



● Hot Topics

■ Premier Wen sets 7% growth target

An annual growth target of 7 percent over the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) has been set to ensure sustainable development, Premier Wen Jiabao said on Feb 27.

“We must not any longer sacrifice the environment for the sake of rapid growth and reckless roll-outs, as that would result in unsustainable growth featuring industrial overcapacity and intensive resource consumption,” Wen said during an online chat with Internet users.

The target was lower than the 7.5 percent set for the previous five years, when the country's economy actually grew at an annual rate of around 10 percent from 2006 to 2010.

China's GDP growth reached 10.3 percent last year. Most economists expect growth to be around 9 percent this year, and slightly less in 2012.

Increased efforts will be made to improve people's living standards, and the government will adopt new performance evaluations for local governments to hasten economic restructuring. The criterion for assessing their performance is "whether the public are happy or not ... but not by how many high-rise buildings and projects he had been involved in," Wen said. (Source: China Daily)

■ Change of model imperative

In early March, China's National People's Congress will approve its 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015). This plan is likely to go down in history as one of China's boldest strategic initiatives. In essence, it will

change the character of China's economic model - moving from the export- and investment-led structure of the past 30 years toward a pattern of growth that is driven increasingly by Chinese consumers. This shift will have profound implications for China, the rest of Asia, and the broader global economy.

Shift of development focus will offer added benefits of cleaner, lighter and greener growth that is crucial for sustainability.

The upcoming plan will force China to rethink the core value propositions of its economy Premier Wen Jiabao laid the groundwork four years ago, when he first articulated the paradox of the “Four Uns”—an economy whose strength on the surface masked a structure that was increasingly “unstable, unbalanced, uncoordinated, and ultimately unsustainable”.

The 12th Five-Year Plan will do precisely that, by focusing on three major pro-consumption initiatives. First, China will begin to wean itself from the manufacturing model that has underpinned export and investment-led growth. The new plan's second pro-consumption initiative will seek to boost wages. The third major component is the need to build a social safety net in order to reduce fear-driven precautionary saving.

There will be far more to the 12th Five-Year Plan than these three pillars of pro-consumption policy. The plan's focus on accelerated development of several strategic emerging industries - from biotech and alternative energy to new materials and next-generation information technology - is also noteworthy. (Source: China Daily)

■ Li Keqiang stresses the enhancement of eco-environmental protection

Li Keqiang, Member of the Standing Committee of CPC Political Bureau and Vice Premier of the State Council chaired the meeting on Application of Research Findings of the Study on Macro Strategy for China's Environment on December 20, 2010. He reiterated that we should seriously follow the spirit of the Fifth Session of the 17th National Congress of CPC and Meeting of Central Government on Economy, take strengthening eco-environmental protection as an important instrument for adjusting economic structure and improving welfare, take addressing well pre-eminent environmental problems as important task for facilitating social harmony and sustainable development, and continuously promote economic growth and improve living standards of the people.

Li pointed out, we should innovate the idea and model of development, develop economy while protecting the environment and protect the environment while developing economy; strengthen the promoting role of constraining indicators of resources and environment in shifting development mode and adjusting structure; facilitate technical reform focusing on energy saving and emission reduction; accelerate the phasing out of outdated productivity that is "high energy consumption, high pollution and resource-oriented", devote more efforts in developing green industry and

environmental protection industry; and strive for achieving the unity of economic benefits and environmental benefits.

Li emphasized that environmental protection is a development issue and key welfare issue. It is an important field of public service from the government. Adhering to the ideas of people first and protecting the environment for the people, we will carry out well such projects as construction of urban sewage and garbage treatment facilities, management of water environment and treatment of heavy metal pollution, making more efforts in prevention and control of rural pollution while focusing on addressing striking environmental problems of water, air and soil pollution; ensure safety of drinking water and food; protect well water, air and land quality and build our common home--Earth.

Li pointed out we should establish and improve system and mechanism, improve relevant laws and regulations, fulfill environmental responsibility of government at all levels comprehensively, carry out policy measures conducive to eco-environmental protection, put more environmental input, popularize and employ environmental protection technologies, strengthen capacity building in environmental protection, strictly supervise law enforcement, raise the cost of environmental infringements, strengthen the development of conservation culture in the whole society, and provide good environment for production and everyday life. (Source: Xinhuanet)

● CCICED Activities

■ Notice on personnel adjustment of CCICED Secretary General

Due to work requirement, as approved by Mr. Li Keqiang, Chairman of CCICED, Mr. Zhu Guangyao has resigned as the Secretary General of CCICED, and Mr. Li Ganjie, Member of CCICED and Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection, China has taken the post of Secretary General of CCICED as of February, 2011.

■ CCICED holds its first joint working meeting of the Secretariat and the Chief Advisors in 2011

CCICED held its first joint working meeting of the Secretariat and the Chief Advisors in 2011 on January 14 in Beijing. Mr. Shen Guofang, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and Chinese Chief Advisor of CCICED and Dr. Hanson, the International Chief Advisor co-chaired the meeting. Mr. Ren Yong and Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary Generals attended the meeting. Members of the Chief Advisors' Supporting Group, representatives

from CCICED donors, the Secretariat and its International Supporting Office were present at the meeting.

The progress of Task Forces on Research on the Development Mechanism and Policy Innovation of China's Green Economy, Low Carbon Industrialization Strategy in China, Investment, Trade and the Environment, China Environment and Development Outlook Feasibility Study, Special Policy Study on Green Supply Chain, and Special Policy Study on Mercury Management were introduced at the meeting. The existing problems of each Task force and Special Policy Study were also discussed.

The arrangements and relevant preparations for CCICED 2011 AGM and CCICED 20th Anniversary Forum were discussed as the focus of the meeting. The establishment and commencement of the two new Task Forces titled "Task Force on Policy Mechanisms for Meeting the '12th Five-Year Plan' Environment and Development Objectives" and "Task Force on Strategy and Policies on Environment and Development in Western China", identification of the study direction of the Special Policy Study on Mercury Management were also discussed.

■ Task Force on Research on the Development Mechanism and Policy Innovation of China's Green Economy holds a working meeting of Chinese experts

The working meeting of Chinese experts of Task Force on Research on the Development Mechanism and Policy Innovation of China's Green Economy was held in Beijing on January 18-19, 2011. Mr. Yang Chaofei, Chinese Co-chair and Chief Engineer on Nuclear Safety, Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) chaired the meeting. Experts from relevant fields attended the meeting at invitation.

The study contents of the first, third and fourth sub-projects of the Task Force were discussed, including review and assessment of the development of green economy at home and abroad, green transformation of agricultural, industrial, service, financial and taxation policies, case studies of regions and cement industry, power industry, coking industry and sulfuric acid industry. The project leaders of each sub-project reported in details the contents of the first draft of the

report. Comments and suggestions from the experts from relevant fields were provided.

It is required that each sub-project should revise and finish its report by the end of February and make good preparation for the fourth working meeting of Chinese and international experts to be held in France in early March.

■ CCICED initiates China Environment and Development Outlook Feasibility Study

CCICED held the inception meeting of China Environment and Development Outlook Feasibility Study in Beijing on January 18-19, 2011. Mr. Shen Guofang, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and Chinese Chief Advisor of CCICED and Dr. Hanson, the international Chief Advisor attended the meeting. Mr. Xia Guang, Chinese Co-chair of the Program and Director General of Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, MEP and Ms. Marion Cheatles, International Co-chair of the Program and former Deputy Director General of Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP co-chaired the meeting. Experts from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing Normal University, MEP Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, UNEP, UNDP, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden were present at meeting.

China Environment and Development Outlook Feasibility Study is approved by the Bureau Meeting in 2010 Annual General Meeting (AGM). This program aims at providing reference for decision-making for relevant work of CCICED, learning from international experience and strengthening capacity building through the study on feasibility and methodology to make China Environment and Development Outlook Report a brand of CCICED for providing policy recommendations to the decision-making process in China.

The participants had in-depth discussion on the aim, objectives and framework of the research, detailed implementation plan and work allocation were identified. It is expected that the program will hold work meetings of Chinese and international experts in March and May respectively in 2011, finish the overall report in September and submit its findings to

CCICED 2011 AGM in November.

■ CCICED holds the International Workshop on China's Policy on Mercury Management

CCICED held the International Workshop on China's Policy on Mercury Management in Beijing on January 11-12, 2011. Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, MEP, chaired the meeting. Mr. Shen Guofang, Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and Chinese Chief Advisor of CCICED as well as Dr. Hanson, the International Chief Advisor of CCICED attended the meeting. Over 50 people including experts and scholars from Germany, Canada, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, United States, UNEP, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Tsinghua University, Central South University as well as representatives of industrial associations from petrochemical, battery, non-metal industry, illumination industry and medical appliance in China were present at the meeting.

At the meeting, Chinese and international experts introduced the progress of prevention and control of mercury pollution, policies, management experience and relevant findings of international communities. The participants discussed policy demand and priority areas of mercury management in China. After in-depth exchanges on mercury management, the experts identified the following focuses for CCICED Special Policy Study on China's Policy on Mercury Management: analysis on current status of mercury pollution in China and the world; comparison on mercury management system in China with that of developed countries; strengthening of China's capacity in prevention and control of mercury pollution including improvement of technical level and public awareness with relevant policy recommendations.

CCICED Special Policy Study on China's Policy on Mercury Management is a new study program approved by the Bureau Meeting of 2010 CCICED AGM and its findings will be reported to the CCICED 2011 AGM.