

● Hot Topics

■ Li Keqiang Presides over State Council Executive Meeting to Make Arrangements for Curbing Air Pollution

Premier Li Keqiang presided over a State Council executive meeting on June 14th to make arrangements for curbing air pollution.

The meeting concludes that, curbing air pollution not only promotes the welfare of the people, but also contributes to upgrading economic structure. The increasingly prominent air pollution issues, which plague some regions in a very complex way, are the result of long term air polluting activities. To curb air pollution, China needs to make unremitting efforts and establish a comprehensive and systematic framework. According to the meeting, currently, China needs to concentrate on key air polluting activities, apply different guidelines to different issues, launch comprehensive programs in a scientific manner, and incorporate optimizing economic structure and encouraging innovation into its environmental protection efforts. In one word, use tough measures to accomplish tough tasks, so as to ensure a quick effect of air pollution control, to promote the welfare of the people, and to forge new economic growth points.

10 measures are released by the meeting. The first is to reduce pollutant emissions by taking such initiatives as strictly restricting small-scale coal-fueled boilers, promoting desulfurization and denitrification technologies in key industries, controlling urban dust, upgrading petrol quality and phasing out high emission vehicles according to a strict timetable.

The second is to strictly restrict capacity expansion in heavily polluting or energy depleting industries and to shut down outdated facilities in key industries such as steel, cement, electrolytic aluminum, and plate glass one year ahead of the timetable outlined in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan.

The third is to actively promote a clean way of production, with an emission reduction target of 30% for major pollutants in key industries by the end of 2017, and to vigorously expand public transport services.

The fourth is to accelerate the adjustment of energy structure by expanding supply of natural gas, coal methane and other types of clean energy.

The fifth is to rigorously enforce energy conservation restrictions. The projects that fail to pass energy or environmental assessment should not obtain construction permissions or other necessities, such as land, loans, electricity or water supply.

The sixth is to launch a new type of energy conservation and emission reduction mechanism that involves both incentives to good behavior and restrictions on bad ones. For example, emission charges should be increased, loans provided to air pollution prevention and control projects, international cooperation promoted, and environmental and new energy industries vigorously supported.

The seventh is to use legal and regulatory instruments to urge related industries to upgrade technologies and to transform into environmentally friendly ones. For example, more stringent emission restrictions should be put in place for key industries by enforcing or amending related laws and regulations. Especially, laws and regulations related to air pollution prevention and control are suggested to be renewed in the meeting. Environmental information related to heavily polluting industries and enterprises should be made available to general public forcibly, air quality in key cities ranked and made public and heavier penalties imposed on violations of environmental laws and regulations.

The eighth is to establish joint prevention and control mechanism in key areas, such as the Bohai Sea rim area, which includes Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta. Efforts should be intensified to treat PM2.5 pollution in densely inhabited regions and key metropolises, and evaluation mechanisms established in different levels to check provincial, municipal and county governments' performance in meeting environmental targets and in taking their environmental responsibilities.

The ninth is to include a contingency plan for heavy air pollution into local governments' crisis management package. According to the state of the pollution, different measures should be taken, including imposing immediate restrictions on industrial and vehicles emissions.

The tenth is to promote a code of act that calls for joint responsibility and shared outcome in society at large. In this regard, local governments should be hold accountable for overall air quality in their region, enterprises should play a central role in reducing emissions, the State Council and related governmental agencies should coordinate different parties, a culture of conservation should be fostered by promoting green consumption and green lifestyle, people from all walks of life should be mobilized to participate in environmental protection and public scrutiny. (Source: Official Web Portal of Central Government of P.R. China)

■ Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli Attends 2013 Fortune Global Forum and Delivers Address

China's Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli attended the 2013 Fortune Global Forum in Chengdu and delivered an address on June 6th.

He said: "We will strengthen the protection of resources, the environment and ecological systems as part of our effort to build a beautiful homeland with a blue sky, green land and clean water. I've always believed that the ecological environment is crucial to human civilization and to China's development. Economic and social development is commendable only when it is achieved together with a sound ecological environment. This is also a responsibility we shoulder for our future generations. We have already outlined the goal of building China into a beautiful country. We will attach greater importance to addressing problems resulting from environmental pollution, and strike a proper balance between optimizing economic structure, boosting development that is driven by science and technological innovation, and conserving resources and protecting the environment. We are determined to make long-term and unremitting efforts to solve the problem. We will start with reducing PM2.5 in most polluted regions. We will implement forceful action plans with a multi-pronged approach to ensure nationwide progress through coordinated regional efforts. We will take gradual steps to improve the quality of soil and drinking water, so as to ensure that our people can live and work happily and in the meantime make new contribution to the global efforts of mitigating climate change." (Source: Official Web Portal of Central Government of P.R. China)

■ Zhang Gaoli attends CPPCC Standing Committee Meeting

Zhang Gaoli, China's Vice Premier and a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee was invited to the second meeting of the standing committee of the 12th CPPCC National Committee and delivered a speech on the topic of promoting ecological progress and breaking new ground in China's development.

Zhang points out that promoting ecological progress is of crucial importance in constructing a well-off society in all-round manner and realizing the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation. We must heighten the sense of urgency and responsibility, raise ecological awareness, fully use the techniques of bottom-line thinking, adopt a macro perspective, bolster confidence and show determination in promoting ecological progress.

Zhang stresses that, to promote ecological progress is to foster a mainstream culture of respecting, accommodating to and protecting nature, so as to achieve the goal of resource conservation and environmental protection.

Zhang outlined current tasks in promoting ecological progress, namely, to intensify our effort in optimizing the overall framework for geographical space development according to each area's projected position and function, to effectively relieve environmental stress caused by economic activities through optimization of economic structure, to resolutely improve environmental quality by more effective pollution control and treatment, to transform the way resource is utilized through all-round resource conservation, to improve environmental institutions through legislation and institutional innovations, and to forge a favorable climate for environmental protection among general public by promoting green and low-carbon consumption. He hopes that, members of the CPPCC National Committee could pay close attention to and support ecological protection as they did in the past, vigorously put forward their suggestions and ideas to make new contributions to building a beautiful nation. (Source: Official Web Portal of Central Government of P.R. China)

■ MEP releases 2012 Report on the State of the Environment in China

The 2012 Report on the State of the Environment in China was released by the MEP on June 4th. According to responsible officials from the MEP, in 2011, the total chemical oxygen demand (COD) discharge was 24.237 million ton, ammonia nitrogen 2.536 million ton, down by 3.05% and 2.62% respectively compared with that of last year. Among major pollutants in waste gas, total SO₂ and NO_x emission was 21.176 million ton and 23.378 million ton, down by 4.52% and 2.77% respectively compared with the numbers of last year.

As indicated in the Report, monitoring results in 2012 showed a stable state in terms of overall environmental quality, but current environmental situation is still serious. Firstly, the state of water environment across the country allows of no optimism. Secondly, the overall quality of coastal marine waters is barely acceptable. Thirdly, overall air quality in cities and acid rain distribution across the country remain stable. Fourthly, acoustic environment in cities across the country is relatively good. Fifthly, overall radiation environment across the country is fairly good. Sixthly, remarkable progress has been made in ecological improvement programs. And seventhly, rural environmental issues are increasingly prominent.

During 2012, environmental protection institutions across the country resolutely followed arrangements and decisions of the central government on environmental protection and made remarkable progress in key initiatives. Firstly, the environmental protection institutions steadfastly followed the gist of the 7th National Conference on Environmental Protection during 2012. Secondly, the targets for discharge reduction of major pollutants have been reached in every aspect. Thirdly, environmental protection increasingly serves as a catalyst for optimizing economic development. Fourthly, new progress has been made in addressing issues

affecting people's well being. Fifthly, breakthroughs have been made in pollution prevention and treatment in river basins and sea areas. Sixthly, efforts intensified in ecological protection and rural environmental improvement. Seventhly, a tentative scheme for ecological compensation has been established in national key ecological function areas. Eighthly, the mechanism for ensuring nuclear and radiation safety is more effective. Ninthly, steady progress has been made in many aspects, such as policy, laws & regulations, science and technology, monitoring and etc. Tenthly, environmental protection capacity has been increased and environmental workforce enhanced. (Source: China Environment News)

■ CCICED Secretary General Li Ganjie Attends Panel Discussion for Jiangsu Provincial Plan for Ecological Progress

Mr. Li Ganjie, MEP Vice Minister and CCICED Secretary General attended a panel discussion about Jiangsu Provincial Plan for Ecological Progress and delivered address.

Only by making all the provinces beautiful can we achieve the goal of building China into a beautiful country, he said, Jiangsu Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government had always attached great importance to promoting ecological progress, and this time, they played a leading role by formulating a provincial plan for ecological progress, the first draft among all the provinces. By taking Jiangsu's full advantages, he hopes the province can accelerate the process of building its self into an ecological province and create an impressive provincial image of good ecological environment.

Li stressed that, in the process of promoting ecological progress, the gist of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party and the important speech delivered by General Secretary Xi Jinping during the sixth group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee must be strictly followed to fulfill the key tasks in promoting ecological progress. Firstly, China should optimize the use of its geographical space in a scientific manner, improve and make full use of related regulative systems, such functional zoning strategy and ecological redlines, accelerate ecological restoration, preserve and expand ecologically healthy areas. Secondly, China should comprehensively boost its transition to green development, accelerate the washout process of obsolete productive facilities, encourage intensive use and conservation of resources and energy, and promote circular economy. Thirdly, unremitting efforts should be made to control and treat pollution, and pay more attention to prevention and control of environmental risks. Fourthly, green consumption, green travel and green building should be supported in an effort to promote ecologically healthy way of life among general public. Fifthly, ecological awareness should be raised to involve general public into the process of ecological progress and promote social supervision. Sixthly, green technology should be supported to provide a solid foundation for green development. Seventhly, ecological institutions should be further improved to provide an institutional support for ecological progress. (Source: China Environment News)

■ 68,000 tons of foreign waste seized by China's Customs Agencies

Up to June 15th, Customs agencies around China have filed and investigated 29 foreign waste criminal cases that involved importing prohibited waste and cracked 196 foreign waste smuggling cases, with 68,000 tons of garbage seized.

The General Administration of Customs launched a 10 months campaign named Green Fence in Customs agencies around China at the beginning of 2013 to tighten supervision on solid waste import and to crack down various foreign waste smugglings and crimes, such as using false Customs Declaration Form or using other parties' import license as coverage to

smuggle foreign waste or concealing illegal foreign waste in properly imported containers. The campaign aims at keeping all solid waste that does not meet environmental standards and all harmful foreign waste out of the country.

On top of that, Customs agencies in China actively engage in cooperation with relevant countries and regions on law enforcement to establish an effective mechanism for returning smuggled solid waste. Since the launch of the campaign, 9400 tons of prohibited waste and restricted waste without proper import license have been returned by Customs agencies around China. (Source: Xinhua)

■ China's National Low Carbon Day Falls on June 17

China's first National Low Carbon Day fell on June 17, 2013, marking another important move by the Chinese government in fostering a culture of low-carbon development and energy consumption. It will help to promote the idea of low-carbon development among general public, to facilitate ecological progress, to support economic and social sustainable development, and to respond to climate change more effectively. Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, says that, it is an important move by the State Council in formulating an overall framework for low-carbon development. The move indicates that, the Chinese government has attached great importance to promoting the knowledge of climate change and the idea of low-carbon development and actively supports such propaganda programs. Promoting low-carbon development embodies the Scientific Outlook of Development, and is imperative for sustainable development and an integral part of the reform in economic development mode. (Source: Xinhua)

■ Government Agencies Launch Cross-China Low Carbon Tour in Beijing

A launching ceremony of an environmental campaign named Cross-China Low Carbon Tour was held in Beijing on June 17th, 2013. Jointly launched by some government agencies including the National Development and Reform Commission, the campaign involves series of propaganda programs across the country to spread knowledge of how to prevent climate change and to promote low-carbon development. In the process, forerunners and demonstrative stories will be found out, and various social sectors, such as media, non-governmental organizations, enterprises, households, communities and schools, will be mobilized to promote low-carbon development.

Other government agencies launching the campaign include the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the MEP, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Transport, the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, the State General Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television and National Energy Administration.

Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, says at the ceremony that, climate change is a tough challenge confronting humanity in the 21st century. Low-carbon development represents a whole new idea for facilitating sustainable development. It has been agreed by the international community that low-carbon development is not only a fashion of the times but will also present a win-win outcome for both economic and social development and curbing climate change. He points out that, it is imperative to mobilize all social sectors to comprehensively participate in promoting low carbon development and in the fight against climate change.

As representatives from low carbon cities, Mr. Zhu Yan, Deputy Secretary-General of Beijing Municipal Government, and Mr. Qu Futian, the Mayor of Huai'an of Jiangsu Province introduced their own experience in promoting low carbon development.

An association named China Alliance for Low Carbon Action was forged and the Declaration of the China Alliance for Low Carbon Action was issued, on the proposal of the National Development and Reform Commission, to assist government, enterprises and other parties to actively respond to the climate change, to raise public awareness of low-carbon development, and to promote related practices. Its members include central enterprises, such as SINOPEC, private owned enterprises, BYD for example, and non-governmental organizations.

SINOPEC President Li Chunguang and Vanke Chairman Wang Shi explained their explorations in low carbon development respectively.

Mr. Xie Zhenhua adds that, it has a long way to go for China to reach its ambitious goal of low carbon development. In the process, both unswerving government support and joint participation by nongovernmental organizations and enterprises are imperative. The establishment of the China Alliance for Low Carbon Action offers opportunities for mobilizing social resources, for carrying out exchanges between governmental agencies and enterprises, for promoting innovations and cooperation, and for accelerating local governments' and enterprises' strategic adjustment, so as to support green and low carbon development and to forge a favorable climate of public opinion for responding to climate change and promoting low carbon development. (Source: Xinhua)

■ China issues new judicial explanation targeting polluters

On June 18, 2013, China's supreme court and procuratorate jointly issued a new judicial explanation Tuesday that imposes harsher punishments on polluters.

The new legal document confronts difficulties in investigating cases of environmental pollution and in convicting polluters, according to a statement issued by the two judicial departments.

With more precise criteria for convictions and sentencing, the document is expected to facilitate the work of judges and tighten punishments for polluters, it said.

The document lists 14 sorts of activities that will be considered "crimes of impairing the protection of the environment and resources."

For instance, discharging, dumping or treating radioactive waste or waste containing infectious disease pathogens or toxic substances into sources of drinking water and nature reserves will be considered crimes of polluting the environment.

Activities that result in pollution that forces more than 5,000 people to be evacuated or poisons more than 30 people are also considered environmental pollution crimes.

Those who pollute near hospitals, schools and large residential areas will be considered serious offenders.

According to the country's Criminal Law, those convicted of such crimes will face a maximum prison term of seven years and be subjected to fines.

In China, more than 10 million hectares of farmland have been polluted, and heavy metals and pesticide residues that people ingest through food will greatly threaten public health, said Qian Guanlin, a senior national political advisor.

"Environmental pollution is a major cause of the high incidence of cancers in China," said Qian, vice director of the population, resources and environmental committee under the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) (Source: Xinhua)

■ China Introduces Local Program for Reducing Emissions

On June 19, 2013, China unveiled its first pilot carbon emissions exchange Tuesday, though plans for a nationwide rollout and efforts to apply the program to some heavy industries could be undermined by a slowdown in the nation's economy.

High-emission industries like aluminum and steel are likely to resist higher costs as they are already battling weak prices caused by tepid demand and too much supply.

“It is a very big concern for Beijing and for local governments — how to strike a balance between controlling emissions and maintaining economic growth, especially amid a general slowdown in the economy,” said Shawn He, a lawyer and carbon specialist at Hualian law firm in Beijing.

Although the exchange, in Shenzhen, will not immediately lead to a big cut in China's emissions of greenhouse gases, now the world's highest, it does still represent a statement of intent by Beijing, campaigners said.

“This is just a baby step when you look at the total quantity of emissions, but it enables China to establish institutions for carbon controls for the first time,” said Li Yan, head of the climate and energy campaign in China for the environmental group Greenpeace.

Under such a cap-and-trade program, companies must buy allowances from others if they want to exceed carbon limits.

But there is still a long way to go in China, and the design of its pilot platforms — as well as the national program that would eventually replace them — face economic and social pressures.

“Of course, decision makers have to look at the social impact; the carbon market cannot be designed in an idealistic way, and you have to make sure the design of the mechanism will address such issues as social stability,” said Wu Changhua, China director with Climate Group, a consulting firm based in London.

And the examples set by carbon markets overseas are not encouraging, with the global financial crisis saddling Europe's emissions trading program with a crushing oversupply of carbon credits and record low prices.

The Shenzhen carbon exchange is one of seven pilot projects due to be started this year or next and will involve 635 local industrial companies accounting for more than a quarter of local gross domestic product and more than 30 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

But that is still a drop in the ocean compared with the country's total emissions — about eight billion tons last year.

Other platforms due to start in 2013 include one in Shanghai, where Baoshan Iron & Steel, the leading steel producer, will participate, and one in Hubei Province, home of Wuhan Iron & Steel.

Although giant oil companies like Cnooc and PetroChina will take part in the Shenzhen program, few of the companies involved will be from heavy-industry sectors, and figuring out how to include them is likely to be a challenge.

Late last year, China's industry ministry told such companies to reduce their carbon intensity rates — the volume of carbon dioxide produced per unit of output, based on the rate from 2010 — by 18 percent by 2015. That was a huge burden for a sector already bruised by

rising costs and minimal returns, with the country's economy growing at its slowest pace in 13 years in 2012 and data so far this year surprisingly negative.

But while it will add to the costs of struggling companies, it could also give Beijing another tool to bring wayward industries in line with state policies and to force polluting companies to close.

Carbon trade will give local governments an alternative source of revenue as well as an incentive to free up some of their carbon dioxide allocations by closing small steel mills.

Jiang Feitao, a researcher at the China Academy of Social Sciences who has studied the impact of environmental policy on the steel sector, said smaller companies would be hit hardest by costs.

After Shenzhen, Shanghai and Hubei Province, four more pilot exchanges are to open in Beijing, the sprawling industrial municipalities Tianjin and Chongqing, and Guangdong Province, a major manufacturing center, probably next year.

The National Development and Reform Commission said that the seven pilot projects would begin integrating in 2015 and that a nationwide platform would go into operation before 2020. But the seven regions were given considerable leeway to design their own programs and it remains unclear how they will integrate.

“My guess at this moment is that they will set up a national platform and gradually integrate the seven pilot schemes into that one, but we don't know the architecture yet. This is very new,” said Ms. Wu of Climate Group.

Mr. He, the lawyer, said China still needed legislation to give legal recognition to the concept of carbon trading. It also needed to solve the longstanding problem of measuring emissions.

“I don't think it is possible to get to a national market by 2015 — there are many technical issues to be addressed to integrate these islands into one continent,” Mr. He said.

China also eventually needs to set a national limit on emissions and apply it to individual industries and provinces to establish a full countrywide trading program.

“Realistically, we are looking at 2025 before we have a cap. A few years ago some were saying 2040 or 2035, so we have already made progress,” Ms. Wu said. “Growth will continue to be the No. 1 priority. Cap-and-trade will be one of the ways of trying to grow differently, but China is still a developing country and we have to grow.” (Source: Reuters)

■ A Beijing Version of Green Building Action Plan Will Be Issued

The Beijing Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-Rural Development announced on June 21st their plan for the issue of a Beijing version of Green Building Action Plan to comply with the requirements outlined in the No.1 Document of the General Office of the State Council. Some specific working targets will be listed in the Plan, such as all newly constructed buildings in urban areas should meet compulsory standards of energy efficiency, a 75% design standard of energy efficiency should be reached in all residential designs since 2013, and revision of the Design Standard for Energy Efficiency of Public Buildings should be completed in 2014. Since June 1st, all newly constructed buildings in Beijing should achieved the design standards of green building, and should at least meet the requirements for One Star Green Building as outlined in the Evaluation Standard for Green Building.

To ensure the fulfillment of key tasks, Beijing municipal government will do researches to

improve incentive schemes, which will incorporate incentive policies into various construction management procedures, such as enterprise qualification management, enterprise credit management, tendering and bidding management and construction contract management to promote green building and the industrialization of residential constructions.(Source: Xinhua)

■ China's energy conservation and emission reduction initiatives produce initial effects

An official from the National Development and Reform Commission said on June 21st that some energy conservation and emission reduction initiatives have produced favorable effects, such as programs on energy conservation, efficiency improvement, industrial structure optimization, clean energy promotion and ecological progress. During the period from 2006 to 2012, energy consumption per unit GDP dropped by 23.6%, that is equivalent to 1,800,000,000 tons of CO2 emission reduction.

The Central Committee of the Party and the State Council have attached great importance to the issue of climate change and low carbon development, endeavored to promote green development, and made remarkable achievements. In the fields of clean and renewable energy, China ranks the first in the world in terms of installed capacity of hydraulic energy, nuclear power capacity in construction, solar energy collector area, installed capacity of wind energy and the coverage of artificially planted forest, contributing significantly to humanity's fight against global climate change.(Source: Xinhua)

■ Amendments to the Environmental Protection Law go for the second examination by NPC

The Third Session of the Twelfth NPC Standing Committee is held in Beijing from June 26th to 29th, 2013. As a focus of attention, the Amendments to the Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China (Draft) are examined in the session for the second time.

A responsible official from the Law Committee of the NPC introduced the new clauses added to the Draft. For example, compulsory provisions are included in the Draft to compel enterprises release specific environmental information; major dischargers of pollutants should make public the kinds of the pollutants they discharge, the way they do it, the concentration, the total volume and the permitted discharge amount of the pollutants, their facilities for pollution treatment and the status of the facilities; major dischargers of pollutants should install and use monitoring equipments according to laws and regulations to check their pollutants discharges.

To tackle the issue of “breaking the law at a low cost, obeying the law at a high one”, the Draft takes some serious infringements of environmental laws and regulations as crimes, by stipulating that, if enterprises, institutions or other kinds of operators discharge pollutants by illegal means such as doing so through covered conduit, leaching well or high-pressure injection and the circumstances are serious, they should take criminal responsibilities according to relevant laws and regulations.

The Draft also stipulates that, if the enterprises, institutions or other kinds of operators, that are imposed penalties for discharging pollutants by illegal means and ordered to take corrective measures by a specific date, refuse to correct their illegal activities by the date, administrative agencies have the right to increase their penalties by the same amount as their initial penalties on each of the days before offenders correct their behaviors.

At the same time, the Draft increases penalties on officials and staffs in governmental departments or related agencies offending laws and regulations by abusing authorities,

neglecting duties, playing favoritism and committing irregularities. The Draft stipulates that, governmental officials or staffs that conceal infringements of environmental laws and regulations, fabricate or order others to fabricate monitoring data, conceal the environmental information that should have been released to public, allow the environmental offenders that should have been shut down to take corrective measures to remain in business, or misappropriate or diverse pollutant discharge fees or environmental special funds and result in serious consequences should be dismissed from office by governmental or administrative agencies, and related responsible officials should take the blame and resign.(Source:China Environment News)

● CCICED Activities

■ CCICED Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Green Development Held Working Meeting and Study Tour

The China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) funded Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Green Development held working meetings, workshops, and study tour in Germany and Belgium on May 28–29, 2013.

The CCICED Task Force first held its Third Plenary Working Meeting in Eschborn, Germany on May 21. The Meeting was jointly chaired by the Chinese Co-Chair and the International Co-Chair of the Task Force (TF); During the meeting, TF Task Teams reported their up-to-date progress in modifying thematic reports; the participants then discussed the revised draft thematic reports and the refined Outline of the General Report, identifying key points for further refinement and directions for research at the final stage.

After the Meeting, the delegation had a Workshop on “Policy Initiatives for Sustainable Consumption and the Financing of Change” with European Commission delegates and other experts. In the workshop, participants discussed Chinese and European perspectives on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) policies and practice, and exchanged policy learning and current focus for SCP in China and EU.

The delegation visited renowned institutions including inter alia Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Bundesdeutscher Arbeitskreis für Umweltbewusstes Management (B.A.U.M), International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) as well as .Lichtl Ethics & Brands GmbH, Fairfood International, Directorate-General Environment of European Commission, Unit Health and Consumer of European Commission, Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation (EuropeAid), European Environment Agency, PIANO Dutch Expertise Centre on Public Procurement, BioRegional, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation, and Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP). The TF delegation also visited enlightening best cases on sustainable consumption and green development such as energy-efficient buildings, Brussels Urban Gardening Project, CAR2GO Programme, “Carfree Sunday”, BIQ Bio Intelligent Quotient, and HafenCity Hamburg.

This study tour in Germany and Belgium was a great success. The European SC practice and experience collected during the trip fertilized China’s SC research and practice as well as development of SC roadmap with rich and inspiring insights. The trip also provided vivid cases and down-to-earth experience for the TF to further refine existing results, and laid good foundation for TF actions in the final stage.

■ CCICED Deputy Secretary General Xu Qinghua meets with IISD President and CEO Scott Vaughan

Mr. Xu Qinghua, CCICED Deputy Secretary General, met with a delegation led by Mr. Scott Vaughan, President and CEO of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in Beijing on 2013 June 5th.

Mr. Xu Qinghua welcomed the delegation and highly appreciated valuable contributions made by the IISD to CCICED's operation and development. As a public policy research institute with high reputation in promoting global sustainable development, he said, the IISD had much in common with CCICED in terms of their targets, work scopes and the way of operation. There was huge potential for the two sides to carry out more extensive and profound cooperation in future, he said.

Mr. Vaughan expressed his gratitude for Mr. Xu's welcome and appreciation, and spoke highly of the achievements made by CCICED since its inception. He promised to promote further cooperation between the IISD and CCICED in his term of office and put forward many practical suggestions concerning future cooperation.

Both sides agree on such initiatives as jointly issuing publications, carrying out more personnel exchanges and more vigorously share both sides' research experience on indicator systems. They hope working teams in both sides commence with these initiatives immediately and a Memorandum of Understanding for Long-term Cooperation be signed as soon as possible. Both sides agree that first priority should be given to the joint publication of the CCICED Annual Policy Report.

■ CCICED holds Seminar on New Type of Urbanization and Policy Responses for Resource and Environment Protection

A seminar on the topic of New Type of Urbanization and Policy Responses for Resource and Environment Protection was held in Beijing on June 23rd, 2013 by CCICED. Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and DDG of MEP FECO presided over the seminar. Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor, an academician and former Vice President of Chinese Academy of Engineering attended the seminar and delivered speech. More than 20 people attended the seminar. Others included Mr. Ren Yong, CCICED Assistant Secretary General, head of CCICED Chief Advisor Expert Supporting Group and DDG of MEP Department of Human Resources Management, Ms. Zhou Guomei, Vice Director General of MEP China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center, deputy head of CCICED Chief Advisor Expert Supporting Group, and experts and scholars from the Development Research Center of the State Council, the Research Institute of Territorial Development and Regional Economics under the National Development and Reform Commission, China Center for Urban Development under the National Development and Reform Commission, Beijing Normal University, MEP Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, MEP Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning.

Mr. Shen Guofang explained the background of the topic and why it was necessary to conduct research on this topic; CCICED secretariat briefed some findings of related CCICED urbanization researches; CCICED Chief Advisor Expert Supporting Group introduced a tentative framework for the research on the topic of New Type of Urbanization and Policy Responses for Resource and Environment Protection. On this basis, experts attending the seminar carried out in-depth exchanges on the importance, targets and methods of the research, with many constructive suggestions put forward and a blueprint for the research on the urbanization topic developed. CCICED is prepared to consider all the ideas and

suggestions carefully, and to formulate a guideline for the research on the urbanization topic, so as to provide a solid foundation for the launch of the research.

■ CCICED 2013 Roundtable Meeting will be held in Guiyang

The CCICED 2013 Roundtable Meeting is proposed to be held in Guiyang International Convention Center from July 19th to 21st under the theme of Regional and Social Harmony in Green Development. CCICED's 2012 policy research findings and policy recommendations to Chinese government will be shared in the meeting. Topics related to the theme of the 2013 CCICED AGM—Environment and Society for Green Development—will be discussed. More than 100 people will attend the meeting, including CCICED Chinese Executive Vice Chairman and MEP Minister Zhou shengxian, CCICED Vice Chairman and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, CCICED members, CCICED Chinese and foreign Chief Advisers, chairpersons and experts of relevant CCICED policy researches, officials from related central governmental agencies and local environmental protection agencies, and representatives from CCICED donors and partners.

● CCICED Policy Studies

■ The Second Work Meeting of CCICED Special Policy Study on Corporate Social Responsibility in Green Development held in Beijing

The Second Work Meeting of the CCICED Special Policy Study on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Green Development was held in Beijing on March 31st, 2013. Ms. Hao Fanghua, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, Chinese Co-chair of the Study and Mr. Bill Valentino, Vice Director of the China Institute for Social Responsibility at Beijing Normal University's School of Social Development and Public Policy, International Co-chair of the Study presided over the Meeting respectively. More than 20 people attended the Meeting, including Chinese and foreign members of the Study team, an expert panel and representatives from the CCICED Secretariat.

The five sub-topics of the Study and related preliminary findings were introduced at the meeting. They include the current status and evaluation of corporate environmental responsibility in China, the international trend in corporate environmental responsibility and related case study and empirical research, the framework of corporate environmental responsibility in green development, the road map and policy recommendations for promoting corporate environmental responsibility and so on. Through discussion, a basic framework for the final report has been established. A consensus was reached at the Meeting that the interim progress on each sub-topic would serve as a solid foundation for the final report and compiling teams needed to be built to draft executive reports and the final report based on the basic framework for final report and reports on sub-topics.

A time schedule was planned at the Meeting that tentative policy recommendations should be proposed by each sub-topic team by June 5th; the first, second and third levels of the titles should be formulated for every part of the final report and corresponding contents formed by June 10th; coordination meetings would be held for the Study team to discuss policy recommendations and the first draft of the sub-reports on June 16th and 23rd; and final policy recommendations and all the sub-reports should be submitted during the first week of July.

■ The Fourth Meeting of CCICED Task Force on Environmental Protection and Social Development held in Beijing

CCICED Task Force on Environmental Protection and Social Development held the 4th joint meeting in Beijing on June 15th and 16th, 2013. Mr. Fan Bi, Chinese Co-chair of the Task Force and DDG of the General Department of the State Council Research Office and Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, International Co-chair and Chairperson of Canadian Academic Committee presided over the meeting jointly.

Foreign expert panel introduced the overall framework of the Executive Summary (the Short Report). On top of that, a new framework has been shaped after extensive discussion. According to the meeting, international expert panel will continue to play a leading role in drafting a revised version, and the new framework of the Executive Summary will be presented to Chinese experts by the international expert panel on June 25th. Consensus has been reached at the meeting on the direction, the major elements and the writing techniques of the policy recommendation, and the arrangement for a site visit by the Chinese experts to Switzerland and the Netherlands in early-August was also discussed.

According to the meeting, the first Chinese and English version of the policy recommendations and the sub-reports will be submitted on July 5th, the first Chinese and English version of the Short Report on August 31st, and the final Chinese and English version of the Short Report on September 30th. The overall findings of the Task Force will be reported to CCICED AGM from November 13th to 15th.

■ CCICED held meeting for Policy Study Chairpersons and coordinators

CCICED Secretariat held a meeting for Chairpersons and coordinators of its Policy Study Task Forces on June 13th, 2013. Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor, an academician and former Vice President of Chinese Academy of Engineering presided over the meeting. Mr. Xu Qinghua, CCICED Deputy Secretary General, attended the meeting and delivered speech. 19 people attended the meeting, including Ms. Zhou Guomei, deputy head of CCICED Chief Advisor Expert Supporting Group and Vice Director General of MEP China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center, and Chairpersons, Executive Chairpersons and coordinators of some CCICED policy study Task Forces, namely, the Task Force on Environmental Protection and Social Development, the Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Green Development, the Special Policy Study on Promoting Social Media and Public Participation in China's Green Development, the Special Policy Study on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Green Development and the Special Policy Study on Promoting Urban Green Travel. Representatives of CCICED Secretariat also attended the meeting.

The priority of the meeting is to convey to the Chinese Chairpersons and coordinators the major issues identified by international Co-Chairpersons and experts in carrying out Policy Studies. Corrective measures and related requirements have been proposed at the meeting, so as to facilitate the Policy Studies.

Mr. Xu Qinghua and Mr. Shen Guofang respectively emphasized the importance, the particularity and the difficulties of the CCICED Policy Studies. They fully expressed their appreciations to the efforts made by the Chairpersons and coordinators, and recognized the progress of each Policy Studies. They also require the Task Forces to attach great importance to international experts' opinions and suggestions, to strengthen exchanges and coordination between Chinese and international experts, give full play to each sides' strengths, so as to complete the Policy Studies in an efficient way and to produce high-quality research findings. The Chairpersons said that, they would take all the opinions and suggestions seriously,

endeavored to overcome various difficulties, and improve Policy Studies continuously.



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