

CHINA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

CCICED UPDATE

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|| CCICED Activities ||

Promoting Green Finance and Supporting Local Development



On March 29, the CCICED 2016 Roundtable Meeting was held in Shanghai. The theme of the Meeting was Promoting Green Finance and Supporting Local Development and allowed participants to hear about research findings and policy recommendations from the CCICED's 2015 Task Force on Green Finance Reform and Green Transformation. The program was planned to meet the needs of central and local government officials undergoing training at China

Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong (CELAP), providing them with some understanding of green development and green finance. Mr. Li Ganjie, Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection and Secretary General of CCICED, and Mr. Zhou Zhongfei, Executive Vice President of CELAP attended the meeting and delivered a speech.

Secretary General Li stated in his remarks that green finance is of great importance to realizing sustainable development. The 13th Five Year Plan aims to improving overall environmental quality, which is almost impossible to realize without the active involvement of China's entire society. Therefore, he said, China must introduce innovations such as the green finance policy system so it can attract what he termed "social capital", including international capital, into China's environmental protection sector, and also help to promote the sound development of the financial industry. He added that green finance research and practice will bridge the areas of environmental protection and financial investment, leading to further growth.

During the meeting, CELAP trainees and other participants discussed such topics as China's green finance roadmap, how to deal with environmental problems using market mechanisms, PPP (private public partnership) models, green securities, asset-backed securities, environmental governance, and international practice and experience in green finance.

CCICED Secretariat Visits BRICS Bank

On 30 March 2016, CCICED International Chief Advisor Mr. Art Hanson, as well as Mr. Daniel Dudek, Council Member and Vice President of EDF visited the BRICS Bank and met with Vice President Mr. Zhu Xian. The Bank was founded to help finance infrastructure investments and sustainable development projects in the BRICS

States (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) as well as other developing countries. The CCICED Secretariat indicated during the meeting that cooperation with the BRICS Bank in the area of green finance would be most welcome.

Cost-Benefit Analysis Workshop to Address Overcapacity

On March 19, the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), together with SEEC Research Institute (SRI), held a workshop on cost-benefit analysis on the main pathways towards overcapacity reduction.

Representatives from the Shenhua Group, the China Coal Economy Research Institute, and the China Metallurgical Industry Planning and Research Institute delivered keynote speeches on the current status, the causes of, and solutions to overcapacity in the coal and steel industries.

Experts agreed that there is serious overcapacity in the two industries, which cannot be eliminated only through increased demand on domestic and international markets. The current complex

economic situation requires China to reduce overcapacity in these industries. Past experience shows that it is not feasible to rely solely on administrative measures to cut industrial capacity. It is necessary to analyze the root cause of the situation, the role of government, investors, financial institutions, and employees, and consider how each stakeholder will be affected. The workshop considered plans to conduct cost-benefit analysis on different approaches to overcapacity reduction and figure out the most cost-effective ones, so as to revitalize China's economy and guard against financial and social risks. The Task Force is expected to draw experiences from other countries, and put forward the optimal path in the steel and coal industries as a reference for decision making.

Consultation Meeting on “One Belt and One Road” Initiative Special Policy Study

The CCICED consultation meeting on environmental protection strategies for the “One Belt and One Road” Initiative was held in Beijing on March 1, 2016. Participating experts discussed the opportunities and challenges that the OBOR initiative presents and offered constructive suggestions on how to integrate into OBOR several key elements, namely a broader international perspective,

improved environmental governance capacity, and stronger approaches to environmental risks prevention and control.

The CCICED will launch a Special Policy Study on environmental protection strategies for the “One Belt and One Road” Initiative. This meeting further identified the SPS' positioning, content and methods and determined the research framework to be followed.

CCICED and Inditex Group Cooperate in Sustainable Consumption Demonstration Project



The CCICED's Sustainable Consumption Demonstration Project is setting its sights on world of fashion. On 25 February, the CCICED team involved with this project met with Inditex, one of the largest fashion retail groups in the world, with eight brands including Zara,

sold in over 6,700 stores in 88 markets.

The CCICED and Inditex have agreed to cooperate on this sustainable consumption demonstration project, which will start in the latter half of this year and focus on developing a framework of sustainable consumption policies and implementation tools.

The meeting was attended by CCICED Secretariat staff, experts from Inditex' sustainable development department as well as Zara managers.

The CCICED Secretariat presented the findings of the Sustainable Consumption and Green Development Task Force, along with initial results from the sustainable consumption demonstration project. Inditex experts spoke about pathways to a more sustainable retail industry, stating an important priority for them is to “establish value and transcend interest”. Inditex also described the Zara products re-use project in which unsold and old clothing is recycled into new garments.



CCICED Symposium on Cost Benefit Analysis

The CCICED Symposium on Cost Benefit Analysis for Air Pollution Prevention and Control in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei was held on 4 February, 2016. The symposium was attended by Environment Defense Fund Vice President and CCICED Member Mr. Dan Dudek, and experts from MEP, the Chinese Academy for Environmental

Planning, the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, and from the CCICED Secretariat. Participants discussed the international experience in cost benefit analysis, its application in China, and the challenges facing its use in the analysis of air pollution prevention and control in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.

Sharing Economy and China's Green Development Workshop Held in Beijing

The CCICED workshop was held at Tsinghua University on 23 January, 2016 to explore how emerging ‘sharing economy’ trends could also foster greater sustainability and green development in China.

Workshop participants agreed that greater adoption of sharing economy platforms would be fuelled by factors such as increasing awareness about resource constraints, greater internet openness, the emergence of new technologies, diversified lifestyles and new attitudes towards consumption. Participants also said they believe government should create the enabling environment for the sharing economy, including clearly-established property rights, a fair tax system, sound protection of consumer rights and a robust regulatory framework.





The Rule of Law and Ecological Civilization Task Force Holds a First Meeting for 2016

The Rule of Law and Ecological Civilization Task Force held its first joint working meeting of the year on 19th, January in Beijing. Participants reviewed the work completed in 2015 and identified this year's major tasks. The team will pursue research in the impartial administration of justice and legal compliance, as well as initiate three special studies. The first will look into

measures to improve the legal system for ecological civilization and green development; the second will consider how best to formulate the Special Law on Air Environment Protection in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei; and the third will delve into how the rule of law can help promote ecological civilization and sustainable development.



CCICED 1st Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting Held in Beijing

The 1st Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) was held in Beijing on 18-19 January, 2016.

The meeting participants discussed the CCICED 2016 Work Plan and exchanged opinions on CCICED Phase VI. Prof. Liu Shijin, Former Deputy Minister of Development Research

Center of State Council delivered a speech titled Economic Restructuring and Supply-side Reform, and Prof. He Jiankun, Dean of Research Institute of Low Carbon Economy, Tsinghua University and Deputy Director of China's Expert Committee on Climate Change delivered a speech titled Paris Climate Change Conference and China's Transition to Low-Carbon Economy.

Hot Topics



13th Five-Year Plan: Accelerating Eco-Environmental Improvement

The Draft Outline of China's *13th Five-Year Plan on National Economic and Social Development* highlights that China should focus on improving environmental quality and solving prominent eco-environmental problems, devote greater efforts to eco-environmental protection, enhance the efficiency of resource utilization, provide more high-quality green products to consumers, and promote Chinese people's well-being and prosperity in a beautiful China.

The Draft Outline proposes to strengthen integrated environmental governance, innovate in terms of concepts and methods of environmental governance, carry out the most stringent environmental protection system, emphasize polluter's liability, establish a co-governance system for government, enterprises and the public, and generally improve environmental quality; fully implement the action plans on pollution prevention and control, mitigate against environmental risks, strengthen the development of environmental infrastructure, and reform the fundamental systems in environmental governance.

The Draft Outline proposes to strengthen ecological protection and remediation, give priority to the protection and restoration of nature, facilitate the protection and remediation of natural ecosystems, establish ecological corridors as well as biodiversity conservation networks, comprehensively enhance the stability and the capacity of natural ecosystems to provide services, and construct sound ecological security barriers; comprehensively enhance ecosystem functions, promote ecological remediation of key areas, increase the supply of green

products, and preserve biodiversity.

The Draft Outline proposes to actively address global climate change, focus on both mitigation and adaptation, actively limit carbon emissions in accordance with carbon reduction commitments, build the capacity for climate change adaptation, deepen involvement in global climate governance, and contribute to combating global climate change; effectively limit GHG emissions, actively adapt to climate change, and extensively engage in international cooperation.

The Draft Outline proposes to improve ecological security safeguard mechanisms, promote institutional improvement of ecological civilization, establish an ecological risk prevention and control system, build the capacity of coping with eco-environmental emergencies, and safeguard the national ecological security; improve the eco-environmental protection system, as well as strengthen eco-environmental risk monitoring, early warning, and emergency response.

The Draft Outline proposes to foster the green industry and the environmental protection industry, support the development of service providers, promote energy-saving and environment-friendly products, support innovation for technical equipment and services, improve policies, facilitate the development of the energy-saving and environmental protection industry; increase the supply of environmental protection products and services, and develop technical equipment for environmental protection.





Strengthened Governance for Breakthroughs in Green Development

On Mar 5, the fourth session of the 12th National People's Congress was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. When presenting the government work report, Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council said this year we should enhance environmental governance efforts and work to see breakthroughs in green development. Pollution control and environmental protection are of vital importance to both people's health and sustainable development, so we must work hard moving forward and resolve to take a path that leads to both economic development and environmental improvement.

We will take strong measures against air and water pollution. This year, we will ensure that chemical oxygen demand and ammonia nitrogen emissions are both reduced by 2%, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions are cut by 3%, and the density of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in key areas continues to fall. We will focus on promoting the reduction of emissions from the burning of coal and motor vehicles. We will work to promote cleaner and more efficient use of coal, ensure there is less use of untreated coal, and do more to see coal substituted with electricity and natural gas. We will upgrade coal-burning power plants nationwide to achieve ultra-low emissions and energy efficiency, and we will move faster to shut down coal-fired boilers that do not meet compulsory standards. We will increase natural gas supply, improve policy support for the development of wind, solar, and biomass energy, and increase the proportion of clean energy in total energy consumption. We will encourage the recovery of resources from crop straw to reduce straw burning.

We will push for the use of automobile gasoline and diesel fuel that meet National-V standards nationwide and see that 3.8 million old or high-emission vehicles are taken off the roads. We will coordinate efforts to prevent and control air pollution in regions where it presents a problem. We will press ahead with the nationwide development and upgrading of urban sewage treatment facilities, and strengthen comprehensive efforts aimed at controlling agricultural pollution from non-point

sources and at improving the water environment in river basin areas. We will step up efforts to deal with industrial pollution at the source and conduct online monitoring of all polluting enterprises. Supervision over environmental protection efforts will be strengthened. We must ensure that the newly revised Environmental Protection Law is strictly enforced, that those who emit pollutants beyond the limit allowed by their permit or without a permit are severely punished, and that those who knowingly allow such violations are held to account.

We will work to develop the energy conservation and environmental protection industries. We will ensure that environmental standards are applied in more areas. We will encourage the use of energy-saving and environmentally friendly advanced technologies and equipment. We will promote on a large scale contracted energy management and third-party treatment of environmental pollution. We will see that energy-saving renovations in buildings are strengthened and efforts are accelerated to make traditional manufacturing more eco-friendly. We will encourage everyone to conserve energy and water, make progress in using sorted treatment of waste, improve the networks for recycling renewable resources, and turn the energy conservation and environmental protection industries into pillar industries underpinning China's development.

We will continue to develop ecological security barriers. We will improve mechanisms for compensating for ecological conservation efforts. Commercial logging in natural forests will be banned, and a new round of subsidy and award policies for grassland ecological conservation efforts will be implemented. Trials to comprehensively deal with the over-abstraction of groundwater will be moved ahead, more will be done to protect and restore wetland ecosystems, and continued efforts will be made to curb desertification, rock desertification and soil erosion. Every one of us has an obligation to protect the environment. We call on every member of society to act and contribute to the building of a Beautiful China.



Highlights of press meeting on addressing air pollution and environmental protection

The State Council Information Office (SCIO) held a press conference on addressing air pollution and environmental protection issues on Feb. 18, 2016. Chen Jining, minister of environmental protection, introduced basic information on the topic and answered questions from domestic and foreign press.

Chen said addressing environmental issues was essential to sustainable development and recognized significant improvement in dealing with the challenges after the adoption of strong measures during the 12th Five-Year Plan period (2011-2015).

China has met the target of closing down outdated capacity ahead of schedule, cutting down production of 77 million tons of steel and 29 million tons of paper from 2011 to 2014.

While China is accelerating its industrialization and urbanization, said the minister, pollution will remain a big challenge. But China will continue to reduce emissions during the process and contribute to the world's efforts in environmental protection, he added.



The 2016 National Conference on Environmental Protection Work

The 2016 National Conference on Environmental Protection Work was held on 11 January at Beijing. The conference reviewed environmental protection work during the 12th Five Year Plan period and in 2015, identified the new tasks and challenges during the 13th Five Year Plan period, gave a general framework for environmental protection during this period and identified environmental priorities in 2016.

Minister of Environmental Protection Mr. Chen Jining attended the meeting and stressed the following 10 priorities: well plan and coordinate the environmental protection work

during the 13th Five Year Plan period; deepen environment-related reforms; take effective measures to deal with air, water and soil pollution; push ahead with environmental protection by rule of law; establish a sound environmental risks prevention and control system; step up efforts to protect environment in rural areas; strengthen supervision and management on nuclear and radiation safety; well manage environmental risks; take effective guarantee measures; and develop a clean party and severely crack down on corruption.