



Ministry of Economy and Industry
经济与产业部
Foreign Trade Administration
对外贸易局



River Chiefs



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1. Background

China started the river chief scheme in December 2016, when the top leadership decided to assign each waterway in the country a specific steward, or "river chief." River chiefs are responsible for resource protection, pollution prevention and control, and ecological restoration. They will be held accountable for environmental damage in bodies of water under their supervision. By the end of June 2018, more than 1.06 million river chiefs have been appointed at various levels nationwide (MWR, 2016).

2. Government Actions in Southwest China

2.1 Sichuan

Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan, has appointed 51 city-level River Chiefs and 122 county-level River Chiefs for its more than 69 rivers. Ganzi State/County, the county with the most rivers in Sichuan, has appointed 132 state-level river chiefs and 991 county-level river chiefs for its 876 rivers

- In August 2018, Sichuan General River Chief Office issued *The Notice about Sichuan River Chiefs and Lake Chiefs Reporting Mechanism*.
- In May 2018, YIN Li, **Sichuan Governor**, organized the provincial river chiefs meeting. Ten river chiefs of Sichuan major rivers presented the Meeting.

2.2 Chongqing

- By August 2018, Chongqing Smart River Chief system has helped 17,000 river chiefs to monitor their rivers
- In July 2018, WU Shenghai, Director General of Chongqing Water Resources Bureau spoke about promoting river chief mechanism in Chongqing on a high level.
- In March 2017, Chongqing issued the *Scheme of Promoting and Implementing River Chief Mechanism in Chongqing (Chongqing Government Office, 2017)*. The scheme mentioned about two tasks:



- a. Limit water consumption within 9.7 billion cubic m³ by 2020
- b. Improve water usage efficiency. Increase industrial water reusing rate to 70% by 2020.

2.3 Yunnan

- In July 2018, Yunnan River Chief Office organized the nine plateau lake chiefs meeting. Mr. Hu Rong, DDG of **Yunnan Water Resources Department**, hosted the meeting.
- In June 2018, LIU Gang, DG of Yunnan Water Resources Department and Director of Yunnan River Chief Office, introduced the working progress in 2018 and gave high-level instructions.
- In December 2017, **Yunnan Governor** CHEN Hao organized the provincial river chiefs meeting.

2.4 Guizhou

- In July 2018, Guizhou River Chief Office organized the 2018 provincial river chiefs meeting. Mr. SHUAI Wen, DDG of **Guizhou Water Resources Department**, presented the meeting and gave a speech. Host of this meeting was Mr. LYU Tao, Chief of River Chief Division of Guizhou Water Resources Department.

3. Organisation Charts of River Chiefs

3.1. Sichuan and Chengdu

Sichuan River Chiefs Guiding Team	WANG Dongming, team leader (Sichuan Provincial Party Secretary)
	YIN Li, vice team leader and General River Chief (Sichuan Governor)
Sichuan River Chief Office	WANG Minghui, Director



	(Sichuan Vice Governor)
	HUANG Xiaoping, Deputy Director (Vice Secretary General of Sichuan Province)
	YAN Dongwei, Deputy Director (Vice Secretary General of Sichuan Province)
	HU Yun, Deputy Director (Director General of Sichuan Water Resources Department)
	YU Huiwen, Deputy Director (Director General of Sichuan Environment Protection Department)

Chengdu Municipal Chief River Chiefs	FAN Ruiping (Municipal Party Secretary)
	LUO Qiang, (Chengdu Mayor)
Chengdu Municipal River Chiefs	ZUO Zheng, Jinma River Chief (Member of Chengdu CPC standing committee)
	FAN Yi, Jinjiang River Chief (Vice Mayor of Chengdu)



	LIU Xuguang, Tuojiang River Chief (Vice Mayor of Chengdu)
Chengdu Municipal River Chief Office	YANG Changshou, Office Director (DG of Chengdu Water Bureau)
	GONG Zhibin, Deputy Director (DDG of Chengdu Water Bureau)
	YAO Guanggui, Deputy Director (DDG of Chengdu Agro Commission)
	YU Jianyun, Deputy Director (President of Chengdu Environment Protection Labor Union)

3.2. Chongqing

Chongqing Municipal River Chiefs	TANG Liangzhi, General River Chief (Chongqing Mayor)
	CHEN Min'er, Deputy River Chief (Chongqing Deputy Party Secretary)
	LIU Qiang, Deputy River Chief (Chongqing Vice Mayor)
	CHEN Heping, Deputy River Chief



	(Party Member in Chongqing Municipal government)
Chongqing River Chief Office	WU Shenghai, Director (Chongqing Water Resource Bureau)

3.3 Yunnan

Yunnan River Chiefs Guiding Team	WANG Dongming, team leader (Sichuan Provincial Party Secretary)
	YIN Li, vice team leader and General River Chief (Sichuan Governor)
Sichuan River Chief Office	WANG Minghui, Director (Sichuan Vice Governor)
	HUANG Xiaoping, Deputy Director (Vice Secretary General of Sichuan Province)
	YAN Dongwei, Deputy Director (Vice Secretary General of Sichuan Province)
	HU Yun, Deputy Director (Director General of Sichuan Water Resources Department)
	YU Huiwen, Deputy Director



	(Director General of Sichuan Environment Protection Department)
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3.4 Guizhou

Guizhou General River Chiefs	SUN Zhigang, General River Chief (Guizhou Provincial Party Secretary)
	CHEN Yiqin, Deputy General River Chief (Guizhou Governor)
Guizhou River Chief Office	Director (Director General of Guizhou Water Resource Department)
	Deputy Director (Deputy Director General of Guizhou Water Resource Department)
	Deputy Director (Deputy Director General of Guizhou Environment Protection Department)

4. Difficulties in establishing River Chief Mechanism

Sichuan Province has set up a provincial River Chief Mechanism office with provincial government leaders as the team. River Chief Mechanism offices have been established in cities, counties, towns and villages. Despite the progress made in establishing River Chief system, the current management methods make it hard for river chiefs to perform their expected duties and satisfy the needs of the public.



Current River Chiefs are part-time and not professional. River Chiefs are main leaders of governments, instead of experts with relevant background. They cannot spend 100% of their time and efforts in performing River Chief's responsibilities. Therefore, most of the river chiefs are only reporting urgent issues to upper lever. They rely heavily on monitoring systems and information gathered from lower rank officials.

River Chiefs have no direct influence of the allocation of funds. Building an information system requires financial investment. However, River Chiefs do not directly influence the development of current water systems. They cannot make critical decisions.

Situations in Chongqing, Yunnan and Guizhou are similar. So far, no clear information shows the source of river chief mechanism funds.

5. Players and opportunities in the market

Chinese companies in IT/water sector has launched smart monitoring solutions for River Chiefs to facilitate their monitoring. Typical examples include:

- Ningbo Hongtai Water Conservancy: River & Lake Chiefs Overall Management System
Website: <http://www.htwater.net/productsd.php?gid=&pid=152&tid=41>
- Wuhan Smart Sponge City R&D Design Company: River Chief Information Management Platform
Website: <http://www.newfiber.com.cn/index.php?a=shows&catid=82&id=437>
- Zhejiang UHOPE Communication Technology Company: River Chief Information Management
Website: <http://www.uhope.com/zh-cn/Product/Information/119.html>
- Guangdong TINCKAY: Smart Water River Chief Information Monitoring Solution
Website: <http://tinckay.com/staticPage/riverSolution.html>
- Chengdu Wanjiang Gangli: Smart water monitoring system
Website: <http://www.cdwanjiang.com/>



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Israeli companies can enter the market with two kinds of technologies: information technologies and wastewater treatment technologies. Due to the sensitiveness of information and the government involvement in this mechanism, Israeli companies may find it hard to sell their technologies directly to relevant government organizations. They may try to approach local distributors or R&D partners.

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