

GLOBAL CHOKE POINT: WATER-ENERGY-FOOD CONFRONTATIONS IN THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST ECONOMIES

Room 127, Leo KoGuan Building, Peking University School of Government - Beijing, China
August 7th 2013 - 14:00 - 16:30



Shale Gas Well in Michigan

Photo Credit: Circle of Blue

Three colliding trends — declining freshwater reserves, uncertain grain supplies, and booming energy demand — are disrupting economies, governments, and environments around the world. Unlike food or energy, we cannot grow or easily produce more water. That is especially true in the era of climate change, when deeper droughts and terrible floods tighten the food and energy choke points already caused by waste, pollution, and mismanagement of water.

These complex challenges demand integrated analyses and innovative solutions. For three years research teams from the Woodrow Wilson Center and Circle of Blue have been reporting from the United States, China, Australia, India, and the other frontlines of the world's water-food-energy crisis.

Building on our Choke Point research in the United States and China, the Wilson Center's China Environment Forum partnered with the Beijing-based Greenovation Hub to organize a diverse group of U.S. and Chinese experts into a China Water-Energy Team (**China WET**). The team is holding roundtable discussions in Beijing the week of August 5, 2013 with the goal of gathering information and data to identify research, legal, policy, and NGO priorities for China to begin dealing with water-energy confrontations and to explore opportunities for further U.S.-China cooperation on these issues.

At this workshop at Beijing University our Chinese and U.S. **China WET members** will be joined by **Dr. Paolo Farah** to delve into the water-energy challenges facing China and the United States, looking at risks and opportunities to build resilience to deal with these growing natural resource confrontations.

AGENDA

Short keynote: Global Choke Point

Keith SCHNEIDER, Circle of Blue

Panel 1: Water-Energy Confrontations in the United States

Vince TIDWELL, Sandia National Laboratory

Pam BUSH, Delaware River Basin Commission

Q&A

Panel 2: Solving China's Water-Energy Nexus Challenges

Jia SHAOFENG, Institute for Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research

Sun QINGWEI, Independent Researcher

Yang FUQIANG, Natural Resources Defense Council

Q & A

Panel 3: Climate Change, Energy Security and Water Wrap Up Panel

Jia YANGWEN, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research

Paolo FARAH, Edge Hill University and gLAWcal - Global Law Initiatives for Sustainable Development

Q & A