



Summary Speech at the Closing Ceremony

Zhou Shengxian, Executive Vice Chairperson
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Members and experts, Ladies and gentlemen, friends,

The CCICED 2011 Annual general Meeting has finished each agenda with concerted efforts of all Members and experts. Speaking their minds, members and experts brainstormed and put forward many constructive suggestions over the past three days. The meeting has met its expected aim with great success.

Premier Wen Jiabao met with CCICED International Members in the morning of the day before yesterday to listen to their policy recommendations to the Chinese Government on environment and development issues. He pointed out that we will make transforming economic development mode and adjusting economic structure the theme and main objective during the “12th Five-Year Plan” period. One important aspect is facilitating green and sustainable development and allowing the general public to get access to improved environmental quality. Focusing on several aspects such as adjusting economic structure, adopting economic instruments, strengthening scientific innovation and conducting strict examinations of officials, China will promote green transformation. He said, we should adopt more practical and stronger measures, address heavy metals, soil and mercury pollution as well as air and water pollution, pay attention to the improvement of environmental monitoring and assessment standards for environmental quality, and gradually follow international practice so that the environmental monitoring results will reach public expectations for green mountains, blue skies and white clouds. In the afternoon of the day before yesterday, Mr. Li Keqiang, Vice Premier of the State Council and CCICED Chairman attended the opening ceremony and gave an important speech. He pointed out, environment is closely related to development, and it has an important and irreplaceable position in the global agenda for both facilitating strong recovery and sustainable growth of the world economy and seeking the harmony and joint progress between economy and the environment and between development and transformation.

Transformative development is innovation-driven, inclusive and harmonious development with expansion of domestic demand. It is development with coordination and interaction among economy, society, resources and the environment; it is development that saves energy with high efficiency, reform-driven development as well as open and transformative development. At the opening ceremony Vice Premier Li Keqiang granted Membership Awards to the representatives of Chinese and International Members who are going to finish their term, in order to appreciate their active contributions to the environment and development cause of China. Vice Premier Li Keqiang took a group photo with Members of CCICED Phase IV after the opening ceremony.

Centering on the theme of “Green Transformation of China’s Economic Development Mode”, Chinese and International Executive Vice Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons each presented a speech or report at this Annual General Meeting. CCICED Chief Advisors introduced the CCICED 2011 Issues Paper. The meeting consisted of the reports of the findings of 6 research projects including Development Mechanism and Policy Innovation of China’s Green Economy; Low Carbon Industrialization Strategy in China; Trade, Investment and Environment, Policy Mechanism for Meeting the “12th Five-Year Plan” Environment and Development Objectives; Special Policy Study on China’s Green Supply Chain and Special Policy Study on Mercury Management in China as well as the policy recommendations based on all findings of the above research projects. The Policy Recommendation Group seriously listened to the comments and suggestions and improved the policy recommendations. After collective review and discussion, members adopted the policy recommendations in principle. CCICED Secretariat will submit them to the Chinese Government according to the procedures after the meeting.

Members and experts,

During the meeting, participants had in-depth discussions and communications, shared good experiences and practices, stimulated new ideas and viewpoints and reached a series of common understanding. They mainly include the following aspects:

First, China has made remarkable achievements in the environment and development field. China has always taken economic development as its central task and conservation of resources and environmental protection as basic national policies. It has vigorously implemented a sustainable development strategy and strived for the achievement of a win-win situation of economic development and environmental protection. Members mentioned several times that the environment and development of China have made great achievements since reform and opening up, particularly during the “11th Five-Year Plan” period. The target of emission reduction has been met ahead of schedule against the background of



average annual growth rate of 6.6% for energy consumption and 11.2% for GDP, both exceeding the planned target. This is the key achievement in the field of environment and development of China over the past five years. China has established the Ministry of Environmental Protection and further improved the environmental management system. China has promoted an environmental impact statement of plans, conducted strict EIA projects, and firmly curbed exceedingly fast growth of the industries with high energy consumption and emissions, and resource oriented industry. China has facilitated the prevention and control of pollution at the regional and river basin levels. The environmental quality of key activities such as Beijing Summer Olympic Games and the Shanghai World Expo was effectively guaranteed. China has released policies such as green credit and green securities; conducted trials on trade of emission rights and eco compensation, and there is an increasing application of market instruments in the field of environmental protection. China has strengthened publicity and guidance and facilitated disclosure of information with a great improvement of public environmental awareness. These achievements have laid a solid foundation for the development of the environmental protection cause during the “12th Five-Year Plan” period.

Second, green transformation of economic development in the current stage in China is mainly reflected by energy saving, emission reduction and higher economic efficiency. For China, green transformation is reflected by energy saving and emission reduction and strict control of enterprises with high energy consumption and high emissions. Promoting transformative development refers to healthy development that does not sacrifice the environment, and also means development with energy conservation and high efficiency. Our country must further phase out outdated productivity and curb the development of the industries with high energy consumption and high emissions. Meanwhile, our country should vigorously develop circular economy, new industry and high-technology industries including low-carbon technology, accelerate the development of the service industry, and establish a modern industrial system that saves energy with high efficiency. At this meeting, experts and scholars put forward many good ideas and suggestions ranging from transforming government functions to adjusting economic policy, from facilitating low carbon industry to promoting the development of green agriculture, from establishing green supply chain to expanding green consumption, from developing the service industry to achieving green investment and trade. This fully shows that transformation of development mode is a comprehensive, multi-level, structural and profound reform in the economy and society; it is a comprehensive, systematic and strategic adjustment. We must strengthen the design at the top level and in the master plan, ensure mutual support, coordination and facilitation of all measures, and develop strong concerted efforts that facilitate



transformation of economic development.

Third, managing the relations among environmental protection, economic development and social progress well is a hard option. CCICED Issues Paper summarizes that green transformation of economic development mode of China is facing five challenges and five big opportunities. Among them, to handle the relations between economic growth and environmental protection well is the prime challenge. Both the economy and the environment are experiencing reform and transformation at the same time. The problem is how the two transformations can reach a point of good interaction and mutual support. Promoting green transformation of development is the important point combing environmental protection with economic development, which in nature aims at achieving harmony and a win-win situation with economic development and environmental protection. After in-depth discussions, all members and experts agree that environmental protection matters both in economic development and social development. A good environment has increasingly become a key factor for economic development and an important sign for social harmony. To enable the people to get access to clean water and fresh air as well as safe food, and live and work in a beautiful environment of green mountains, blue sky and clear waters are the objectives of environmental protection and the prime task for economic development, social development and development of ecological civilization. In practice we deeply understand that the difficulty of environmental protection work at present and in the future years is how to correctly handle the relationship between economic development, environmental protection and social progress. The “12th Five-Year Plan” period is the key period for China to accelerate the transformation of economic development mode and carry out a strategic adjustment of economic structure. Therefore, it is very important to give full play to the role of environmental protection in optimizing economic development. Environmental protection must actively take part in macro economic regulations and service the big picture of economic development. We should speed up the development of a comprehensive decision making mechanism for environment and development, thoroughly consider the carrying capacity of eco environment, fully assess the adverse impacts on the environment in key decision making processes such as regional development and adjustment of industrial structure and lastly, avoid environmental degradation and ecological damage due to poor decision making.

Fourth, we should actively explore new paths to environmental protection and facilitate new development of the environment and development cause in an all around way. Premier Wen Jiabao clearly pointed out that we should not follow the old path of pursuing economic development at the cost of the environment, which not only is unsustainable, but also threatens the long-term interests of the people. This once again emphasizes the great significance of exploration of new paths to environmental protection at a higher strategic



level. Members and experts gave full approval of and recognition to active exploration of a new path to environmental protection that is minimal in cost, sound in benefits, low in emission and sustainable in development. They also approved of the six objective systems, and the four objectives and three pieces of work that should be successfully carried out during the “12th Five-Year Plan” period. The important progress of environmental protection in China during the “11th Five-Year Plan” period has to do with the active exploration of a new path to environmental protection. Based on a new starting point, the “12th Five-Year Plan” will strive for new breakthroughs; still, we need to take active exploration of a new path to environmental protection as our fundamental approach.

To each Member and expert,

Time flies! CCICED Phase IV has experienced extraordinary progress during 2007—2011. Centering on themes such as “Innovation and Environment-Friendly Society”, “Institutional Innovation and Harmonious Development”, “Environment, Energy and Development”, “Ecosystem Management and Green Development — Exploration of New Paths to Environmental Protection with Chinese Characteristics” and “Green Transformation of China’s Economic Development Mode”, CCICED Phase IV has carried out studies and put forward a series of innovative and valuable policy recommendations to the Chinese Government over the past five years. It has played a unique role in promoting the environment and development cause of China. At the time when CCICED Phase IV is finishing its term, on behalf of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and CCICED, I extend our sincere thanks for your contributions to the environment and development cause of China! I hope that you will pay attention to and support the environmental protection cause of China as you have before and become long-lasting good friends and partners with environmental workers of China.

Upon the approval of the State Council, we are establishing CCICED Phase V. I hope that all old friends will continue their support and some new friends will join us to facilitate the continuous development of CCICED towards the new and higher objectives.

Finally, please allow me on behalf of the CCICED Bureau, Ministry of Environmental Protection and in my own name to express heartfelt thanks to all experts, scholars, government officials and the people who have worked hard for the success of this AGM!

Thank you.