



Wastewater and Solid Waste Management in Provincial Centers

NEWSLETTER

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The '**Wastewater and Solid Waste Management Program**' contributes to improved environmental conditions in, at present, six provincial centers through comprehensive wastewater management, comprising the enhancement of existing waste water collection systems and the construction of new waste water treatment facilities, and/or through improved collection and disposal of domestic solid waste. Capacity development for related municipal/provincial service providers and other relevant institutions assure the sustainable use of the facilities and contributes to improving customer services.

The Vietnamese partner cities/provinces include: Bac Ninh, Hai Duong, Vinh/Nghe An, Can Tho, Tra Vinh and Soc Trang. The German partner institutions include KfW-Development Bank, GTZ-German Technical Cooperation, and DED-German Development Service.

Component: TC Component 2 - Capacity Development Wastewater Management

Perspective: Institutional Issues and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Activity: International Study Tour

Location: Australia

Date: November 24 to December 1, 2009

International study tours are widely considered an integral and important tool for capacity building project implementations. They serve multifold objectives exceeding the sole 'learn-effect' of visiting institutions and facilities in the sector of another, more developed country.

As proven by the WWM project's study tour to Germany in the project's first phase, joint trips with the participation of the project's key stakeholders and decision makers at national and provincial level can remarkably improve working and personal relations through shared experiences and the creation of common perceptions. These social side-effects of study tours are a critical premise for successful cooperation and the achievement of desired project results.

Consequently, the WWM project organized its second international study tour since project start in 2005, this time with the destination Australia. Selected WWM project staff joined up with delegates from the Ministry of Construction and two high-ranking delegates of each participating province (chairman/vice-chairman of the



province/city and director/chairman of the respective wastewater company) and visited the cities of Sydney and Melbourne as well as surrounding rural areas.

The study tour had a strong focus on institutional issues, wastewater tariffs and decentralized wastewater treatment. The organization of the study tour had been sub-contracted to the Australian consulting firm GHD and was specifically designed to meet the project's current needs and desires. Amongst others, the itinerary included visits and talks to

- Sydney Institute of Sustainable Futures (University of Technology Sydney)
- Sydney Water
- Barwon Water
- Australian Water

- GHD consulting firm

The probably most important lesson learned regards the Australian system to calculate and collect wastewater tariffs. This issue was considered as the most important by all delegates, and their desire to learn about it could be addressed in several discussions especially with Sydney Water and Barwon Water.

The reuse of treated wastewater was another lesson learned which specifically highlighted the flexibility of decentralized solutions.

The study tour was highly appreciated by all participants. All delegates expressed their gratitude to the project enabling them to get closer to the issues related to wastewater in their provinces.