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Breaking Story

Global Water Sustainability Flows Through Natural And Human Challenges

Water's fate in China mirrors problems across the world: fouled, pushed far from its natural origins, squandered and exploited. In this week's *Science* magazine, Jianguo "Jack" Liu, director of Michigan State University's Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, and doctoral student Wu Yang look at lessons learned in China and management strategies that hold solutions for China – and across the world. The researchers outline China's water crisis and recent leapfrog investment in water conservancy, and suggest addressing complex human-nature interactions for long-term water supply and quality. China's crisis is daunting, though not unique. Two-thirds of China's cities have water shortages, more than 40 percent of its rivers are severely polluted, 80 percent of its lakes suffer from eutrophication – an overabundance of nutrients – and about 300 million rural residents lack access to safe drinking water

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Image credit: Wu Yang, MSU Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability