

# 供港水庫河源萬綠湖生態旅遊十周年保一級水

## 10 Years of Ecotourism and 1st Rate Water in Wanlu Lake



位於廣東河源市的萬綠湖每年為香港人提供大量食水，正因如此，河源市的發展受到極大限制，不能發展會帶來污染的工業，人民生活窮困；但幸好，在九五年該處開始發展生態旅遊，帶動了整個市的發展，更難得的是萬綠湖的水質多年來一直保持國家地表水一類標準。

今年是萬綠湖風景區成立十周年，長春社獲邀出席在九月十七日舉行的慶祝活動。我們十分欣賞河源市和廣東省領導堅持發展生態旅遊。生態旅遊和大眾旅遊不同，不能期望好像興建大型旅遊基礎建設，例如迪士尼樂園一樣，在發展當初的三數年便可以有數倍的增長。生態旅遊雖然未必能有指數性的增長，但增長卻是可持續的。

為保持萬綠湖的水質的同時又要發展旅遊改善經濟民生，河源市作出了多項措施，包括規定吃和住均不可以在湖上，把建於湖中小島上的旅館全數遷出，又把湖邊可能造成污染的水泥廠關閉，湖上快艇改用氣體燃料等。

長春社一直關心河源的發展，不斷向有關官員提意見，而且更在九八年和東源縣人民政府舉辦「飲水思源」植樹活動，植樹總面積不少於二百畝，植樹不少於二萬二千棵，由當地政府負責保護和管理，二十五年後才可開發利用，但同時必須補植同等生態價值和數目的樹種在原地。源頭有足夠的植被，水源才能保得住；在河源植樹，就是為了保住香港的水源。萬綠湖到現在仍然保有一類地表水，證明我們的意見和做法是正確的。

但使人擔心的是，河源市外二十公里正籌建火電廠，香港公司更佔四成股權。長春社將密切留意事態發展，防止電廠污染環境，斷了河源的發展之路。

萬綠湖建於一九五八年，原稱新豐江水庫，在九五年時易名萬綠湖。整個風景區面積1 100平方公里，湖表面積370平方公里，容量139億立方米，現時為全國第三大人工水庫。萬綠湖為國家四A級旅遊區。

Situated at He Yuan City in Guangdong Province, Wanlu Lake supplies Hong Kong people with millions of tons of potable water each year. Because of this, development in the city was highly restricted, no polluting industry can be set up in the area, people there have very limited means to improve their living standards. Fortunately in 1995 the city began to develop ecotourism, which became the driver of the economy. Commendably the water quality remains National Surface Water Quality Standard Class I through out all these years.

This year the Wanlu Lake Holiday and Tourism Scenic Area celebrates its 10-year anniversary. CA was invited to participate in the ceremony held on 17 September. We appreciated that the perseverance of the officials of He Yuan City and Guangdong Province in developing ecotourism. Ecotourism is not like mass tourism. Revenue generated from a large-scale tourist attraction such as Disneyland can double or triple in the initial two or three years. Ecotourism may not grow exponentially, but it is a sustainable growth.

He Yuan City has done a lot to ensure that growth of tourism does not impair the water quality of Wanlu Lake, including: no accommodation on the islands in the lake; the cement plant, which may be a potential source of pollution, was closed down; speedboats on the lakes are powered by LPG.

CA is always concerned about the development of He Yuan, and keeps giving advice to the officials. CA co-organized a tree planting campaign with Dong Yuen County as early as 1998. No less than 22 000 saplings were planted. The local government is responsible for the maintainable of the trees and they can be cut down only after 25 years provided the same number of trees with equal ecological value are replanted. Water source can only be protected if there is enough vegetation; by planting trees in He Yuan, we are protecting our source water. Water in Wanlu Lake ranked Class I all these years is the best proof that what CA did and said was right.

What is worrying is that a coal fire power plant 20km from He Yuan is being planned. And a Hong Kong company owns 40 percent of the power plant. CA will keep an eye on the matter and try to prevent the plant from polluting the environment, which means the end of He Yuan's development.

Wanlu Lake was built in 1958 and was called Xinfengjiang reservoir area at the time. It was renamed Wanlu Lake in 1995. The scenic area is 1 100 km<sup>2</sup> large, the surface area of the lake 370 km<sup>2</sup> with a capacity of 13.9 billion m<sup>3</sup>. It is the third largest artificial reservoir in China. Wanlu Lake is a National AAAA Attraction.

