

China water woes: Charity pours in \$3m

THE Lien Foundation, a charity focused on education, seniors and the environment, has announced that it will pour \$3 million into projects to help solve China's water woes.

The money, to be doled out over three years, is expected to help some of the hundreds of millions of Chinese who face water shortages.

Proposals must come from among the 129 Chinese government officials taking master's programmes at the Nanyang Technological University this year.

In the last two years, the Lien Foundation has built wells, toilets and irrigation systems in water-scarce areas in Asia. The Lien Challenge, announced yesterday, is a new move into sponsoring research to solve water problems.

Project director Lee Poh Wah said its aim is to help Chinese policy-makers identify projects that could benefit millions.

"There are 250 million facing water shortages in rural parts of China alone and, by reaching out to government officials, much more work can be done to reduce this number," Mr Lee said.

Already, three teams have come forward with ideas. Officials from Shanxi, Fujian and Chongqing have proposed finding ways to treat waste water and clean up river systems.

Only one project will win the million-dollar award each year.

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