



● Hot Topics

■ **The Executive Meeting of the State Council Adopts the 12th Five-Year Plan on Energy Development, the Plan on Nuclear Power Safety (2011-2020) and the Middle and Long-term Plan on Nuclear Power Development (2011-2020)**

On Oct. 24, 2012, Premier Wen Jiabao chaired the executive meeting of the State Council which discussed and adopted *the 12th Five-Year Plan on Energy Development, the Plan on Nuclear Power Safety (2011-2020) and the Middle and Long-term Plan on Nuclear Power Development (2011-2020)*.

The 12th Five-Year Plan on Energy Development identified the following key tasks for the 12th Five-Year Plan period. First, strengthen the exploration and development of domestic resources. Second, facilitate the transition to clean and high efficiency energy. Third, renovate the energy supply mode. Fourth, speed up the construction of energy storage and transportation facilities to improve the energy storage capacity and emergency response capacity. Fifth, implement energy projects to promote equalization of public access to energy services both in urban and rural areas. Sixth, control the total consumption of energy at a reasonable level, improve the energy efficiency and strengthen the energy use management. Seventh, continue the reform of electrical power, coal, oil and gas and other key sectors, straighten out the energy pricing mechanism and encourage private investment in the energy sector.

The Plan on Nuclear Power Safety and the

Middle and Long-term Plan on Nuclear Power Development mapped out the plans for the development of nuclear power at present and for some time to come. First, restore the normal construction but keeping it at a rational pace. Second, geographically distribute the nuclear power station in a scientific manner. In the 12th Five-Year Plan period, only a few nuclear power projects will be approved in the coastal area with the location being thoroughly assessed and projects in the inland region will be suspended. Third, raise the access threshold to the sector. (Sources: www.gov.cn)

■ **Li Keqiang Gives Important Instructions on the West-to-East Gas Pipeline No. III**

Vice Premier of the State Council Li Keqiang gave important instructions upon the start of the construction of the West-to-East Gas Pipeline No. III on Oct. 16, 2012. He noted that the West-to-East Gas pipeline No. III will serve as the main energy transportation artery which is of strategic importance. It will run across ten provinces (autonomous regions) from the border area, to the inland and coastal area. It will enable the access of more than 100 million people living along the line to clean and reliable natural gas, promote the optimization of energy mix, facilitate the energy conservation and emission reduction, and enhance the balanced development of different regions. In addition, the project will also drive the development of equipment and material related industries, promote domestic consumption and facilitate social economic development.

The pipeline No. III runs across Xinjiang, Gansu, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Fujian and Guangdong Province with the designed annual capacity of 30 billion m³ and a total length of 7378 km. This project will further guarantee the gas supply and bring the proportion of natural gas to primary energy use up by one percentage point to two percentage points. The project is expected to reduce 130 million tons of CO₂ emissions, 1.44 million tons of SO₂ emissions, 660,000 tons of dust and 360,000 tons of NO_x. (Sources: www.gov.cn)

■ *The Access Requirement on Secondary Lead Industry Formulated*

MEP and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology jointly formulated the *Access Requirement on Secondary Lead Industry* (hereinafter referred to as *the Requirement*) to regulate the secondary lead industry, improve the resource and energy efficiency and promote the upgrade of the industry. *The Requirement* will be announced for public consultation in a few days.

The Requirement was formulated according to related national laws, regulations and plans including *the 12th Five-Year Plan on Prevention and Control of Heavy Metal Pollution* and *the Plan on Promoting the Development of Renewable, Nonferrous Metal Industry*.

The Requirement stipulates that the newly built, rebuilt or extended secondary lead projects must comply with related national policies and plans and meet the requirements of local plan for urban and rural development, ecological and environmental plan, plan for the protection of soil environment, overall plan for land use and plan for main function zones. All provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) shall tighten up the examination and approval of secondary lead projects according to the available resource and energy as well as the demand of the market, and strictly based on the industrial layout

and the national plans to curb the rampant expansion of the industry.

Newly built secondary lead projects must have a minimum production capacity of 50,000 tons/year (production capacity of single set, as with the following). *The Requirement* asks to phase out plants with production capacity below 10,000 tons/year and certain techniques including crucible smelting and coal-fired reverberating furnace. It encourages companies to reform or extend the projects of or above 50,000 tons/year. Projects with the capacity below 30,000 tons/year will be phased out by the end of 2013. (Sources: China Environment News)

■ *The State Council Issues the 12th Five-Year Plan for Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction*

A few days ago the State Council issued *the 12th Five-Year Plan for Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction* (hereinafter referred to as *the Plan*).

The overall targets put forward by *the Plan* attainable under economically and technologically feasible conditions are as follows: the total discharges of COD and SO₂ nationwide shall be capped respectively at 23.48 million tons and 20.86 million tons by 2015, both down by 8% compared with the 2010 level of 25.52 millions and 22.68 million tons; the capacity to reduce COD and SO₂ emission shall increase 6.01 million tons and 6.54 million tons respectively. The total discharges of NH₃ and NO_x shall be limited respectively to 2.38 million tons and 20.46 million tons nationwide, both down by 10% compared with 26.44 million tons and 22.74 million tons at the 2010 level; the capacity to reduce NH₃ and NO_x discharge shall increase 690,000 tons and 7.94 million tons respectively. It is mandated that the thermal power industry shall reduce SO₂ and NO_x by 16% and 29% respectively. Sectors including cement, paper making and textile printing & dyeing shall reduce pollution emission by 10% or over and the agricultural sources

shall define their reduction tasks based on the 8% and 10% total emission reduction target of COD and NH₃ respectively. The municipal sewage treatment rate shall increase by 8% and bring the total to 85% by 2015.

The Plan brings forth 3 major tasks. The first task is to further adjust and optimize the industrial structure. The focus will be put on the phase out of backward production capacities of small coal-fired units totally by 20 million kw., iron smelting by 48 million tons, steel smelting by 48 million tons, cement by 370 million tons, coking by 42 million tons and paper making by 15 million tons. The second one is to strengthen pollution control in key areas. Special effort shall be made to control PM_{2.5}. And the third task is to strengthen capacity building for pollution control. Efforts shall be made to establish monitoring centers for pollution sources at the county level, enhance supervisory monitoring of pollution sources, improve online monitoring network for regional pollution sources and establish a pollution monitoring databank to facilitate information sharing.

The Plan defined key pollution reduction projects for the following 5 fields. First, take the construction of municipal sewage treatment facilities and supporting pipelines, the upgrade and reform of current facilities and the construction of sludge treatment and disposal facilities as the focus to improve the dephosphorization and desulphurization capability. Second, emphasize on pulp & paper making, printing & dying, food processing, agricultural and farm products processing industries to intensify advanced treatment of water pollution and technical reform. Third, continue to implement desulphurization and denitration projects including the construction of desulphurization facilities for 50.56 million kw coal-fired units in service, technical renovation of 42.67 million kw. coal-fired units which have installed desulphurization facilities but fail to meet the discharge standard steadily, construction of denitration facilities of 400 million kw. coal-fired units in service and renovation of

70 million kw. coal-fired units with low nitrogen technology. Fourth, carry out pollution prevention and control from agricultural sources. Fifth, control vehicle emissions. These key pollution reduction projects shall result in the total reduction of 4.2 million tons of COD, 2.77 million tons of SO₂, 400,000 tons of NH₃ and 3.58 million tons of NO_x in the 12th Five-Year Plan period. (Source: www.china.org.cn)

■ China promotes sustainable forest management striving to bring the forest coverage up to 21.66% by 2015

The second Forest Science Forum-International Academic Workshop on Forest Sustainable Management opened on October 14, 2012, with the theme of “sustainable forest management in the context of climate change”. According to an official from the State Forestry Administration, China will deepen the sustainable management of the forest, accelerate the development of forest industry in all dimensions and increase the forest coverage up to 21.66% by the year 2015.

To meet this end, China will speed up the afforestation, increase the total stock volume of forest resources, continue to implement major eco-friendly projects such as nature forest protection, grain for green projects, plantation of the shelter forests in the North, Northeast and Northwest part of China and desertification control project, launch voluntary tree-planting campaigns throughout the nation, and accelerate the cultivation of forest resources. China will also improve the supporting policies and the fiscal subsidy policy for the forest industry, perfect the forest eco-compensation system, implement financial and tax policies for this industry, strengthen scientific research and establish S&T support system. (Source: www.xinhuanet.com)

■ China officially launches the Roadmap of Phasing Out Incandescent Lamps

A special campaign activity themed “Say Goodbye to Incandescent Lamp and Light up the Green Life” was launched in Beijing jointly by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the Ministry of Commerce, General Administration of Customs, State Administration for Industry and Commerce, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and Government Offices Administration of the State Council on October 17, 2012 when China’s Roadmap of Phasing Out Incandescent Lamp was officially started to implement and the import and sale of general incandescent lamps of and above 100W would be banned since then.

NDRC Vice Minister Xie Zhenhua said that lighting takes up about 13% of total power consumption in China. If 1.4 billion in-service incandescent lamps are replaced by energy-saving lamp, it is expected to save 48 billion kW·h electricity every year which is equivalent to the reduction of 48 million t CO₂ emission and means a huge potential for energy saving and emission reduction. The release and implementation of the Roadmap will not only produce active influence on the transformation and upgrading of the lighting industry and play an active role in energy saving and emission reduction of China, but also contribute to the energy conservation and the reduction of GHG emissions of the whole world. It is another active gesture of the Chinese government to meet the energy saving and emission reduction targets set at the ‘12th Five-Year Plan’ and address the global climate change.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China Renata Lok-Dessallien said that China together with Argentina, Australia, the Philippines, United States and EU has taken the lead in phasing out incandescent lamps. She spoke highly of the efforts and achievements of China in developing low carbon economy and society. She thought that as long as China continues its efforts, China will play a leading role in the world’s joint efforts to address the global climate change.

According to the Roadmap, the import and sale of incandescent lamps of 60W and above will be banned from October 1, 2014. The interim assessment will be carried out from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. The import and sale of incandescent lamps of 15W and above is supposed to be banned from October 1, 2016 with possible adjustment taking into consideration of the interim assessment results. (Source: www.xinhuanet.com)

■ The First Special Plan on the Prevention and Control of Air Pollution to be Unveiled

The State Council recently approved *the Plan on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution in Key Regions (2011-2015)* (hereinafter called the Plan) formulated by MEP with the support of other related departments. This will be the first special plan on air pollution and control in China.

The Plan identifies the guideline, basic principle, scope, objectives, indicators, key tasks, major projects and guarantee measures to achieve the regional air pollution prevention and control in key regions during the 12th Five-Year Plan period. *The Plan* covered three major regions (Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Provinces, the Yangtze River Delta Region and the Pearl River Delta Region) and nine city clusters (the middle of Liaoning Province, Shandong peninsular, Wuhan and its surrounding area, Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan, Chengdu -Chongqing, the west bank to the Taiwan Strait, the central and western part of Shanxi Province, Guanzhong area of Shaanxi Province and Urumqi city cluster) with totally 107 cities that suffer from serious air pollution.

The Plan aims to resolve some prominent issues concerning regional air pollution such as PM_{2.5} and ozone pollution on the basis of urban air quality improvement. It is expected that pollution from PM, SO₂ and NO₂ in key regions and cities will be improved and pollution from PM_{2.5} and ozone at regional scale will be brought under primary control by 2015.

The Environmental Standard on Air Quality issued by MEP on Feb. 29, 2012 incorporated the 8-hour-average limits of both PM2.5 and ozone into the air quality indicator system. MEP plans to put the new standard into practice in key regions like Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Provinces, the Yangtze River Delta Region and the Pearl

River Delta Region, municipalities and provincial capitals by 2012 and in 113 key cities and model cities on environmental protection by 2013 and will extend the scope to all prefecture-level cities by 2015. By Jan. 1, 2016, the new standard will prevail across the country. (Sources: www.xinhuanet.com)

● CCICED Activities

■ CCICED Holds the First Strategic Salon

CCICED held the First Strategic Salon in Beijing in the afternoon of Oct. 25, 2012. MEP Vice Minister and CCICED Secretary General Li Ganjie attended the Salon. Renowned experts and scholars from various fields were invited to participate. The theme of the Salon is “the Outlook and Review on China’s Environment and Development.

The Strategic Salon aims to set up an open platform to inspire thinking and exchange viewpoints on environment and development. Well-known experts and scholars were invited to share minds and make recommendations in terms of the key and challenging issues of China’s environment and development from multidisciplinary perspectives and combining both theory and practice. By pooling the wisdom of these experts, it could take the Council’s policy research work to be more forward-looking and strategic and help to provide better consultation for the Chinese government over broad issues concerning environment and development.

Participants included Prof. Wang Hui, Department of Chinese Language and Literature of Tsinghua University, Prof. Li Daokui, Director of Center for China in the World Economy of Tsinghua University, Prof. Pan Wei, Director of Center for Chinese & Global Affairs of Peking University, Prof. Zheng Yefu, Department of Sociology of Peking University, Wang Xiaodong, researcher from China Youth & Children Research Center, Fan Bi, Deputy

Director General of Comprehensive Research Department of the Research Office of the State Council, Ye Wenhui, Director of China Sustainable Development Center of Peking University, Xia Guang, Director General of MEP Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, Prof. Huan Qingzhi, scholar in environmental politics from Peking University, Li Junfeng, Director of National Climate Change Strategy Research and International Cooperation Center and Zheng Yisheng, Deputy Director of Resource and Environment Research Office, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. From perspectives of their own respective research, these experts and scholars gave their own unique opinions and recommendations on the international situation and correspondingly the influence on China, environmental strategy, the concept on development and environmental capacity.

Secretary General Li Ganjie spoke highly of their opinions and considered their speech both constructive and inspiring. He participated in the discussion actively. He reaffirmed that the form of salon is an innovative way to arouse thinking and required the Council to organize salons in a regular way and set Salon as a working mechanism.

Deputy Secretary General of the Council and Director General of MEP Department of International Cooperation Tang Dingding, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of MEP Department of Human Resources and Institutional Affairs Ren Yong, and Deputy Director General of MEP FECO Fang Li attended the salon.

Director of Environmental Law Division of MEP Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy Yang Xuejun presided over the Salon.

■ The Regular Meeting of the CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and the Supporting Expert Group is held in Beijing

The Regular meeting of the CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and the Supporting Expert Group was held in Beijing in the afternoon of October 11, 2012. CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering Shen Guofang chaired the meeting. A total of 16 people participated including CCICED Assistant Secretary General, head of the Supporting Expert Group for Chief Advisors and Deputy Director General of MEP Department of Human Resources and Institutional Affairs Ren Yong, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director General of MEP FECO Fang Li, deputy head of the Supporting Expert Group for CCICED Chief Advisors and Deputy Director General of China — ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center Zhou Guomei, member of the Supporting Expert Group for CCICED Chief Advisor and Vice President College of Environmental Science and Engineering of Peking University Zhang Shiqiu, other members of the Supporting Expert Group for Chief Advisors and people from CCICED Secretariat.

The meeting discussed the progress of five policy study projects that are supposed to report at the 2012 AGM and collected comments and suggestions. The meeting suggested that the Supporting Expert Group for Chief Advisors shall further revise and refine the Background Document of the Issues Paper and distribute as the case may be as a separate document at the 2012 AGM. The meeting also discussed topics including the Report on the Progress of Environment and Development in China, the Impact Report of CCICED Policy Recommendations, CCICED 2013 policy study projects and demonstration projects, and the theme of CCICED 2014 AGM.

The meeting agreed that the Fifth Joint Meeting of the CCICED Secretariat and the Chief Advisors will be held in Beijing on October 31~November 1, 2012.

■ The 2012 AGM of CCICED to be Held on December 12-14 in Beijing

Approved by the State Council, the 2012 AGM of CCICED themed “Regional Balance and Green Development” will be held in Beijing on Dec. 12-14, 2012. This will be the first AGM of the CCICED Phase V. The meeting will listen to policy research reports and discuss issues concerning China’s environment and development. The meeting will also discuss and approve the policy recommendations that will submit to the Chinese Government after the meeting.

● CCICED Policy Studies

(No updates so far)



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