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AUSTRALIA’S INTERNATIONAL WATERCENTRE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CHINA’S YELLOW RIVER CONSERVANCY COMMISSION

The International WaterCentre (IWC) has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Yellow River Conservancy Commission (YRCC) during the International Water Association’s World Water Congress held in Brisbane this week. The agreement will support knowledge sharing, build capacity and coordinate international research initiatives between the IWC and YRCC for the purpose of conservation, regional planning and river management.

The two organisations have a history of mutual respect and positive engagement and the latest agreement builds upon over a decade of cooperation in various water management activities. The MoU seeks to create closer ties and cooperation between the IWC and YRCC in the following key areas:

- Knowledge and capacity building in integrated river basin management and Integrated Water Management to support the YRCC gain a better understanding of Australia’s approach to these processes.
- Promotion and coordination of international research in the Yellow River, particularly ecological flows and requirements for protection and water use management.
- Promotion of international partnerships and linkages with the IWC partner universities and organisations.

Both parties are striving towards managing rivers through an integrated river basin management approach. Monitoring and evaluating the health of the associated ecosystem and actively communicating results to stakeholders including decision makers and the Yellow River basin community, will assist in the development of targeted solutions for the protection of the Yellow River in the long term.

The MoU has been signed for a period of three years; to remain operative for another similar period unless either party decides to terminate the agreement within six months of notification.

Background
The Yellow River Conservancy Commission is a government agency of the Ministry of Water Resources, People’s Republic of China. The Yellow River is the second longest river in China and was at the centre of Chinese politics, economy and culture for more than 2,000 years. Rapid economic and population growth, and an increasing demand for water, has led to a number of water management challenges in the basin that the Commission is seeking to address and manage.

The International WaterCentre is a joint venture between Griffith University, The University of Queensland, Monash University and The University of Western Australia. The IWC provides education and training, applied research and knowledge services to implement a whole-of-water cycle approach and develop capacity in Integrated Water Management.

For more information on the International WaterCentre: [www.watercentre.org](http://www.watercentre.org)

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