

Aiming for better water governance and management: a comparative study for several watersheds in Asia

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Governance and management in the water sector is a key cross-cutting issue that affects all aspects of sustainable development. While there are significant progresses in water governance and management, vision, commitment and practices are still insufficient to ensure that water is governed and managed in an efficient, environmentally sound and equitable manner. As a matter of fact, what constitutes good water governance and management practice may differ in a spatial and geographic context. Therefore, more benchmark analyses are needed to better understand how water needs are spatial in nature, which in turn require integrated solutions. In this work, three case studies from China, Japan and Thailand, respectively, were presented and analyzed to shed new light on the importance of taking a flexible approach and taking the local context into account for better water governance and management.