



Hot Topics

Zhou Shengxian chairs MEP Executive Meeting, adopting the 12th Five-Year Plan for National Environmental Supervision Capacity Building

MEP Minister Zhou Shengxian chaired the ministerial executive meeting on August 23 which deliberated and adopted in principle *the 12th Five-Year Plan for National Environmental Supervision Capacity Building*. The meeting also discussed and adopted in principle four emission standards including *Discharge Standard of Water Pollutants for Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Industry*.

The meeting held that environmental supervision is an integral part of the environmental governance, an essential guarantee for achieving the goals of environmental protection, and the main content to facilitate the equalization of public services in terms of environment. With the combined efforts of relevant departments both at central and local levels, remarkable achievements had been made in the implementation of *the 11th Five-Year Plan for National Environmental Supervision Capacity Building*. During the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010), the environmental monitoring and early warning system and the supervision system for environment law enforcement had been basically established, the infrastructure for environment management had been gradually improved, and the level for environmental supervision had been upgraded. However, it needs to be noted that problems still exist, including poor infrastructure and insufficient guarantee for environmental protection,

difference between the capacity of human resources working in the environmental field and the functions they assumed and the tasks assigned to them, and outdated tools and instruments for environment supervision in some fields. In the meantime, the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011-2015) is essential for the development of China's environment cause, for in this period the tasks of emission reduction and environmental risk control are considerably tough which exert higher pressure on environmental supervision. In order to substantially build the capacity of environmental supervision, it is necessary to develop *the 12th Five-Year Plan for National Environmental Supervision Capacity Building* (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) based on the practical experience summarized.

The Plan identifies the guidelines, core principles, goals, and guarantee measures to build the capacity of environment supervision during the 12th Five-Year Plan period. The meeting stressed that when implementing *the Plan*, it is important to adhere to the guiding principle of exploring a new path towards environmental protection. Taking the national strategic environmental tasks as the focus, more efforts shall be put to reinforce and improve the supervision system for pollution source and total emission reduction, environment quality monitoring and evaluation system, early warning and emergency response system and the basic system for comprehensive environmental supervision and administration, equalize the basic public service of environmental supervision, and build up environmental supervision capacity that is modern, standardized and IT-based,

so as to provide stronger support for achieving the environmental goals of the 12th Five-Year Plan period. Also, the meeting emphasized the importance to encourage innovative thinking, implement major programs to improve the infrastructure, supervise the operation, and build up the talent pool. The meeting decided that the Plan would be issued and enforced after further revisions.

The meeting held that China is the world largest textile production and processing base. The outputs of major products including cotton yarn, cotton cloth, wool, silk products, chemical fiber products and apparels all top the world. The textile industry has become one of the major targets for pollution control in China. It is necessary to amend the ongoing *Discharge Standard of Water Pollutants for Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Industry* and at the same time develop a new emission standard for the textile industry in accordance with the legislations including *the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution*, for the purposes of preserving the ecological environment, promoting the rational use of energy, controlling pollution, protecting the public health, and boosting the sustainable development and industrial upgrading of the textile industry. The amended discharge standard added total phosphorous, total nitrogen, and absorbable organic halogen compounds (AOX) as the new control targets, and set stricter requirements for the discharge of pollutants. The newly developed standards including *Effluent standard of pollutants for reeling industry*, *Effluent standards of pollutants for woolen textile industry*, and *Effluent standards of pollutants for bast and leaf fibres textile industry* set water pollutants discharge limits respectively for the reeling industry, woolen textile industry and bast and leaf fibres textile industry. They also made requirements for emission monitoring and control and provisions for the enforcement and performance supervision of the standards. The introduction of those new standards will have positive significance to facilitating the economic restructuring and the shift of economic growth mode, achieving

the reduction goals of major pollutants, and promoting the upgrade of the production processes and pollution control technologies of the textile industry. The meeting decided that the above mentioned standards would be issued and enforced jointly by MEP and AQSIQ after further revisions.

MEP Vice Ministers Zhang Lijun, Wu Xiaoqing, Zhou Jian, and Li Ganjie, Chief Engineer Wan Bentai, and Chief Engineer for Nuclear Safety Xu Qinghua attended the meeting. (Source: CNEWS)

Vice Minister Li Ganjie gives a lecture on the spirits of Rio+20

MEP held a lecture on the spirits of Rio+20 to convey the gist of 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development on July 13. MEP Vice Minister Li Ganjie made a special report.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development was held successfully in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 20-22, 2012. Embracing the two themes of the Conference “a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” and “the institutional framework for sustainable development”, Li Ganjie reviewed the Conference in general and its main achievements, and the preparations and participation of the Chinese government and MEP as well. He explained the new situation China is facing in the field of sustainable development and the responsive thinking to address related issues.

Vice Minister Li pointed out that China's active preparation for and participation in the Rio+20 explicitly expressed the position and attitude of China on promoting the global sustainable development, defended the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities through negotiation, fought for equal development opportunity for developing countries, facilitated the agreement on the outcome document *The Future We Want* and raised the profile of China as a big and responsible developing country.

Vice Minister Li stressed there was a notable trend that the South grows faster than the North in the field of global sustainable development and the demands from both the South and the North are getting more diversified. These new trends and the outcome of the UN Conference present great opportunities and challenges to China's sustainable development and environment cause. We should grasp the opportunities and develop green economy with unrelenting efforts to promote the green transformation of the national economy. We will try to play a more important and positive role and have a bigger say in the field of global sustainable development. We will elevate the position of environmental protection in the national macro decision making through boosting the development of ecological civilization and strengthening the implementation of international environmental conventions that shall also be connected more closely with domestic focuses.

Li Ganjie also reviewed the CCICED side event +20 which was one of the key events Premier Wen attended during the conference. The side event was held in the form of discussion forum when Premier Wen Jiabao discussed with the participants over China's sustainable development and that of the world which not only increased the visibility of the outcome of China's environment protection work, but also disseminated the concept and demonstrated the confidence of the Chinese government to promote sustainable development. Premier Wen spoke highly of CCICED and its work in the past 20 years. He pointed out that the reason why CCICED is full of energy and vitality is because the eternal theme it fixed---the sustainable development of China and the world as well. CCICED is an important platform which is demonstrated not only by its active cooperation with the rest of the world in the field of environment, but also by its significant influence on the global environment and development. Representatives from foreign countries commonly believe that the dialogue with Premier Wen reflected the open mind of Wen himself and the Chinese government he

represents and also send a strong signal to the outside world that China will adhere to green development.

All MEP staff and heads of MEP's branches and affiliates in Beijing attended the lecture. (Source: CNEWS)

Li Ganjie meets with UNEP Deputy Executive Director

MEP Vice Minister Li Ganjie met with a delegation led by UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ms. Amina Mohamed in Beijing on July 19. They exchanged views on furthering cooperation between China and UNEP.

Vice Minister Li first welcomed Ms. Mohamed and his delegation. He said that MEP and UNEP started cooperation in 1970s. Through these years, MEP and UNEP carried out a series of substantial cooperation and has established a stable and long-term partnership. We think highly of our cooperation, and hope to further strengthen our cooperation and deliver more fruitful results. At the just concluded UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Premier Wen Jiabao announced a donation of 6 million dollars to UNEP trust fund to support the environmental management capacity building for developing countries. The aim of this action is to enable UNEP to help more developing countries to enhance their capacity for environmental protection and promote the global environment cause.

Vice Minister Li stressed that the new strategic partnership between China and Africa achieved very good results. The deepening cooperation between them is of great significance to the sustainable development of Africa and the world as a whole. China and the African countries have a lot in common and the cooperation serves the interest of both parties. Looking into the future, we will learn from each other, make full use of their respective advantages and achieve common development.

Mohamed thought highly of the close ties between UNEP and MEP and hoped that the two parties would further their cooperation in fields like China-Africa cooperation.

The two parties also exchanged viewpoints on other issues including partnership on international ecosystem management, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia and the Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northwest Pacific Region. (Source: CNEWS)

The State Council prints and distributes the 12th-Five-Year Plan for Energy Conservation and Emissions Reduction, an accountability system is introduced to evaluate the performance of the leadership

The State Council printed and distributed the 12th-Five-Year Plan for Energy Conservation and Emissions Reduction (hereinafter referred to as *the Plan*) lately. Local regions are required to implement *the Plan* conscientiously and ensure that by the end of 2015, the emission cap of Chemical Oxygen Demand and Sulfur Dioxide will be below 23.476 million tons and 20.864 million tons respectively, each down by 8% from the 2010 level of 25.517 million tons and 22.678 million tons; and that of ammonia nitrogen and nitrogen oxides will be below 2.38 million tons and 20.462 million tons respectively, each down by 10% from the 2010 level of 2.644 million tons and 22.736 million tons.

The Plan specifies that by 2015, 85% of the sewage and 70% of the sludge will be environmental-soundly disposed in urban areas. 70% of the county sewage will be treated. Centralized sewage treatment facilities will be established in virtually every county and for major towns. Above 15% of the reclaimed water from municipal and township wastewater treatment plants nationwide will be reutilized.

The Plan also requires furthering the desulfurization and de-nitrification in the electric power industry and other industries. Remove the sulfur from flue gas of sintering machines of the iron and steel industry so that by 2015, over 95% of the flue gas will be desulfurized in all the sintering machines and the palleting equipment located in urban regions.

The Plan specifies that efforts shall be made to prevent and control the pollution from agricultural sources, emission of vehicle exhausts, and PM2.5 in the air.

The Plan also requires taking the total energy consumption and total pollutant load as the essential basis for energy efficiency assessment and environmental impact assessment, setting emission cap for major pollutants from power generation, iron and steel, paper-making, and printing and dyeing industries, and limiting the discharge of pollutants for new and expanded projects with equal or deduced amount.

The Plan points out that preliminary estimates indicates that about 816 billion RMB are needed to finance major emissions reduction projects planned for the 12th Five-Year Plan period, cutting back COD by 4.2 million tons, sulfur dioxide by 2.77 million tons, ammonia nitrogen by 400,000 tons and nitrogen oxides by 3.58 million tons.

The Plan specifies that the State Council will organize performance appraisal for provincial governments to evaluate the target responsibility of energy conservation and emission reduction, which will be integrated into the government performance management system and accountability system and the results of which will be an integral part of the overall performance appraisal of the provincial government. (Source: CNEWS)

CCICED Activities

Vice Minister Li Ganjie attends China-Africa Cooperation Forum

MEP Vice Minister and Secretary General of CCICED Li Ganjie attended the event

“China and Africa: shaping the economies of the future”, a side-event of the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAF) in the afternoon of July 16.

Li said in his remarks that in the course of urbanization and industrialization, China and African countries all face prominent problems such as the tremendous pressures from huge population and limited resources and vulnerable ecological environment. It is our common goal to promote the favorable interaction, sustainable coexistence and balanced integration of environmental protection and economic development. With the deepening of China-African cooperation, the cooperation in the field of environment and development will also enter a new stage featuring green development.

Li Ganjie came up with the following three proposals to enhance the cooperation among China and African countries in the field of environment and development: a) further strengthen the cooperation on green development within the FOCAF, and promote the cooperation on environment to go deeper, more extensive and at a higher level based on the established achievements; b) Keep innovating cooperation mode, enrich the areas of cooperation, make substantial efforts to improve the cooperation in the fields of environmentally sound technology, eco-labeling, and cleaner production, facilitate the dialogue on sustainable development and consumption, implement pilot cooperation projects on environment, and enhance the regional environmental protection capacity building; c) strengthen policy dialogue and experience sharing, keep bringing new vigor to green development, reinforce cooperation on global and regional environmental issues, and work together to promote green development.

Organized by CCICED and WWF on the eve of the fifth Ministerial Conference of the FOCAF, this event was designed to share relevant research findings, promote the principle of green economic development on the Forum, and facilitate the sustainable development course of both sides. Around 100 participants attended the event, including WWF Director General Jim Leape,

Ambassador of Togo and Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps in China Nolana Ta Ama, one of the co-founders of the Forum and former Foreign Minister of Madagascar Lila Ratsifandrihamanana, former Chinese Minister of Commerce and Secretary General of China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) Wei Jianguo, former Director General of Department of African Affairs of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Special Envoy on African Affairs Liu Guijin, and representatives from African countries to the Ministerial Conference of the Forum and their diplomatic mission to China. All participants held that the FOCAF shall be utilized as an important platform to facilitate the green development cooperation among China and African countries.

Director General of MEP Department of International Cooperation Tang Dingding, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and MEP FECO Deputy Director General Fang Li, and Deputy Director of China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center Zhou Guomei accompanied Li to the workshop.

Xu Qinghua stresses rational evaluation of the resource-and-environment carrying potentials on the Press Conference to deliver *the Report on China’s Green Development Indexes*

Organized by Beijing Normal University, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, National Bureau of Statistics and Ya’an Municipal Government, the 2012 Press Conference to deliver *the Report on China’s Green Development Indexes* & Green Economy Workshop was held in Ya’an of Sichuan Province in Southwest China on August 19. Xu Qinghua, Deputy Secretary General of CCICED and MEP Chief Engineer for Nuclear Safety, addressed the workshop. About 400 delegates including Director of UN-HABITAT's Monitoring and Research Division Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Vice President of Peking University Liu Wei, Vice President of Southwestern University of Finance and Economics Bian Huimin, and

representatives from UNEP, WWF, and relevant Chinese institutions took part in the Press Conference.

In his remarks, Xu noted that green development and sustainable development have always been the research focus of the international community. *The Outline of the 12th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development*, issued by the Chinese Government in 2011, defined the concept of green development and identified the goals as well as incentive and restraint mechanisms for green development, and showed the overall optimization of the general thought and enforcement strategy for China's green development. Integrating the concept of green development into the transformation process of economic development, a new round of industrial and S&T reform marked by green economy and low-carbon technology is being conceived and the shift of economic development mode is inevitable.

As a high-profile non-profit international policy advisory body composed of high-level person and expert in the fields of environment and development, CCICED put forward a series of policy recommendations in the past two decades to the Chinese Government on major issues concerning environment and development. In 2011, taking "green transformation of the economic development mode" as the main theme, CCICED carried out series policy studies to support the Chinese Government with its efforts to build the roadmap for green development. The following policy recommendations were proposed: insist to take the green transformation of the development mode as the will of the State and develop a supporting system incorporating social values, government functions and the nurturing of talent pools that is in favor of the transformation; design China's green economic development system and promote the green transformation of the economic development mode from all dimensions; and take the development of low-carbon industries as the cutting point to pilot such transformation. These recommendations not only conform to the

requirements for economic restructuring and shift of economic development mode, but also concert to the green development concept advocated by the just concluded UN Conference on Sustainable Development. They fully demonstrate that China Council's policy studies are forward-looking and strategic.

He points out that with the deepening of international studies and practices on green development and green economy, we need to work out a package of monitoring indexes and measurement methods for green development so as to rationally evaluate the green development performances and resource-and-environment carrying potentials, make scientific appraisal of the progress of economic transformation and green and low-carbon development, and accordingly guide and promote the green and low-carbon development.

The Report on China's Green Development Indexes was compiled by the Outlook on Science-based Development and Economic Sustainability Research Base of Beijing Normal University, Green Economy and Economic Sustainable Development Research Base of Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, and China Economic Monitoring Center of National Bureau of Statistics. Two categories of indexes were developed that is China inter-provincial green development indexes and China city green development indexes. These indexes were applied to evaluate the green development performances of 30 provinces and 38 metropolises and their performance were ranked accordingly. Li Xiaoxi, Member of China Council and Professor from Beijing Normal University, was leading the task force of *the Report*.

The 2012 3rd joint work meeting is held between CCICED Chief Advisors and the Secretariat

The 2012 3rd joint work meeting between CCICED Chief Advisors and the Secretariat was held on July 24 and 25. More than 30 participants attended the meeting, including Chinese Chief Advisor also academician of

Chinese Academy of Engineering Shen Guofang, international Chief Advisor Dr. Hanson, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of MEP FECO Fang Li, and members of CCICED task forces and special policy study programs.

The meeting had two sessions. The first session reviewed the working progress of the task forces and special policy study programs, exchanged viewpoints on the outline of the general report and draft policy recommendations, discussed the research work of the task forces and their results achieved so far, and gave comments and suggestions to improve the reports. The second session reviewed the work of China council and made work plans for the near future. The CCICED side event + 20 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the event “*China and Africa: shaping the economies of the future*” co-organized by CCICED and WWF as a side event of China-Africa Cooperation were

reviewed; the setting-up of the fifth phase of the Council was briefed; and the preparations for the 2012 Annual General Meeting was discussed. The meeting stressed the importance of implementing the working plans made on the meeting to lay solid foundation for the future policy studies and operational management of the Council.

CCICED 2012 Annual General Meeting to be held

The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the fifth phase of CCICED is set to be held in Beijing from November 13 to 15. Themed “regional balance and green development”, this AGM marks the official inauguration of the fifth phase of the Council. Council Members both domestic and International will be invited to the AGM to discuss issues of common concern in the fields of environment and development and review and approve the policy recommendations to be submitted to the Chinese Government.

CCICED Policy Studies

The 3rd work meeting of the CCICED Special Policy Study Program on “China’s Marine Environmental Management Mechanism Based on the Case Study of the Oil Spill Incident in the Bohai Sea” is held in Beijing

The 3rd joint work meeting of the CCICED Special Policy Study Program on “China’s Marine Environmental Management Mechanism Based on the Case Study of the Oil Spill Incident in the Bohai Sea” was held in Beijing attended by Chinese and international experts on August 13 and 14. More than 30 participants attended the meeting, including the Chinese Co-chair and Vice President of Beijing Normal University Shi Peijun, international Co-chair and professor of World Maritime University Olof Soren Linden, representatives from Beijing Normal University, Wuhan University, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and

Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, supporting expert group of CCICED Chief Advisor, and the CCICED Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the following special reports since the 2nd work meeting held on June 27, including *the Special Report on the Oil Spill Incident in Bohai Sea and the State marine environment Emergency Response Mechanism*, *Special Report on the Comparative Study of North Sea (UK) and Chinese Bohai Sea*, *Special Report on Marine Economy Development and Environmental Protection*, *Special Report on China’s Marine Economy Development Strategy and Its Impact on Marine Ecological Environment*, *Special Report on the Oil Spill Incident in Mexican Gulf and the Marine Emergency Response Management of the United States*, and *Special Report on the Legal Analysis of Oil Spill Incident Management*. Upon thorough discussion, the meeting outlined the framework of the general report and the preliminary policy

recommendations.

The meeting decided that the program Secretariat should finish the draft framework of the general report before August 15, and deliver the draft general report and policy recommendations by the end of August and the final report and policy recommendations to CCICED Secretariat in mid-September.

Work meeting of the CCICED Task Force on Policy Mechanism towards Environmental Targets for the 12th “Five-Year” Plan is held in Beijing

The work meeting of the CCICED Task Force on Policy Mechanism towards Environmental Targets for the 12th “Five-Year” Plan was held in Beijing on August 26. Wang Jirong, Chinese Co-chair of the task force, member of the Standing Committee of the NPC, Vice President of the Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party, and Vice Chairperson of the Environment and Resources Conservation Committee of the NPC, presided over the meeting. Hao Jiming, Council Member, academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Consultant of the Task Force and Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General, were present at the meeting. Participants also included representatives from the Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning, Land

Development and Regional Economy Research Institute affiliated under NDRC, Environment School of Tsinghua University and the CCICED Secretariat.

The task force briefed the framework of the general report and the key points of each chapter and explained the abstract report and the policy recommendations. Through thorough discussion, comments and suggestions for further revisions were given including: the analysis of the impact of economic development on the environment is not penetrating enough; the assessment of the general situation of China's environment by 2020 needs to be reconsidered; the control targets for major pollutants in the mid-and-long term roadmap shall be clearly defined; the analysis on co-benefits needs go deeper; the approaches to carry out industrial total pollutant control need to be further identified; and the question whether the industrial associations who are in relatively weak position can assume the heavy tasks of achieving the total emission control needs be re-pondered and answered.

The task force will revise the report based on the above comments and then send it to the international experts for consultation prior to September 10. The final work meeting of the task force is to be held on September 21 and 22. And the final report is to be delivered to CCICED Secretariat before the end of the September.