

Third Party Evaluator's Opinion on
SANJIANG PLAIN LONGTOUQIAO RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

(FANG Dongping)
(Professor, Institute of International Engineering Project Management)
(Tsinghua University)
(China)

Criteria-1 (Impacts)

It is reported that the farmers' life has been improved significantly since the dam was completed, for example, the farmers can secure 100% of the water needed for the paddy fields. As a result, the unit crop harvested has risen from 2 tons to 8 tons per hectare and incomes have risen by more than 50%. The dam construction has not had any impact such as humidity or river contamination and the water quality has improved because the flow of water has increased.

In China, resident relocation provides an opportunity for the resident to change their life to a better condition due to the fact that the relocated people were generally very poor before the relocation. For the SANJIANG PLAIN LONGTOUQIAO RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, Levels of satisfaction among the relocated residents are high, because the housing area of the individual residents grew in size; in addition, infrastructure such as roads, bridges, communication cables and waterworks is upgraded in the new village and agricultural machines were offered to them as well. Thus, social impact of this project is highly appreciated.

Criteria-2 (Sustainability)

Although the project was completed, the objectives of the project have not been fully achieved due to the delay in the Downstream Area Irrigation Facilities Project, which is not part of the project. The completion of the Downstream Area Irrigation Facilities Project is indispensable in consideration of cost-benefit performance and durability in the future of the project. Because the Downstream Area Irrigation Facilities Project has not been finished, some of the original functions of the project are not being utilized effectively. The delay is causing a significant loss in benefits. The Downstream Area Irrigation Facilities Project should have been taken on as part of the project and managed with the aim of being completed at the same time as this project, given that it is basically an irrigation project. Even if the Downstream Area Irrigation Facilities Project had not been integrated into the same project for whatever reasons, the project still should have been carried out on the basis of scrupulous progress control and mutual adjustment.

Although concerns have been raised in relation to the impact on to the swamp ecosystem of the Naolihe downstream basin caused by the operation of Longtouqiao Reservoir, as of now there has been insufficient cooperation between Longtouqiao Reservoir Management Office of Heilongjiang Province Ministry of Water Use and the Government of Baoqing Prefecture and Administrative Agency of Heilongjiang State-farms, which manages the swamps. Although there is no significant impact on the swamps at present, the possibilities of low water levels and contamination will increase when the downstream irrigation facilities are completed and water use for irrigation increases in the future.

It is strongly recommended that similar projects should be approved as long as all the related parties are committed to enable the facilities fully operated as it was designed.