# International Expert Meeting on "Local Water Management in a Global Context"

**14-16 November 2019**

**Northwest A&F University, Yangling, China**

**Background.** Sustainable water management is essential for economies, people and ecosystems. Water managers and governments around the world are facing similar challenges: How to satisfy growing food and energy demands given limited local water availability and climate change while simultaneously ensure a steady economic development? During the past decade we have seen an increasing volume of research carried out on global processes like changing virtual water trade patterns and countries externalizing their water footprint of consumption, thus shifting the burden of environmental impacts of water use and pollution. Water management, however, is still basically done at the local or national level, by river basin or catchment authorities and by municipal, provincial and national governments.

**The challenge.** There is a large gap in understanding how global economic trends and dynamics can be included in local or national decision making. It is difficult to see how water managers or other local or national authorities can include the global context of trade and remote impacts in their decisions. There are models and approaches to characterize and even project virtual water trade networks, but as yet insights on global processes have not landed at the local or national water management level. For making effective progress towards UN's Sustainable Development Goals, it is essential to bridge knowledge on how decisions and processes on different levels influence one another: what is decided locally may have effects elsewhere, globally, and changes in global demands for food and energy may impact local water resources. We need to better understand the interactions between the traditional local scale at which water management takes place and the global scale at which water-intensive commodities are traded and water burdens shifted. The international expert meeting will focus on addressing precisely these questions: what do global changes in consumption and trade possibly mean for local or national water managers, and, vice versa, how will local decisions on growing food, producing energy and managing water possibly affect global trends on trade?

**Participants.** The expert meeting will bring together **15** widely recognized international experts from different countries and backgrounds (invited only).

**Special issue.** We aim to produce a special issue in *Advances in Water Resources*. All experts are requested to submit a title and abstract for their presentation ultimately by **15 October 2019**. This abstract will form the basis for the paper to be submitted after the international expert meeting, ultimately by **31 December 2019**.

## Programme

**14 November 2019: Open Research Seminar***

| 14:30-16:00 | Invited lectures: 3×(20'+10') |
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**15 November 2019: International Expert Meeting****

| 08:40-09:00 | Opening |
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| 9:00-10:20 | Invited lectures: 4×(15'+5') |
| Coffee break | |
| 10:40-12:00 | Invited lectures: 4×(15'+5') |
| Lunch | |
| 14:00-15:20 | Invited lectures: 4×(15'+5') |
| Coffee break | |
| 15:40-17:00 | Invited lectures: 3×(15'+5') |
| Coffee break | |
| 17:20-18:20 | Discussion |
| 19:00-21:00 | Dinner |

**16 November 2019*****

| 9:00-10:00 | Campus tour |
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| 10:00-16:00 | Terracotta Warrior trip (by bus) |

\* The 1st day there will be a research seminar open for staff, postdocs and students. Three of the international experts will present their work for a large audience. Other experts are welcome to join.

\*\* The 2nd day will be the international expert meeting (closed, invited only).

\*\*\* The 3rd day starts with a brief tour along field research and lab experiments at the campus of NWAFU, followed by a visit to the world famous Terracotta Army near Xi'an. Travelling together with a small group of water experts will undoubtedly stimulate further intellectual exchanges.

## Organizing committee



**Prof. Pute Wu**
Northwest A&F University

**Prof. Arjen Y. Hoekstra**
University of Twente

**Prof. Paolo D'Odorico**
UC Berlerly

**Prof. La Zhuo**
ISWC, CAS & MWR
(meeting contact)

## Organizations



UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

water footprint network

NSFC
National Natural Science
Foundation of China

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