

Media Alert
Sydney – June 5 2008

**IDLO PRESENTATION IN SYDNEY ON:
REMEDIES FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY
WATER POLLUTION IN CHINA**

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) will be discussing transboundary water pollution in China and its implications on local populations, at its Asia Pacific Regional Center, 2 Talfourd Street, Glebe in Sydney on Wednesday June 11, 2008 at 5pm.

The event will include presentations from Dr. Ke Jian, Associate Professor at the Research Institute of Environmental Law at Wuhan University and the recent recipient of the first IDLO-Coca Cola Fellowship on Asia Pacific water issues, and Ms. Rosemary Lyster, Director of the Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law and Associate Professor at the Law School of Sydney University.

China's rapid industrialization and economic development has created a number of environmental concerns, including the pollution of most river systems, which may threaten access to clean and safe water for millions of people, mostly living in rural communities.

Under the 2008 IDLO Coca-Cola fellowship, Dr. Ke Jian will be researching and documenting trans-boundary water pollution between provinces in China and promoting social justice for those affected through recommendations for legal reform measures to improve both judicial and administrative remedies.

Background

Access to clean water is a fundamental necessity of life and development. In the Asia Pacific region, lack of access to clean water and basic sanitation affects the daily life of over 2 billion people.

As part of its series of seminars designed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), IDLO has been working closely with water professionals from 12 different countries in the Asia Pacific region throughout 2007, providing training and technical assistance on the legal framework of water resources management.

Following the success of this program, IDLO and Coca-Cola have created a specific fellowship to enable a water professional in Asia to develop and implement a project which contributes to improving water resources management and sustainable development in the region.

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NOTES

Dr. Ke Jian

Dr. Ke Jian is Associate Professor at the prestigious Research Institute of Environmental Law, Wuhan University, and consults for a range of government agencies, including the Commission on Environmental and Natural Resources Protection of the National People's Congress. Dr. Ke has participated in research projects in academic institutions in Australia, Singapore, Germany, France and the United States.

Ms. Rosemary Lyster

Ms. Rosemary Lyster is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at Sydney University and Director of the Australian Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Law. Ms. Lyster is co-editor of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Environmental Law* and is the Energy and Water Special Editor of the *Environmental Planning and Law Journal*, which is the leading environmental law journal in Australia. She is a member of the World Conservation Union Commission on Environmental Law, comprising environmental lawyers from around the world. Ms. Lyster has an extensive list of publications, including articles in leading international and domestic law journals.

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IDLO (International Development Law Organization) is an international, inter-governmental organization with a mandate to promote the Rule of Law and good governance in developing countries, countries in economic transition and countries emerging from post-conflict situations. Since its establishment in 1983, IDLO has worked with more than 17,000 lawyers, magistrates and officials from approximately 176 countries.

IDLO has its Headquarters in Rome, Italy and two Regional Offices; in Cairo, Egypt, covering Arabic-speaking countries and in Sydney, Australia, covering the Asia Pacific area. IDLO currently operates Project Offices in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan.

IDLO is funded by contributions from its 18 Member States and other donors.

For detailed information on IDLO and its activities, please refer to our website at www.idlo.int.