



● Hot Topics

■ Premier Wen Jiabao Chaired an Executive Meeting of the State Council to Discuss the Work on Developing Circular Economy

Premier Wen Jiabao chaired an executive meeting of the State Council on December 12, 2012 to discuss the work of the development of circular economy.

The meeting pointed out that the development of circular economy is a key strategic task for economic and social development of our country and important approach and basic mode for the development of ecological civilization and achievement of sustainable development. In the future, focusing on improving the resource efficiency, efforts will be made to improve the incentive and discipline mechanism, develop circular industry, promote the commercialization of recovery and reuse of recycled resources, encourage green consumption and accelerate the development of resource recovery and reuse system in the whole society.

The meeting discussed and passed the *12th Five-Year Plan for the Development of Circular Economy*, which identifies the key objectives, major tasks and guarantee measures for the development of circular economy. (1) Develop circular industries. Promote circular production mode in all industries, facilitate clean production and reduction of pollutants from sources, achieve cascade utilization of energy, reuse of water, waste exchange and reuse, and intensive use of land. (2) Develop circular agriculture. Promote the conservation of resources, clean production, circular industrial chain and

reuse of waste in the agricultural field, develop circular agricultural production mode that agriculture, forestry and fishery co-exist, improve the rural eco environment and raise the comprehensive agricultural benefits. (3) Develop circular service industry and promote the development of circular economy in the whole society. Improve the classification and recycling of waste and renewable resources, and promote eco-building and green-transport. Give full play of the role of service industry in guiding the establishment of the concept of green and low carbon consumption and the change of consumption pattern. (4) Carry out demonstration of circular economy, implement demonstration projects, set up model cities, and cultivate pilot companies and industrial parks.

The meeting required to improve policies on finance & taxation, banking, industry, investment, pricing and fee charging, improve relevant regulations and standards, establish statistic and assessment system, strengthen supervision and management, actively cooperate with the international community and facilitate the development of circular economy in an all-round way. (Source: www.gov.cn)

■ CCICED Holds 2012 AGM in Beijing themed “Regional Balance and Green Development”

The 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (hereinafter referred to as CCICED) opened in Beijing on Dec.12, themed “Regional Balance and Green

Development”. Li Keqiang, Vice Premier of the State Council and CCICED Chairperson, addressed the opening ceremony. MEP Minister and CCICED Executive Vice Chairperson Zhou Shengxian and Minister of Environment Canada and CCICED Executive Vice Chairperson Peter Kent delivered welcome remarks.

Zhou made a special speech entitled “Carry on ecological civilization and build a beautiful China” after the opening ceremony. Vice Chairman of China’s National Development and Reform Commission and CCICED Vice Chairperson Xie Zhenhua, and Managing Director of World Economic Forum and CCICED Vice Chairperson Børge Brende also gave their remarks.

CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and Academician with Chinese Academy of Engineering Shen Guofang, and international Chief Advisor and former President of International Institute for Sustainable Development Dr. Arthur Hanson presented the 2012 Issues Paper on Regional Balance and Green Development.

The Council members held that the world economy remains in the critical and sensitive period in 2012 due to the impact of post crisis and the world’s sustainable development lacks impetus. In the global context of economic downturn, China’s growth rate has been on the decline. Confronted with this complicated and daunting situation, Chinese Government has made overall plans integrating both foreign and domestic affairs. While taking initiative to engage in the global cooperation and governance on environment and development, greater efforts has been made to push forward the buildup of ecological civilization as a national strategy, and actively promote the green transformation of economic growth model. The Chinese Government has, in light of the new domestic situation, new tasks, and new requirements, introduced a series of strategic measures specifically the strategic thought for environmental protection, that is to protect the environment through economic development and achieve economic

development in the process of protecting the environment. It has been actively exploring a new path for environmental protection featured with low cost, sound benefits, low emissions and sustainable. Environmental protection has played an important role in China’s economic restructuring and transformation.

The Council members also held that the year 2012 is the first year of Phase V of the Council. Under the particular global and domestic circumstances on environment and development, CCICED carried out works focusing on the objectives, tasks and policy research areas identified for the Phase V of the Council. Under the leadership of the Bureau and with the close cooperation of Chinese and international partners, CCICED has accomplished all the tasks scheduled for the year, achieved the expected goals, and made positive contributions to China’s environmental protection and development.

The 2012 AGM lasted for three days and two open forums were held respectively themed “Regional Coordination and Green Development” and “Strategic Transformation and Green Development”.

Besides, the Council members also discussed policy research reports and policy recommendations, including the policies and mechanisms towards the environmental targets for the 12th Five-Year Plan, strategy and policy on environment and development of Western China, environmental strategy and measure for transformation of development mode in Eastern China, China’s marine environmental management mechanism based on the case study of the Oil Spill Incident in the Bohai Sea, and regional air quality integrated control system, etc.. Based on the discussions, policy recommendations to the Chinese Government were finalized.

CCICED, consisting of high-profile personal and experts in the field of environment and development both from China and abroad, is a high-level international policy advisory body. Since its establishment in 1992, CCICED has been

devoted to serving as a platform for high-level policy dialogue between China and the international community on environment and development to exchange and disseminate the successful global experience, carrying out policy researches on major environment and development issues confronting China to propose proactive, strategic, and early-warning policy recommendations to the leadership of the Chinese Government and policy-makers at all levels, and providing support for the sustainable development of Chinese economy as well as the building of a resource-saving and environment-friendly society. (Source: China Environment News)

■ Canada Reinforces Environmental Partnership with China

On December 14, 2012, Canada's Environment Minister, the Honorable Peter Kent, serving as the International Executive Vice Chair for the China Council, concluded three days of co-chairing the Annual General Meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development in Beijing with China's Minister of Environmental Protection, Minister Zhou Shengxian.

"Canada is proud of the leadership role it has played in the China Council for over two decades, tackling critical environment and development issues," said Minister Kent. "The research undertaken by the China Council has influenced important changes in Chinese policies, including the development of China's environmental impact assessment

legislation and adoption of measures to reduce soil, water and air pollution."

The Council's 2012 Annual General Meeting resulted in key recommendations to strengthen marine environmental protection, address regional air pollution challenges, and establish a balanced and green regional development strategy across the various regions of China.

The China Council is a high-level international advisory body that provides China's State Council with research-based policy recommendations on a wide range of environment and development issues. It consists of 32 Chinese and 25 international members from various countries and organizations who have significant expertise in the fields of environment and development.

Canada helped to establish the China Council in 1992, and is the lead international partner of the Council serving as the vice chair at the China Council's annual general meeting. Since the founding of the China Council, China has experienced continued and rapid economic growth which has brought about increasing pressure on its environment and natural resources. Combined with a number of global environmental challenges such as climate change and loss of biodiversity, the work of the China Council plays an ever important role in facilitating high quality research and providing advice on specific policy measures to Chinese decision-makers. (Source: Environment Canada)

● CCICED Activities

■ Premier Wen Meets CCICED Foreign Members

On Nov. 14, 2012, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with a group of foreign members of CCICED, who are in Beijing to attend the CCICED's AGM in Beijing.



During the meeting, Wen expressed his appreciation to the members for their concerns and support in the past years to China's environment and development. He also said he greatly cherished the friendship with the members. He also expressed his best wishes for CCICED's future.

■ Vice Premier of the State Council and Chairman of CCICED Li Keqiang stresses to develop a Modern China with Ecological Progress

On Dec. 12 of 2012, Vice Premier of the State Council and Chairman of CCICED Li Keqiang stressed at the CCICED 2012 AGM to develop a modern China featured with ecological civilization. He pointed out that the just concluded 18th National Congress of CPC drew the blueprint for the future development of China and put the development of ecological civilization at a more prominent position in the modernization process of China. Themed as "Regional Balance and Green Development", this AGM would discuss important issues concerning the development of ecological civilization in China which is of great significance. He said we clearly understand that China is still facing serious environmental problems. Relatively insufficient resources and limited environmental carrying capacity become the new reality of our country and the "short board" of development. The aim of our great effort to promote the development of ecological civilization aims to break this bottleneck. Marching towards a modern China of ecological civilization is a new topic for us and a due component of the development of Xiaokang society in an all-round way. We are facing unprecedented opportunities as well as risks and challenges. Therefore, we must have the suffering consciousness of walking on the steel line and firm confidence of climbing the high.

He stressed that to develop a modern China of ecological civilization, more efforts shall be made in the following major aspects:

1) Transformation of the development mode. We will optimize the development pattern of the land space to form reasonable production space, life space and ecological space. We will facilitate the implementation of major ecological, environmental protection and energy conservation projects. 3.4 trillion yuan is planned for ecological conservation and environmental protection in the "12th Five-Year Plan" period. We will take energy saving and emission reduction as the important breakthrough for the restructuring and innovation of the industries and the transformation of economic development mode. It is expected that CO₂ emission per unit GDP will go down by 17% by 2015 compared with that of 2010.

2) Improve public welfare. In the beginning of this year, China began to monitor PM2.5 and made public the data at all municipalities and provincial capitals of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area, the Yangtze River delta and Pearl River delta area and has taken targeted measures to strengthen control and gradually improve the air quality with efforts of certain period of time.

3) Expand the market. Expanding domestic demands is the basic strategy for the development of China. Synchronized promotion of industrialization, urbanization, information technology and agricultural modernization creates huge potential for domestic demand. Taking photovoltaic cells as an example, the total installed capacity in our country is less than 10% of annual output, so there is huge potential for domestic market. We will take measures such as encouraging the application of solar energy power generation equipment in the process of urbanization and support the on-grid of distributed power generation to expand the market across the country and facilitate sustainable and healthy development of photovoltaic industry. It is expected that the installed capacity of solar energy generating units will reach 50 million kW in China by 2020.

4) Deepen reform. Reform and opening up is the only way for development especially

transformational development, and the strong momentum for modernization. Promoting the development of ecological civilization needs not only material support and spiritual driving force, but also reform and institutional innovation. This requires to accelerate the reform in pricing, finance, taxation, monetary, administration and enterprise, improve systems such as compensated use of resources, compensation for environmental damages and eco compensation, improve assessment, examination, rewards and punishment as well as accountability mechanisms, strengthen legal system in the field of resources and environment to encourage and discipline companies via institution and regulate and standardize their conducts via laws, so that the biggest "dividend" of reform will be reflected more in the development of ecological civilization, scientific development and transformational development.

5) Strengthen international cooperation. Environment and development is the common challenge of the global community and green development is the common interests of all countries. China is a responsible country. We will further facilitate the enforcement of international environment conventions and protocols, assume our due obligations based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility, equity and respective capability to jointly address global climate change and promote the cause of environment and development of the mankind.

■ MEP Minister Zhou Shengxian Delivered a Special Speech at the CCICED 2012 AGM

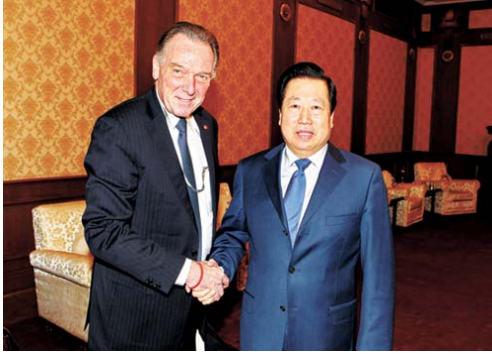
Zhou Shengxian, MEP Minister and Executive Vice Chairperson of CCICED delivered a special speech at the CCICED 2012 AGM. He pointed out that a prominent highlight of the 18th CPC National Congress was the emphasis on ecological civilization as one integral part of the five overall plans for pursuing the cause of socialism with Chinese

characteristics, which emphasize the ecological awareness of respecting, conforming to and protecting the nature, incorporate the ecological civilization into all aspects and the whole process of economic, political, cultural, and social progress, strive to build a beautiful country and achieve the sustainable development of China and make contributions to the global ecological security.

Minister Zhou emphasized that environmental protection is the main front and fundamental measure for ecological civilization. It is main stream, big arena and key platform to build a beautiful China. The breakthrough in environment protection is the key to promote green growth, resources recycling and low-carbon development and create a better world for the people. Any result achieved in environmental protection is the active contribution to ecological civilization and beautiful China. So, we shall 1) actively explore the new path of environmental protection in China to protect the environment through economic development and develop the economy in the process of protect the environment; 2) make overall plans and take all factors into consideration, do a good job in top-down design, and strive to develop China's geographical space, industrial structure, mode of production and way of life in the interest of conserving resources and protecting the environment; 3) make every effort to meet our goal in reducing emissions of major pollutants; 4) address the pressing environmental issues that encumber scientific development and affect people's health; 5) further establish eco-demonstration projects and zones; and 6) improve the institutional system in favor of the ecological civilization.

■ Minister Zhou Shengxian Met with International Executive Vice Chairman of CCICED

Mr. Zhou Shengxian, MEP Minister and Executive Chairman of CCICED met with Mr. Kent, Minister of Environment Canada and Executive Chairman of CCICED in



Beijing on December 12, 2012. They discussed China-Canada environmental cooperation and relevant activities concerning the 2012 AGM. Minister Zhou Shengxian briefly introduced Mr. Kent of the latest development of environmental protection in China and pointed out that environmental protection is the main stream, big arena and key platform for the development of ecological civilization. Mr. Kent spoke highly of the achievements of CCICED over the past 20 years and the work of CCICED Secretariat. He said that Canada is willing to continue close communications and cooperation with the Chinese side. Mr. Li Ganjie, Secretary General of CCICED and Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection attend the meeting.

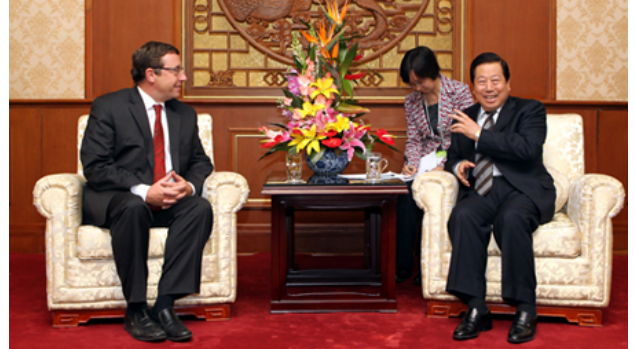
■ Zhou Shengxian Meets with Trutnev-Assistant to the Russian President



MEP Minister Zhou Shengxian met with Yuri Trutnev, Assistant to the President of Russian Federation and a Member of CCICED on Dec. 13, 2012. The two sides exchanged viewpoints over the bilateral cooperation of the two countries and the ecological civilization and beautiful China proposed by the just concluded 18th CPC

National Congress.

■ Zhou Shengxian meets with UNEP Executive Director



Mr. Zhou Shengxian, MEP Minister and Executive Vice Chairman of CCICED met with Mr. Achim Steiner, Vice Secretary General of the United Nations, Executive Director of UNEP and Vice Chairman of CCICED in Beijing on Dec. 13, 2012. They exchanged viewpoints on extensive topics including the buildup of ecological civilization, latest progress of environmental protection cause of China and enhancement of the cooperation between the two sides. They also signed the Agreement between MEP and UNEP on Strategic Cooperation Framework.

■ CCICED 2012 AGM closes with great success, Zhou Shengxian attends the meeting and presents a summary speech

The 3-day 2012 Annual General Meeting of CCICED concluded with great success on December 14 after finishing all agenda. Mr. Zhou Shengxian, MEP Minister and CCICED Executive Vice Chairman attended the closing session and gave a summary speech. He hoped that CCICED would contribute more concepts and make further achievements.

Zhou Shengxian pointed out that centering on the theme “Regional Balance and Green Development”, this AGM had in-depth discussions respectively on regional balance and green development, and strategic transformation and green development. The participants pooled their ideas and wisdom, inspired more new

thoughts and viewpoints and reached common understanding over some important theoretical and practical issues:

First, achieving modernization with ecological progress is the goal of China's environment and development cause.

Second, the concept and increasing rich practice of ecological civilization put forward by China is an important contribution to the global cause of

environment and development.

Third, strict environmental access is a result-driven mechanism for coordinated regional development.

Fourth, exploring the new path of protecting the environment in the process of development and achieving development in the process of environmental protection is a milestone for building a beautiful country.

● CCICED Policy Studies

(No updates so far)

