

Probleme mit den Ressourcen Wasser und Boden in China

(Problems concerning the resources of water and soil in China)

Professor Dr.-Ing. habil. Yeong Heui Lee

Professor Dr. iur. Walter Bückmann

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Summary

Soil and water in China are at considerable risk due to global ecological and anthropogenous factors; their carrying capacity to absorb these risks are to a large degree over-stretched and ecological functioning is in the balance. In particular In the north west, the ecological situation is alarming: as a result of human exploitation and of climate change, every year large areas have become inhospitable deserts. This is one of the outcomes of the Chinese policy of prioritising economic and global-strategic objectives, as well as accelerated industrial and agricultural development. Consequently, a vicious circle arises, due to simultaneous prevalence of water scarcity and over-use of water resources, of climate-induced natural catastrophes and destruction of the eco-system balance due to human activities, and of persistent further contamination and deficit-producing water management. Water scarcity, soil degradation and desertification comprise some of the greatest barriers as far as sustainable development is concerned.

Finding an effective counterbalance to these problems is one of the major challenges to Chinese policy. Black clouds are gathering over China's future if solutions cannot be found to water and soil problems. The state and society need to adopt a new course for development towards an economy and a way of life which are ecologically compatible, towards resource-saving production and towards social and political attitudes to nature which accord with cultural tradition.