

Grand scheme to solve China's water crisis

Faced with the worst drought in 50 years, China is pushing ahead with the biggest engineering project in its history. The *South-North Water Diversion Project* will bring water from the Yangtze River to supply hundreds of millions of people living in the parched north of the country

1 Central Route: Manmade channel dug from Han River to Beijing, requiring tunnel under Yellow River and relocation of 330,000 people in Henan and Hubei provinces. Begun 2004, but environmental concerns have pushed completion date to 2014



2 Western Route: Water diverted along tunnels and aqueducts from upper reaches of Yangtze and raised 500m through mountains to reach Yellow River. Project yet to begin

3 Eastern Route: Massive pumps will force water north along 1,000km-long canal. Begun 2002 and due for completion 2013, but water pollution could affect project's viability

Cost: \$62 billion, more than twice as expensive as Three Gorges Dam

Capacity: 50bn cubic metres a year, equivalent to annual flow of Yellow River