

# Institutional Expertise - Bengbu Environmental Improvement Project

## KEY WORDS:

- WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION
- ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
- WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT
- INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
- INDUSTRIAL PARKS
- FLOOD CONTROL
- POLLUTION CONTROL
- INVESTMENT CLIMATE



The purpose of this assignment (August–September 2007) was to provide an institutional expertise to complete the preparation of the Bengbu Integrated Environmental Improvement Project (BIEIP) to be submitted to the World Bank for appraisal at the end of 2007. The BIEIP aims at developing infrastructure in various districts and counties of Bengbu Municipality - located along the Huai River and facing with a very fast economic development. Among these infrastructure were waste water management, roads pavement, flood control management facilities and water supply.

The total cost of the project was estimated at \$230m in 2007 and the appraisal preparation was conducted by a team of French consultants financed under so called "FASEP" French grant and led by the Burgeap consulting firm in co-operation with Sogreah China.

Asconit Consultants' assignment started with a thorough analyze of the institutional framework of BIEIP-related infrastructure management (supervision and implementation) including the share of responsibilities between municipal and district or county-levels organizations.

Then, the expertise focused on future and innovative options regarding institutional arrangements of industrial parks and high tech industry development zones to be implemented and expanded in various areas of the municipality under the control of local authorities (municipality, districts or counties). These parks are planned to become major pillars of the development of local business and employment and should be equipped by adequate infrastructure facilities, including flood protection ones. However, the construction and management of such facilities raises the question of the ability of the concerned local governments to perform tasks, due to their limited capacities in terms of human and financial resources compared with the needs. In such a context, Private Sector Participation options were considered by Asconit Consultants during the assignment. In particular, Design Build and Operate (DBO) was considered as well as (Design Build Finance and Operate (DBFO) and Performance-Based Contract Management. Recommendations were formulated in favor of this third option which is presently successfully experienced in various developing countries and in China.

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<b>Asconit International</b>	<b>CHINA</b>
<b>Client</b>	<b>Bengbu Municipality, The World Bank</b>
<b>Partners</b>	<b>Burgeap, Sogreah China</b>
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Institutional strengthening</b>
<b>Study Area</b>	<b>Bengbu, Anhui Province (Eastern China)</b>
<b>Duration of the assignment</b>	<b>15 days</b>
<b>Total Budget of assignment</b>	<b>10,600 € (net of VAT)</b>

During the assignment, A specific emphasis was put on the case of Wuhe county's Mohekou industrial park, by weighting the advantages/disadvantages to place the management of future infrastructure under the direct control of the county government. Discussions revealed the reluctance of county officers to immediately opt for PSP arrangements which lead us to also rather recommend a "light" PSP option such as contract management with a technical assistance to be provided to local authorities and focusing on the use of services performances indicators.

During the assignment, Asconit Consultants also proposed institutional arrangement to establish an integrated water resources management plan for Longzi and Tianhe lakes (catchments and water use under co-ordination of the Water Resources Bureau).

Proposals were also expressed by Asconit Consultants to improve the investment climate in the municipality. Emphasis has been put on the methodology to achieve assigned investments attraction objectives and on improvement of the local regulatory framework, in particular as concerns infrastructure management in industrial and high tech industry development zones. In these zones, it has been recommended to the Municipal government play a important coordinating role in the promotion initiatives.

Last, Asconit Consultants worked out two series of terms of reference related to a technical assistance to be financed by the World Bank after appraisal. The first matched with the development of infrastructure in Mohekou park whereas the second ones focused on waste water tariffs regulation at the scale of the whole Municipality.



## Skills

- Institutional strengthening
- Private Sector Participation
- Management of industrial zones
- Water and waste water management
- Urban development management
- Water resources management planning

## Departments

- D1 : Regional Planning, Environment and Sustainable Development
- D2 : Hydro-biology and Expertise / Surface Waters
- D3 : Hydro-geology and Expertise / Groundwaters
- D4: Information Systems
- **D7 : Asconit International**

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