

● Hot Topics

■ Hu Jintao: Develop forestry economy, achieve green growth and address climate change

China aims to increase its total area of forest by 40 million hectares in the next decade, as compared with that in 2005, President Hu Jintao made the remarks at the first APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry in held in Beijing on September 6, 2011.



Hu said China will continue to accelerate the pace of forestry development. It is working to increase the country's total forest inventory by 1.3 billion cubic meters from 2005 to 2020.

"China is ready to make new contributions to green growth and

sustainable growth," Hu said in a speech at the opening ceremony.

"Forestry cooperation in APEC enjoys huge potential and great prospect," Hu said, noting that the Asia-Pacific region has the richest and unique forest ecosystem in the world and accounts for more than half of the world's forest area.

Hu said China will continue to provide the developing members of APEC with assistance within its capacity through the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNET).

Hu put forward a three-point proposal on advancing forestry development and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Firstly, Hu said APEC members should strengthen forestry cooperation by integrating forestry development into the general plan of economic and social development. He called for APEC members to increase funding and technological input to upgrade the volume and quality of forest resources.

Secondly, Hu said APEC members should properly handle the relations between development, protection, industry and ecology while tapping various functions of forests. He emphasized the need to protect bio-diversity, increase carbon absorption by forest and safeguard eco-security in the region and the world.

Thirdly, Hu said APEC members should deepen regional forestry cooperation. He called for APEC members to continue high-level dialogues on forestry, step up policy coordination and technological cooperation and eliminate green trade

barriers.

China raised the proposal of holding the APEC meeting of ministers responsible for forestry at the 18th informal APEC leaders meeting in Yokohama, Japan last year. The proposal was embraced with enthusiasm by other APEC members.

The theme of the first APEC forestry ministerial meeting is "enhanced regional cooperation for green growth and sustainable forestry development." (Source: www.china.org.cn)

■ The State Council studies and arranges the key work on environmental protection

Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council chaired an executive meeting of the State Council on September 7 to listen to the briefings on environmental protection of the Bohai Sea, and study and arrange key work for environmental protection.

The environmental protection situation of the Bohai Sea was analyzed at the meeting and the following objectives of the next few years were identified: ensuring ecological security of the Bohai Sea, reducing total discharge of pollutants, and striving for the overall improvement of coastal marine water quality of the Bohai Sea and the harmony between man and the sea.

To this end, the following steps are to be followed: first, to strengthen planning and guidance to optimize industrial structure and layout; second, more effort should be made in pollution control to effectively control pollution sources; third, measures are to be taken to protect and restore ecosystems of the Bohai Sea. Ecological red lines in sensitive and key marine areas are to be defined; fourth, risk control is to be enhanced to effectively prevent marine environment disasters; fifth, there is a need to enhance the sense of responsibility and legal awareness of local governments and enterprises to carry out the responsibility of marine environment protection; sixth, we should enhance publicity and education. An open and transparent information releasing

mechanism should be established and social supervision should be proceeded.

The meeting discussed the suggestions on further strengthening environmental protection. It was stressed that it is necessary to put pollution control and ecological conservation at a more important place and practically address striking environmental problems that threaten public health and affect scientific development. At present, we should do the following major activities:

- i. strictly carry out EIA system;
- ii. practically strengthen prevention and control of heavy metal pollution;
- iii. carry out strict environmental management on chemicals;
- iv. enhance rural environmental protection;
- v. speed up the development of environment monitoring and early warning system, improve emergency response mechanism for environmental pollution accidents and the capacity in emergency management, and practically prevent environmental risks;
- vi. improve environment law and policy system. In view of the problems reflected by various environmental events that have occurred recently, we should develop and amend relevant laws and regulations as soon as possible, provide more comprehensive and effective legal guarantee for environmental protection. (Source: www.xinhuanet.com)

■ China releases the energy saving and emission reduction targets of the “12th Five-Year Plan” period

China recently released the Comprehensive Program on Energy-Saving and Emission Reduction during the “12th Five-Year Plan” Period.

The Comprehensive Program specifies that by the end of 2015, the energy

consumption per 10,000 Yuan GDP will decrease to 0.869 ton coal equivalent (according to the price of 2005), down by 16% compared with 1.034 ton coal equivalent in 2010 and 32% compared with 1.276 ton coal equivalent in 2005. It is planned that China will save 670 million ton coal equivalent during the “12th Five-Year Plan” period. It is expected that by 2015, COD discharge and SO₂ emission of the

country will not exceed 23.476 million ton and 20.864 million ton respectively, down by 8% compared with 25.517 million ton and 22.678 million ton in 2010. The total emission will not exceed 2.38 million ton for ammonia nitrogen and 20.462 million ton for NO_x, down by 10% compared with that of 2010 (2.644 million ton of ammonia nitrogen and 22.736 ton NO_x). (Source: www.gov.cn)

● CCICED Activities

■ CCICED holds its fourth joint working meeting of the Secretariat and the Chief Advisors in Beijing

The fourth joint working meeting of the Secretariat and the Chief Advisors was held on August 1 in Beijing. Mr. Shen Guofang, the Chinese Chief Advisor and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and Dr. Hanson, the International Chief Advisor, co-chaired the meeting. Mr. Ren Yong, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of MEP Department of Human Resources Management and Institutional Arrangement and Ms. Fang Li, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECO), MEP attended the meeting.

The meeting mainly discussed the progress and the existing issues of each Task Force and Special Policy Study, the draft Report on the review of CCICED, and the priority research areas of Phase V of CCICED. It is requested that the Chief Advisor's Support Group: i. closely track the progress of each Task Force, read the first draft report of each Task Force in advance, prepare the framework of policy recommendations for 2011 Annual General Meeting; and ii. continue to explore and deepen the main research fields of CCICED Phase V. Focus should be given to the drafting and finalizing of the Report on the Review of CCICED. The Secretariat and the Chief Advisor's Supporting Group should provide necessary assistance and support to the International Chief Advisor who writes the Report.

The meeting decided that the fifth joint working meeting of the Secretariat and the Chief Advisors will be held in the middle of September.

■ The Workshop on priority areas of policy research of CCICED Phase V holds in Beijing

The Workshop on priority areas of policy research of CCICED Phase V was held on August 3 in Beijing. Mr. Li Ganjie, CCICED Secretary General and Vice Minister of MEP addressed the meeting. Mr. Ren Yong, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of MEP Department of Human Resources Management and Institutional Arrangement and Ms. Fang Li, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of FECO, MEP chaired the meeting respectively. Over 20 people including officials, experts and scholars from MEP Department of Planning and Finance, Department of Policies, Laws and Regulations, Department of Pollution Control, Department of Science & Technology and Standard, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Renmin University, Beijing Normal University, China University of Political Science and Law, Environmental Development Center of MEP, Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning, Policy Research Centre for Environment and Economy of MEP and China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center of MEP attended the meeting.

Mr. Zhu Guangyao, Executive Vice Chairperson of China's Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association and former Secretary General of CCICED introduced the basic situation of CCICED policy research. Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering introduced the research findings of the Macro Strategy Research of China's Environment and possible key research fields for the fifth Phase of CCICED. Officials, experts and scholars attending the meeting suggested that the next Phase of CCICED should take up research from different angles and prioritize its research on the following main topics such as evaluation of environmental performance, protection of public environmental rights and interests, mechanism on assessing environmental damage, protection of the rural environment, sustainable development strategies and policies, a comprehensive environmental

management system of China that adapts to the new situation, as well as the strategic role of environmental protection in facilitating the transformation of economic development.

When summarizing the meeting, Vice Minister Li Ganjie stressed that CCICED Phase V should focus on: i. shaping the right direction for policy research, and improving the operability of the policy recommendation. Attention should be given to macro-policy research while providing supporting measures; ii. strengthening publicity and extension of CCICED research findings, not only to the higher-level officials, but also to relevant departments and local governments, in order to improve their understanding and utilization of the findings; iii. strengthening the management of the policy research programs with diversified methods such as open bidding and expert review to improve the quality of policy research.

● Policy Research

■ The working meeting of Special Policy Study on Mercury Management in China holds in Canada

The third meeting of Special Policy Study on Mercury Management in China was held in Ottawa, Canada on July 21-22. Dr. Barry Stemshorn, International Co-chair of the Study chaired the meeting. Representatives from organizations such as UNEP, Environment Canada, Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, Mining Association of Canada and Forest Products Association of Canada, as well as the members of the Study attended the meeting.

The meeting entailed the progress report from each topic study, and discussed and decided in detail the main contents of the policy recommendations. The meeting also discussed the plan of the next step as well as the contents of the main report and executive summary report. During this visit to Canada, some members of the Study visited Canadian smelters, control and management systems of mercury within

coal-fired power plants, the restoration process of polluted sites, and also the 10th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant.



On September 2-3, this Special Policy Study held its fourth meeting in Beijing. Ms. Fang Li, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of FECO, MEP and Dr. Barry Stemshorn, International Co-chair of the Study attended the meeting and delivered speeches. Mr. Jiang Xiaoming, Deputy Director of CAS Institute of High Energy Physics chaired the meeting. Over 30 people including the representatives from relevant departments of

MEP, UNEP, GIZ, US Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands, relevant experts from Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning, Chinese universities and institutes and members of the Study team were present at the meeting.



The meeting included the introduction of the components of the first draft of the general report and focused the discussion on the executive summary. Participants offered their comments and suggestions on the draft executive summary and the policy recommendations. The meeting identified the work plan for the next stage and required that the final report be submitted to CCICED Secretariat by the end of September.

■ The fourth meeting of Task Force on Mechanism and Policy Innovation for China's Green Development holds in Beijing

The fourth meeting of the Task Force on Mechanism and Policy Innovation for China's Green Development was held on July 4-5 in Beijing. Chinese Co-chair, Mr. Yang Chaofei, MEP Chief Engineer on Nuclear Safety, and International Co-chair, Mr. Lars-Erik Liljelund, Member of CCICED and Executive Director of Mistra, Sweden jointly chaired the meeting. Ms. Fang Li, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of FECO, MEP attended the meeting. Members of the Task Force and their supporting group as well as the specially invited experts from UNEP were present at the meeting.

The meeting listened to the briefings on the general report and policy recommendations as well as the findings of all topic studies such as transformation toward green industrial development, transformation toward green agricultural development and green transformation of service industry. Chinese and international experts had in-depth discussions on key components including the policy recommendation of the Task Force, providing comments and suggestions. The final report will be submitted by the end of August, 2011.

■ Meeting on Special Policy Study on Green Supply Chain holds

Special Policy Study on Green Supply Chain held a meeting in Shenzhen on July 15. The meeting discussed the first draft of the general report and its policy recommendations followed by site survey. Mr. Tang Dingding, Chinese Co-chair of the Study and Director General of Environmental Development Center, MEP attended the meeting. Representatives from organizations such as Environmental Development Center of MEP, China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center of MEP, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, Central University of Finance and Economics and US Environmental Defense Fund were present at the meeting and the investigation followed.

The meeting included the briefings on main findings of the studies on institutionalization of the development of green supply chain, green supply chain of Chinese enterprises, management of green supply chain in China and green trade as well as the case study on Tianjin Government Procurement Center. After discussion, a framework of the general report with clear objectives and proper logic structure was developed. The meeting required that each component be revised based on the latest framework of the general report. The meeting has also decided that the last plenary meeting of the Study will be held in Tianjin on September 8, 2011 to discuss the final report and executive summary.

The research team then visited Wal-mart (China) Global Procurement and Bigaomei Precise Mould (Dongguang) Limited Company on July 16, 2011.

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

The fourth meeting of the Task Force on Low Carbon Industrialization Strategy in China was held on July 18-19 in Beijing. Mr. Feng Fei, Chinese Co-chair of the Task Force and Director of the Division of Industrial Economy of Development Research Center of the State Council and Ms. Bernice Lee, the International Co-chair, Director of the Energy and Environment Research Program of Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs) chaired the meeting. Members of CCICED Chief Advisor's Supporting Group, members of the Task Force as well as the supporting team attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the contents of the first draft of the general report such as international experience, foundation and challenge for low carbon industrialization, contributions of heavy and chemical industries, contributions of strategic and emerging industry, analysis on the scenarios of achieving low carbon industrialization as well as policy recommendations. Members of the Task Force had full exchanges and discussions on the details of each component and put forward suggestions on revising the overlapping and contradicted texts among chapters and sections. Consensus was reached at the end.

Based on the comments and suggestions, each component will be revised and be developed into a second version of general report and executive summary. The meeting has decided that the last meeting of the Task Force will be held in Sweden on September 16-18. According to plan, the Task Force will submit its final findings by the end of September.

■ The inception meeting of the Task Force on Policy Mechanism for

Meeting the “12th Five-Year Plan” Environment and Development Objectives holds in Beijing

The inception meeting of the Task Force on Policy Mechanisms for Meeting the “12th Five-Year Plan” Environment and Development Objectives was held on July 29-30 in Beijing. Mr. Shen Guofang, Chinese Chief Advisor of CCICED and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, Mr. Ren Yong, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of Department of Human Resources Management and Institutional Arrangement, MEP, Ms. Fang Li, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED and Deputy Director General of FECO, MEP, Mr. Zhao Hualin, Director General of Department of Pollution Prevention and Control, MEP and Mr. Nima Dorje, Assistant Director of the Department of Planning and Finance, MEP attended the meeting.

The meeting shared the ideas of the Chinese and International experts on prevention and control of pollution and the policy requirements during the “12th Five-Year Plan” period, the ideas of planning environmental protection of the “12th Five-Year Plan” period, economical instruments for emission reduction, and ideas and experience of different countries and their environmental protection policies (such as Germany, the United States, and other European Union countries). The Chinese and international experts also discussed the contents of the Task Force proposal, and reached consensus on the overall framework and the component of the research. The work allocation amongst members and the deadline of submitting the report was identified.

The meeting finally decided that the second meeting of the Task Force will be held in Beijing on September 14-15 to discuss the progress report to be submitted to CCICED 2011 AGM.

This Task Force is established upon the approval of CCICED 2010 Bureau Meeting. The Chinese Co-chair is Ms. Wang Jirong, CCICED Member and Vice Chairwoman of

NPC Environment and Resources Committee, and the International Co-chair is Mr. Daniel Dudek, Member of CCICED and Vice President of US Environmental Defense Fund. This Task Force will submit its final report to CCICED 2012 AGM according to the plan.

■ The inception meeting of the Task Force on the Strategies and Policies for Environment and Development in Western China holds in Beijing

The inception meeting of the Task Force on the Strategies and Policies for Environment and Development in Western China was held on August 3 in Beijing. Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor, Dr. Hanson, CCICED International Chief Advisor, Mr. Ren Yong, CCICED Assistant Secretary General, and Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General attended the meeting. Mr. Zhuang Guotai, Director General of Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation, MEP and Mr. Li Yingming, Deputy Director General of Department of West China of NDRC, gave special speeches at invitation. More than 40 people from organizations such as Development Research Center of the State Council, Institute of Geographic Sciences & Natural Resources of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning of MEP, members of the Task Force from Australia, Canada and Norway and the supporting group were present at the meeting.

This Task Force is a policy research program approved by CCICED 2010 Bureau Meeting. Mr. Ding Zhongli, member of CCICED, Vice President and Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences is the Chinese Co-chair and Ms. Robyn Kruk, the former Deputy Director of the Australian Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet serves as the International Co-chair. With developing strategies for Western China as the basis, this Task Force aims at promoting the sustainable development in western China, putting forward green development strategies and policy recommendations suitable to the economy,

society, population, resources and environment of western China for the next 5-10 years. A final report will be submitted to CCICED 2012 AGM.

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

The Task Force on Mechanism and Policy Innovation of China's Green Development held a seminar on August 29 in Beijing. Mr. Yang Chaofei, Chinese Co-chair of the Task Force and MEP Chief Engineer on Nuclear Safety chaired the meeting. About 20 people including the officials from the Department of Policies, Laws and Regulations of MEP, research members and representatives from organizations such as Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China Electricity Council, China Association for Building Materials, Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning of MEP, and Policy Research Center of MEP attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the introduction of the conditions, opportunities, obstacles, problems and international experience of developing green economy, shift of government functions, innovation of system and mechanism as well as relevant policy recommendations, which was presented by the drafting group on general report and executive summary of the Task Force. Specific comments and suggestions on the amendment of the general report including application of the latest data, quotation and explanation of relevant information, systematic analysis on the system and mechanism impeding the development of green economy as well as adjustment of the overall structure were raised.

In summary, Mr. Yang Chaofei required the drafting group to revise the report based on the comments and suggestions of the meeting, keeping close communications with international experts to reach consensus. It is planned that the executive summary and revised report will be finished around September 5 and the final report will be submitted by the end of September.

■ The Program of Feasibility Study on China Environment and Development Outlook holds a seminar in Beijing

The Feasibility Study on China Environment and Development Outlook held a closing seminar in Beijing on August 30-31. Mr. Xia Guang, Chinese Co-chair and Director General of MEP Policy Research Center and Ms. Marion Elizabeth Cheatle, International Co-chair and former UNEP official jointly chaired the meeting, all Chinese and international experts of the Study attended the meeting.

The meeting had detailed discussion on the issues such as the text of each section and chapter of the first draft of the Feasibility Report on China Environment and Development Outlook; aim, necessity and uniqueness of the Outlook; scope and methodology of the Outlook Report; organization form for compilation and publication of the Report as well as publicity and extension strategy. It is expected that the final report to be submitted before September 30 according to the schedule.

■ Chinese members of Task Force on Policy Mechanisms for Meeting the “12th Five-Year Plan” Environment and Development Objectives hold meeting in Beijing

The Chinese members of Task Force on Policy Mechanisms for Meeting the “12th Five-Year Plan” Environment and Development Objectives held a meeting on September 1 in Beijing. Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of FECO, MEP attended the meeting. Over 20 people including experts from the Development Research Center of the State Council, NDRC Regional Institute, Tsinghua University and Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning attended the meeting.

Mr. Wu Shunze, member of the Task Force and Vice President of Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning chaired the meeting. The experts attending the meeting had extensive and in-depth discussions on the social and economic background for implementing emission reduction policy, main approaches of emission reduction and assessment of the outcomes in the “11th Five-Year Plan” period in the Report on analysis and assessment of emission reduction during the “11th Five-Year Plan” Period. The Report on analysis and assessment of emission reduction during the “11th Five-Year Plan” Period tries to summarize in-depth the experience of China in achieving emission reduction targets of the past five years, presenting an useful reference for better reducing emission and improving environment quality during the “12th Five-Year Plan” and even “13th Five-Year Plan” periods. This report, as the interim report of the Task Force, will be submitted to CCICED 2011 AGM.