



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) CCICED 2017 Work Report

CCICED 2017 Annual General Meeting
December 9-11, 2017

Established in 1992, the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) is a non-profit, high-level international policy advisory body. Bringing together senior international and Chinese expertise to conduct interdisciplinary policy research, the CCICED has become a long-standing and influential policy platform, fostering cooperation on environment and development between China and the world. With sustaining support from many domestic and international government departments, international organizations, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations, the CCICED has contributed to China's ecological civilization as well as global sustainable development.

Phase VI of the CCICED starts in 2017. With committed support from the Chinese government and international partners, the CCICED integrates new ideas and approaches for domestic and international environment and development. Mr. Zhang Gaoli, China's Vice Premier of the State Council and CCICED Chairperson, has expressed the hope that *"CCICED shall serve as a platform for exchanges on environment and development policies between China and the international communities, for promoting collaborative efforts to achieve ecological civilization, and for advocating innovative and better governance system of the global environment"*. Therefore, the CCICED launched into Phase VI following the 2016 AGM, conducting forward-looking, precautionary and practical policy research, promoting the demonstration and sharing of policy research outcomes, and meeting planned objectives. Here is an overview of the progress achieved in 2017.

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF PHASE VI

Since the approval of the CCICED Phase VI by the Chinese government in September 2016, the Secretariat has made all needed preparations and has been guided throughout by the principles of diversity, inclusiveness, and sharing. The Secretariat actively engaged with established and prospective partners in order to outline the coming five years' activities.

1.1 Drafting the Charter of CCICED Phase VI

The draft CCICED Phase VI Charter was drafted and revised in consultation with major partners and is ready for approval at the first Annual General Meeting of Phase VI.

Following the basic framework and elements of Phase V, the Phase VI document includes new clauses to reflect evolving circumstances and to respond to partners' interests. The charter (1) reiterates the principles of diversity, inclusiveness, and sharing; (2) outlines the mission of promoting an ecological civilization in China and global sustainable development; and (3) adds new seats for Chinese and international special advisers, who will provide technical support to CCICED research activities.

1.2 Inviting council members and special advisers

A high-profile and diverse membership is vital to the long-term development and sustained influence of the CCICED. During the nomination process of Phase VI members and special advisers, the CCICED took into account inclusiveness and representativeness, as well as balance among genders, geographic regions and technical backgrounds. At present, there are 65 Phase VI council members (29 Chinese, 36 international). The Chinese and international membership is composed of high-level officials from concerned government departments, leaders from international organizations and financial institutions, senior scholars from universities and research institutions, entrepreneurs from leading enterprises, as well as representatives from civil society. In addition, 35 special advisers (17 Chinese and 18 international) have been appointed to support Phase VI work; the special advisers are senior officials, experts, scholars and entrepreneurs who are highly respected in the field of environment and sustainable development.

1.3 Identifying future research

Policy research is at the core of CCICED's mission and is the source of its policy recommendations. In Phase VI, CCICED research will reflect changes in the challenges facing China in this new era and contribute to achieving the phased goals of (1) building a moderately prosperous society by 2020; (2) realizing modernization and establishing a modern social governance system by 2035; and (3) developing into a great modern socialist country by 2050. In addition, CCICED's research should also offer Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to the establishment of our global environmental governance system.

After consultation with interested parties, the following four major research areas have been identified for CCICED Phase VI:

- 1. Global Governance and Ecological Civilization*
- 2. Green Urbanization and Environmental Improvement*
- 3. Innovation, Sustainable Production and Consumption*

4. Green Energy, Investment and Trade

Research conducted will follow a number of pathways including (1) Task Forces, which consist of mid-to-long-term systematic and in-depth research; (2) Special Policy Studies, which will be established under each TF and focus more narrowly on defined issues; (3) quick-response initiatives, targeting more urgent matters; and (4) seminars and brainstorming sessions. This will enable the CCICED to continue contributing valuable, influential and practical policy recommendations.

1.4 Securing financial and intellectual support

CCICED Phase VI has again received strong support from a wide number of organizations, especially from international partners. We make a special mention of partners who have pledged their support, including Canada, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the EU, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, ADB, EDF, Energy Foundation, the Nature Conservancy (TNC), WWF, ClientEarth, IISD, WRI, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, COSCO SHIPPING Charity Foundation, and INDITEX. So far, a total of USD 25 million has been committed to CCICED Phase VI.

Meanwhile, many think tanks, universities and research institutions have indicated they will consult for the CCICED, as well as support its capacity building and knowledge sharing efforts in China and abroad. This demonstrates that the foundation of the CCICED's long-term development is stronger than ever.

2. POLICY RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

In 2017, the Secretariat supervised policy research and policy demonstration projects, which provide the basis for this year's policy recommendations to the Government of China. CCICED partners have played an important role in these projects by offering financial support and expertise, as well as facilitating field studies, site visits and seminars.

2.1 Policy research

(1) Completing the Task Force on China's Green Transformation: Outlook 2020-2050: This TF addressed the necessity and outlined the vision of China's green transformation, as well as its historical background and opportunities. The TF also looked into the prospect of a post-transformation green economy, and described a policy framework and road map for green development.

(2) Launching the Special Policy Study on Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization under the TF on Global Governance and Ecological Civilization: This SPS will focus on ecosystem-based ocean management and integrated ocean governance, and carry out systematic research on the protection of marine biological resources and biodiversity, prevention and control of marine pollution, green shipping, renewable energy and extraction of underwater mineral resources.

(3) Launching a study on issues related to environmental management system reform: This study will take into account the need for modernizing China's national governance processes and governance capacity, target critical issues in current environmental protection protocols and approaches, conduct theoretical research and summarize practical experience for the reform of ecological protection and rural areas' environmental management, and provide policy recommendations for deepening the reform of environmental protection protocols and approaches.

(4) Conducting quick-response studies on urgent issues: Over the past year, the CCICED has organized 17 seminars and submitted 11 special reports to concerned government departments on topics such as global ocean governance, green urbanization, green investment and trade, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and environmental governance capacity, green supply chains and national parks. The activities were implemented with the collaboration of: Ministries of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the State Oceanic Administration, the Export-Import Bank of China, local governments, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as well as international experts and scholars from Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United States, UNEP and other groups.

2.2 Policy demonstration projects

(1) Policy research and demonstration on management of cumulative environmental risks in polluted industrial zones of Jiangsu province: This project targets areas which are representative of sites previously occupied by industrial parks, and which are affected by heavy metal contamination or with legacy industrial pollution. It explores how to develop measures for cumulative environmental risk management and plans to raise awareness and build the capacity of local government authorities.

(2) Demonstration of an indicator system and mechanism to support sustainable consumption: Building on the outcomes of the TF on Sustainable Consumption, this project evaluated the status of regional sustainable consumption in Shanghai, identified the barriers to policy implementation, and put forward policy recommendations.

(3) Demonstration on environmental information disclosure for listed companies: This project will be carried out in collaboration with the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC). It will take into account international best practice and the situation of Chinese capital markets, and put forward policy recommendations for fine-tuning China's environmental information disclosure system for listed companies.

3. DISSEMINATION AND SHARING OF RESEARCH OUTCOMES

CCICED's research outcomes have been widely disseminated and shared through various channels.

3.1 Promoting green governance capacity

Based on Phase V research outcomes and policy recommendations, the CCICED co-published a book entitled *China: Towards Green Development* with the Chinese Academy of Governance. This publication will be used as a textbook in the academy, raising awareness, and facilitating capacity building in green development among government officials at all levels.

3.2 Participating in the institutional innovation of China's environmental governance system

The CCICED co-hosted an international seminar on public administration with interested Chinese government departments, sharing research outcomes on environmental protection governance and capacity, inviting Chinese and international experts in the field of environmental protection to share experience and solutions, and facilitating the reform of, and greater innovation in China's environmental governance system. The CCICED also organized a site visit to Germany and France for officials from concerned government departments, looking into management systems for national parks and international experience in inter-ministerial, cross-regional river basin management, as well as promoting the modernization of China's national governance approaches and its governance capacity.

3.3 Information dissemination

Through the CCICED's official website and its WeChat channel, there has been more timely dissemination of information, such as updates on various Council activities, outcomes from policy research projects, and briefing on policy progress and technical innovation in the field of environment and development. Research outcomes have also been distributed in a number of formats such as publications, videos, and other materials, broadening the audience and enhancing the impact of the CCICED.