



Stakeholder Workshop on the Local Wastewater Management Regulation in Can Tho City.

Component: TC Component 2 -
Capacity Development in Wastewater
Management (WWM Project)
Perspective: Institutional Framework
Activity: Local Regulation
on Wastewater Management
Location and date: Hanoi,
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Regular cleaning of manholes can only be ensured provided sufficient revenue from wastewater tariffs.

Local Wastewater Management Regulations – An Approach to Implement Decree 88/2007/ND-CP at Local Level

The re-organization of wastewater operators and the creation of favorable institutional framework conditions at local government level has always been the most crucial part of the WWM Project's capacity building activities to foster effective and efficient wastewater management in the six participating provinces.

In this regard, an important step was achieved by the WWM advisory team in May 2010. Months of discussions and countless meetings and drafting sessions resulted in a final Template for a Local Regulation on Drainage, Sewerage and Wastewater Treatment in Vietnamese Cities.

The national legal and regulatory framework on urban sewerage and drainage in Vietnamese cities is defined by Governmental Decree 88/2007/ND-CP issued by the GoV in 2007 and Circular 09/2009/TT-BXD issued by the Ministry on Construction in 2009. The Circular 09/2009/TT-BXD gives guidance on the implementation of Decree 88/2007/ND-CP.

Both documents were drafted with substantial contributions from the German ODA program Wastewater and Solid Waste Management in Provincial Centers and comprise ground-breaking changes to the prevailing concepts on urban sewerage and drainage in Vietnam. The Government's shift from seeing the wastewater sector as something to be entirely subsidized towards a "polluter-pays" perspective by introducing wastewater tariffs that cover costs for the operation and maintenance of the sewerage and drainage systems as well as the introduction of management contracts to be signed between the owners and operators of sewerage systems are generally well-perceived and positively assessed by sector stakeholders. This shift can guarantee the financial autonomy and flexibility for urban wastewater operators to maintain sewerage systems in a demand-driven way opposing former practices of spending the money available and terminating activities as soon as the annual budgets were spent.

However, since the promulgation of Decree 88/2007/ND-CP three years have passed and not a single province in Vietnam was able to implement its innovations on the

ground. A lack of knowledge and capacities are most frequently quoted by local officials as reason. The Template for a Local Regulation on Drainage, Sewerage and Wastewater Treatment in Vietnamese Cities drafted by the WWM project is designed to fill this gap. Its nature as a template leaves space for local authorities to adjust certain contents to local conditions. Its six chapters mirror the major contents of Decree 88 and Circular 09 and break them down to a more handy and suitable scope. The WWM Project believes that the promulgation of a local regulation based on this template and the implementation of its contents may enable Vietnamese cities to overcome substantial environmental challenges related to urban sewerage and drainage. The template for a local regulation can be downloaded from our website in the project documents section.

Further template documents such as management contracts, service contracts and service standards are currently under preparation. The WWM team sincerely hopes to provide hereby a useful tool for a modern wastewater management in Vietnam.