

Preface

This bulletin report, published in the *IDE Joint Research Program Series*, is a collection of research papers by the members of a joint research project, ‘Stakeholder Involvement in Water Environment Conservation in the Tai Lake Basin,’ initiated by the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), and the Center for Environmental Management and Policy, the School of the Environment (CEMP-SOE), Nanjing University, in the fiscal year of 2010.

Water environment conservation requires more effective governance in China. Tai Lake (pronounced ‘tai-hu’ in Chinese, alternatively written as “Lake Tai”), located in the Yangtze Delta region where miraculous economic growth has occurred, is one of the heavily polluted lakes in China. In this lake basin, policy innovation to supplement both command-and-control policy and ongoing programs and projects on water environment conservation has been sought since the water crisis in 2007. Through the past two years of research in the Tai Lake Basin, it has been found that community roundtable meetings show some effectiveness in promoting information sharing and dialogue among residents, enterprises, and local government. In this research project, we intend to build a new research framework to involve more stakeholders effectively in ongoing/planned policy, programs and projects on water environment conservation as well as to find key factors for promoting public participation and partnerships among stakeholders by evaluating and refining a method for community roundtable meetings in the Tai Lake Basin.

These papers are based on a sequence of joint research activities conducted in both China and Japan. Please see the Appendices for details on major activities in our joint research project during fiscal year 2010. In addition to our joint research project, IDE and CEMP have joined an international exchange program initiated by China Environment Forum, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (CEF-WWC), based in Washington D.C., with a grant from the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation. For details on this program, please see the website of CEF-WWC at www.wilsoncenter.org.

I would like to thank not only all the members of our study group for their tremendous contributions and efforts, but also the many people who provided beneficial

input, suggestions, and assistance during our sequence of research activities in China and Japan. Also, I deeply appreciate the strong initiative of Dr. Jennifer Turner and Mr. Peter Marsters of the CEF-WWC and the valuable input and suggestions from many American experts who joined our workshops and study tours.

Kenji Otsuka

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