



for a living planet

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1st World Estuary Alliance Conference 2010

Better estuary, Better city

First Announcement

6th to 8th, June 2010, World Expo Shanghai (China)

Estuaries are economic and environmental hot spots. Because of their strategic location linking the interior of nations to seas and the world through inland waterways they provide tremendous opportunities. Estuaries are often called the economic power house of a nation. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) announces the launch of the World Estuary Alliance (WEA), an International Program that focuses on the value of healthy estuaries and maximizes the potential and benefits of 'natural systems' in sustainable estuary development.

Potential of Natural Systems

Despite these limits, there are in fact good prospects to harmonize economic and environmental interests in a sustainable manner. The challenge is to make better use of the inherent adaptive capacities of nature and to make use of natural processes. It reflects the understanding that nature is not a problem, but can be part of the solution. In fact the message and vision of WEA is: make clever use of the dynamics of natural system to combine(water-related)infrastructure and new opportunities for nature and society. Shelter a unique ecosystem, rich biodiversity and cradle human civilization and economic development at the same time. Benefit from a healthy river basin.

Working with nature and reduce city footprints

Based on the past experiences we are developing long term natural solutions coping with climate change. It creates opportunities for cooperation between Delta and Estuary Regions and their cities. Also upper stream cities benefit from this approach as well. Multifunctional use of infrastructure is being implemented in densely populated deltas to provide protection, save space and money. The natural purification capacity of wetlands and estuaries can be restored, even in highly modified deltas. Waves, tides and salinity gradients might provide renewable energy. Both adaptation and mitigation methods can be used in the urbanization process.

Objectives

The objectives of the first WEA conference are:

- Developing and promoting natural solutions
- integrated methods combining adaptation and mitigation for estuary conservation.
- Creating a platform for sharing knowledge/information/practice.
- Enhancing mechanism for dialogue amongst stakeholders.

The programme of this conference includes an overview of different ways to deal with this in different countries and areas.

Topics

On the objectives of the first WEA conference and in context of themes of the World Expo in Shanghai, discussion topics are structured into five themes as below:

1. Maintain adequate natural buffer zone for estuary cities: Value of natural systems in estuary areas and “working with nature” solutions.
2. Fit urban development into nature’s capacity: Optimizing the “city footprint” of urban development.
3. Develop practical methods combining climate change mitigation and adaptation.
4. Engaging the public in estuary development and new governance methods: Awareness raising, culture and recreation.
5. Estuary vision and global best practises.

Preliminary Program

June.4, 2010	Registration in hotel
June.5, 2010	WEA launch
9:00 ~ 11:00	WWF China’s 30 years’ anniversary, Shanghai World EXPO park
14:00 ~ 15:30	WEA lauch ceremony, Hunting forbidden area in Pudong, Shanghai
June 6 to 8, 2010	“Better estuary, better city” 1st WEA conference
June 6	Conference
8:30~10:00	Openning and keynote speeches
10:00~12:00	Section 1: 4 talks on biodiversity, wetland conservation, water source and safety, hydraulic infrastructures

14:00~17:00 Section 2: 6 talks on global estuary best practises

June 7 Conference and field trip

8:30~11:00 Section 3, 5 talks on estuary vision, Low carbon city development, integrated method combining climate change adaptation and mitigation, governance and public engagement

11:00~12:00 Discussion and finalize estuary statement

14:00~17:00 Field trip

June 8 Field trip

June 9 Tour in Shanghai World EXPO, optional

Hosted by

WWF

Organized by

Shanghai estuarine and coastal science research center

Co-organized by

World Estuary Alliance

Delta Alliance

Connecting Delta Cities

Practical Information

Location: Shanghai

Dates & Times: June 6~8, 2010

Registration fee: We request no registration fee, delegations should afford accommodation and meals

Official language: English is the official language



Registration form

Name	E-Mail	Cell phone
Organization		Title
Interested area		Telephone
Address		
Arrival date	Departure date	Do you need hotel reservation?
Will you attend the WEA launch ceremony on June 5 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Select field trip you would like to attend: June 7 <input type="checkbox"/> June 8 <input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/>		
Will you attend the EXPO tour on June 9 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

To register for the conference, please send the registration form back to :

Email: xhfu@wwfchina.org **Fax:** +86 21-66056612 ext 6666, Thanks