

● Hot Topics

■ China striving to reach 11th Five-Year Plan energy-saving goals

China is sparing no effort to meet its 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) energy-conservation goals, a senior official said June 11.

Xie Zhenhua, Vice Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planning agency, made the remarks quoting Premier Wen Jiabao, a statement posted on the NDRC website said.

According to the plan, China will cut its per unit of GDP energy consumption by 20 percent from 2005 levels by the end of 2010.

No matter how difficult it may be, the promise must not be broken, the statement said.

Data shows China's energy consumption per unit of GDP dropped 2.2 percent last year, failing to meet the annual target of 4 percent.

The NDRC called on companies to make greater efforts in the remaining six months of the year.

The NDRC will ask energy-intensive enterprises to shut down or curtail production.

The planner will promote energy-conserving industries with preferential policies, according to the statement. (Source: Xinhua)

■ Chinese Vice Premier stresses environmental protection

Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang has called for better protection of the environment in order to boost the transformation of the country's economic growth and to promote sustainable economic and social development.

Li made the remarks when meeting with environmental advocates in Beijing prior to the World Environment Day on June 5.

Environmental protection not only concerned the country's economic development, but was also crucial to improve people's living standards, the

vice premier said.

Li added that China has made substantial progress in environmental protection in recent years, but admitted serious conflicts between environmental protection and economic and social development still exist.



Li said environmental protection should become an important tool to accelerate transformation of China's economic growth and called upon the public to contribute to an energy-saving and environment-friendly society. (Source: Xinhuanet)

■ Green fight "goes beyond pollution"

Environmental protection is about choosing the right path for economic growth and the right consumption model, beyond pollution control, environment minister Zhou Shengxian said on June 5.

"We have not successfully put the brakes on severe pollution - a result of the country's vulnerable ecosystems, large population, extensive economic growth that relies heavily on resource consumption and unsound environmental supervision systems," said Zhou at a ceremony to mark World Environment Day, which falls on Saturday, June 5.

The country needs to step up its green economic policies to facilitate the shift to a "highly

effective and low-emission" growth mode, Zhou said.

To that effect, the Ministry of Environmental Protection will continue to promote the reform of energy use and pricing to reflect market demand and supply, resource shortages and environmental prices, he said.

A tax system that encourages energy saving and environmental protection will be established, and the existing environmental economic policy tools, such as green security, green purchase and green trade, will be improved, Zhou said.

Encouraging a green lifestyle has also been highlighted as a crucial measure to curb excessive consumption and reduce emissions.

Faced with mounting challenges to fight the country's environmental problems, Zhou was particularly concerned that with the strong economic rebound, emissions may rise again as production capacity expands.

"In some places, backward facilities or enterprises which have already been phased out may surface again," Zhou said.

In the first quarter of this year, China already saw a 1.2 percent increase in the emissions of sulfur dioxide, a major air pollutant, compared with the same period last year, as the country's economic growth accelerated to 11.9 percent.

China has witnessed a steady drop major air and water pollutants in the past three years, thanks to stringent environmental regulations and the closure of highly polluting, energy intensive companies.

Still, new environmental problems such as heavy metal pollution have also emerged in recent years, Zhou said. (Source: China Daily)

■ China's emissions reductions outlook not good

To reduce China's polluting emissions was a daunting task and the immediate outlook was not very good, said a senior environment official in Beijing on June 3.

Sulfur dioxide emissions had increased by 1.2 percent year on year in the first quarter, said Zhang Lijun, Vice Minister of Environment, at a press conference.

"The situation is not very good," he said.

Output of energy-consuming industrial products has increased quite fast this year, which is one of the reasons causing the increase, he said.

He also attributed the emissions increase to the severe drought in southwest China early this year,

slow development of some projects to cut pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as weakening efforts of some local governments and enterprises.

Major problems exist, such as relatively heavy pollution of surface water across China, pollution of coast waters, reoccurring acid rain in some regions, traffic noise pollution at night and a worsening environmental situation in rural areas, he said.

The Ministry of Environment has introduced some measures to cope with the new problems, including releasing a blacklist of regions and enterprises not performing well in curbing polluting emissions, he said.

But still progress has been made in curbing pollution, he said.

China has set a target to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions and chemical oxygen demand (COD), two main indicators of air and water pollution, by 10 percent from 2006 to 2010.

The country's COD and sulfur dioxide emissions fell 9.66 percent and 13.14 percent last year compared to those in 2005, respectively.

The average sulfur dioxide concentration in the air over Chinese cities stood at 0.035 milligram per cubic meter last year, a reduction of 16.7 percent from 2005 and had not changed since 2008, Zhang said.

In addition, the water quality showed an improvement last year as the Permanganate Index in sampled sections of surface water, a method to monitor water pollution by oxidizing organic and inorganic matter, dropped 10.5 percent from 2008 and 29.5 percent from 2005, Zhang said.

Last year, the country's daily capacity of waste water treatment increased by 13.3 million tonnes. Coal-fueled generators, with a total capacity of 102 million kwh, were equipped with desulfation facilities.

Zhang said China would encourage and support people from all walks of life and non-governmental organizations to take part in environmental protection as long as they did so in line with the law.

Public monitoring of pollution and advice from non-governmental organizations have helped the authorities a lot, he added. (Source: Xinhua)

■ Chinese Vice Premier calls for recycling economy promotion

China's Vice Premier Li Keqiang called on May 14 for the development of a recycling economy to improve resource utilization efficiency and protect the environment.

Developing a recycling economy was a significant mission for China, which urgently needed to change its economic growth mode of "high consumption, high pollution and poor recycling," said Li in an inspection tour to a state recycling economy pilot base under ChinaChem Group.

Li said developing a recycling economy would help the enterprises improve product structures, fuel technology innovation and improve competitiveness.

He called for a combination of resource conservation, environment protection and economic efficiency to cultivate emerging "green" industries.

Authorities should transform traditional industries by promoting a clean, efficient and safe production, said Li.

Li also called for more investment in recycling economy development, and implementation of supporting government fiscal, pricing and financial policies. (Source: Xinhuanet)

● CCICED Activities

■ The inception meeting of Task Force on Low Carbon Industrialization Strategy holds in Beijing

The inception meeting of CCICED Task Force on Low Carbon Industrialization Strategy in China was held in Beijing during June 14-15, 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ren Yong, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of Department of Human Resources, Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). CCICED Secretary General Zhu Guangyao, CCICED international Chief Advisor Dr. Hanson addressed the meeting. Over 40 people including Chinese and international experts of the Task Force as well as representatives of CCICED donors attended the meeting.



Detailed activities and work plan of the Task Force were introduced and discussed at the meeting. The research on low carbon industrialization strategy in China is the expansion and deepening of CCICED study on low carbon economy. Based on the study and exploration of China's pathway towards low carbon economy, the Task Force will further tap potential contributions of traditional industrial sectors and emerging

industries to the development of low carbon industrialization, and put forward the roadmap of low carbon industrialization development in China by 2020 as well as policy framework that ensures the smooth implementation of low carbon industrialization.

The establishment of the Task Force was approved by CCICED Bureau Meeting in 2009. It will submit its final report to CCICED 2011 AGM. The Chinese Co-chair of the Task Force is Mr. Feng Fei, Director of Research Department of Industrial Economy, Development Research Center of the State Council and the international Co-chair is Ms. Bernice Lee, Research Director of Energy and Environment Governance of Chatham House in Britain.

■ The inception meeting of Task Force on the Development Mechanism and Policy Innovation of China's Green Economy holds in Beijing

The inception meeting of CCICED Task Force on the Development Mechanism and Policy Innovation of China's Green Economy was held in Beijing during June 12-13, 2010. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ren Yong, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of MEP Department of Human Resources. CCICED Secretary General Zhu Guangyao, CCICED Chinese and international Chief Advisors, Academician Shen Guofang and Dr. Hanson addressed the meeting. More than 50 participants including Chinese and international experts of the Task Force as well as representatives of CCICED donors attended the meeting.



Detailed activities and work plan of the Task Force were introduced and discussed at the meeting. The Task Force will study and summarize Chinese and international policies and practices on the development of green economy and put forward to the Chinese Government innovative mechanism and policy framework that facilitate the development of green economy.

The establishment of the Task Force was approved by CCICED Bureau Meeting in 2009. It will submit its final report to CCICED 2011 AGM. Mr. Yang Chaofei, Director General of MEP Department of Policies, Laws and Regulations is the Chinese Co-chair and Mr. Lars-Erik Liljelund, Director General of the Swedish Prime Minister Office is the international Co-chair of the Task Force.

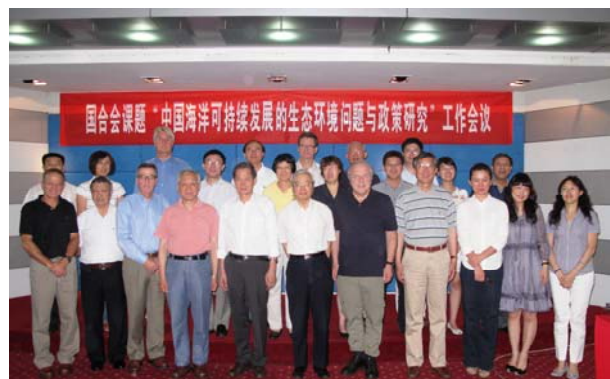
■ The fourth work meeting & high-level workshop of CCICED Task Force on Ecosystem Service and Management Strategy holds in Beijing

The fourth work meeting & high-level workshop of CCICED Task Force on Ecosystem Service and Management Strategy was held in Beijing on June 17-18, 2010. Mr. Chen Yiyu, Chairperson of National Natural Science Foundation of China and Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Professor Beate Jessel, Administrator of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany, who are Co-chairs of the Task Force, jointly chaired the meeting. About 60 people including CCICED Chief Advisors, Academician Shen Guofang and Dr. Hanson, officials and experts from relevant ministries and commissions such as the National People's Congress Environment Protection and Resources Conservation Committee, National Development and Reform Commission, MEP, Ministry of Agriculture and State Forestry Administration, Chinese and international members of the Task Force and the supporting team as well as the Chief Advisors' Supporting Group and the CCICED Secretariat attended the meeting.

The meeting listened to the briefing of the Task Force about its primary findings from case study, scenario analysis and policy consultation since its establishment in the end of 2008. It also solicited the comments and suggestions from officials and experts from ministries and commissions concerned on the first draft of the report and policy recommendations. Based on the comments and suggestions, the Task Force will revise the report and policy recommendations, complete the final report before the end of September 2010 and submit it to CCICED 2010 AGM.

■ Task Force on Ecosystem Issues and Policy Options Addressing Sustainable Development of China's Ocean and Coast holds a work meeting in Shandong

The work meeting of CCICED Task Force on Ecosystem Issues and Policy Options Addressing Sustainable Development of China's Ocean and Coast was held in Qingdao, Shandong Province on June 24, 2010. CCICED Secretary General Zhu Guangyao attended the meeting. The meeting was jointly chaired by Mr. Su Jilan, Chinese Co-chair, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and researcher of No.2 Oceanic Research Institute of State Oceanic Administration and the international Co-chair, Mr. Peter Harrison, professor of Canadian Queens University. Over 30 participants including CCICED Chinese and International Chief Advisors, Academician Shen Guofang and Dr. Hanson, Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of MEP Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Chinese and international members and experts of the Task Force, CCICED Chief Advisors' Supporting Group as well as the CCICED Secretariat were present at meeting.



The basic framework and contents of the first draft of the report was discussed at the meeting. The report analyzes the importance and current

status of sustainable development of ocean in China as well as the key eco-environment issues confronting China. It also introduces the international experience in marine eco-management and puts forward concrete policy recommendations such as the development and implementation of China's strategy for ocean sustainable development, enhancement of long-term monitoring and research of marine eco-environment, improvement of marine laws and regulations, and establishment of integrated river and sea management mechanism and setting up the Bohai Sea Commission.

The work and achievements of the Task Force was fully affirmed. It is expected that on the basis of the current report, the Task Force will put forward more innovative and practical policy recommendations to the Chinese Government. With the input from the discussions, the Task Force will revise and finalize the report to be submitted to CCICED 2010 AGM.

