

CHINA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

CCICED UPDATE

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CCICED Activities

CCICED High-level Forum on Sharing Economy Opened



CCICED High-level Forum on Sharing Economy jointly organized by CCICED and World Economic Forum opened on 26 June back-to-back with 2016 Summer Davos in Tianjin.

This forum was attended by leaders in global sharing economy

such as CEO of Uber and Head of Global Operations of Airbnb Inc, as well as experts from relevant government departments and research institutes. The forum discussed the characteristics, the status quo, the role of sharing economy as a growth engine as well as difficulties and challenges facing it.

Meeting participants believed that sharing economy makes significant contributions to green development. On one hand, it transfers the public awareness of environmental protection into actions of green consumption. Relevant research shows that people consume less water and electricity when they share homes with others during the travel than when living in hotels; on the other hand, the responsibilities of enterprises in environmental protection are internalized into fortune and brand value, which helps deal with the imbalance between economic development and environmental protection.

CCICED will continue to focus on this topic and hold a forum on sharing economy during this year's AGM in December. This forum is expected to bring in more novel ideas about sharing economy and produce relevant policy recommendations to Chinese government.

CCICED Roundtable Discussion Held in Brussels

CCICED Roundtable Discussion on Environmental Governance and Green Transformation was held on 24 May in Brussels, with participation from European and Chinese environmental officials, and relevant experts from agencies, networks and EU member states. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Daniel Calleja, Director-General for Environment, European Commission, and by Mr. Chen Jining, China's Minister of Environmental Protection and Executive Vice Chair of CCICED. The presentations featured Mr. Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, who spoke about the EU approach to green growth and circular economy.

The purpose of the discussion was to provide Chinese officials with an understanding of three topics under the theme of "Environmental Governance System and Green Transformation": Environmental governance systems in EU countries Environmental protection in the Rhine River Basin Industrial transformation of the Ruhr Industrial District.

Mr. Chen Jining summarized the outcomes by remarking that the roundtable discussion had been very fruitful and that much had been learned. Despite the many differences between the EU and China, much of the European experience is useful to the green transformation

which China is currently going through. Everyone agrees that the environment must be protected but there are many different ideas on how to achieve this, particularly at the local level. Finally, the issues China faces and how it deals with them can also be of value to Europe.

Both sides acknowledged the challenges and opportunities of

multi-level, multi-stakeholder environmental governance, recognizing that there is great value for China and the EU to continue to cooperate on improving environmental governance, and that there are mutual benefits to be gained from such cooperation.

The 2nd Joint Working Meeting on Green Transition Outlook 2020-2050 Held in Beijing

On July 2, the 2nd joint working meeting on Green Transition Outlook 2020-2050 was held in Beijing, which was chaired by Mr. Liu Shijin, Co-chair of Chinese Expert Team and former Deputy Director General of Development Research Center of the State Council.

The meeting mainly discussed "China at the Crossroad of Green Transition", "New Conditions for Green Transition", "Efficient and Sustainably Prosperous Green Economy: Prospects and Challenges" and "Policy Design for Green Transition".

Participants exchanged views on the opportunities and challenges facing China in the process of green transformation, the objectives and means to achieve green transition, the prospects for development in industrial, agricultural, service sectors, green urbanization and new pathway for rural development. They also shared academic studies and practices home and abroad in the field of green transition.



2nd Joint Working Meeting of the Task Force on Green Transition Outlook 2020-2050



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Launch of the Task Force on South-South Cooperation for Ecological Civilization

The first joint conference of this policy research team took place on 6 April. Its area of research is most pertinent to the theme of the CCICED 2016 Annual General Meeting: "Ecological Civilization: China and the World". The team's challenge is to provide information on current international trends on environment and development, and recommend how China can help meet the needs of developing

countries for sustainable development. The TF will also outline priorities for China's government in this area, propose policy recommendations to integrate ecological civilization concepts into south-south cooperation, and formulate a roadmap for future action. The TF will report its research findings to the CCICED 2016 AGM.

CCICED to Deepen Cooperation with World Economic Forum

CCICED Secretariat met with representatives from the World Economic Forum on 6 July to discuss further cooperation.

Research and cooperation on the sharing economy will continue, as indicated earlier. The partners agreed to hold a symposium in September, as well as the planned CCICED AGM forum in December. Joint research and seminars on issues including climate change, circular economy and maritime environment protection will also be implemented.



Cooperation opportunities with Georgetown University

On 31 May, representatives from CCICED Secretariat and Georgetown University (USA) met to explore future cooperation opportunities.

Georgetown University, a globally renowned academic and research institution, has long been involved in cooperation with Chinese higher education institutions. It has established an annual academic exchange mechanism with the Party School of the Communist Party of China. Representatives from Georgetown University said that they hope to have extensive cooperation with CCICED and jointly promote green development in China and around the globe. Activities mentioned included conducting joint research and holding seminars.

Representatives from CCICED indicated that the CCICED Phase VI will further expand the scope and the number of donors and partnerships, by concluding agreements with prominent enterprises and institutions of higher education. Georgetown University has been providing strong support to US government decision-making.



Hot Topics

China Announces Soil Pollution Controls

BEIJING, May 31 (Xinhua) -- An action plan on tackling soil pollution in China was released Tuesday.

The Action Plan for Soil Pollution Prevention and Control aims to improve soil quality, ensure safe agricultural products and a healthy living environment for people, according to the State Council, China's cabinet.

The document said China will curb worsening soil pollution by 2020, put soil pollution risks under control by 2030, and form a virtuous cycle in the ecosystem by 2050.

According to the document, by 2020, 90 percent of polluted arable land and land used for industries and enterprises should be made safe for use, and the figure will be increased to 95 percent by 2030.

The action plan said China, through surveys, aims to find out the size and the distribution of polluted arable land and land used for key industries and enterprises by 2018 and 2020

respectively. Their influences on agricultural products and environment will also be checked out.

China will conduct regular investigations into soil quality every 10 years, and establish a database for soil by 2018, said the document.

By 2020, 13,340 square kilometers of heavily polluted farmland will be returned into forest and grassland, according to the plan.

The cabinet also ordered to include soil assessment in environmental assessment for construction projects discharging major pollutants.

Lists of industrial and mining enterprises that are identified as key targets for soil pollution will be established and released to the public, said the plan.

This is the third pollution action plan issued by the cabinet, following those targeting air and water pollution.

China Ratifies International Treaty to Cut Mercury

China's top legislature on Thursday ratified an international treaty on reducing mercury emissions, which are harmful to humans and the environment.

The National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee approved the Minamata Convention on Mercury at a bi-monthly session, which concluded the same day.

The legally binding global treaty was signed by the then

chief engineer of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Wan Bentai, on behalf of China, on Oct. 10, 2013, in Kumamoto, Japan.

As of Nov. 2, 2015, 128 countries and regional organizations had signed the convention and 18 of them, including the United States, had ratified it.

Paris Agreement on Climate Change sealed

China signed the Paris Agreement on climate change at the UN on Friday, giving a strong push to the international efforts against global warming.

Leaders from 171 countries gathered at the UN to sign the landmark agreement, which is the first step toward the pact's entry into force.

A key party to the agreement, China has pledged to cut its carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 60-65 percent by 2030 from 2005 levels, and increase non-fossil fuel sources in primary energy consumption to about 20 percent and peak its carbon emissions by 2030.

"We will launch a national emission trade market, substantially increase forest carbon sink. We will put in place a strict accountability system for environmental protection and ensure the implementation of all targets," said Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, special envoy of Chinese President Xi Jinping to the signing ceremony.

Zhang also stressed the importance of international cooperation on the fight against climate change.



photo The United Nations environment programme (unep)

Top Legislature Reviews Environmental Report

A report on China's environmental protection record in 2015 was tabled to the top legislature for review on Monday, the first review under the new Environmental Protection Law.

At its bi-monthly session from Monday through Thursday, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) began to deliberate a State Council report that details the environmental situation and status of last year's environmental protection goals.

Having taken effect at the start of 2015, the new

Environmental Protection Law stipulates that governments at county level and above should report annually to the people's congress or its standing committee at the same level on the environmental situation and achievement of environmental protection goals.

The review will help strengthen the top legislature's supervision, ensure the implementation of the new law and set an example for local legislatures to conduct similar reviews.

UN Environment Assembly Adopts 25 Resolutions to Revitalize Green Agenda

The second edition of the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted 25 broad resolutions on May 27th to reactivate green and sustainable development.

Delegates who included ministers, policymakers, industry executives and campaigners from 174 countries endorsed a raft of resolutions to address air pollution, marine litter, chemical waste and wildlife crimes at the end of the five-day meeting in Nairobi.

The 25 resolutions adopted at the global environment assembly oblige governments, private sector and civil society actors to strengthen partnership in order to re-energize the green agenda.

Delegates agreed that nation states should establish innovative measures to combat the emerging environmental threats including ocean pollution, poaching and air pollution.

Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection Chen Jining also spoke at the assembly.

