



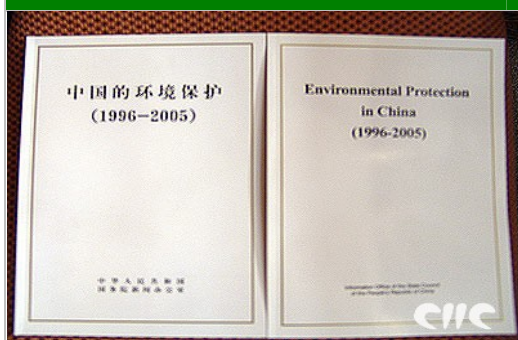
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## High light



### **White paper issued on environment protection**

China published on Monday a white paper on environmental protection [\[Full Text\]](#), illustrating the government's persistent efforts in this field in the past decade.

The white paper also says that the situation of environmental protection in the country is still "grave".

The 45-page white paper, the second of its kind since 1996, is titled "Environmental Protection in China (1996-2005)" and released by the Information Office of the State Council, China's cabinet.

The 17,000-word white paper briefs on China's achievements in environmental protection legislation and system, prevention and control of industrial pollution, pollution control in key regions, environmental impact assessment, international cooperation in environmental protection and some other related aspects.

According to the white paper, since 1996, the State has formulated or revised major laws on environmental protection, such as those on prevention and control of water pollution, marine environment protection, prevention and control of air pollution, as well as evaluation of environmental impact.

The State Council has formulated or revised over 50 administrative regulations to strengthen environmental protection.

Relevant departments of the State Council, local people's congresses and local people's governments have, within the limit of their powers, formulated and promulgated over 660 central and local rules and regulations in order to implement the national laws and administrative regulations on environmental protection.

For three years in a row, the State has launched special environmental protection campaigns to rectify enterprises that have discharged pollutants in violation of the law and to protect people's health.

The campaigns have dealt with over 75,000 environmental law violation cases, and had 16,000 enterprises closed down for having discharged pollutants in violation of the law. More than 10,000 warnings have been issued to environment polluters, obliging them to remedy the problems under government supervision.

In 1998, the Chinese government changed the name of the State Environmental Protection Bureau to the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), and elevated it to the ministerial level, says the paper.

There are now 3,226 environmental protection administration departments at different levels all over China, with 167,000 people engaging in environmental administration, monitoring, scientific research, publicity and education. There are 3,854 environmental supervision and environmental law enforcement organs with more than 50,000 staff members.

The white paper stresses that prevention and control of industrial pollution is the focal point of China's environmental protection endeavors.

Statistics show that the amount of industrial waste water, oxygen for industrial chemicals, industrial sulfur dioxide, industrial smoke and industrial dust discharged in generating one unit of GDP in China in

2004 dropped by 58 percent, 72 percent, 42percent, 55 percent and 39 percent, respectively, from 1995. Energy consumption per 10,000 yuan (1,250 U.S. dollar)-worth of GDP in 2004 declined by 45 percent from 1990.

Compared with 1996, in 2005 the proportion of cities with air quality reaching Grade II of the state standard increased by 31 percentage points, while that of cities with air quality lower than Grade III decreased by 39 percentage points.

In recent years, China has completed more than 800,000 rural drinking water projects, solving difficulties and insecurity in this regard for 67 million rural residents.

The white paper says that the eco-environment in some parts of China has begun to improve after a long period of unswerving efforts.

According to its statistics, the total newly afforested area has reached over 6.67 million hectares every year since 2002. At present, the national forest acreage is 175 million hectares, the forest cover 18.21 percent.

By the end of 2005, there were 2,349 nature reserves of various kinds and levels in China, covering 1.5 million square km and taking up about 15 percent of the country's land territory, the paper says.

The last decade has seen the largest increase ever in China's investment in its environmental protection. A pluralistic financing system based on government support has taken initial shape after years of efforts.

Between 1996 and 2004, China's investment into environmental pollution control reached 952.27 billion yuan (119 billions U.S. dollars), amounting to one percent of that period's GDP. In 2006, expenditure on environmental protection has been formally itemized in the State's financial budget, the white paper says.

The paper highlights environmental impact assessment (EIA) as a legal measure to curb environmental pollution and ecological destruction at the source.

China attaches great importance to and consistently seeks to enhance the support capability of science and technology for environmental protection, actively promotes the industrialization of environmental protection, the paper says.

By the end of 2004, China had 11,623 enterprises, each with an annual sales income of more than 2 million yuan (250,000 U.S. dollars), engaged in environmental protection businesses, employing a total of 1.595 million workers.

The white paper notes that the Chinese government has endeavored to boost public participation in environmental protection. There are now more than 1,000 non-governmental environmental organizations in China.

So far, China has acceded to more than 50 international conventions on environmental protection, and has been active in performing the obligations stipulated in these conventions, which include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The white paper, however, also notes that the government is fully aware of the grave situation of environmental protection in the country.

In some regions, environmental pollution and ecological deterioration are still very serious. The discharge of major pollutants has surpassed the sustaining capacity of the environment. Water, land and soil pollution is serious, and pollution caused by solid wastes, motor vehicle emission and not easily degradable organic matter is increasing, the paper warns.

In the 11th Five-Year Program for Economic and Social Development (2006-2010), China has clearly set forth its main goals for environmental protection for the next five years: by 2010, while the national economy will maintain a relatively stable and fast growth, the environmental quality of key regions and cities will be improved, and the trend toward ecological deterioration will be brought under control.

The 11th Five-Year Program also requires energy consumption per unit of GDP to be declined by 20 percent, compared with the end of the 10th Five-Year Plan period. The total amount of major pollutants discharged will be reduced by ten percent, and forest coverage will be raised from 18.2 percent to 20 percent.

In its conclusion, the white paper stresses that China is a big, responsible developing country. Solving China's environmental problems is in keeping with China's development goals. It will contribute to the well being of the 1.3 billion Chinese people, and it is also an important manifestation of the shared interest of mankind.

Source: Xinhua News

## Task Forces



### **Task Force on Environmental Governance**

During June 1~3, the Task Force on Environmental Governance held two meetings respectively in Beijing and Nantong city of Jiangsu province participated by all the TF members. Both of the TF Co-chairs, Prof. Xue Lan and Dr. Daniel Dudek respectively presided over the meeting. At the two meetings, discussions were held on issues covering case study, general report and policy recommendation, and arrangements were made over the works of the TF for the next stage. During the meeting, the TF also listened to the environmental governance experience of Nantong city and visited local Environmental

Protection Bureau and enterprises.

From May 30th to 31st, the TF General Report Draft Team held a closed-door meeting deliberating the drafting of the general report and relevant suggestions.

### **Task Force on Economic Growth and Environment**

On April 25~26, the Task Force on Economic Growth and Environment held a meeting in Beijing. Both of the TF Co-chairs, member and relevant personnel attended the meeting. The meeting elaborated on the work achievements of the previous stage and the actual progress on the establishment of economic and environmental early-warning system model and talked over the basic considerations for the policy recommendations of the TF to be submitted to CCICED, the main setting and major contents of the general report of this TF as well as the arrangement for the works of the next stage and work division among all the TF members.

At the meeting, detailed discussions were carried out on the drawing up of basic principles, policy objectives and policy instruments concerning the policy recommendations. As for the policy instruments, the meeting concluded that an integration of multiple policies should be adopted including the ones on taxation, finance, price, environmental management and control. In specific, these policies include: first, regarding taxation, efforts should be made on the study of natural resources tax, environmental investment tax and others from an input perspective, tax reduction and exemption over environmentally-friendly products and recycled resources should be studied from an output perspective, while the choice must be made between the options of fee charging or taxation levying from the angle of pollution discharge. Second, regarding financial policies, a set of issues should be put within our research scope including the formulation of financial policies supporting environmental protection R&D and public investment and the ones focusing on ecological compensation and effective subsidies towards underdeveloped areas as well as on the financial means in support of government-backed projects such as interest discount. Third, in terms of price policies, the issue of price-fixing over the departments monopolizing primary resources should be studied, and the price formation mechanism should be drawn up. Fourth, regarding environmental management and control system, the ceiling and bottom-line on environmental standard of China should be laid down respectively. In addition, a range of other issues such as technical standard, public participation in environmental management, information disclosure on environmental safety, environmental investment and financing mechanism, the establishment of environmental monitoring system and international cooperation within the sector of environmental protection should all be worked over.

## The Secretariat



### **The Secretariat holding a Meeting on Innovation for an Environmentally-friendly Society**

A Meeting on Innovation for an Environmentally-friendly Society hosted by CCICED Secretariat and sponsored by Tsinghua University and US Environmental Defence was held on May 22. The Chinese Lead Expert, Prof. Shen Guofang chaired the meeting, and CCICED Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Xu Qinghua attended and addressed the meeting. Also attending the meeting were renowned experts and scholars from countries like the U.S., Germany and Sweden,

representatives from related departments under MOST and SEPA as well as representatives from the organizations of the Norway, Sweden, Italy, and France in China.

It was agreed by all participants of the meeting that the current situation of technological innovation in environmental protection of China was far from satisfying and there's still a long way to go ahead of us. The specific demonstration of the problems are as follows: China still faces a gap in fostering a favorable atmosphere for the buildup of an environmentally-friendly society; the application of technology still lags behind the current technological achievements on environmental protection; and there's still a gap between the innovative capacity of China with its actual demand. The problems concerning technological development and innovation in the area of environmental protection are mainly as follows: first, environmental management is severely separated from science and technology; second, we are in great lack of pollution prevention and control technology reserves, and the low rate of technological achievement transformation has hampered the building of industrialization and lead to the low level of pollution prevention and control technologies in enterprises in general; third, the technological support for environmental monitoring and law enforcement is separated, research in relevant standard and research methodology are insufficient, and rudimental strengthen in environmental monitoring, early-warning and law enforcement is weak; fourth, the technological operation staff in this field has big room for improvement in terms of expertise; fifth, the input in science and technology study is far from enough so as to establish a stable environmental science and technology input mechanism, and the basic conditions for science and technology study are obsolete. At the present stage, the contents and the implementation methods of environmental technological innovations in China should take into consideration of the following 3 aspects: first, the channeling of more capital on the R&D and pollution prevention and control in the field of environmental protection and bringing such investment in line with the development and evolvement of national strategy; second, the leapfrogging development of China in technological R&D as well as application; third, the reduction of regional and sector technological disparity through technological spreading and innovation.

#### **Meeting between the Secretariat and AFD Representative Office in China**

On May 24, CCICED Secretariat held a meeting with French Development Agency (AFD) Representative Office in China. The Secretariat briefed the AFD on the vision of the 4th Phase of CCICED and the two parties held preliminary discussions on launching bilateral cooperation between China and France on the platform of CCICED. Director of CCICED Secretariat, Mr. Guo Jing and Chief Representative of AFD Representative Office in China, Mr. Olivier Richard attended the meeting.

#### **Task Force Liaison Working Meeting Held by the Secretariat**

On May 30, CCICED Secretariat held a Task Force Liaison Working Meeting. At the meeting, the Secretariat listened to the program implementation report of TF on Eco-compensation mechanism, TF on Environmental Governance and TF on Economic Growth and Environment as well as their existing problems. After that, the Secretariat introduced the work arrangement slated for the next step and asked all the Task Forces to formally submit their final research reports by the end of September in an effort to secure the convocation of the 5th AGM of the 3rd Phase of CCICED. Director of CCICED Secretariat, Mr. Guo Jing attended the meeting.

### **Meetings and Events**

- CCICED Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Xu Qinghua is to head a delegation to visit CIDA on negotiations over the 4th Phase of CCICED on June 24.
- TF on Economic Growth and Environment is to hold a plenary meeting in Chongqing during June 21~25.
- TF on China's Environment and Development Review and Prospect plans to hold a TF expert meeting in Vancouver of Canada during 26~29 of June.
- CCICED Secretariat will issue the first round of meeting notice on the 5th AGM of the 3rd Phase of CCICED in late June.