
Geneva Water Hub - Research Network
Consolidating Grants Recipient Info Sheet

“Network Governance and Conflict Resolution between Domains, Sectors and Levels in Vietnam’s Urban Water Management”



Background

Mi Nguyen is currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at EAWAG-Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology.

Scientific Interest

Dr Nguyen’s research is focused on water and sanitation disinfection treatments that are low-cost, effective, and applicable in low and middle income countries. Her PhD thesis is about sunlight inactivation mechanisms of pathogens in open-water treatment wetlands, and its application as an additional barrier to remove pathogens in wastewater before emitting to effluents. Her first-year postdoc at EAWAG is to contribute to develop the Blue Diversion Autarky Toilet, an on-site treatment providing a safe and affordable technology for people who lack access to sewer-based sanitation. For her second-year postdoc, she is working on having more insights in water and sanitation issues in a specific low and middle income country (Vietnam).

Grant Project Description

This project aims at understanding the governance network and related potential for conflict resolution between different sectors, domains and levels related to urban water management in Vietnam. More concretely, it studies the conflicts, trade-offs and conflict resolution mechanisms between a) state administration actors and private interests and businesses, b) actors representing different policy sectors (such as faecal sludge management, wastewater treatment, drinking water provision, industrial water use, environmental protection or health), as well as c) different levels of decision-making at the national, regional or local city level. The study is based on an analysis of a recent policy aiming at improving wastewater and faecal sludge management in Vietnam (Decree on the Drainage and Treatment of Wastewater (“Decree 80”). While a new formal legislation provides a first important step towards addressing the challenges related to faecal sludge management, and urban water management more generally, the success of the new legislation crucially depends on how the legislation is implemented by the network of actors representing different sectors and levels.

Grant Project Quote

“By studying how the new legislation is implemented in Vietnam, we have a better understanding on the contribution of legislation on water and faecal sludge management.”