



● Hot Topics

■ **The Eco Forum Annual Global Conference Guiyang 2013 opens with President Xi Jinping sending a letter of congratulations and Mr Zhang Gaoli addressing the conference**

The Eco Forum Annual Global Conference Guiyang 2013 opened on 20 July 2013. In his message of congratulations to the forum, President Xi Jinping noted that to protect the eco-environment, address climate change and uphold energy and resources security was a common challenge facing the whole world. China would continue to fulfill its due international obligations, carry out in-depth exchanges and cooperation with other countries on the ecological conservation and promote the sharing of best practices so as to jointly build a beautiful and environment-sound home planet.

Mr Zhang Gaoli, member of the Politburo Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee and Vice Premier of the State Council, attended the opening ceremony. He read out President Xi's letter and addressed the conference.

In his letter of congratulations, President Xi extended warm congratulations on the opening of the conference and noted that the conference reflected the shared interest of the international community in ecological progress and its outcomes would make useful contributions to the protection of the global eco-environment. President Xi stressed that to usher in a new era of ecological progress and build a beautiful China was an important part of realizing the Chinese dream of the great renewal of the Chinese nation. Guided by the philosophy of respecting nature, complying with nature and protecting nature, China would remain committed to the basic state policy of resources conservation and environmental protection and promote green, circular and low-carbon development more conscientiously. We would integrate ecological progress into every aspect of our entire effort to achieve economic, political, cultural and social progress and develop resources-efficient and environment-friendly geographical layout, industrial structure and way of life and production, with a view to leaving to future generations a working and living environment with a blue sky, green fields and clean water.

After reading out President Xi's letter, Mr Zhang Gaoli said President Xi attached great importance to the forum and his letter spelt out in great depth China's philosophy of ecological progress, its significance and connotations and China's basic state policy in this regard and committed China to the relevant international obligations. Mr Zhang emphasized that to promote ecological progress not only held great importance to China's effort to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects and realize the Chinese dream of national renewal. It was also conducive to the sustainable development of the world. All sides should work together to increase international exchanges and cooperation and contribute their bit to building a beautiful and environment-sound home planet.

President and Defence Minister of the Swiss Confederation Ueli Maurer, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga Lord Tu'ivakano, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of

Thailand Niwatthumrong Boonsongpaisan and former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi addressed the opening ceremony.

Following the opening ceremony, Mr Zhang Gaoli briefly conversed with former foreign leaders and officials of international organizations attending the conference.

The Eco Forum Annual Global Conference Guiyang is the only eco-themed national forum in China. Over 4,000 guests from home and abroad attended its 2013 conference under the theme of “Building Eco Civilization: Green Transformation and Transition -- Green Industry, Green Urbanization and Green Consumption-led Sustainable Development”. (Source: China Environment News)

■ China commits to building eco-civilization

China will commit to its international obligations and work with countries around the world to build an eco-civilization for a better Earth, President Xi Jinping said in a congratulatory letter to an environmental forum on Saturday.

In the letter, Xi extended his congratulations on the opening of the Eco Forum Global Annual Conference 2013, which was held in Guiyang, capital city of southwest China's Guizhou Province.

He said the forum concentrates on the international community's common concerns about building an eco-civilization. He expressed his belief that the results of the forum will make positive contributions to protecting the global environment.

The president said building a beautiful China is an important part of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

China will work in line with the idea of respecting, complying with and protecting nature, and implement the national policy of saving resources and protecting the environment, so as to promote green, recycling and low-carbon development, he said.

He said that to leave a good environment for future generations, China will incorporate building an ecological civilization into its economic, political, cultural and social development, and shape the industrial structure, production mode and people's lifestyles in the spirit of saving resources and protecting the environment. (Source: Xinhua)

■ Li Keqiang pledges to comprehensively stabilize economic growth, adjust structure and promote reform

Li Keqiang, China's Premier and a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, presided over a symposium on the economic situation of some provinces and regions, and delivered an important speech.

Li says that, since the beginning of 2013, the overall economic situation in China has remained stable with major indexes within the expected sound range of the year; the adjustment of economic structure has been carried out steadily; high-quality and steady progresses have been made in economic transformation and industrial upgrade. But at the same time, economic environment is more complicated with both favorable and adverse factors operating in the system. There are not only driving forces behind economic growth, but also pressures upon the economy to slow it down.

Li emphasizes that, China is in a stage that only economic transformation and industrial upgrade can make the economy continue to growth in a healthy way. It is crucially important to comprehensively plan, promote and stabilize the economic growth, to adjust economic

structure, and to promote the reform. When conducting macroeconomic adjustment and control, we should take full consideration of current situations and adopt a long-term perspective, so as to bring the economic growth into a sound range, specifically, to keep the economic growth rate and employment rate above the “bottom lines”, and the inflation rate below the “upper limit”.

Li says that, confronted with current situations, we need to resolve the problems on our way forward by adhering to the Scientific Outlook on Development, to find solutions to difficulties of development through opening up and reform, and to promote industrial upgrade through the adjustment of economic structure. The goal of the New Version of Four Modernizations, namely, industrialization, urbanization, informatization and rural modernization with Chinese characteristics, should be achieved through comprehensive planning. In-depth integration of industrialization and informatization should be encouraged. New type of human-oriented urbanization should be promoted. Some new driving forces, such as the development of service industry, innovation and shutdowns of outdated productive capacities should be explored to resolutely push forward the adjustment of the economic structure. The reform in administrative management, finance and tax, financial market, price scheme, and other key areas should be accelerated, so as to put the market mechanism into full play, to stimulate investment of the private sector, and to significantly increase market vitality.

Li emphasizes that, to develop central and western parts of China is one of the important subjects of the overall plan on optimization of China's regional and industrial structures, and is inevitable in upgrading China's economy. The central finance department will continue to increase its support to central and western parts of China, especially, to poverty-stricken areas. The wellbeing of the people will always be regarded as the first priority in the development process, no matter in the eastern, central or western part of China. The aim of the development is to satisfy and to benefit the people. (Source: www.gov.cn)

■ Li Keqiang takes the post of National Energy Commission Chairman

According to a Circular released by the General Office of the State Council recently, the State Council decided to adjust the organization structure and personnel of the National Energy Commission (NEC) in accordance with the organization and personnel changes of the State Council and to meet the work requirement of the NEC.

According to the Circular, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli will be the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the NEC respectively. And the members include Deputy Secretary General of the State Council Xiao Jie, Director of China's Office of the Central Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs Liu He, Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi, Director of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Xu Shaoshi, Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology Wan Gang, Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Minister of the Ministry of State Security Geng Huichang, Minister of the Ministry of Finance Lou Jiwei, Minister of the Ministry of Land and Resources Jiang Daming, Minister of the MEP Zhou Shengxian, Minister of the Ministry of Transport Yang Chuantang, Minister of the Ministry of Water Resources Chen Lei, Minister of Ministry of Commerce Gao Hucheng, Vice-Governor of the People's Bank of China Liu Shiyu, Director of the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission Jiang Jiemin, Director of the State Administration of Taxation Wang Jun, Director of the State Administration of Work Safety Yang Dongliang, Chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission Shang Fulin, Deputy Chief of the PLA, Headquarters of the General Staff Wang Guanzhong, Director of the National Energy Administration (NEA) and Vice Director of the National Development and Reform

Commission Wu Xinxiong.

The Circular specified that Director of the NDRC will take the post of Director of the NEC Office, and Director of the NEA will take the post of Vice Director of NEC Office. The NEA will be responsible for executive affairs of NEC. (Source: www.gov.cn)

■ Zhou Shengxian talks about China's environmental protection situation and measures

A publicity program named Public Lectures on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and the Chinese Dream made its debut in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on July 9th 2013. The program is jointly hosted by the Work Committee of Departments under the CPC Central Committee, the Work Committee of Central Government Departments, the Ministry of Education, the PLA General Political Department and the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee. MEP Minister Zhou Shengxian delivered a speech on the topic of the Situation and Countermeasures of China's Environmental Protection. (Source: China Environment Network)

■ Minister Zhou Shengxian pledges tougher measures to fight air pollution at Eco Forum in Guiyang

On 20 July 2013 MEP Minister Zhou Shengxian attended the Eco Forum Global Annual Conference Guiyang 2013 and delivered an important speech.

Minister Zhou said, currently the top priority of China's environmental work was to beef up control of air pollution, the PM_{2.5} in particular. As requested by the ten anti-air pollution measures recently announced by the State Council, his Ministry will focus its work on the following five areas:

First, further improve and upgrade the industrial structure and reduce overcapacity. A cap will be placed on the total capacity of industries like iron and steel, electrolytic aluminum and coke. While backward capacity will be replaced with new, reconstruction or extension projects of equal or reduced capacity, it will be eliminated at a faster speed to meet, one year ahead of schedule, the 12th Five-Year Plan targets for backward capacity elimination in 21 major industries, including iron and steel, cement, electrolytic aluminum and plate glass.

Second, act more quickly to adjust the energy structure and limit the total consumption of coal. Minister Zhou stressed the need to tighten control of the aggregate energy consumption, promote efficient and clean use of coal by increasing washing rate of raw coal and encouraging wider use of clean coal. Efforts will also be made to scale up supplies of natural gas, coal-converted methane and CSG and develop nuclear, hydro and wind power and biomass energy to give clean energy a greater share in the energy mix.

Third, firmly curb motor vehicle emissions and improve fuel quality. Targeting vehicles, fuel and roads as source of emissions, measures will be taken to promote low-sulphur-content motor fuel, control the total number of motor vehicles in cities in a scientific manner and implement the five national standards for motor vehicles.

Fourth, reinforce the holistic approach and take coordinated control of multiple pollutants. Minister Zhou said, pollutant control of SO₂, nitrogen oxide, smoke and dust, volatile organic matters and, above all, PM_{2.5} must be coordinated, for only in this way could we bring the PM_{2.5} pollution under control and shift the focus of environmental treatment from pollution factors in the past to the overall quality of the environment.

Fifth, set up a monitoring, early warning and emergency response system and handle heavy

air pollution properly. The Ministry will improve trend analysis on the formation of heavily polluted weather, make monitoring and early warning more accurate and release information in real time. It will promptly activate contingency plans appropriate to early warning levels and request heavy polluters to limit production and emissions or halt production completely as part of the countermeasures.

In conclusion Minister Zhou said, the Ministry of Environmental Protection would launch a social campaign to curb air pollution and fully implement the relevant control measures and was ready to serve as a leader, promoter and real actor in the effort to promote ecological progress. (Source:China Environment News)

■ Xie Zhenhua participates Sino-EU Discussions on Climate Change

National Development and Reform Commission Vice Chairman and CCICED Vice Chairman Xie Zhenhua went to Europe from July 13th to 17th 2013 for Sino-EU discussions on climate change and related activities. Xie exchanged opinions with European side on such topics as the UN Warsaw Climate Change Conference, 2014 UN Climate Change Summit, UN Paris Climate Change Conference, international climate regime in future, emission reduction arrangement for aviation industry, HFCs, and practical bilateral cooperation on climate change.

In a keynote speech at an informal meeting of the European Union Council of Environment Ministers, Xie gives comprehensive explanation of China's domestic policies and actions in dealing with climate change and its position in international negotiations in this regard. Xie points out that, new leaders of China give more priority to promoting ecological progress in the process of constructing a modernized country, and regard tackling climate change an important aspect of promoting ecological progress. By adopting series of policy measures, such as ones to promote energy consumption, to improve efficiency, to support non-fossil resources, to eliminate outdated productive capacities and to develop circular economy, Chinese government is trying to transform climate-change challenges into opportunities for upgrading and transforming China's economy, so as to achieve the goals of green, circular and low-carbon development, and ultimately, to present a win-win situation for both economic growth and confronting climate change.

Xie says that, the Warsaw Conference should promote the implementation of reached consensus and build mutual trust. Future international climate agreements should be based on the basis of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities, as stipulated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Xie says. European side says they have deeper understanding about China's policies, actions and negotiation position. Since China is an important strategic partner in dealing with global climate change, European side says, they would like to carry out more extensive dialogues and pragmatic cooperation with China in this regard to jointly respond to the global challenge. (Source: NDRC official website)

■ Xie Zhenhua Meets with American Climate Experts

On July 23 2013, National Development and Reform Commission Vice Chairman and CCICED Vice Chairman Xie Zhenhua met with Dr. Li Kanru, Senior Fellow of Brookings Institution in the United States, and Dr. David Sandalow, Senior Research Scholar of the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. The two sides exchanged views extensively on such topics as Sino-US dialog and cooperation on climate change and Sino-US work team in this regard. Li and Sandalow introduced research findings on shale gas related topics. Li once served as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and

Senior Director for Asia at the U.S. National Security Council during the Clinton Administration, and Sandalow once served as Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs at the United States Department of Energy and the Acting Under Secretary of Energy for Energy and Environment. MEP personals from the Climate Bureau and Foreign Affairs Bureau attended the meeting. (Source: NDRC Official Web Site)

■ CCICED Member Meng Wei: let life in river basins be fully respected

Meng Wei, member of CCICED, dean of Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences and academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, wrote an article- Let Life in River Basins be Fully Respected for People's Daily. This article was published on page 05 of its 25 July issue.

Excerpts:

There are always some structural problems existing between development and the nature. In the case of water pollution, river basins are alive and also structural and development can only take place in areas suitable for development. The sensitive areas not suitable for development should be closely protected. But in China, intensive development is taking place all over upper and lower reaches, mainstreams and branches and surrounding areas. China's extensive pattern of development and economic growth, which is highly dependent on consumption of resources and the environment and on incremental investment, has resulted in serious conflicts between economic development and environmental protection. China has made progress in the controlling pollution in river basins after years of effort. However, environmental protection is facing increasing pressure as population increases, economic aggregate expands and the consumption of resources and energy continues to mount.

To address this problem, Central Committee of CPC has proposed the idea of promoting ecological progress and gives high priority to this initiative. It also integrated the idea of ecological progress into the whole process of economic, political, cultural and social construction. Government of all levels must make strategic adjustments to build ecological progress in river basins for sustainable development.

How do we turn the conflicts into win-win situation? How do we strike a balance between development and protection?

First, the legal system shall go ahead. An "anti-degradation policy" in terms of environmental quality shall be strictly enforced. Environmental quality shall never be sacrificed for the sake of economic development. No development shall take place in areas of important ecological functions and values, and these areas include: natural reserves, important wetlands, drinking water source areas, water conservation forest and important habitats, etc. In April of 2009, Jiangxi Province established conservation areas of 6239.98 square kilometers in Ganjing River, Fuhe River, Raohe River, Xiuhe River and the headstream of Dongjiang River, and no construction projects are allowed in the areas. By the end of 2012, a total of 544 million yuan were invested in ecological compensation pilot programs. Remarkable results have been achieved in terms of water quality protection.

Second, the conservation of resources shall become a major solution. Economic development shall not be achieved at the cost of the overconsumption of resources and the heavy discharge of pollutants. Instead, to achieve recyclable development, green development and low-carbon development, a sustainable eco-economy system shall be established with the conservation of resources and growth of efficiency as constraint conditions. Meanwhile, improving protection level of ecosystems shall become a key measure. Since its establishment in 2010, the Liaohe River Reserve has been in closed management, during which period 610,000 square mu (one mu equals to 0.0667 hectares) of flood land in the basins were closed for natural afforestation.

Consequently, vegetation coverage in flood lands increased from 11.2% to over 70% and Grade V water almost disappeared from mainstreams of Liaohe River.

Third, the optimization of function-design strategy and city planning in river basins shall become a driving force in promoting ecological progress. A "red line" shall be drawn in order to restrain the development of basins and layouts of cities according to the bearing capacity of resource base and the environment. The strictest environmental protection standard shall be implemented based on the environmental situation. Economic structure and industrial distribution shall be optimized according to the environmental capacity. The restoration and environmental protection level of ecosystems in river basins and cities shall be enhanced by carrying out ecological programs in river basins. In Erhai Lake, thanks to the adjustment and optimization of the function distribution in geological space, the upgrading and optimization of industry structures and the building of a security system preserving water quality, a comprehensive prevention and control technology tackling pollutions in villages and source areas has been formed. Ecological farming and other measures have been implemented. At present, Erhai Lake tops the nation in terms of protection of river basins.

It has to be pointed out that the implementation of the idea that "protection first" remains the key for promoting ecological progress in river basins. Protecting the environment equals to protecting productive forces and improving the environment equals to developing productive forces. The core of protection is the improvement of sustainable productivity of ecological products and of ecological function. Environmental protection productive force can be released through developing ecological industries and implementing ecological compensations.

Ecological development is not a complicated concept. It is all about development and planning with full respect to natural rules. We can achieve ecological progress in river basins to support sustainable development in economy and society if we can: be fully aware the relationship between human and nature, between environmental protection and economic and social development; uphold technological innovation; optimize the comprehensive evaluation system of regional economic and social development; build a new mechanism in which the productivity of ecological products increases with the improvement of service function of ecological system. (Source: www.people.com.cn)

■ Guangdong makes steady progress in three key ecological programs

By the end of May, the three key ecological programs in Guangdong province, namely, Provincial Ecological Forest-Landscape Belts, Forestry Carbon Sequestration, and Developing Forests in and around Urban Areas, have made remarkable progress successfully. In terms of building ecological forest-landscape belts, construction has started in 1,470 km, accounting for 46.5% of the annual target; 1360 km have been accomplished, accounting for 43% of the annual target. In terms of the Forestry Carbon Sequestration project, 2.231 million mu of land have been prepared altogether in the province, accounting for 88.2% of the annual target; 1.859 million mu have been planted, accounting for 76.9% of the annual target; 0.521 million mu of forestry area have been closed for conservation, accounting for 89.4% of the annual target. In carrying out the project of Developing Forests in and around Urban Areas, forest parks and wetland parks received more priority, to increase forest coverage and per capita forestry carbon-sequestration and to promote the project all around the province. (Source: China.org.cn)

■ Zhejiang Launches Air Quality Assessment with Compulsory Criteria, Projects in Unqualified Cities Suspended

To promote air pollution prevention and control and to improve air quality in Zhejiang

province, Zhejiang Provincial Government established an air quality assessment mechanism to check air quality in cities, county-level cities and counties in the province on June 27th, 2013, and adopted trial criteria for periodical assessments of PM2.5 values.

According to Zhejiang Provincial Assessments Measures on Environmental Air Quality Management (Trial), annual assessments will be carried out to check air quality management of each city, and the assessment outcomes will fall into 4 categories, namely, excellent, good, qualified and unqualified. The air quality status of each city will be released every month, and the outcomes of pre-assessments will be published quarterly. The assessment outcomes of environmental air quality management will be included in the overall appraisal mechanism on city- and county-level governments' performance in constructing Ecological Province and protecting environment, so as to check if governments have taken their responsibilities and achieved their environmental goals. And on the basis of the assessment outcomes, analysis and appraisal of city- and county-level governments' performance will be carried out.

A responsible official from Zhejiang Provincial Government said that, the assessment outcomes of environmental air quality management will not only affect Environmental Impact Assessment results of industrial construction projects, but also lead to financial rewards or penalties. If the environmental quality management in a city is regarded as unqualified in the assessment, from the beginning of the next year, all industrial construction projects that would obviously increase PM2.5 values in that city will be suspended by various levels of environmental agencies and administrative departments.

It is confirmed that, since January 1st, 2014, the PM2.5 values of cities on or above county level will be released every month, and the PM2.5 values of the cities that have established districts will be checked; since January 1st, 2015, the PM2.5 values of all cities and county-level cities will be checked.(Source: Xinhua Net)

■ All New Buildings Will Be Green in Jiangsu Since 2015

It is confirmed at a news release conference hold by Jiangsu Provincial Government on July 2nd 2013 that, all the newly constructed building areas in Jiangsu's cities will at least meet the requirements for One Star Green Building by the end of 2015. A green construction market of more than one hundred billion yuan is expected to be driven by the green building trend during the "12th Five-Year Plan" period in Jiangsu Province.

To meet the goals stipulated by Jiangsu Provincial Green Building Action Plan, the overall floor area of the construction projects that meet the criteria of Green Building will exceed 100 million square meters during the "12th Five-Year Plan" period in Jiangsu. Since 2015, the design and construction of all new buildings in Jiangsu's cities will at least meet the requirements for One Star Green Building, and since 2020, 50% of the new buildings in cities will at least meet the requirements for Two Star Green Building in terms of design and construction.

It is learnt that, in Jiangsu province, besides government-invested construction projects, government-subsidized housing projects and large-scale public buildings, 33 demonstrative zones of different types will be constructed according to the Green Building criteria. And such construction projects will meet the Green Building standards one year ahead of the timetable set by the state government. It is estimated that, during the "12th Five-Year Plan" period, every 100 million square meters of newly constructed area will create more than 5 billion yuan incremental investments, driving a green construction market of more than one hundred billion yuan. That will be a strong impetus for green industry and create many jobs.

Ms. Zhoulan, the head of Jiangsu Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, said that, the government should play a leading role in supporting Green

Building and guild market into the process, so as to promote the concept of Green Building and make it accepted by the whole society. Jiangsu provincial finance department will allocate special fund to support Green Building Demonstrative cities and counties, and encourage local governmental agencies increase the percentage of Green Buildings through innovative policies. By establishing a joint meeting mechanism, the amounts of Green Building areas will be regarded as an index to check the performance of governmental agencies. The entire construction process will be regulated to ensure that all the Green Building targets will be achieved.

It is confirmed that, by the end of 2012, the total number of Green Building projects in Jiangsu have amounted to 187, with a floor area of 20 million square meters, accounting for one fourth of the total number in the whole country.(Source: Xinhua Net)

■ Middle-Route South-to-North water quality included in local governments performance assessment

On July 8th 2013, the Circular on the Printing and Distribution of the Methods of Implementation and Performance Assessment of the Danjiangkou Reservoir Area and Upstream Water Pollution Control and Soil Conservation "the 12th Five-Year Plan" was approved by the State Council and jointly issued by several governmental agencies including the South-to-North Water Diversion Office, the National Development and Reform Commission, MEP, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the Ministry of Water Resources.

According to the performance assessment methods, Henan, Hubei and Shaanxi Provincial governments will be the principal responsible agencies in implementation of the Danjiangkou Reservoir Area and Upstream Water Pollution Control and Soil Conservation "the 12th Five-Year Plan"(the Plan), and will take full responsibilities in water pollution control and soil conservation. Various levels of local governments in charge of the areas where the middle-route water sources of the South-to-North water diversion program located should take full responsibilities in regulating the implementation of planned projects and in managing water quality in the areas under their administration.

The performance assessment adopts a centesimal system, and the goals, tasks and measures stipulated by the Plan will be examined by the assessment. On top of that, all the working targets specified by the Statement of Working Targets and Liabilities in Implementation of the Plan signed between the South-to-North Water Diversion Office of the State Council and related provincial governments will be examined. Specifically, water quality, the progress of the water pollution prevention and control projects, the progress of the soil conservation projects and supportive measures will account for 50, 15, 15 and 20 scores in the assessment.

The Circular emphasizes that, on top of the self-assessments by Henan, Hubei and Shaanxi provincial governments on the implementation of the Plan, the South-to-North Water Diversion Office, the National Development and Reform Commission, MEP, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the Ministry of Water Resources will jointly send a workgroup to examine the performance of the governments. The outcome of the assessment, when approved by the State Council, will be regarded as an important index to be included in the comprehensive assessment mechanism of various levels of local governments' and officials' performance.(Source: China Environment News)

■ China's carbon market development speeds up

In 2011, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) required 7 municipalities and provinces, namely, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Chongqing, Guangdong,

Hubei and Shenzhen, to conduct pilot carbon emission trading programs and to start pilot emission trading in 2013. A basic version of emission trading scheme is required to be formed in 2015. According to the NDRC, the 7 pilot municipalities and pilot provinces will launch carbon emission trading programs in 2012 and 2013 successively, combining to present an increasingly vivid market map of China's carbon emission trading scheme. The pilot trading programs in the 7 municipalities and provinces will constitute the second-largest carbon emission trading market in the world, with a market volume of 700 million tons of carbon emissions.

The pilot programs and the official opening of the first carbon emission market have undoubtedly ushered China in a new era of fast developing its carbon market. At the same time, Shenzhen Carbon Emission Trading Platform is conducting creative explorations in such areas as the scale of the traded products and the methods to promote market activities and stabilize price.

To ensure the carbon emission market is an effective one, Shenzhen Carbon Emission Trading Platform is appointed as a compulsory market for carbon emission trading. It means that governments will allocate certain amounts of free emission quotas to enterprises and proprietors of large-scale buildings, which are obliged to conserve energy and to reduce emissions. If they fail to meet their compulsory emission reduction targets, they have to buy emission quotas from the carbon emission market and to pay for it. Enterprises or proprietors that refuse to do so will be penalized by governmental agencies with fines or other kinds of punishments. (Source: Xinhua Net)

■ Shanxi completes a demonstration project of cyclic utilization of coal mine residual heat

Shanxi Science and Technology Department recently announced that, Shanxi Coal Import and Export Group Co., Ltd has made landmark achievements in the Development and Demonstration Project of Cyclic Utilization of Coal Mine Residual Heat it undertakes. Up to now, the first phase of the Project, the construction of the Demonstration Project of Cyclic Utilization of Residual Heat from Coal Rejects Brick Making, has been completed.

As one of the key science and technology special demonstrative projects of Shanxi province in the “12th Five-Year Plan” Period, the Demonstration Project of Cyclic Utilization of Residual Heat from Coal Rejects Brick Making, when entirely completed, will help to reduce standard coal consumption by more than 10,000 ton, SO₂ emission by 3.10 million ton, CO₂ emission by 27,000 ton and operation expanses by 6.24 million yuan, and the value of the heating load produced by the Project will amount to 6.42 million yuan. Currently, the Project has passed internal checks for acceptance. The Project is expected to utilize 7,711 kw of residual coal mine heat, to provide energy for heating and air-cooling systems in 80,000 m² building areas throughout winters and summers, and to heat up bathing water in mines. (Source: China.org.cn)

■ Ministry of Finance allocates 700 million yuan to support forestry demonstrative projects

Recently, the Ministry of Finance allocated 700.87 million yuan of its Agricultural Comprehensive Development Project Fund to carry out forestry projects, including 198.06 million yuan for Forestry Ecological Demonstrative projects in 24 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government) aiming at protecting and improving ecological environment through such measures as prevention and control of soil erosion and increasing vegetation coverage. Another 502.81 million yuan will be used in

demonstrative programs to support excellent forestry species and other economically important plants in Ningbo and Qingdao, two cities that are specifically designated in the state plan, with the focus on introduction, propagation and promotion of famous or outstanding forestry and flower species that can produce sound economic returns, such as camellia and walnut, so as to foster leading agricultural industries in these regions and increase farmers' income.(Source: Xinhua Net)

■ Ministry of Public Security releases four serious environmental pollution cases

Since the beginning of 2013, to resolutely crack down crimes involving environmental pollution, the Ministry of Public Security has strengthened its cooperation with environmental, administrative and law enforcement agencies and published key cases to promote investigation and resolution. Up to now, Public Security agencies around China have tracked down 112 criminal cases of environmental pollution.

According to the Ministry of Public Security, Public Security agencies will fully apply the Judicial Explanation to Problems Related to Law Enforcement in Conducting Criminal Cases of Environmental Pollution issued by the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, take their responsibilities strictly according to laws, and use consistent strict penalties as a long-term deterrent to environmental pollution crimes. Every environmental criminal case, when detected, will be cracked down.

To reinforce the deterrent effect, the Ministry of Public Security released four serious environmental pollution cases today.

- 1) The “milky river” pollution case in Kunming, Yunnan Province;
- 2) The electroplating wastewater pollution case caused by some plating factories illegally discharging wastewater in Langfang, Hebei Province;
- 3) The chemical wastewater pollution case caused by Hunan Zhuzhou Jiawang Chemical Company illegally discharging wastewater;
- 4) The industrial solid waste pollution case caused by Qianli Company illegally handling waste in Zouping County, Shandong Province.(Source: China Environment Network)

■ Jiangsu plans to build green corridor around Taihu Lake to promote ecological restoration

It is confirmed recently that, to meet the requirements of Taihu Lake water pollution control and treatment, Jiangsu is planning to build a Green Corridor around Taihu Lake, according to the construction plans of the Taihu Lake Scenic Area and Taihu Lake Scenic Road, and in consistent with the urban planning of the towns and cities around Taihu area.

Jiangsu has announced the goals of the Green Corridor, to protect resources and to restore the eco-systems around Taihu Lake. By restoring forests in the area, protecting bays and islands, regulating water systems, constructing wetland-type green fields, building shelter forests and planting trees and grass in vacant areas, a Green Corridor will be developed along the Taihu-Binhu area. The Corridor will serve as a green bridge, and contribute to the eco-system restorations in land and waters around Taihu Lake. Once completed, the Corridor will present a green network that is scientifically designed, continuously expanded, composed of diversified species, featuring natural sceneries and unique characteristics and excellent in ecological quality.

Experts believe that, the Green Corridor will serve as a green shelter around Taihu Lake, contribute to a comprehensive restoration of eco-systems, increase green coverage in towns and cities of Taihu area, and present optimized green spaces and sceneries. Ultimately, the Green Corridor will be a driving force in promoting Ecological Progress and in constructing a Beautiful Jiangsu. (Source: Xinhua Net)

■ Shanghai releases the names of environmental law offenders

Shanghai Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau recently official released the first list of enterprises that have breached environmental laws or regulation, with 127 illegal activities disclosed.

All of the 127 cases were cracked down by Shanghai environmental agencies in 2013 January and February. Some cases involved violations of laws and regulations relating to water pollution prevention and control, to air pollution prevention and control, to the "Three Simultaneousness" provision (i.e. the pollution-control facilities must be designed, constructed and put into operation simultaneously with the designation, with the construction and with the inception of operation of the major part of the construction project respectively), to the project examination and acceptance procedures, to the EIA system and to solid waste management. In other cases, the accused enterprises discharged the pollutants that are not in accordance with environmental standards or discharged more pollutants than they are permitted to do. Some enterprises that failed to correct their environmental wrong doings within the prescribed time limits are also on the list.

Shanghai Pudong Veolia Water Co., Ltd. was fined on January 8th for violations against water pollution prevention and control rules, and on February 18th, it was fined again for illegal discharge of pollutants and for its failure to meet the deadline for correction of their wrong doings. Kangqi Bean Products Co., Ltd. was fined on February 21st for its multiple violations of environmental rules, which include the "Three Simultaneousness" regulations, project examination and acceptance regulations, pollutant discharge regulations, and for its failure to meet correction deadlines.

The enterprises that violated air pollution prevention and control rules include Shanghai Daotong Waste Utilization Co., Ltd., Shanghai Fumin Paper Making Co., Ltd. and New Yorker Style Pizza co., Ltd. The ones that violated water pollution prevention and control rules include Shanghai Yuyuan Food Management co., Ltd. and Shanghai Tairi Knitting Clothing Co., Ltd. The ones that violated solid waste management rules include Shanghai Tianbao Fastener Manufacturing Co., Ltd. and Shanghai Longtai Coating Manufacturing Co., Ltd. The ones that violated the "Three Simultaneousness" provision and the project examination and acceptance regulations include Shanghai Ramada Zhongtu Hotel Co., Ltd. and Shanghai Qinjie Knitting Clothing Co., Ltd. The ones that violated EIA rules include Shanghai Fengxian County Touqiao Electroplating Plant and Shanghai Zidian New Building Material Co., Ltd. All of above enterprises are fine for their violations.

By releasing of the list, as pointed by Shanghai Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau, on one hand, the name of the environmental law offenders will be made public to promote public supervision, on the other, deterrent effect will be created to reduce violations of environmental rules and ensure a safe and healthy environment. (Source: China Environmental News)

■ The General Office of the State Council urges better information disclosure

The General Office of the State Council issued the Arrangement for the Current Key Tasks in Governments' Information Disclosure on July 10th 2013, and urges the disclosure process

for 9 categories of governments' information to be particularly promoted. The first, the disclosure of information on administrative examination and approval, the second, on budgeting and government expenses on receptions, vehicles and overseas trips, the third, on subsidized housing, the fourth, on food and drug safety, the fifth, on environmental protection, the sixth, on production safety, the seventh, on pricing and charging, the eighth, on land appropriation and demolition, and the ninth, on public welfare institutions and enterprises and, in particular, the education sector.

There are four requirements for promoting environmental information disclosure. The first is to improve the disclosure process for the information on air quality and water environment quality. More cities will be required to release such air quality monitoring data as PM2.5 and ozone numbers according to the new air quality standards. Specifically, on top of the 74 cities that are releasing monitoring data currently, 116 cities will start such information disclosure according to the new standards, and the air quality ranks of key cities will be made public. The current water quality disclosure process should continue, with the quality data automatically monitored at water sections of key river basins and surface water bodies released to the public, and the disclosure process should be further improved for the water quality and other information of the source areas for centralized drinking waters. The second is to improve disclosure process for the EIA information on construction projects. The responsible departments should clarify information disclosure requirements, and help environmental agencies around China to make public the whole EIA process, including initial filing of the EIA case, the assessing process and the final examinations and acceptance. The third is to further release information on policy measures for environmental pollution control and treatment and their effects, by urging local governments to make information on their pollution control policies, on regulation initiatives and on the organizations that are discharging pollutants more available to the public, and the effects of pollutants treatments should be required to be released by these organizations. The enterprises in high-pollution industries should make compulsory environmental information disclosures. The fourth is to promote the disclosure process for emission reduction information. The current information disclosure arrangement on key emission reduction projects should be further promoted, with the projects' engineering and construction information released. The national emission data of major pollutants should be further disclosed, and the results of the performance assessments on emission reductions should be released in a timely manner. The MEP should be responsible for organizing above initiatives.

The General Office sets three requirements for local governments and related governmental agencies. The first is to standardize and improve an active information disclosure system. The second is to release information on applications according to laws and regulations. The third is to strengthen institutions.

The General Office also makes detailed arrangements. The first is to elaborate the tasks and to focus on implementation. The second is to standardize information disclosure procedures and to properly explain the released information. The third is to reinforce information platforms and channels. The fourth is to improve training system and to develop capacity. (Source: www.gov.cn)

■ Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan to be released, coal consumption to be reduced in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei

MEP spokesman Tao Detian said on July 10th 2013 that, an Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan has been adopted by an executive meeting of the State Council on June 14th, and the Plan is under revision and to be released within half a month. Regarded as the most ambitious air pollution initiative, the Plan is expected to involve an input of 1.7 trillion

yuan.

Not long ago, 10 measures have been disclosed by the State Council to prevent and control air pollution. The comprehensive package of measures has been presented in a strongly-worded statement, and was called the National 10 Measures.

Some insiders confirmed that the completed version of the Plan extended the National 10 Measures to include important goals and tough measures, and will serve as a detailed road map for air pollution prevention and control in the next five years and will clarify the goals for the incumbent government.

Some experts participated in the drafting of the Plan disclosed that, although coal consumption limitations have not been included in the National 10 Measures, but according to the full version of the Plan, coal consumption will be dramatically reduced in China, especially in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei areas.

A strong point of the Plan is urging obvious air quality improvement within five years, which is, as some experts said, a manifestation of the central government's steely determination. But some concern has also been raised for the toughness of the goals.

The Plan has drawn some initial responses from local governments, although it has not been officially released. For example, the Beijing Municipal Action Plan for Clean Air 2013-2017 has been approved by a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee. With a focus on the prevention and control of PM2.5 pollution, the Municipal Action Plan urges a comprehensive promotion of multiple-pollutant emission reduction and control measures, so as to improve air quality substantially.

The Shijiazhuang Municipal Action Plan for the Campaign of Air Pollution Control and Treatment (2013-2017) has been released by Shijiazhuang Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau on June 19th. A five-year goal is also outlined in the Shijiazhuang version of the action plan, that the air quality in Shijiazhuang should be obviously improved with five years' effort. (Source: People.com.cn)

■ NDRC issues energy conservation and emission reduction situation analysis

According to the Analysis on China's Energy Conservation and Emission Reduction Situation in the First Half of 2013 issued by National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on July 10th 2013, the situation is grim. Since some local governments slacked off in energy saving and emission reduction, and local statistics are incoherent with national ones, the fulfillment of national energy-saving targets has been seriously affected.

According to the targets outlined by the Comprehensive Work Plan for Energy Conservation and Emissions Reduction during the 12th Five-Year Plan Period released by the State Council, in terms of energy conservation, the consumption of standard coal for producing every 10,000 yuan of GDP should be reduced to 0.869 ton (at 2005 price), so as to conserve 670,000 tons of standard coal during the 12th Five-Year Plan period; and in terms of emission reduction, by 2015, COD and SO₂ emission should be reduced by 8% respectively compared with that of 2008, and ammonia nitrogen and NO_x emissions by 10% respectively.

According to the NDRC, the energy consumption of industrial enterprises above designated size in 10 regions, namely Hebei, Shanxi, Liaoning, Shanghai, Shandong, Henan, Hunan, Guangdong, Sichuan and Gansu, accounted for about half of the national volume from January to May. But energy consumption figures in these regions for industrial added value all dropped by a large margin from 2012 level. That is incompatible with the fact that the growth of national industrial added value has slowed and energy consumption rose.

As the Analysis points out, the incoherence between local and national statistics relieves the policy pressure on local governments and enterprises to conserve energy, with their focus and efforts shifted away from energy conservation generally. As a result, even if all the regions meet their goals stipulated by the 12th Five-Year plan, the national energy conservation may fall short of the target.

The NDRC does not give an explanation to the statistical incoherence, but mentions the slack hand of some local governments on energy conservation and emission reduction. Under the downward economic pressure, it says, some local governments focus more on stimulating economic growth and neglect energy conservation and emission reduction. Some high-energy-consumption and high-emission projects are under construction and to be put into operation in some regions, exerting huge pressure on energy conservation. (Source: People.com.cn)

■ Hong Kong SAR passes Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Ordinance

On July 10th 2013, the Legislative Council of Hong Kong approved the Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Ordinance 2013. Secretary for the Environment KS Wong said he was pleased to see the passage of the Ordinance, which will implement new air quality objectives on January 1st 2014.

Mr. Wong said the objectives, which are benchmarked against a combination of interim and ultimate targets under the World Health Organization's Air Quality Guidelines, are broadly comparable to the air quality standards adopted by the European Union and the US. "Further underlining our on-going commitment to protecting public health and improving air quality, we have also included a provision to review the air quality objectives at least once every five years in the new ordinance."

He said the new air quality objectives will be used as the basis for air quality impact assessment of projects or processes under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance and the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance from January 1. "To preserve the integrity of the environmental impact assessment system, the new ordinance also includes a transitional arrangement for designated projects with environmental permits granted under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance."

The Government has accorded top priority to improving air quality and the goal is to broadly achieve the new air quality objectives by 2020. (Source: People.com.cn)

■ Xinjiang launches comprehensive resource and environment audit program for the first time

To protect natural environment, the audit system in Xinjiang launched a special program with the focus on special funds for grassland ecological programs for the first time, with the coverage of more than 5 billion yuan.

This year, the audit system in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region makes breakthrough in addressing bottleneck problems in routine audits, by launching audit programs to inspect the status of resource and environment protection and utilization projects. On top of the grassland ecological funds audit, the operation status and performance of garbage disposal plants and sewage treatment works, among others, will be checked too. By focusing on key issues and adopting a practical method, the audit program will outline general situation and disclose the actual effectiveness of environmental projects, so as to identify and comprehensively analyze major issues and difficulties and to present constructive policy suggestions.

As one of the focuses of the resource and environment audit arrangements in Xinjiang, the status of the special funds for grassland ecological programs in 12 prefecture-level regions, including Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture and Altay Region, and in 33 counties or county-level cities of these regions in 2011 and 2012 will be inspected as part of the special audit program, with 6 categories of funds audited, including the special funds for Grazing Ban Projects, for incentives and subsidies of grassland ecological protection project, for the reproduction of good breeding cattle, for expansion of grassland vegetation coverage and for grassland compensation programs.

To standardize the audit procedure and to improve overall effectiveness, on top of the pre-audit investigation, a pre-audit training program was carried out by the Regional Audit Bureau, with the standards unified for the organization of the local audit programs, the work plan, the report format, the statistical form format and penalty measures.

At the same time, accepting the opinion of the National Audit Office, three different audit methods will be comprehensively adopted, including audit agencies with higher authorities inspecting organizations with lower ones, audit agencies inspecting organizations in different executive systems and audit agencies inspecting organizations with the same executive authorities, so as to ensure high-quality audit result.

It is confirmed that the audit program will focus on the ecological, social and economic effects produced by environmental policies and financial supports, on top of indicating the overall situation and identifying related issues. The sustainability of grassland ecosystem will also receive priority. Policy suggestions relating to the institutions and systems will be formulated during the process to improve funds management and policy scheme.

Currently, prefecture- and county-level audit teams have started on site inspection, and it is expected to finish audit by the end of October.

It is confirmed by a responsible official from the Regional Audit Bureau that as one of the eight key fields for audits during the 12th Five-Year Plan period, resource conservation and environmental protection will be attached great importance in carry out audit programs, with special focus on Main Functional Zoning Programs, energy conservation and emission reduction, resource management and utilization, and environmental management in key areas, so as to promote ecological progress in Xinjiang.

Up to now, the Regional Audit Bureau has completed pilot audit projects in Urumqi Midong District Garbage Disposal Plant and Sewage Treatment Work, and inspected their operation status and performance, which will provide a foundation for various audit agencies around Xinjiang to standardize audit plans and to carry out comprehensive audit programs, so as to check related organizations' performances.

As one of the important subjects in the Coverage Expansion Section of the Regional Audit Development Plan for the 12th Five-Year Plan Period, the Regional Audit Bureau has investigated the status of in-service environmental facilities around Xinjiang, such as urban sewage treatment works and related supportive networks and household garbage disposal plants in April as part of its endeavor to promote resource and environment audit. On the basis of the investigation findings, Manas County and other 29 counties (cities, districts) have been identified to be included in the audit program with the performance of their sewage and garbage disposal facilities inspected comprehensively in the program.

It is disclosed that the audit program will find out the actual status of the sewage and garbage disposal facilities around Xinjiang from 2010 to 2012, such as their overall scale, investment and construction progress, and whether they meet related national regulations. A special focus of the program will be on the garbage disposal plants that have completed construction by the end of 2012, with their operation status, financial status, compliance status

with the environmental rules concerning waste disposal, local supportive policies, operation management level and resource recycling status investigated in the program, so as to make objective analysis on some important topics, such as whether environmental planning and projects are in accordance with local conditions, whether investment for infrastructure projects are available, whether the sewage disposal systems are sound and effective in terms of their disposal capacity, network construction, technology and management level and the disposal of residual mud, whether the regulation of environmental agencies are effective, and whether the goal of disposing waste in an resource-recycling, quantity-reducing and harmless manner has been achieved. (Source: China Environment Network)

■ Restructured State Oceanic Administration goes into formal operation

The restructured State Oceanic Administration (SOA) went into formal operation on July 22nd 2013. According to an institutional restructuring and function transformation plan of the State Council approved by the 11th session of the 12th NPC, the SOA is restructured by integrating the functions of China Marine Surveillance, the coast guard forces of the Public Security Ministry, the fisheries law enforcement command of the Agriculture Ministry and the maritime anti-smuggling police of the General Administration of Customs. The restructured SOA is administered by the Ministry of Land and Resources.

According to a proposal for responsibilities, organization structure and office scale of the SOA approved by the State Council, the SOA will increase its duties concerning maritime comprehensive management, law enforcement and the protection of maritime rights. Furthermore, SOA will take major responsibilities in maritime planning, maritime utilization, island protection and utilization, maritime ecological protection, maritime technology development, maritime disaster prevention and reduction and maritime international cooperation; take corresponding responsibilities in such areas as maritime strategic study, maritime legislation and maritime economic development; participate in marine related international affairs, such as ones concerning polar regions, open seas and ocean floors; and be responsible for the routine works of the National Oceanic Commission. (Source: Xinhua)

■ Jiangsu sets hard targets for healthy consumption and lifestyle

According to a provincial plan for promoting ecological progress adopted by Jiangsu, a province that boasts its per capita GDP of more than \$10,000 but faces resource and environment constraints, red lines will be drawn at all cities directly under the provincial government, ecological spaces will be properly managed and controlled, and an environmentally friendly way of consumption and healthy lifestyles will be promoted, so as to comprehensively improve the provincial ecological competitiveness and build itself into an ecological demonstration area of China in 10 years.

The plan covers various aspects of environmental protection, such as ecological space management, energy conservation, emission reduction, drinking water safety, air pollution control and soil environment protection. Among the 46 environmental tasks of 20 categories stipulated by the plan, many are "hard ones" with compulsory timetables and target numbers. For example, the areas protected by the ecological red lines should at least account for 20% of the overall territory; the arable land should at least amount to 4.75 million hectares; the standard coal consumption for producing 10,000 yuan of provincial GDP should be reduced from 0.57 ton, the current figure, to 0.51 ton, and the water consumption from 102 m³ to 90 m³ by 2015.

Since consumption mode and lifestyle of residents directly affect resource base and environment, Jiangsu tries to foster a culture of rational consumption that valuing simple,

green, low-carbon and healthy way of life, rejecting lavishness, extravagance and conspicuous consumption. Detailed compulsory targets in this regard have been included in the plan too, to promote ecological progress. For example, by 2015, waste sorting programs should cover 8% of the residents in the province; and using public transportation services should become the first choice for trip for at least 23% of urban residents. The two figures should be increased to 30% and 26% respectively by 2022.

To improving the public health, series of targets have been set concerning centralized water supply, green building ratio and food safety, among others. Specifically, the coverage of centralized water supply programs that properly allocate water resources among rural and urban areas should reach 92%; and at least 93% of food products and fresh agricultural products, on average, should meet related standards in quality checks.

As stressed by CPC Jiangsu Provincial Committee Secretary Luo Zhijun, if only one social parameter, the economy, grows, no matter how fast, the growth cannot continue; if only one personal parameter, the income, grows, no matter how rapid, one will never feel true happiness; we must take a ecological perspective in dealing with economic, political, cultural and developing issues, never pursue temporary economic growth at the expense of environmental degradation.

To ensure real ecological progress, Jiangsu will include all these compulsory targets into the performance assessment mechanism as "hard requirements" for various levels of officials. Those who made rash decisions regardless of the ecological environment, resulting in serious consequences, must be brought to account. (Source: Xinhua)

■ The State Administration of Forestry Launches a Campaign for Setting Eco Red Lines

According to the guidelines for promoting ecological progress and constructing a beautiful China set by the 18th CPC National Congress, the State Administration of Forestry launched a special campaign for setting ecological red lines to protect environment.

The campaign involves four categories of red lines to protect woodlands and forests, wetlands, desert plants and species, with detailed targets specified, such as more than 4.68 billion mu of national woodland coverage, more than 3.73 billion mu of forest coverage, more than 20.0 billion m³ of forest stock volume and more than 800 million mu wetland coverage. Other initiatives include carrying out vegetation restoration programs on sandy lands and deserts, and the programs should at least cover 530,000 km² and strictly prohibiting development projects in various nature reserves of all levels to comprehensively protect endangered wild species.

The State Administration of Forestry notes that, the concept of ecological red line refers to the bottom-line environmental condition with specific amount of ecologically sound space and certain numbers of species for ensuring national ecological safety, sound human environment and biological diversity. Currently, the ecological status in China does not meet even the minimum standards for sound eco-environment, with a huge eco deficit and prominent eco issues. More than 60% of China's territory is in eco-fragile status, falls far short of the people's expectations and hampers economic development.

Only by taking such decisive measures as setting eco red lines, intensifying efforts in eco restoration and protection, effectively protecting existing forests, wetlands, wild species and bio-diversity, and curbing the trend of ecological degradation, can China reach the minimum standards of a ecologically safe country and, on top of that, forge a sound natural environment.

It is confirmed that, the campaign will be included in an official guideline for promoting ecological progress by the State Administration of Forestry as an important initiative. The guideline will set up an overall framework for promoting ecological progress by launching 10 ecological restoration projects, constructing 10 ecological protective screens and supporting 10 profitable green industries, with 20 specific targets of 12 categories stipulated concerning ecological security, ecological economy and ecological culture. An indicator of negative oxygen ion is specially designed to monitor air quality, an issue of public concern, by the guideline. (Source: Xinhua Net)

■ Hebei Province uses environmental satellites for three-dimensional monitoring "Sky Eye" compensates for ground monitoring

Hebei Environmental Protection Department signed an agreement of environmental remote sensing and comprehensive applications with Satellite and Environmental Application Center of MEP. Hebei Province has become the first province in China to have full coverage of three-dimensional monitoring.

Mr. Chen Guoying, Party Secretary and head of Hebei Environmental Protection Department, said that the utilization of this new technology will compensate for shortcomings of Hebei's ground monitoring and regulation. With this technology, Hebei will be provided with strong data and scientific support for comprehensively understanding the movement patterns and development trends of environmental pollutants and for decision making in the environmental management process.

According to Wu Guozeng, director of Satellite and Environmental Application Center, environmental remote sensing can provide information through a broad field of view, in a timely and objective manner and with continuous updates. China's Environmental Satellite A,B and C have been successfully launched in 2008 and 2012 respectively. As a result, China has entered into a three-dimensional environmental monitoring period.

Environmental remote sensing can effectively compensate for shortcomings of ground monitoring. Application of remote sensing has been conducted in some cities in China but Hebei is the first province to have all major environmental elements covered in three-dimensional monitoring.

Chen Guoying said Hebei would make full use of data in Satellite and Environmental Application Center, carry out analysis work gradually and strengthen monitoring capability as soon as possible.

It is told that Hebei Province will establish air quality monitoring station in county (city, district) level. Every county (city, district) in Hebei will be equipped with an automatic air quality monitoring station by the end of this year. (Source: China Environment News)

■ Jiangsu drafts ecological blueprint to construct National Demonstration Area of Ecological Progress in 2022

Jiangsu Province sets targets for ecological progress for the next ten years in the newly-adopted Jiangsu Provincial Plan for Ecological Progress (2013-2022). According to the Plan, 80% cities directly under the provincial government in Jiangsu will become national demonstration city of ecological progress by 2017. And on top of that, Jiangsu will become a national demonstration area of ecological progress with good ecological quality, controllable ecological risks, good ecological orders and people's satisfaction. This is China's first provincial level ecological progress plan.

The Plan covers six major aspects: ecological space, ecological economy, ecological environment, ecological life, ecological culture and ecological institution, with one macro evaluation standard concerning 46 concrete tasks of 20 categories. The Plan will be implemented within two "Five Year" periods.

By 2017, initial results of ecological progress will be achieved: Zhenjiang, Yangzhou, Nanjing, Nantong, Taizhou, Huaian and Xuzhou will become national demonstration cities of ecological progress. Sewage treatment rate in urban and county areas will reach 93% and 84% respectively. Coverage rate of sewage treatment equipments in designated towns will reach 95%. Pollution-free treatment rate of domestic waste will reach 90% and above. The proportion of days reaching or exceeding Grade II in terms of air quality in urban areas will reach 60%. 60% of surface water will be better than Grade III in terms of the water quality. 85% of the offshore environmental function zones will reach related water quality standards. Forest coverage rate will reach 23%. Ratio of green space in urban areas will reach 38.7%.

By 2022, all cities directly under the provincial government in Jiangsu will become national demonstration city of ecological progress. A number of national demonstration cities and counties of ecological progress will be established. National demonstration urban agglomeration of ecological progress will be established in South Jiangsu. A development system of green industry will be basically formed and among which, added value in service industry will account for 57% of local output; output value of high and new technology industry will account for 45% of large-scale industrial output; "Three Products" (Pollution-free agricultural products, green food and organic agricultural products) will account for more than 90% of major agricultural products.

Based on the reality that Jiangsu has an intensive land development, the Plan takes the lead in proposing the protection measure of drawing ecological red lines: fifteen key areas such as provincial level natural reserves, the protection areas for centralized drinking water sources, water channel protection area, wetlands, waters and mountain forests will be labeled as red line areas. Preserved areas will account for 20% of total provincial lands. Red line areas of different ranks will be subject to different levels of regulation and control. In Rank I areas, any development activity in any form will be strictly prohibited. In Rank II areas, any development activity which will affect major ecological function will be strictly prohibited. (Source: www.china.com.cn)

■ Zhejiang intensifies efforts in building beautiful Zhejiang

A meeting targeting comprehensive ecological improvement in urban and rural areas was held in Zhejiang Province. The meeting stressed that comprehensive ecological improvement work shall be conducted with strength and perseverance, with a focus on regulations of rivers and water resources.

The general assignment is the regulation of rivers and water resources as well as management of urban and rural areas. The ultimate target is to step up the construction of a beautiful Zhejiang.

The first measure is to push forward with regulations of rivers and water resources. Industries and enterprises which produce heavy pollutions shall be treated with an iron fist. Enterprises engaged in illegal pollution discharge will be administered with "Five Bans". 212 urban sewage treatment plants and over 500 town-level sewage treatment plants established by the end of this year must reach discharge standards within due date. Laws and regulations in this domain, evaluation system as well as reward and punishment system must be established and perfected.

The second measure is to carry forward with regulations on air quality. Special attention

must be paid to enterprises with heavy emissions in coal electricity, iron and steel, chemical engineering and cement industry. The control of automobile exhaust gas pollution shall be strengthened. Consumption structure of energy shall be actively adjusted. Research on photovoltaic power generation shall step up and be promoted in newly-built factory buildings and public buildings.

The third measure is to push forward with coordinated management of urban and rural areas. The policy of "Three Reconstruction and One Demolition" must be unswervingly implemented according to the principal that "from the urban to the rural, from the easy to the difficult". The policy of "Four Lines and Three Transformations" must be fully pushed forward covering every single inch in the area in order to cultivate larger results. The program of "Double Cleansing" must be conducted consistently and the "Director of River Director Scheme" shall be fully implemented. Dredging programs in urban areas must be conducted with persistence. Efforts shall be made to achieve the goal of "A Thousand Demonstration Villages Completed, Ten Thousand Demonstration Villages on the Way".

Since the initiative of building an ecological province and the program of "A Thousand Demonstration Villages Completed, Ten Thousand Demonstration Villages on the Way" started in 2003, over 500 billion yuan has been put in ecological protection. A large number of ecological projects have been completed, over 1,100 demonstration villages were built and more than 26,000 villages have gone through improvement work. (Source: China Environment News)

■ Beijing is to enact law to increase legal cost of air pollution

In response to the high level of PM2.5 and the dire situation in air pollution control, the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress announced on 25 July 2013 that Beijing would issue within this year an air pollution control regulation to toughen up control measures through legislation and increase the legal cost of pollution.

The Regulations of Beijing Municipality on Air Pollution Prevention and Control (Draft), under review by the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, will request the environmental authorities to impose a key air pollutant emissions limit on emitters and specify the limit in their emissions license. For districts and industries whose annual emissions exceed the limit, their project applications will not be approved by the review authorities. The municipality will also put in place an emissions trading system over time.

Targeting the current low level of legal cost for air pollution, the draft rules provide for punitive measures like double punishment and business shutdown to maximize the legal cost of pollution. Should emitters cross the emissions limit, they will be ordered by the environmental administrative authorities to halt discharge and subject to fines between 50,000 to 500,000 yuan. The excessive emissions will be deducted from their next year's quota. If they fail to rein in emissions before deadline, the administrative authorities will suspend or shut down their business.

The draft rules go even tougher on motor vehicle emissions. It stipulates that motor vehicles and non-road mobile machinery that cannot consistently meet emissions requirements due to quality deficiencies will be removed from Beijing's vehicle type catalogue by the environmental administrative authorities, and owners or users of motor vehicles who fail to send their vehicles for periodical emissions testing will be fined 500 yuan for each missed testing period. (Source: Xinhua.net)

■ Joint Environmental Law Enforcement Agreement Signed at the Pan-Pearl River Delta Joint Meeting

On 25 July 2013, the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Joint Meeting on Environmental Protection held its 9th session in Guiyang, the capital city of Guizhou Province. Parties to the meeting concluded an agreement on joint environmental law enforcement in the border area between Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou provinces, and discussed and signed a proposal to incorporate the Pearl River into the national water pollution control program for major river basins.

Comprising environmental protection agencies of Guangdong, Fujian, Hunan, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou and Hainan provinces, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Hong Kong and Macau, the Joint Meeting has met nine times since 2005. It is a platform for the ten provinces, autonomous region and special administrative regions to strengthen cooperation on regional pollution control, joint law enforcement, environmental monitoring, media publicity and education on environmental conservation and environmental industry development, and has been instrumental in improving the environmental quality and promoting the benign development of the local environment.

Work priorities were also set for this year's Joint Meeting. They are: first, strengthen practical regional cooperation to reinforce environmental law enforcement; second, step up technological cooperation on environmental monitoring by sharing information and best practices; third, conduct regional exchanges on environmental research to advance the development of environmental science; fourth, spur the development of environmental industry through closer cooperation; and fifth, work more closely on media publicity and education to raise the public's environmental awareness. (Source: Xinhua net)

■ Middle Route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project to Impound Water but still Faces Heavy Pollution

The middle route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project is going to retain water this year and will become a water channel after the flood season next year. Though great progress was made in ecological protection of the water source areas thanks to the joint efforts of various related parties, problems affecting water quality are still pressing.

The water source areas of the middle route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project locate in three provinces, namely, Hubei, Shaanxi and Henan. An April monitoring report from Environmental Protection Department in Hubei Province shows that water quality of some mainstreams and tributaries flowing into Danjiangkou Reservoir from Shiyan City are far below standards, which include the five key rivers under national-level management. But among the five, only Guanshanhe River meets Grade IV standard while the other four, namely Shendinghe River, Sihe River, Jianhe River and Jianghe River are worse than Grade V. According to on-site investigations by reporters, there are huge amount of direct sewage discharge in Shendinghe River, Jianhe River and Jianghe River and the water quality in middle and lower reaches is far below the Grade III level, a water quality target set by national agencies. It is calculated that there is over 100 million cubic meters of sewage being discharged into Danjiangkou Reservoir every day through the five rivers.

CPPCC Standing Committee inspection team carried out an investigation into the status of water quality protection in the middle route of South-to-North Water Diversion Project in May. According to their report, environmental infrastructure in Shiyan City of Hubei, Xichuan City and Xixia City of Henan, among others, are way behind their urban development. Collection rate of wastewater is lower than 40% and urban produced

contaminants account for 80% of total river pollutants.

Meanwhile, agricultural non-point source pollution is serious. It is estimated that total nitrogen resulted from non-point source pollution in water source areas reaches 36,442 tons, a major factor contributes to the tendency of eutrophication in reservoirs.

Besides, there is a strong tendency towards major water pollution accidents in reservoirs. The concentration of nutrients in Dangjiangkou Reservoir has been rising in the last decade and eutrophication might occur in bays of the reservoir if without effective control. There are over 1,200 tailing ponds in water source areas and among which, 299 heavy metal tailing ponds gravely threaten water quality. Six major water pollution incidents have occurred in water source areas since 2000, all of which are caused by overturns of land transport vehicles or dam failures. Further work needs to be done to curb water loss and soil erosion. According to estimations by Hubei Province, there are still 3,692 km² of erosion area yet to be treated, besides the 5,464 km² that have been included in the treatment plans for the 11th and 12th Five-Year Plan Periods.

Confronted with alarming water pollution situation, CPPCC Standing Committee inspection team proposed some measures and urged that the seven key polluted rivers should be properly treated as the first step. Firstly, since water quality will not be able to reach related standards before the end of this year, when the middle route will be put into use, related agencies shall act with pragmatic solutions by launching new projects such as ones to upgrade sewage plants, to dredge water channels, to protect river banks, to construct sewage pipe networks and to conserve wetlands. The treatment plan should be specially designed according to the respective conditions of each river, so as to achieve the goal of a thorough treatment.

Secondly, as required by the State Council, governmental agencies concerned must streamline administrative procedures and delegate powers to the lower levels. In dealing with pollution control projects, approval procedures must be simplified. The planned projects should be launched as soon as possible, and the supporting funds must be allocated in a timely manner. Efficiency must be improved, in order to make sure these projects play their part before the route is put into service.

The third is to promptly conduct special treatment projects, with the focus on agricultural non-point source pollution treatment, returning cultivated land to forests, wetland protection and comprehensive control of soil erosion. Any factor that is potentially dangerous to reservoir water quality should be eliminated. Cage culture of fish should be prohibited. Unclaimed tailing ponds should be properly managed to prevent heavy metal pollution. It is necessary to draw a lesson from the Three Gorges Reservoir Area that before raising the standard water level, any safety hazard associated with geological disasters must be identified and removed.

Fourthly, a full-coverage monitoring and evaluation system should be established to follow the ecological status of water source areas. Supervisory monitoring shall be conducted in drain outlets and water sections between provinces and cities, so as to facilitate the control of total pollutants. Comprehensive water source monitoring networks should be jointly set up by different governmental agencies such as ones in charge of water conservancy, environmental protection, construction, land and resources in each river basin to share real-time information.

The fifth is to explore an ecological compensation mechanism and promote counterpart coordination. In the process, market should play its fundamental role in allocating resources. The water-receiving areas like Beijing and Tianjin, shall allocate a certain amount of money from government budget for water conservation in water source areas. The transfer payment system should be better used to balance economic growth of different regions with priority

given to making up local governments' budget deficit in water source areas near Danjiangkou Reservoir. Green agriculture should be promoted in the water source areas with sound ecological environment, with such measures as establishing a green product certification scheme and offering green products prior market access to Beijing and other water receiving regions. The project of National Demonstration Area of Ecological Progress in Danjiangkou Reservoir should be approved, and the construction of the demonstration area shall be closely coordinated with 12th Five-Year Plan of Development, 12th Five-Year Plan of Prevention and Control and Regional Development Plan for Qinling Mountains and Daba Mountains. Poverty eradication, infrastructure construction, ecological protection and pollution prevention must be promoted in an integrated manner. (Source: [www. people.com.cn](http://www.people.com.cn))

■ Water Quality in Tributaries of the Yangtze River Basically Meets Standards but Key Lakes still a Concern

The latest monitoring results released by the Yangtze River Water Resources Protection Bureau show that 84.2% of the 63 key water sections in mainstreams and tributaries of Yangtze River and rivers in southwest China met related standards. Within the Yangtze River basin, 97.5% of the monitored sections in water source areas for key cities were rated as good. Generally speaking, water quality is well-preserved but there are still pressing problems in the pollution prevention of some tributaries and lakes.

Among the 63 water sections surveyed in the Yangtze River basin, 53 reached Grade I to Grade III level, accounting for 84.2%. 5 were classified as Grade V or worse than Grade V, accounting for 7.9%, and they included Guiyang and Zunyi sections of Nanminghe River of Wujiang River water system(a tributary water system of Yangtze River basin), Jinshi section of Lishui River in Dongtinghu water system and Hefei Daxing Harbor section of Nanfeihe River (a downstream tributary of Yangtze River). The major indicators that failed to meet the standards are total phosphor, ammonia nitrogen and BOD5.

In terms of water quality of lakes under intensive monitoring, only Poyanghu Lake reached Grade III level while Dongtinghu Lake, Chaohu Lake and the Dianchi Lake were rated as worse than Grade V. The amount of total phosphor, total ammonia and permanganate indexes are the major indicators exceed standard level, indicating that the status of wastewater treatment fell far short of requirements.

In June, in the Yangtze River and in Rivers in southwest China, the water sections sitting at provincial boundaries were also monitored and evaluated, 85.5% of the monitoring results met related standards. According to the results of water source evaluations carried out in 40 water source areas for 15 key cities such as Chengdu, Wuhan, Nanjing, Shanghai inside the basin, at any period of the month, water quality all reached related standards and those rated as "Good" accounted for 97.5%.(Source: www.people.com.cn)

■ China is to Host the World' s Largest Environmental Market

Mr. Zhao Yingmin, director-general of the MEP's science, technology and standards department recently noted at the third Sino-US Environmental Protection Industry Forum that environmental protection and energy conservation industries has been given special focus by the State Council in stimulating domestic demand and adjusting industrial structure.

A favorable climate for endogenous growth of environmental industry is forged by integration of environmental protection and economic development, by more and more stringent environmental management requirements, and notably, by the conflict between the alarming environmental situation and the growing public expectation for a sound natural

environment, which also creates huge demand for the industry.

Since the 11th Five Year Plan period, China's environmental industry has been growing at a remarkable annual rate of 15% to 20%. It is expected that during the 12th Five Year Plan period, the investment into the industry will amount to 3.4 trillion yuan; and by 2015, the total output will reach 4.5 trillion, among which, each of the two important sectors, environmental equipment and environmental services, will contribute 500 billion yuan respectively. China will then rank the first in the world in terms of the environmental market scale, and have important influence on the development trend of green markets worldwide. To extensively support environmental industry, Chinese government is to undertake such initiatives as improving environmental management level, strengthening legal and standard systems, facilitating financing and investment activities, pursuing supportive industrial policies, encouraging innovation and industrial upgrade, and carrying out international exchanges and cooperation. (Source: China Environment News)

■ Gansu Intensifies Efforts in Protecting Water Sources

Recently, Gansu Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau and Gansu Provincial Finance Department allocated 1.85 million from the 2013 budget to a provincial special fund to support environmental projects in its 28 water source areas, which will contribute to prevention pollution and ensuring ecological safety in water source areas.

The 28 projects supported by the fund are all included in a national plan for protection water source areas for cities and in a national plan for prevention of water pollution in key basins. Among them, 8 are prefecture- or city-level project, 18 are county- or district-level ones and 2 are village- or town-level ones. The fund will focus on setting up isolation facilities, warning signs and landmarks around water source areas and on supporting pollution source treatment projects.

To implement a MEP investigation plan on the environmental status of water source area for centralized drinking water facilities supporting cities under prefecture level, Gansu is to investigate the environmental status of 69 water source areas accordingly since 2012.

Currently, Gansu is carrying out training programs to support the investigation. By comprehensively spreading the knowledge of the investigation and clarifying tasks, the training program facilitates the investigation. The outcomes of the investigation will supplement previous surveys of the same kind since 2011, and help to improve environmental management in water source areas for centralized drinking water facilities. (Source: China Environment Net)

■ Tibet Sets and Observes Eco Red Lines

In presiding over the 6th Study Meeting of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) Government in 2013, Luosang Jianguan, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Committee of TAR, Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Region delivered an important speech.

He noted that currently, Tibet is actively carrying out education and practice programs on the theme of the "Mass Line", which is a good opportunity for governmental agencies at all levels to build themselves into learning organizations, with a special focus on the learning of ecological and environmental knowledge.

Luosang stressed that environmental protection, safety production and social harmony and stability are three red lines, or in other words bottom lines, for us to stick to. Ecological and environmental protection should be given priority by governmental agencies at all levels.

Luosang said that, we shall attach great importance to environmental protection in Tebit, just as the CPC Central Committee and the State Council always do. In joining the Tibet Delegation's discussion during the 1st session of the 12th NPC, President Xi Jinping required that the entire natural environment in Tibet is to be properly protected to ensure a sound eco status in Tibet. To meet the requirement, the TAR CPC Committee and the TAR Government released the Opinion on Constructing Beautiful Tibet, with full attention paid to the protection of the ecological environment.

Luosang said that up to now, Tibet has preserved good eco conditions, with its natural environment untouched. But some issues and potential hazards need to be paid attention to as reflected by a regional environmental safety assessment recently carried out by the Tibet Environmental Protection Bureau. Officials at all levels in Tibet must take a long-term and strategic perspective in protecting eco environment and in constructing a beautiful Tibet, and recognize that a sound natural environment would serve the national interest in longer term and is a crucial part of national strategic development plan, so as to effectively meet the requirements of the CPC Central Committee, the State Council, TAR CPC Committee and TAR Government in protecting eco-environment.

Luosang said that to properly deal with the tradeoffs between environmental protection and fast economic growth, the former must be given special priority during the development process, and official should never pursue economic growth at the expense of environmental degradation. In promoting industrial development, a Four-Never Principal should be applied, specifically, never introduce high energy consumption, high pollution or high emission projects; never approve mining projects that would damage vast tracts of land; never contaminate river waters, underground waters and especially drinking water sources; never become slack in prohibiting those human activities that would potentially lead to serious geological disasters.

Luosang set four requirements for protecting eco environment. The first is to strengthen leadership. The top officials of various governmental agencies should take the primary responsibilities in environmental protection, personally intervene in environment related issues and participate in the research and arrangement process concerning the issues. A sense of responsibility should be raised among environmental workers in the Region, so as to do a good job in environmental regulations.

The second is to give environmental protection the first priority in screening project applications. Strict Environment Impact Assessments should be conducted on all resource-development projects and manufacture ones, through which, the pressure on the environment and resources should be minimized. Illegal approval in this regard should be prohibited, and the practice of "constructing before doing EIA" should be banned.

The third is to adopt most stringent rules and regulations to protect environment. TAR has introduced a mechanism of incentive and punishment which associates environmental conditions with budget transfer payments. Two important regional regulations, on ecological environment protection and on mining industry respectively, will be released soon to further strengthen governmental regulations on related enterprises. In terms of eco protection, violations of environmental laws and regulations will be cracked down according to laws, and those people who are principally responsible for these violations will be hold accountable.

The fourth is to pay attention to the capacity building in environmental regulations. Governments at all levels should actively support environmental protection by providing all kinds of resources needed, and ensure a sound working environment for all levels of environmental agencies. (Source: www.cenews.com.cn)

■ The middle route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project Says NO to Polluters

The middle route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project, the world's largest of its kind, will be put into service in 2014, attracting more and more enterprises to invest in the water source areas. Shiyan City of Hubei Province, which hosts some key water source areas of the route, recently held a project promotion conference in Beijing as part of its comprehensive national publicity campaign to promote local green industries and projects and to explain the environmental requirements for projects within water source areas to investors all over the country.

In charge of some ecologically sensitive areas, Shiyan's government will never let polluters in, no matter what type of the enterprises or how profitable they are, said Zhou Ji, Secretary of the CPC Shiyan Municipal Committee, at the launching ceremony of the campaign. He noted that to achieve the goal of delivering clean water to Beijing, Shiyan is constructing itself into national level ecological demonstration area, by preserving sound natural environment in its 24,000 km² of territory. Related initiatives include establishing a river-director scheme, and 9 river directors have been appointed to take charge of 9 key rivers respectively. All of the 9 directors are the top leaders in their respective county or city governments. A Veto-by-one-vote rule will be adopted in screening sewage discharge applications.

The success or failure of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project depends on the water quality it delivers. To forge a sound natural environment for the water sources supporting Beijing and Tianjin, Shiyan has undergone a painful process to transform itself into an ecologically friendly city. During the 11th Five Year Plan period, more than 300 polluting enterprises were shut down, including 69 engaging in yellow ginger process, an industry of distinct regional character. More than 800 sewage outlets were removed or equipped with sewage treatment facilities. 86 key polluters were shut down or urged to upgrade environmental equipments, with 300 environmental projects completed. Some profitable but polluting projects were rejected. Those initiatives result in a tax loss of 829 million per year for Shiyan's government.

On top of that, a special fund of 1.5 billion yuan is appropriated every year from Shiyan's governmental budget to protect ecological system and to prevent water pollution. A Hanjiang Ecological Belt and an Ecological Urban Belt will be constructed, and each will extend 100 km. Now the forest coverage in Shiyan reaches 54.84%.

And it is confirmed that the middle route is to impound water this year and will be put into service after the flood season of 2014. (Source: Official Web Portal of Central Government of P.R. China)

■ Yushu has Invested 544 Million into Eco Projects in the Reconstruction

“According to a general plan for Yushu's re-construction after the earthquake disaster set out by the State Council, the geological space in Yushu Prefecture is divided into three categories, specifically, ecological protection zones, moderately reconstruction zones and comprehensive development zones. Each category will be re-constructed in a manner consistent with their respective ecological importance. Up to now, 93 ecological or environmental projects have been plan or constructed, with a total investment of 614 million yuan. Among the 614 million, 544 have been invested, accounting for 89%.” said Zhang Xiaojun, Vice Governor of the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture at a news release conference hosted by the Yushu Reconstruction Headquarter.

It is confirmed at the conference that among the 93 projects, 33 are ecological restoration

ones with an investment of 174.87 million yuan. All of them have started constructions, and 26 are completed, with a corresponding investment of 114.64 million. It is estimated that afforestation projects will cost 151 million yuan, with coverage of 402.05 hectares of area, which accounts for 33.5% of the prefecture territory. Before the disaster, Yushu had 148.62 hectares of forests, and now, 253.43 hectares need to be covered by afforestation projects. Some key projects are already completed, such as the shelter-forest-restoration project in Zhaxidatong Village of Jiegu Town, an area seriously stricken by the earthquake and the enclosure-construction project to protect the grassland in Yushu county.

Among the 93 projects, 7 environmental improvement projects have all started construction, with an investment of 97.51 million yuan; 5 of them are completed, with a corresponding investment of 80.55 million yuan. Some environmental contingency construction and restoration projects, special environmental monitoring capacity construction and restoration projects, environmental monitoring, evaluating and information assessment projects are all completed. Some key projects, such as waste landfill sites and sewage treatment works have been put into services, and they are all equipped with national-level facilities and adopt leading technologies. Two land improvement and treatment projects are underway.

Construction projects that are used to prevent and reduce disasters amount to 51, with a total investment of 240.08 million, and 50 of them have started construction. 28 are completed, with an investment of 349.71 million, which amounts to 145.7% of the initially planned investment. A seismic station in Jiegu Town of Yushu County and warehouses for disaster relief supplies in six counties of Yushu have all been put into use.

“Most of the 93 ecological and environmental projects have been completed and put into service, and the others will be completed by the end of September. With these projects, we will reach a higher level in reconstructing Yushu and protecting ecological environment. These projects provide a solid foundation for us to construct a green and harmonious Yushu.” said Zhang Xiaojun. (Source: People.com.cn)

■ The World Bank Provides 500 Million Yuan to Restore Forests in Hunan

On Jul. 29, World Bank officially launched a program in Changsha to provide a loan for forest restoration and development in Hunan. From this year, World Bank will provide 500 million yuan to restore and re-develop 58,900 hectares of artificial eco-forests damaged by freezing weather in 2008

35.3% of Hunan’s forests, in terms of coverage, were damaged in the freezing disaster which was then followed by serious plant diseases and insect pest disasters affecting large area. Huge amount of money and technological support was badly needed.

The World Bank initiated the program to restore and develop Hunan’s forests in 2009, and carried out corresponding investigations, evaluations and negotiations. The program was approved by World Bank board of executive directors in 2013, with related agreements officially signed.

The program will restore and re-develop 58,900 hectares of artificial eco-forests in 22 counties and cities, including Guiyang and Zixing. On top of that, such technological supports and services will also be delivered as nursery upgrading and planting material development, forest cooperatives and research. The length of the program is 6 years, from 2012 to 2018. The Chinese government will co-finance the program with 220 million yuan on top of the 26-year-long loan provided by the World Bank. Up to now, Hunan has prepared 7 million yuan for the 2013 budget year, and developed 8,226 hectares of forests, its afforestation goal in 2013.(Source: People.com.cn)

■ Qiang Wei: Polluting Environment is a Crime

“Conducting environment-polluting or eco-damaging projects is a grave crime, and the officials who pursue temporary economic growth at the expense of contaminating water, soil and air are committing a serious crime and will be condemned by future generations,” said Qiang Wei, the Secretary of the CPC Jiangxi Provincial Committee, at the 7th Enlarged Session of the 13th Jiangxi Provincial Party Committee on July 30th.

The conference set an overall framework for Jiangxi’s development in near future, featuring high-level, accelerated, green and steadfast development, and set a target of constructing a prosperous, harmonious and beautiful Jiangxi.

“Jiangxi is in a critical stage in pursuing scientific development and green growth, specifically a struggling stage in development, a challenging stage in building well off society and a transitional stage in promoting ecological progress,” Qiang Wei said, “this could also be a whole new starting point for us.”

Qiang Wei pointed out Jiangxi’s weak foundation for development, and noted that as a less-developed province, Jiangxi is confronted with some restrictive factors in its economic development and structural transformation, such as increasing costs of land, labor and other production factors, more and more strained resources and environmental conditions. “For Jiangxi, a less-developed province, the task of constructing a moderately prosperous society at the same speed with the rest parts of the country is arduous.” said Qiang Wei. To reach the goal of producing a per capita GDP equivalent to the national average level in 2020, Jiangxi must achieve a annual GDP growth rate 3.8 percent higher, at least, than the national average rate throughout next 8 years, which is the most urgent and concrete task facing Jiangxi.

When talking about promoting ecological progress, Qiang Wei said, the sound ecological environment is Jiangxi’s significant advantage and an eye-catching feature, but which is relatively fragile, since it is resulted from a low level of industrialization and from the less developed status. If without more rapid transformation of economic growth mode and more decisive measures to protect eco-system, the good eco-environment, we now boast, would end up destroyed. How to effectively protect natural environment and further strengthen ecological advantages while accelerating economic growth, is a key topic to be explored by the whole province.(Source: Cenews.com.cn)

● CCICED Activities

■ CCICED Holds 2013 Roundtable Meeting

The CCICED 2013 Roundtable Meeting was held in Guiyang International Convention Center on July 20th. MEP Minister and CCICED Chinese Executive Vice Chairman Zhou shengxian, UNEP Executive Director and CCICED Vice Chairman Achim Steiner, Guizhou Province Vice Governor Mu Degui, among others, delivered speeches at the Meeting. 120 people attended the meeting, including Chinese and foreign members of CCICED, CCICED donors and partners, representatives from environmental agencies of other provinces, municipalities directly under the central government and autonomous regions and experts from CCICED policy study task forces. MEP Vice Minister and CCICED Secretary General Li Ganjie presided over the meeting and gave a summary speech.

In his speech, Zhou points out that China has always been promoting environmental protection to comprehensively serve the vital interest of both international community and China itself, and introducing strategic environmental measures to accommodate new

situations and to fulfill new tasks in a timely manner. This year, Chinese leaders made new arrangements for promoting ecological progress and protecting environment, with a special focus on a principle that China will never pursue temporary economic growth at the expense of environmental degradation. The old mode of “polluting first and then treating” should be firmly rejected in China. The red line awareness concerning ecological protection should be raised, with red lines set and strictly observed. The zoning plans of functional areas should be rigorously implemented. And the GDP numbers will never be the only measurement of officials’ performances. The status of ecological environment will receive high priority in economic and social performance assessment systems. Those who made rash decisions regardless of the ecological environment, resulting in serious consequences, must be brought to account, and should be held accountable for a lifetime,

Zhou also stresses the priority received by air pollution prevention in fulfilling environmental tasks in the next five years. Recently, the State Council approved the Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan, and urges comprehensive achievements in adjusting and optimizing economic and industrial structures, in promoting innovation and in protecting ecological environment. Vowing tough measures for tough tasks, the State Council tries to ensure an early effect of air pollution treatment measures, so as to improve the wellbeing of the people. Six categories of measures will be majorly implemented, the first, promoting the upgrade and optimization of industrial structures, and eliminating overcapacities; the second, accelerating the adjustment of energy structure with a limitation imposed on overall coal consumption; the third, strictly controlling vehicle pollution and upgrading fuel quality; the fourth, strengthening comprehensive pollution management and carrying out joint control of multiple pollutants; the fifth, establishing monitoring, early warning and contingency systems and properly dealing with heavily polluted days; the sixth, strengthening leadership and adopting concrete supportive measures.

Under the theme of Regional and Social Harmony in Green Development, the findings of CCICED Policy Studies concerning regional harmony and green development were shared at the meeting, and discussions were held on such topics as environmental protection and social development, sustainable consumption and green development, corporate social responsibility concerning investment and trade, media and public participation in green development and challenges and countermeasures in promoting Guiyang’s ecological progress.

Some consensuses have been reached at the Meeting. Specifically, the concept and practice of ecological progress is an important contribution that China makes to global sustainable development; environmental protection is a decisive front and a chief instrument in the campaign of promoting ecological progress; green development is a fundamental requirement for promoting ecological progress and a decisive factor in China’s green transformation; environmental protection and social development are interdependent; stimulating domestic demand is a strategic instrument for promoting economic growth; sustainable consumption is not only a driving force for transforming development mode, but also a fundamental basis for harmonious society; enterprises taking corporate social responsibilities in investment and trade is an important guarantee for China’s economic and social sustainable development; media and public participation will serve as essential impetus for green development.(Source: China Environment News)

■ CCICED Holds the Third Joint Meeting of Secretariat and Chief Advisors

The Third Joint Meeting of CCICED Secretariat and Chief Advisors was held in Beijing on July 24th, 2013. The meeting was jointly chaired by Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and Dr. Arthur Hanson, CCICED International Chief Advisor. 50 people attended the meeting, including Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistance Secretary General and

DDG of MEP FECO, Ms. Zhou Guomei, deputy head of CCICED Chief Advisor Expert Supporting Group and Vice Director General of MEP China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center, members of CCICED Chief Advisor Expert Supporting Group, representatives from CCICED partners and donors, such as UNEP, UNIDO, WWF and WRI, international guests from such countries as Canada, Sweden, Norway and Australia, and office workers from CCICED International Supporting Office.

CCICED Secretariat reported its work progress in the first half of 2013 and its projected arrangement for the second half. The International Chief Advisor presented an initial plan for CCICED 2014 policy studies and exchanged views with representatives on the plan. Representatives from CCICED task forces on two policy studies, namely the “Sustainable Consumption and Green Development” and the “Environmental Protection and Social Development”, and three special studies, namely the “Special Policy Study on Promoting Social Media and Public Participation in China’s Green Development”, “Special Policy Study on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Green Development” and “Special Policy Study on Promoting Urban Green Travel” reported their main research findings and policy recommendations and sought opinions from representatives attending the meeting.

At an internal meeting in the afternoon, CCICED Secretariat and Chief Advisors held discussions on such topics as the designation of Chinese and International task force members for the policy study on the Evaluation and Outlook on the Process of China’s Green Transformation, the focus of 2014 policy studies, new topics and concepts to be covered by 2014 policy studies, the initial framework of CCICED AGM policy recommendations, the progress of the green supply chain demonstration projects, the preparation for Summer Davos in Dalian and the UN Global South-South Development Expo in Kenya on behalf of CCICED and how to expand CCICED partnerships.

It is decided that a meeting between Chinese Chief Advisors and CCICED Secretariat is to be held on August 11th to discuss the quality control and management of CCICED policy studies, a meeting between Chinese and International Chief Advisors and CCICED Secretariat is to be held on August 13th with the focus on the concept specification document of new policy studies, and the fourth Joint Meeting of CCICED Secretariat and Chief Advisors is to be held on September 14th in Beijing.

● CCICED Policy Studies

■ CCICED Task Force of Policy Study on Promoting Social Media and Public Participation in China’s Green Development holds Fourth Work Meeting

CCICED task force of the special policy study on Promoting Social Media and Public Participation in China’s Green Development held its Fourth Work Meeting on July 22nd to 23rd. Mr. Jia Feng, DG of MEP Center for Environmental Education & Communications and the Chinese Co-chair of the Study, and Ms. Isabel Hilton, Chief Editor of www.chinasialogue.net and International Co-chair, presided over the Meeting jointly. CCICED International Chief Advisor Dr. Arthur Hanson and Chinese and International members of the task force attended the Meeting.

On invitation, Chongqing Environmental Protection Bureau introduced their official microblog platform (Weibo) used to release governmental information of the Environmental Protection Bureau, providing a classic case of using new media to promote information disclosure and to encourage public participation. The Meeting heard the progress in the three sub-subjects of the Study, specifically, governmental environmental information communication through new media, developing institution to promoting orderly public

participation in environmental protection, and the communication and response system concerning hot environmental issues and significant environmental events, upon which, in-depth discussion was held, with suggestions put forward to address existing problems and improve the whole Study. Special attention was given to the Executive Summary (Short Report) during in the discussion. Chinese and International members of the task force will take up the suggestions, further improve the sub reports and the Executive Summary, and submit a final version of Executive Summary by the end of September subject to the requirement of CCICED Secretariat.



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