.