China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

2023-2024 Work Report

CCICED Secretariat and
Secretariat International Support Office

October 2024, Beijing

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Note: *This report is a summary and review of the key progress made by the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED or the Council) from September 2023 to October 2024.*

2024 marks a pivotal year for advancing the full construction of a Beautiful China, with positive results achieved in the comprehensive green transformation of economic and social development. At the same time, global environmental and climate governance efforts, including climate change response, biodiversity conservation, and plastic pollution governance, have been accelerated. As a high-level international advisory body and two-way exchange platform dedicated to promoting sustainable development, CCICED has made notable progress against the work plan approved by the Executive over the past year. With the active participation of Council Members, Special Advisors, and over 300 Chinese and international experts, the Council conducted policy studies and exchanges around the annual theme of *Adhere to Green, Open and Cooperative Development to Promote Modernization.* In addition, the Council further maintained and expanded partnerships, continued our effort for gender equality, and strengthened the engagement of youth and the private sector. The details are as follows:

I. Positive Progress in Policy Research

In line with the research framework approved by the Executive Committee, CCICED conducted nine Special Policy Studies (SPSs) focusing on four key topics: "Innovation in Global Environmental Governance," "National Green Governance System," "Sustainable Production and Consumption," and "Low-Carbon Inclusive Transition." Moreover, five scoping studies and three discussion papers were conducted to address specific technical and policy issues.

i. Promoting Innovation in Global Environmental Governance

a. SPS on China's Pathways for Achieving Carbon Neutrality and Global Climate Governance: This study focuses on how to implement the "dual-control" system for carbon emissions, emphasizing low-carbon technology innovation and industrialization, reforming the international financial architecture, and localizing and internationalizing the "new three industrial

chains"(electric vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products). The study proposes a series of institutional suggestions such as a roadmap to the framework of the carbon emission cap, establishing a legal framework for the "dual carbon" targets, and suggesting reforms for the carbon market. Additionally, the study examines opportunities to update China's nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that align with domestic context and provided early input to the 15th Five Year Plan. Lastly, the study analyzes global investment and trade in green products, notably related to the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and soft commodities.

b. SPS on Sustainable Oceans Management under the Vision of Carbon Neutrality: This study focuses on carbon reduction, carbon sequestration, and marine renewable energy in the ocean industries, as well as opportunities for transitioning to a sustainable blue economy. It explores how to comprehensively and sustainably manage the oceans to maximize synergies between the blue economy and carbon neutrality. Guided by the concept of ecosystem-based adaptive ocean management, the study provides an in-depth analysis of case studies from the Greater Bay Area (Guangdong - Hong Kong - Macao) and abroad, with a focus on technological innovation, green transition, and other related areas. The study also highlights marine biodiversity, including the "30x30" targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

c. SPS on Biodiversity Conservation and Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: This study focuses on protected area systems, the sustainable use and management of agricultural biodiversity, and the financing and incentive mechanisms to mobilize resources for biodiversity conservation. Additionally, it provides a number of policy recommendations, such as building a multifunctional ecological protection model, conducting evaluations of conservation effectiveness, enhancing agricultural ecological functions, and aligning climate and nature finance mechanisms, aiming to advance the global implementation of the "30x30" targets and achieve sustainable and equitable nature-positive outcomes.

ii. Promoting a Modern National Green Governance System

a. SPS on Collaborative Mechanism for Carbon Reduction, Pollution Reduction, Green Expansion and Growth: First, this study analyzes the relationship between China's emission reductions and economic growth, offering targeted recommendations on how emission reductions can drive economic development. Second, it comprehensively reviews the development trajectory of air quality indicators both domestically and internationally, proposing pathways and governance frameworks for the coordinated control of air pollution and carbon emissions in China. Third, it focuses on the power and industrial sectors, analyzing their progress in coordinating pollution reduction and carbon mitigation, identifying key issues, and proposing critical measures. The study provides policy recommendations to enhance synergies between low-carbon transitions and the joint efforts of pollution and carbon reduction. Lastly, it explores the formulation and enforcement of regulations on pollution and carbon reduction, analyzing how public interest litigation can be used to implement coordinated pollution and carbon reduction principles, and suggests improvements to the regulatory framework.

b. SPS on Green Development and Climate Adaptation for Urban and Rural Areas: This study focuses on the Taihu Basin, Chengdu-Chongqing region, and the Pearl River Delta, identifying challenges and key issues in urban and rural climate adaptation capacity. It proposes priority areas and key measures to enhance climate adaptation capabilities in densely populated regions and in urban and rural construction sectors. The study systematically reviews international experiences, including a case study on climate adaptation in the Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt Delta and develops an assessment framework for urban and rural climate adaptation capacities that aligns with China's national conditions. It also provides policy recommendations on how to strengthen climate adaptation capacity in five areas: policy mechanism design, establishment of assessment mechanisms, enhancement of adaptation capacity, coordination mechanisms, and social equity.

c. Scoping Study on Low-Carbon Transition of Traditional Energy Regions

of China: This study reviews the current state of economic development and industrial transformation in regions highly dependent on coal, including Shanxi, Shaanxi, Inner Mongolia, and Ningxia. It assesses the potential for renewable energy development in these regions and explores green and low-carbon transition pathways for traditional industries under the constraints of the "dual carbon" targets. The study also investigates issues related to fair transitions in regional economies, employment, and ecology, and provides policy recommendations on pathways for green and low-carbon transition, institutional development, funding mechanisms, industry support policies, and a just transition in these regions.

d. Scoping Study on Carbon Pricing: This study examines recent global trends in carbon markets and some design features of carbon pricing. It reviews recent developments in China's national carbon market, particularly the design options as it transitions from the power sector to wider coverage, from a free allocation to an auction-based system. The study also summarizes lessons learned from Canada's national carbon pricing system, including insights on carbon price predictability, distributional effects, and system flexibility. It provides policy recommendations on enhancing the role of the carbon pricing system in supporting the green transition.

e. Discussion Paper on CCS-based Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) Technologies: This study provides a preliminary review of the development of Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) policies, research, demonstrations, and market activities in major developed economies, including the United States and the European Union. It offers an initial analysis of the economic and technical feasibility, sustainability, and challenges related to social and policy innovation for two technologies—biomass energy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) and direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS)—in the context of China. The study also identifies opportunities for CDR to contribute under the 15th Five-Year Plan and China's new NDCs.

iii. Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption

a. SPS on Digitalization and Green Technologies for Sustainable

Development: This study focuses on cities and examines how artificial intelligence (AI) can play a foundational role in urban development. It explores how digital capabilities can overcome geographical constraints on urban growth, promote compact city development, reduce land use, protect biodiversity, and increase the supply of green urban spaces while enhancing the density, efficiency, and level of economic activities. The study also explores how AI and green energy technologies can be integrated to drive innovation, transform traditional industries, and develop emerging and future industries, thus facilitating industrial restructuring and economic transformation in cities. Lastly, the study looks into the potential challenges of the digital divide, proposing ways to improve social inclusion and gender equality.

b. SPS on Innovative Mechanisms of Sustainable Investment in Environment and Climate: The current green financial system has shifted from supporting capacity expansion primarily through credit to supporting green innovation primarily through the capital market; this study focuses on how to better leverage the capital market's pivotal role in promoting green technology innovation in China. The study proposes the establishment of effective coordination mechanisms between policymakers, regulators, and various investment entities in the capital market to support green innovation, utilizing the role of venture capital and public-led research and development financing for next generation/pioneering technologies. Additionally, the study provides policy recommendations for enhancing the inclusiveness of stock market IPOs to foster an innovation ecosystem that encourages mutual reinforcement across various sectors and technological pathways.

c. Scoping Study on Circular Economy: This study reviews the development of the circular economy in China and draws on Germany's experience in the field. It identifies priority areas for the development of China's circular economy, including renewable energy, power batteries, plastics, and textiles, and provides relevant policy recommendations.

d. Scoping Study on Beyond GDP: This study focuses on measuring the progress of sustainable development through the concept of comprehensive wealth capital intended to safeguard underlying valuable assets and support

wider well-being by measuring and managing the five capitals that comprise genuine wealth. It explores the theoretical foundations and frameworks for this approach, addressing the limitations of using GDP to measure sustainable development goals.

e. Discussion Paper on Green Consumption: This study uses the textile, apparel, and fashion industries as examples, focusing on the important role of young people in promoting public awareness of green consumption. It examines how to change design and production-consumption models to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts in the consumption sector. The study addressed the different roles of the private sector (e.g., corporate standards and classifications, industry technological innovation, business models) and the public sector (e.g., green labeling, public procurement, and regulation of "greenwashing").

f. Discussion Paper on Nature Markets: The report focuses on how to accelerate the mobilization of financing for the entire nature system and the role of nature financing in the real economy. It also provides recommendations on the development, regulation, legal frameworks, and strategic direction of China's nature market.

iv. Contributing to a Low-Carbon and Inclusive Transition

a. SPS on Sustainable Trade and Supply Chains: This study systematically reviews the development of global low-carbon technology trade over the past 30 years, identifying and analyzing the key economic factors shaping low-carbon technology trade among countries. It examines the determinants and environmental impacts of China's low-carbon technology and mineral trade. The study highlights the environmental and carbon reduction benefits of importing low-carbon technology products into China.

b. SPS on Green Opening-up and South-South Cooperation: This study summarizes and reviews China's successful experiences in promoting South-South cooperation in the fields of environment and development, particularly the related outcomes resulting from the continued advancement of the Global Development Initiative and the Green Belt and Road Initiative, with a focus on

regions such as Africa and Southeast Asia. It identifies the needs and challenges faced by developing countries in areas like climate change response and renewable energy development. The study provides policy recommendations for creating a new model of South-South cooperation in the new development stage, promoting green and sustainable development through open cooperation, and supporting developing countries in achieving a green and inclusive transition.

c. Scoping Study on Innovative Technology for Green and Low-Carbon Transition: This study explores the directions and key areas of green and low-carbon technology innovation, as well as the policies and financial tools that can facilitate such innovation in support of the green and low-carbon transition; subsequent policy insights and recommendations are provided.

II. Successfully Hosting the CCICED Annual General Meeting and Major Events to Foster Global Exchange and Cooperation

With the strong support of partners and the active participation of Council Members and Special Advisors, the CCICED 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was successfully held. Roundtables and thematic forums were organized around key topics of the year, and the outcomes and policy recommendations from the meetings served China's policy decision-making and relevant international processes.

i. Successfully Hosting the 2023 CCICED Annual General Meeting

From August 28 to 30, 2023, the CCICED 2023 Annual General Meeting was held in Beijing under the theme *"Green Transition for High-Quality Development, Modernization in Harmony with Nature"*. Vice Premier of the State Council of China and Chairperson of CCICED, Mr. DING Xuexiang, attended the meeting, listened to the Council Members's insights, and expressed full appreciation for their contributions. He emphasized that the Chinese government would continue to strongly support the growth of CCICED,

further enhancing its role in promoting the construction of China's ecological civilization and global sustainable development.

During the AGM, six thematic forums were held, focusing on topics of common concern to the international community, including climate change, biodiversity conservation, and the Green Belt and Road Initiative. The event was attended by a total of 500 participants, including CCICED Council Members, Special Advisors, and representatives from 23 countries, 38 international organizations, as well as relevant Chinese government departments, universities, research institutions, enterprises, and social organizations.

Nearly 20 major domestic media outlets participated in the meeting, publishing close to 30 articles. The China Daily commentary, "CCICED Reports Demonstrates China's Commitment to Green Development," was republished by nearly 400 international media platforms, including the Associated Press and Yahoo Finance. Short promotional videos, interviews with Council Members, and infographics were shared across platforms like WeChat, X (formerly Twitter), and Facebook, attracting significant attention from AGM participants, with total views surpassing 1.6 million. Council Members also shared their experiences on personal social media, highlighting CCICED as a distinctive platform for multilateral cooperation and expressing encouragement for CCICED to further enhance its global influence, contributing expertise and pathways to sustainable development in China and globally.

ii. More Than 30 Key Meetings and Events Successfully Held Both Online and Offline

Supported by partners, a side event titled "Strengthening Innovation Cooperation on Green Development for a Low-Carbon, Inclusive, and Resilient Future" was held during COP28. CCICED Chinese Vice Chairperson and former Special Envoy for Climate Change, **Xie Zhenhua**; CCICED Secretary General and Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment, **Zhao Yingmin**; Canada's Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change, **Jean-François Tremblay**; and several CCICED Council Members attended the COP28 side event, offering insights on advancing the climate and environmental agenda in a coordinated manner. The roundtable on "Empowering Hainan's Beauty Through Blue Economy" was organized in Haikou, Hainan Province, where CCICED experts provided recommendations for green and low-carbon development at the local level in China.

International experts were invited to gain deeper insights into China's green practices, including new energy equipment manufacturing, renewable energy development, zero-carbon industrial park construction, digital transformation, and biodiversity protection. Research groups were organized to visit Austria, the Netherlands, Finland, Brazil, and other countries and expert meetings were held. Additionally, representatives from relevant Chinese government departments participated in international research on the circular economy and other topics, helping to strengthen China's green governance capacity.

III. CCICED Council Members and Special Advisors have actively engaged in key activities, strengthening the Council's influence and ensuring forward-thinking research.

Throughout the year, 9 new Chinese and international Council Members and Special Advisors were appointed. The Executive Committee attended the CCICED AGM and Open Forums and participated in discussions on policy recommendations. A total of 22 Council Members and Special Advisors contributed to policy research, bringing their expertise to support high-quality policy recommendations, boosting the influence of CCICED activities and the forward-looking nature of its policy research.

In a CCTV interview during the 2023 AGM, CCICED Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, **Inger Andersen**, praised CCICED's role as a bridge between Chinese and international research and policy communities. CCICED's International Chief Advisor, **Scott Vaughan**, highlighted China's progress on delivering ecological civilization in a separate interview. Ahead of the Fifth China-

EU High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate, CCICED Council Members **Dirk Messner,** President of the German Environment Agency, and **Marco Lambertini**, Convener of the Nature Positive Initiative, advocated for close cooperation between China and Europe on tackling climate change. Additionally, Council Members **Kate Hampton**, CEO of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (UK), and **He Kebin**, Director of the Institute for Carbon Neutrality at Tsinghua University, have engaged in deep dive interviews, while Special Advisor **Neo Gim Huay**, Executive Director of the Nature and Climate Center at the World Economic Forum, penned an opinion piece with **Dirk Messner**, enhancing the knowledge sharing across the CCICED community on a wide range of environmental challenges facing China and the world.

IV. Promoting Gender Mainstreaming and Expanding Youth Participation

In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality, gender mainstreaming is integrated into all aspects of CCICED's research. Gender perspectives are incorporated into SPS research topics, and the involvement of female experts is actively encouraged to boost their participation. Over the past year, 123 female experts contributed to CCICED research, representing 39% of the total—a 6.7 percentage point increase from the previous year. Among the SPS coordinators, 13 were women, accounting for 62%. Additionally, each SPS team is required to appoint a gender focal point, and gender experts provide specialized training and advice on further promoting gender inclusion.

Young participants were involved in the research for the Green Consumption Discussion Paper, offering insights and recommendations to raise public awareness of green consumption among their peers.

V. Supported by Partners, the CCICED Secretariat and Secretariat International Support Office Delivered Strong Coordination and Support

The Secretariat and the Secretariat International Support Office coordinated effectively, diligently implementing the decisions of the Executive Committee, establishing regular joint working meeting mechanisms to streamline conference organization, event planning, and media outreach, as well as continuous support for the Chief Advisors, Council Members and Special Advisors.

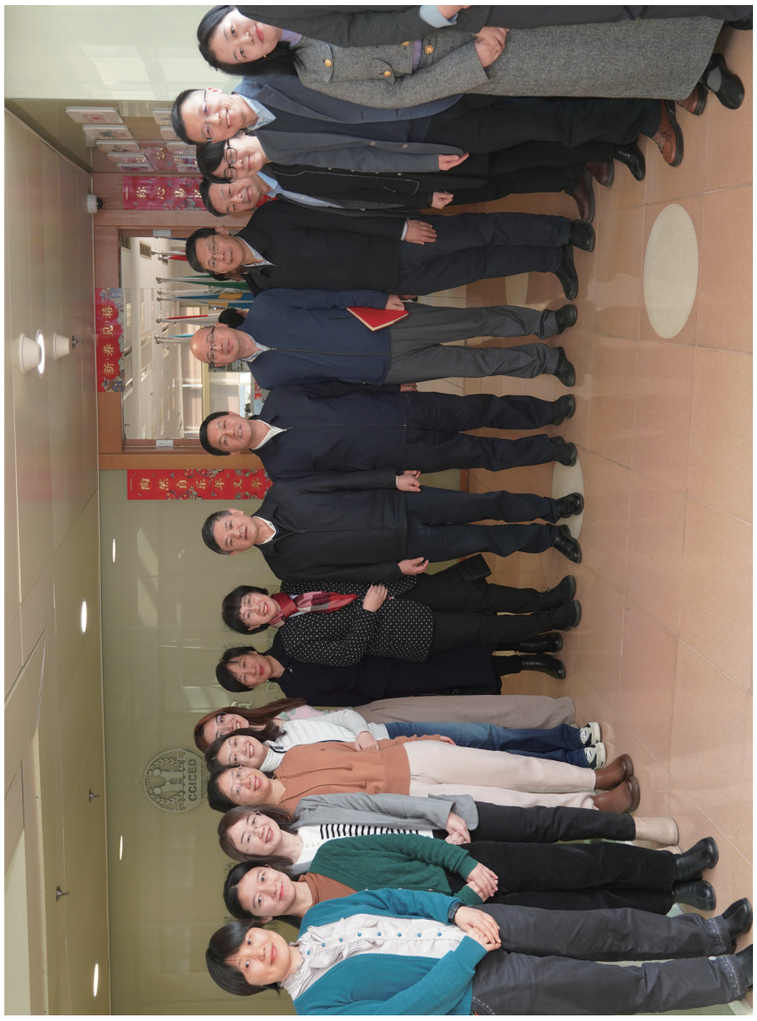
Over the past year, CCICED has continued to receive strong support and widespread attention from its partners. The International Chief Advisor maintained close communication with partners through both online and offline channels, including visits to Council Members and partners in Europe to present CCICED’s work and gather feedback and suggestions. The Secretariat actively engaged with CCICED partners, hosting 33 bilateral meetings throughout the year. Partners such as the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) supported the Secretariat in delivering capacity-building training. This collaboration continuously improved the Secretariat’s capabilities in research, planning, fundraising, communications, event organization, and logistical support, boosting its overall performance.

Over the past year, CCICED has continued to receive strong support and widespread attention from its partners. Government agencies from Canada, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden, along with organizations, such as the Sequoia Climate Foundation, Energy Foundation, Energy Innovation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, World Resources Institute, and World Wildlife Fund, have provided substantial financial backing for CCICED's work. Additionally, regional and international organizations, including the United Nations Environment

Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Institute for Sustainable Development, ClientEarth, and World Economic Forum, alongside institutions like the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University, Peking University, Xiamen University, Nankai University, Liaoning University, National Development and Reform Commission Energy Research Institute, China International Capital Corporation Research Institute, Belt and Road Initiative Green Development International Alliance, and Ant Group, have contributed both financially and intellectually. These contributions were made through participation in research projects, co-organizing events, and conducting capacity-building activities, further enhancing CCICED's efforts.

Over the past year, CCICED's Facebook account posted 128 items, attracting 878,000 followers, with over 5.962 million views and 375,000 engagements. On X (formerly Twitter), 131 posts were made, reaching 23,000 followers, with 132,000 views and over 4,000 engagements. The WeChat public account grew to 6,111 followers, publishing 53 articles with 13,211 views and 696 shares. Additionally, 48 issues of the CCICED Newsletter (English version) were produced to provide the CCICED community with timely updates on CCICED research outcomes and activities, as well as recent developments in environment and development in China and abroad. These communication products served as vital channels to support the active participation of Council Members and Special Advisors in CCICED's work.








中国环境与发展国际合作委员会2023年会
China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development Annual General Meeting
绿色赋能高质量发展 推动人与自然和谐共生的现代化
Green Transition for High-Quality Development, Modernization in Harmony with Nature
26-30 August 2023 Beijing




生态环境国际合作座谈会
International Environmental Cooperation Round-table
共商绿色发展之路
Co-exploring Green Development Pathways


CHINA
中国


赵英民
ZHAO Yingmin


中国环境与发展国际合作委员会2024年圆桌会
China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development
Roundtable Meeting
蓝色经济助力美丽海南
Empowering Hainan's Beauty Through Blue Economy









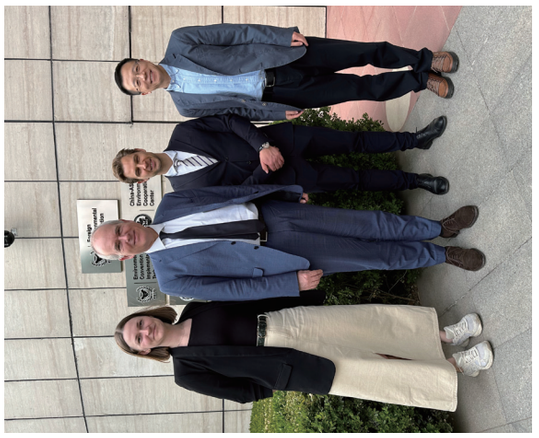


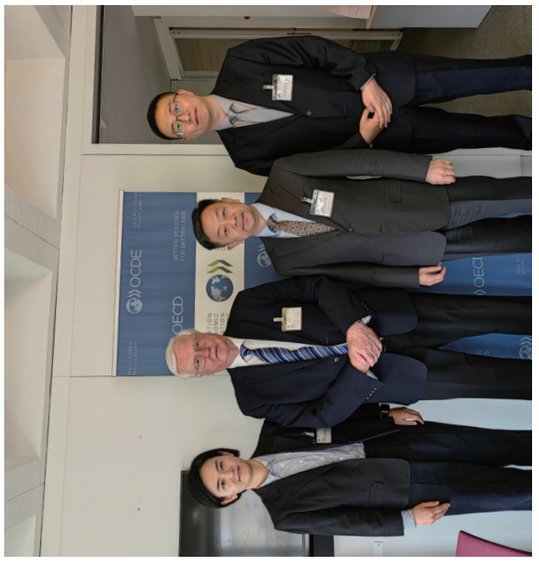








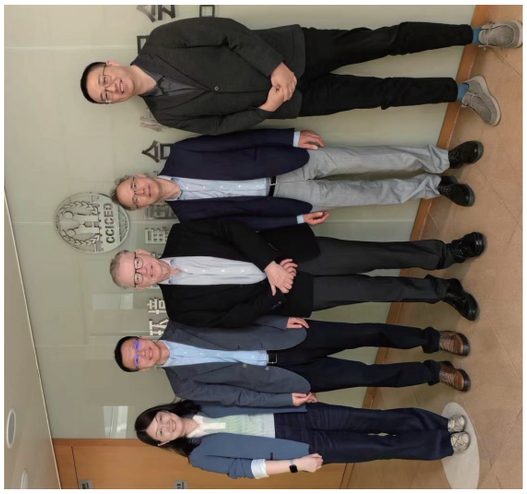









国合会（CCICED）中国传统能源地区低碳转型前期研究项目
CCICED Scoping Study on Low-Carbon Transition of Traditional Energy Regions of China: Study of Coal Triangle Area



















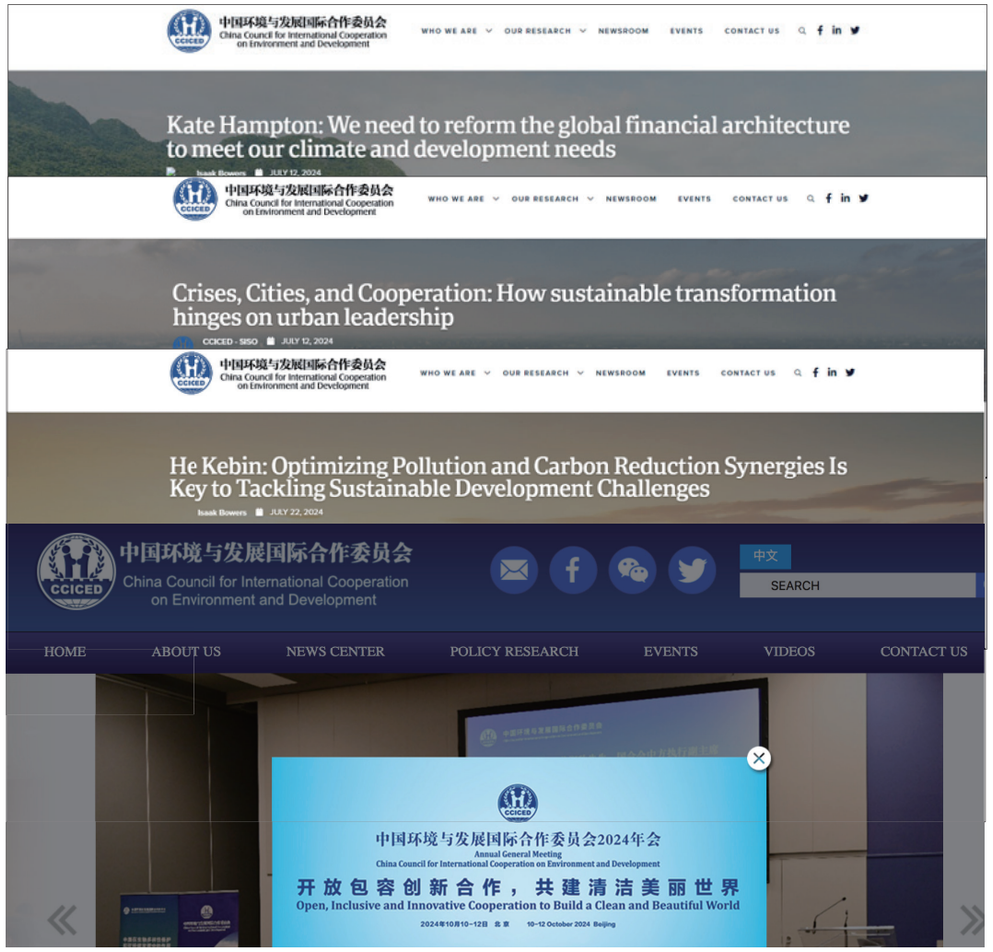

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专题政策研究报告
中国碳中和实现路径与全球气候治理
2024


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Low-Carbon Transition of Traditional Energy Regions of China
Scoping Study 2024


SPS ADAPTATION
Green Development and
Adaptation for Urban and
Climate adaptation in a changing
We focused on
SPS CO-CONTROL
Collaborative Mechanism for Carbon Reduction, Pollution Reduction, Green Expansion and Growth
We focused on
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SPS FINANCE
2024 CCICED Special Polic
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2023—2024 Work Plan
2024—2025 Work Plan


中国环境与发展国际合作委员会
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Kate Hampton: We need to reform the global financial architecture to meet our climate and development needs
Crises, Cities, and Cooperation: How sustainable transformation hinges on urban leadership
He Kebin: Optimizing Pollution and Carbon Reduction Synergies Is Key to Tackling Sustainable Development Challenges
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Annual General Meeting
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开放包容创新合作，共建清洁美丽世界
Open, Inclusive and Innovative Cooperation to Build a Clean and Beautiful World
2024年10月10–12日 北京 10–12 October 2024 Beijing


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186篇原创内容
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Events｜国合会2024年年会即将召开
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China, EU set to strengthen role
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Experts expect ministerial-level meeting in Brussels
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By Hou Liqiang | China Daily | Updated: 2024-06-19 07:01


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Intro
The China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) was founded in 1992 as a high-level international advisory body with the approval of the Government of China.
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