



Past and future effects of socio-economic development on the aquatic environment of Taihu Basin, China

J. Gao (1), X. Jing (1), G. Zhao (1), G. Hoermann (2)

(1) Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. (2)
Ecosystem Research Center, Dept. of Hydrology And Water Resources, Kiel University.
(gaojunf@niglas.ac.cn)

During the past 20 years, the Chinese economy has developed rapidly. The Taihu Basin is one of the most developed districts in China. The annual GDP growth rate is 11.6%, urbanization has increased by 31%, and gross industrial output has increased by a factor of 13. In consequence, crop and irrigated land area has decreased. Industrialization, urbanization and agriculture have affected the quality of the surrounding aquatic environment. In the 1990s, river length with water quality exceeding the standard (class III) increased 23%, while water quality in Lake Taihu has declined. In the future, economic growth rate is predicted to exceed 10%, water consumption will increase and the water environment will deteriorate further.