

CHINA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

**CCICED UPDATE**[Feedback](#)[Link](#)**|| CCICED Activities ||****Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli speaks at 2015 AGM Opening Ceremony**

The 2015 AGM of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) opened in Beijing on 9th November under the theme of “Enabling Government Capacity for Green Transformation”. Politburo Standing Committee member, State Council Vice Premier and CCICED Chairperson Mr. Zhang Gaoli delivered a keynote speech during the opening ceremony. Vice Premier Zhang stated that green development is widely supported in China, with increased public awareness of environmental protection, strengthened policy measures, and thorough implementation.

Mr. Zhang Gaoli said that the 13th Five Year Plan is a crucial stage for comprehensively building China into a moderately prosperous society. China will provide more and higher quality ecological products, promote a green development model and lifestyle, and realize the goals of improving people’s livelihood, as well as building China into a beautiful nation. He outlined a number of measures the government is taking.

- Optimize the layout for developing national land and space, implement the planning on major function-oriented zones so as to

develop a sound layout for urbanization, agricultural development, ecological security and water front.

- Comprehensively conserve energy and efficiently utilize resources, put dual-control on the total consumption and development intensity of resources and land, implement the national action plan on energy conservation, develop a clean, low-carbon and highly-efficient energy system for green development.

- Strengthen pollution control and prevention of air, water and soil, put equal emphasis on pollution prevention and control in urban and rural areas and promote the overall environmental improvement.

- Give priority to environmental protection and natural recovery, implement the projects on environment protection and recovery of mountains, water, forests, farmland and lakes, build the national ecological corridor and bio-diversity protection networks as ecological security shelters.

- Improve laws and regulations on ecological civilization, strengthen the environmental monitoring system and government performance assessment system, accelerate the development of a complete ecological civilization system to guide and regulate the development, utilization and protection of natural resources.

- Promote international exchanges and cooperation and shoulder the responsibility as a big country. At this year’s UN Climate Change Conference, China is willing to joint hands with international community to promote the passing of a comprehensive, balanced and powerful agreement as a new cornerstone in the global environmental improvement.

Mr. Zhang Gaoli pointed out that CCICED is an important platform to promote China’ environment and development so the Chinese government will support the organization’s ongoing development. He added the CCICED should make full use of the expertise at its disposal, develop itself into a high-level international think tank, and make greater contributions to sustainable development in China and globally.





## 2015 CCICED AGM held in Beijing

Mr. Chen Jining, Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) and Vice Executive Chairperson of the CCICED chaired the AGM opening ceremony. Mr. Li Ganjie, MEP Vice Minister and Secretary General of CCICED, presented the CCICED's 2015 work report and 2016 work plan. Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP and Acting Executive Vice Chairperson of CCICED, as well as Ms. Barbara Hendricks, Germany's Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety also spoke during the ceremony.

During the following AGM session, MEP Minister Mr. Chen Jining gave a special address to members entitled "Promoting Green Development and Improve Environmental Governance Capacity". Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and former Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, presented the draft Council recommendations to be submitted to the central government.

The meeting participants listened and discussed the results of the following research teams: National Governance Capacity for Green Transformation Task Force, Green Finance Reform and Green Transformation Task Force, Rule of Law and Ecological Civilization Task Force, Eco-Environmental Risk Management Special Policy Study, Soil Pollution Management Special Policy Study and



Coordinated Actions for Addressing Climate Change and Air Pollution Special Policy Study. This year's AGM also included three open forums dealing with the following issues: Green One Belt and One Road, Think Tanks and Green Transformation, and Green Finance and the G20.

After discussion by Council members and experts, the 2015 AGM finalized its policy recommendations that will be submitted to Chinese government.



## Minister Chen Jining chaired the 2015 CCICED Bureau Meeting

The bureau meeting was held on 9 November and chaired by Mr. Chen Jining. The meeting was attended by bureau members including Mr. Achim Steiner, Vice Chairperson of CCICED and Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Barbara Hendricks, Vice Chairperson of CCICED and Germany's Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, and Mr. Li Ganjie, Secretary General of CCICED and MEP Vice Minister.

Bureau members commended the work of the CCICED in 2015, approving the Secretariat's 2015 work report presented by Mr. Li Ganjie, as well as the 2015 AGM tentative agenda, and agreeing to submit to Council members the draft 2015 recommendations for assessment and approval. In addition, Bureau members approved



the 2016 CCICED work plan and agreed to hold 2016 AGM on 8-10 November, 2016.



## Open Forum on "Green One Belt and One Road"

Part of the 2015 AGM, this forum was co-chaired by CCICED Secretary General Mr. Li Ganjie and Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Mr. Li emphasized there is a need to step up efforts to promote the concept of "Green One Belt and One Road" and establish a number of measures to support environmental sustainability in the projects encompassed by this major initiative of the Government of China.

Meeting participants agreed that "Green One Belt and One Road" could have significant impacts in China and globally. The

goal of developing a Green One Belt and One Road is to promote common and mutually beneficial development of related countries, share China's experience in green development and transform China's achievements into opportunities for the whole world. "Green One Belt and One Road" is very important for promoting the green and sustainable development within the region. Participants agreed there should be enhanced cooperation in environmental protection as well as greater policy communication, infrastructure connectivity, trade links, capital flows, and understanding among peoples of the region.





## “Think Tank and Green Transformation” Open Forum

Also held on November 11 as part of the CCICED AGM, the forum was co-chaired by Mr. Liu Shijin, Former Vice President of Development Research Center of the State Council and Mr. Roger Beale, Former Vice Minister, Department of Environment and Heritage, Australian Government.

Participants had an in-depth exchange of views on the role of think tanks in promoting green transformation, communications and exchanges between think tanks and on the CCICED’s future

development. There was general agreement that think tanks can play a very important role in green transformation. Some speakers favoured the formation of a network of think tanks to facilitate policy-making. It was also agreed that CCICED should not only play an important role in China’s environment and development, but function as an open and equitable hub, supporting communications among think tanks concerned with issues of environment and sustainable development around the globe.



## “Green Fiance and G20” Open Forum

This third forum was co-chaired by Mr. Chen Yulu, Vice Governor of People’s Bank of China and Co-chair of the Green Finance Task Force and Mr. Achim Steiner, Vice Chairperson of CCICED and Executive Director of UNEP.

There is a general consensus that green finance is the integration of environmental protection concerns within the financial

sphere, but that it also implies the reform of financial institutions. Financial institutions should integrate environmental impact assessments into their daily operations and pay attention to the development of green industries, step up environmental protection and promote sustainable development by guiding social and economic resources into green industries.



## Sino-US Environmental Governance and Innovation Roundtable held in Washington D. C.

The Sino-US Environmental Governance and Innovation Roundtable organised jointly by the CCICED and the World Resource Institute, was held in Washington D. C. on 20 November, 2015. Mr. Chen Jining, MEP Minister and CCICED Executive Vice Chairperson, along with MEP representatives, officials from the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy, as well as experts from World Resource Institute and WWF attended the meeting. They discussed government’s role in environmental enforcement and supervision, green finance, and related matters.

Minister Chen stated that the 13th Five Year Plan is a crucial period for addressing the imbalance between environment and development. The Chinese government sets goals for overall environmental improvements by 2020 and innovation in environmental governance is indispensable to realizing these goals. Environmental protection in China is an open and innovation-oriented process. Minister Chen indicated China will draw on the



successful experience of the US and other countries, strike a balance between humanity and nature, and between development and protection through innovations in institutions, technology and management, so that China, the world’s largest developing country, can chart a new course towards green modernization.



## MOU concluded between CCICED and Environmental Defense Fund

November 20, MEP Minister and CCICED Executive Vice Chairperson Mr. Chen Jining, visited the Environmental Defense Fund’s office in Washington D.C. to see the MOU between the

CCICED and EDF renewed for another term. This MOU is the first such document signed in preparation for CCICED Phase VI.



## CCICED and Asian Development Bank MOU signed

During the AGM, Mr. Li Ganjie, CCICED Secretary General and Mr. Stephen Groff, ADB Vice President concluded an MOU

between the two organizations, establishing a long-term partnership and signaling a new stage in their cooperation.



## || Latest Policy Developments ||



### The Fifth Plenary Session of 18th CPC Central Committee approves the proposed 13th Five Year Plan on National Economic and Social Development

The Fifth Plenary Session of 18th CPC Central Committee was held on October 26-29, 2015, with participants discussing President Xi Jinping's work report and approving the Proposal on the 13th Five Year Plan of National Economic and Social Development.

The session confirmed China's direction to promote green development, implement the basic national policy of resource conservation and environmental protection, pursue sustainable development, accelerate the development of a resource-saving and environmental-friendly society so as to maintain harmony between humanity and nature, build a beautiful China and make contributions to global ecological security; promote the harmony between human and nature, develop a sound plan for urbanization, agricultural development and ecological security and establish an industrial system for green and low-carbon development; accelerate the development of function-oriented zones and give full play to their role in protecting the national space; promote low-carbon development, establish a clean, low-carbon, safe and highly-efficient

energy system and establish demonstration project for zero carbon emission; improve the energy efficiency, raise people's awareness in saving and re-cycling resources, and establish a system for preliminary allocation of rights in using energy, water and emitting pollutants and carbon; strengthen the prevention and control of environmental pollution, implement the most stringent environmental protection systems and action plans on prevention and control of air, water and soil pollution, and carry out the vertical management system for monitoring and law enforcement of environmental protection institutions below the provincial level; give priority to environmental protection and natural recovery, carry out projects for protecting and recovering ecological system in mountains, water, forests and lakes, launch national action campaign for greening the land, improve the protection system for natural forests and promote the pollution control and prevention in bays.



### The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee approves the reform of the Ecological Civilization System

President Xi Jinping chaired the 11 September 2015 meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee where a plan to reform the Ecological Civilization System was approved.

This is a key part to the Government of China's determination to 'deepen reform'. The Overall Plan on Reform of Ecological Civilization System will emphasize the importance of respecting nature, following the laws of nature and protecting nature, and strike a balance between development and environmental protection. The meeting also confirmed China's intention to ensure natural resource

assets remain state-owned, to promote pollution prevention and to control pollution in urban and rural areas, and combine incentives and constraints in environment protection.

Concerned government departments were encouraged to fully recognize the significance of the reform of ecological civilization system, strengthen their sense of responsibility, urgency and mission, promote ecological civilization reform and raise China's level of ecological civilization.



### China Communist Party and government leaders held accountable for ecological damage

The CPC Central Committee General Office and the State Council General Office jointly issued a document entitled "Methods on Holding Party and Government Leaders Accountable for Ecological Damage". This document bolsters efforts to support ecological civilization, following the May 2015 release of the "Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Ecological Civilization", demonstrating the rapid progress made in this area.

This latest document stipulates the institutional arrangements for

holding party and government leaders accountable for ecological damage. It was clearly pointed out in the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central CPC Committee that China needs to establish a complete ecological civilization system, stringently implement environmental protection measures, institute damage compensation and liability suit processes, and improve environmental governance and ecological recovery systems.



### State Council plan issued on Environmental Monitoring Networks

The State Council General Office has issued the six-part, 20-provision "Plan on Developing the Environmental Monitoring Networks", setting the scene for a comprehensive development of environmental monitoring networks.

The Plan states that environmental monitoring is the foundation of environment protection and an important pillar of ecological civilization. It directs the establishment of a national network of monitoring sites across the country. The government is to play a leading role in this network, with coordination between concerned departments, public participation and public oversight. By 2020, the national network will encompass environmental quality, major pollution sources and areas of ecological concern; monitoring databases at different levels are to be interconnected and shared across the nation, with the ability to

forecast and to provide early warning of environmental risks. In addition, the use of the collected information application will improve, and monitoring and regulation will be coordinated and implemented at the same time so as to synchronize the ability to monitor with China's ecological civilization requirements.

The Plan includes four types of measures. First, coordination of environmental monitoring planning with standards, regulations and information delivery; second, coordination of environmental monitoring with supervision and law enforcement; third, identification of the government and enterprises' rights and responsibilities related to environmental monitoring; fourth, strengthening supervision and management of environmental monitoring institutions.

