



● Hot Topics

■ Conditions for China to launch emission rights trading scheme premature

A senior official of China's top economic planning body said on September 29 that conditions for the country to launch a carbon emission rights trading system remain premature.

"China has yet to take on quantitative caps on emissions. Thus, there is no basis for carbon emission rights trading in China right now," Xie Zhenhua, deputy chief of the National Development and Reform Commission, told a press conference on September 29.

However, he said the measures taken by the government to combat climate change would become increasingly strict and emission reduction goals would become increasingly quantified.

It requires a certain length of time for China to trade carbon emission rights, Xie said.

He also said China would likely reach its goal of improving energy efficiency by 20 percent from 2006 to 2010. (Source: Xinhuanet)

■ Vice President urges more efforts to save energy

Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping has urged accelerating research and development of low-carbon technology and mass participation to fulfill national energy saving and emission reduction targets.

"The global climate change is deeply affecting human beings' living and development. Our country, now in a stage of fast industrial and urban development, is facing obvious environmental pressure," Xi said here on September 18 while attending

activities to mark this year's National Science Popularization Day.

The theme of September 18's activities is "saving energy and resources, protecting ecological environment and ensuring safety and health."

Xi urged the whole society to continue energy-saving and emission-reducing campaigns and support the country's policies on climate change.

In addition, Xi urged the country's youth to put forward more ideas for low-carbon life style and contribute their own green inventions. (Source: People Daily)

■ China seeks cost effective environmental protection

China will seek a path of environmental protection featuring "low cost, high efficiency, less carbon-emission and sustainability," the environmental protection minister said on September 16.

China would seek to bolster its large-scale economic activities at the price of minimum environmental degradation and maintain a coordinated development of economy and environmental protection, said Zhou Shengxian.

He said the government would increasingly strengthen its environmental protection measures and push forward long-term and sustainable development.

The government had invested heavily in urban wastewater treatment, closed down polluting thermal power plants, and eliminated outdated or backward iron, concrete and steel production facilities, he said.

More than 72 percent of China's urban sewage was treated last year, up from 52 percent in 2005, according to figures

published by the Ministry of Environmental Protection on September 16.

From 2006 to 2009, authorities closed down polluting thermal power plants with a total capacity of more than 60 million kilowatts and eliminated outdated iron factories with a total productivity of almost 82 million tonnes, according to the ministry.

It said authorities also shut down outdated steel plants with a total capacity of more than 60 million tonnes and concrete factories with a total capacity of more than 214 million tonnes from 2006 to 2009. (Source: Xinhuanet)

■ Wen Jiabao reiterates to set up long-term mechanism to achieve greater and more sustainable development

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on September 13th delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2010, or the Summer Davos, in north China's port city of Tianjin. Wen said China will strike a balance between economic and social development, strive to ensure and improve people's livelihood and promote social equity and justice and continue to conserve resources and protect the environment, and raise the efficiency in resources utilization and capacity in tackling climate change.

Wen said China has become one of the first countries to achieve an economic rebound in the past two years, and maintained steady and relatively fast economic development under extremely difficult and complex conditions. China's massive stimulus package has not only maintained its economic growth and social stability, but also secured the country's sound momentum of economic development. The stimulus package has not only benefited the country but made important contribution to the world economic recovery.

"In exercising macro-control, we will take it as a central task to appropriately handle the relationship between maintaining steady and rapid economic development, adjusting the economic structure and managing inflation expectations, and we will take policy stability as the main focus," Wen said.

Wen also said while maintaining the continuity and stability of our policies, China

will make macro-control measures more targeted and flexible to consolidate and strengthen the sound momentum of development and achieve greater and more sustainable development. (Source: Xinhua)

■ China calls for cooperation in tackling climate change

Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang on September 10 said the international community should work together to overcome the challenges of climate change.

Li made the remarks when meeting with Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Li said all countries should join together in the struggle against climate change with concerted efforts based on the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."

Li briefed the UN climate chief on China's policies and measures to save energy, develop the green economy and promote environmental protection, saying China would work with other countries and the United Nations to jointly push forward sustainable development.

China will host a session of UN climate change talks in Tianjin this October.

Figueres applauded China's efforts in tackling climate change and spoke highly of the country's constructive role in the international negotiation process. (Source: Xinhuanet)

■ Favorable taxation urged for cleaner production

Chinese senior legislator Chen Zhili on August 26 called for preferential policies in taxation for enterprises using cleaner production methods to promote their competitiveness.

Chen, vice chairwoman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, made the remarks during her report on an inspection on the enforcement of the Cleaner Production Promotion Law.

Favorable policies and funding provided in the law had been poorly implemented, and that had impaired the enterprises' initiative in achieving cleaner production, Chen said.

Chen said statistics gathered during the inspection did not provide reasons to be optimistic. During the period from 2003 to 2009, only 0.15 percent of the enterprises nationwide had integrated the cleaner production review into their operations.

Chen also noted the serious situation of excessive packaging used in protecting products.

Statistics revealed that China had been consuming 40 million tonnes of wrapping materials annually, and the bulk of this was used for extravagant packaging, Chen said.

Future policies should make detailed provisions on requirements of enterprises eligible for such tax preferences, and those enterprises, which had made outstanding efforts in cleaner production, should be rewarded, Chen said.

Chen also urged streamlining the task assignments among different governmental departments in law enforcement and promotes the government's supervisory responsibilities. (Source: Xinhuanet)

● CCICED Activities

■ The Fourth Joint Work Meeting of CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat in 2010 holds

The Fourth Joint Work Meeting of CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat was held on September 25-26, 2010. Mr. Zhu Guangyao, CCICED Secretary General chaired the meeting. Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and Dr. Hanson, CCICED International Chief Advisor, Mr. Xu Qinghua, CCICED Deputy Secretary General attended the meeting. Mr. Ren Yong and Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary Generals, members of Chief Advisors' Supporting Group, representatives of CCICED donors and CCICED Secretariat and its International Supporting Office were present at the meeting.

The progress of the policy studies in 2010 was reviewed and discussed. The following Task Forces and Special Policy Studies were reported to the meeting: Task Force on Ecosystem Service and Management Strategy, Task Force on Ecosystem Issues and Policy Options addressing Sustainable Development of China's Ocean and Coast, Report on Ecological Footprint in China 2010, Developing Policies for Soil Environmental Protection in China and Policies for Environmentally Sustainable Use of China's Water. Participants had in-depth and detailed discussions on the contents of the above reports, and put forward comments on revising the reports, which to be revised accordingly in a timely manner.

Participants also discussed in details the CCICED 2010 Issues Paper, draft Policy

Recommendations to the Government of China, Report on the Progress of Environment and Development of China and Impact of CCICED Policy Recommendations (2009-2010) as well as CCICED 2011 Work Plan. Comments were made and it is expected that the revision to be made consequently. It is also expected that every party should spare no efforts to do well the preparation for the CCICED 2010 Annual General Meeting to ensure it a complete success.

■ The Task Force on Investment, Trade and Environment of CCICED holds the first work meeting

The Task Force on Investment, Trade and Environment called the first work meeting in Beijing on September 17th-18th. Mr. Zhu Guangyao, CCICED Secretary General, Mr. Ren Yong, CCICED Assistant Secretary General, Deputy Director General of Department of Human Resources Management and Institutional Arrangement; Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General, Deputy Director General of Foreign Economic Cooperation Office of MEP attended the meeting. Mr. Pan Jiahua and Mr. John Forgách, Chinese and International Co-chair of the Task Force co-chaired the meeting. More than 30 people, including the CCICED Secretariat, international and Chinese experts were present at the meeting.

The progress of the Task Force since its inception in June was reviewed at the meeting with 5 study teams introduced the framework of each topic. Discussions were

carried out in-depth.

Secretary General Zhu stressed at the meeting that the Policy Study of CCICED should be early-warning and strategical, aiming at providing insightful advice to the macro policy-making of the Chinese government. The recommendation put forward should not be confined to specific technical problem. Take the advantage of the joint study carried out by international and Chinese teams, the Task Forces should introduce the most advanced management ideas, techniques and experiences from the international perspective during policy study. More importantly, it is expected to provide practical policy recommendations that suit the existing conditions of China.

The second work meeting will be held in the middle of November in Beijing to discuss the first draft of the special study reports by the 5 study teams.

■ CCICED holds the Donors' Briefing Meeting on CCICED Phase V Preparation in Beijing

CCICED called the Donors' Briefing Meeting on CCICED Phase V Preparation on Sept.10. Mr. Li Ganjie, Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) attended the meeting and delivered an opening speech. CCICED Secretary General Zhu Guangyao attended and addressed the meeting. Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor, academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering; Mr. Xu Qinghua, CCICED Deputy Secretary General, Director General of Department of International Cooperation of MEP; Mr. Bie Tao, Deputy Director General of Department of Policies, Laws and Regulations of MEP; Mr. Ren Yong, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of Human Resources and Management and Institutional Arrangement of MEP; Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of Foreign Economics Cooperation Office of MEP attended the meeting. Over 50 people including representatives from relative department of Ministry of Commerce, CCICED's donors, Embassies and International organizations in Beijing were present at the meeting.

The following topics were discussed at the meeting: the progress and future challenge in the fields of environment and development in China, CCICED's accomplishment made over the past 18 years as well as the draft framework of CCICED Phase V.

The meeting highly valued CCICED's great achievement since its establishment and the unique and positive contributions to China's environment and development. All participants agreed that Phase V of CCICED should learn from the successful experiences of the past and maintain the stability and continuity of the fundamental structure, the uniqueness of the high level policy dialogue between China and the world. It is expected that CCICED Phase V will further develop and improve the existing mechanism.

The donors including Canada, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Italy, EDF and etc all responded in favor of the establishment of Phase V of CCICED by extending their continuous support to the Council.

The CCICED secretariat will keep in touch with the donors and maintain communications to complete the final proposal of the framework for Phase V, jointly promoting the preparation work of CCICED Phase V.