Lingnan University 2025/2026 SDG Report
SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



21
Drinking Fountains on Campus

435,312
plastic bottles (500mL) saved

28
Undergraduate Courses

Lingnan University advances **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation** through interdisciplinary research, innovation and community engagement that support water conservation, pollution prevention and sustainable water management. Working with partners, the University explores solutions to improve water quality, address water scarcity and promote equitable access to safe water and sanitation. These efforts connect environmental protection with human well-being and help strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Water Lords: Beijing's Drinking Water and Its Carriers, 1644–1937

In *Water Lords: Beijing's Drinking Water and Its Carriers, 1644–1937* (Brill, 2025), Professor Lei Zhang, Associate Professor in Lingnan University's Department of History, examines the historical organisation of Beijing's drinking water supply, offering insights relevant to SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, particularly access to drinking water and water management.

Modern Beijing relied primarily on hand-dug wells as its principal source of drinking water. The predominance of well water required an organised distribution network: professional water carriers emerged early in the city's history to deliver water from neighbourhood wells to households, operating within a sophisticated delivery system that took shape under the Qing dynasty (1644–1912). This system highlights the importance of water distribution infrastructure and household access to drinking water.

The book tells the untold story of these “water lords” and how they sustained their influence from the late Qing through the Republican era, especially between 1900 and 1937, when Beijing underwent rapid modernisation and urbanisation. It argues that water carriers’ capacity to accommodate and negotiate the tensions between modernisation pressures and enduring traditions played a decisive role in shaping the city’s transition to modern drinking water.

By examining the interaction between water carriers, established distribution practices and urban transformation, the book provides a historical perspective on urban water provision, water governance and the role of local service providers. It deepens understanding of how drinking water systems evolve in response to social and economic change, contributing to discussions relevant to SDG 6.

