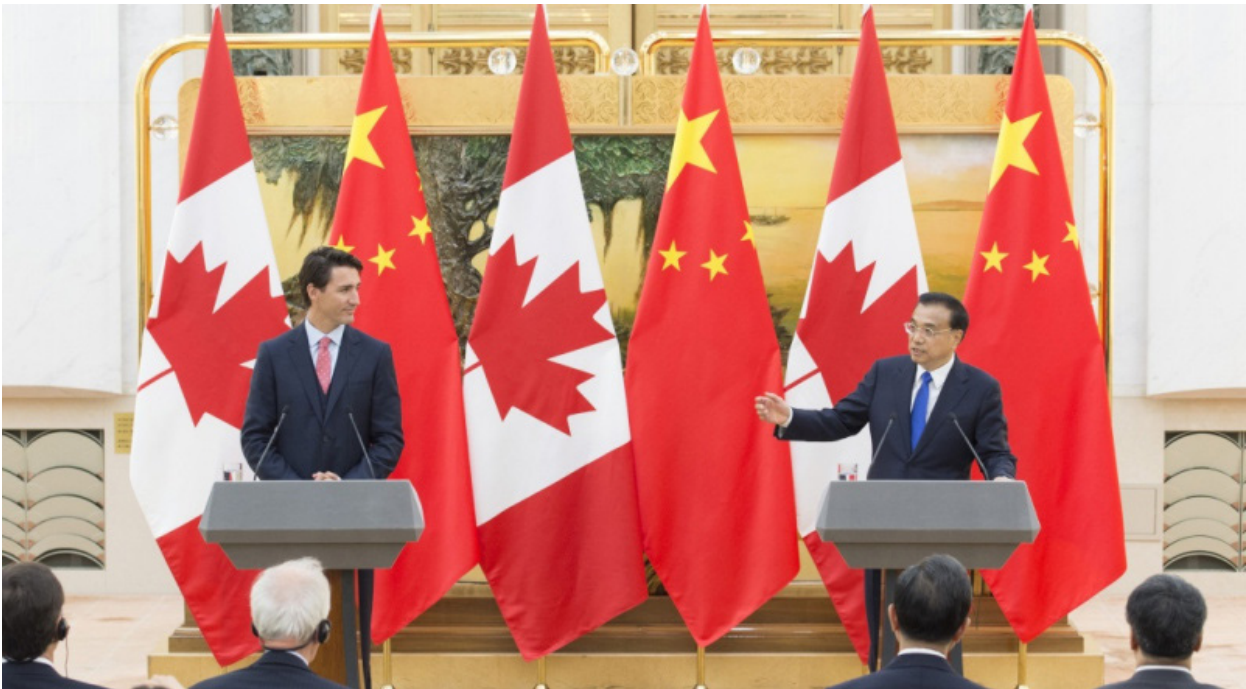


CHINA COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

CCICED UPDATE

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▲ Source: Xinhua

|| CCICED Activities ||



China’s State Council Approves CCICED Phase VI

The State Council of the People’s Republic of China has approved Phase VI of the CCICED (2017-2021).
Founded in 1992, the Council is a high-level, non-profit international advisory body composed of senior Chinese and international figures, well-known in environment and development

circles. The Council’s main tasks are to study critical environment and development issues facing the country, and to provide policy recommendations to the government of China.
Each phase of the CCICED lasts five years, with Phase VI starting in 2017.



Canada Commits to CCICED Phase VI

At the invitation of China’s Premier Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, conducted his first official visit to China from August 30 to September 6, 2016. Prime Minister Trudeau visited Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Hangzhou, where he attended the G20 Leaders’ Summit.
During the visit, the Prime Minister announced his country’s

commitment to Phase VI of the CCICED. He also met with President Xi Jinping, National People’s Congress Standing Committee chairman Zhang Dejiang, and Premier Li Keqiang. Chinese leaders reflected on the remarkable progress made since China-Canada diplomatic ties were established in 1970, and reaffirmed their commitment to a robust and comprehensive strategic relationship between the two countries.



Progress on China's Role in Greening Global Value Chains

The first joint working meeting for CCICED Special Policy Study on China's Role in Greening Global Value Chains was held at Stanford University, California on July 6-8, 2016. The group is exploring feasible policy tools to help China achieve its goal greening of global value chains. The team's tasks are to identify the opportunities and challenges facing China in the context of international trade, and to analyze cases in the bulk trade in soybeans, cotton and copper.

Following the outline of the team's report, discussions centered on describing the present global trade context, identifying China's opportunities and challenges, summing up pertinent case studies, and outlining the most promising policy tools. A draft policy recommendation framework was formulated, and suggestions for revisions of the initial draft were made.

Guest speakers Prof. Thomas Fingar of Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Prof. Sonali Rammohan from Stanford's Knight Management Center, and Prof. Chris Elliott from Climate and Land Use Alliance addressed the team on sustainable development of global value chains, and on forest stewardship certification regimes.



South-South Cooperation Task Force Meets in Beijing



Meeting in Beijing August 30-31, the 3rd Joint Meeting of the CCICED Task Force of South-South Cooperation on Ecological Civilization focused on its draft research report and policy recommendations. Discussions emphasized the principles that South-South cooperation should be carried within the framework of ecological civilization and of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that it needs to balance economic development and environmental protection by enhancing cooperation among developing countries. Participants agreed that recommendations submitted to the government of China need to be feasible and should strengthen China's influence in the global environment management regimes. There was also consensus on the fact that South-South cooperation projects should be based on the stated needs of recipient countries and on China's strengths. The team is exploring an indicator system that would make more transparent the assistance and capacity building provided.



CCICED to Deepen Cooperation with ADB

On July 6, 2016, CCICED Secretariat leaders met with Mr. Ayumi Konishi, Director General of the Asian Development Bank's East Asia Department to discuss further cooperation.

ADB has been working closely with the CCICED since Phase II, and has made important contributions to China's environment and development. Both sides agreed to deepen their cooperation. ADB will continue to serve as an important Council partner, and will actively take part in Phase VI by providing resources and expertise.





CCICED and IISD Discuss Future Cooperation

Representatives from the CCICED Secretariat met with IISD president and CEO Scott Vaughan on July 12th, 2016 in order to brief him on the Council's plans for Phase VI and discuss future cooperation.

Mr. Vaughan indicated IISD hopes to share with the Secretariat its experience in data management and promotion of policy research outcomes. Possible areas of cooperation include how to better promote the Council, build a robust data platform, and holding joint activities.

Mr. Vaughan commended the CCICED on the reforms and innovations to take place during Phase VI, stating that IISD is willing to support the CCICED in a number of areas, including administration and management, policy research and promotion, and capacity building.



Hot Topics



China to Strengthen Efforts to Achieve SDGs



▲ Source: UNDP

Premier Li Keqiang chaired a high-level symposium entitled "Sustainable Development Goals: A Universal Push to Transform Our World - China's Perspective" at UN headquarter in New York. In a speech to participants, Premier Li outlined China's concepts and achievements in development and proposed new measures to advance global development.

Premier Li stated that sustainable development must be at the root of development, while economic growth is fundamental to the process, adding that nothing is possible without development and economic growth. However, he said that development must be sustainable, with coordination between social and economic development and harmony between people and the environment. An open, coordinated and inclusive development meets the common interests of the global community.

UNEP executive director Erik Solheim noted that both China and the US ratified the Paris Agreement, and that China had ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Nagoya Protocol. He praised the leading role China plays in global environmental governance, and stressed that the ratification of the Paris Agreement by China and the US will greatly promote its implementation. He noted that China is taking innovative measures to mitigate climate change, control air pollution and create more jobs in green industries while growing its economy. UNEP supports China's strategy of ecological civilization and will work with China to improve the environment and safeguard human health. UNEP and China are negotiating an agreement on the Belt and Road Initiative. UNEP also hopes to deepen cooperation with China on green economy and green infrastructure development, in order to introduce China's models and experience to more countries, acknowledging the leading role China is playing in promoting global green development.



China Promotes Green Financing Mechanism

China will adopt a green financing mechanism to facilitate the economy's transition to sustainable growth.

According to guidelines released recently by the People's Bank of China and six other central authorities, the move aims to divert more private capital into green sectors and stem investment that might pollute the environment. Great progress has been made in developing green financing mechanisms.

China will continue to enhance international cooperation in

this area and to promote green bond markets.

China put green financing on the G20 agenda in order to mobilize greater investment in environmentally friendly projects. Following a Chinese proposal, the G20 has established a research team on green finance.

The recommendations from the CCICED's 2015 Task Force on Green Finance and Green Transformation have been incorporated into the country's new guidelines.



China Focus: China's successful promotion of green finance for the G20 agenda

Green finance was prominent on the Group of 20 summit agenda, mostly due to China's efforts to ensure the financial sector increases its contribution to environmentally friendly economic growth around the globe.

After China took over the G20 presidency, it quickly moved to make green finance one of the major topics at the summit, which was held Sept. 4-5 in Hangzhou.

China proposed the setup of a G20 Green Finance Study Group led by the central banks of China and Britain, which developed a synthesis report on green finance that was discussed at the Hangzhou summit.

Analysts say that because China is one of the three economies with a green credit index system, the country will

enhance international cooperation in this field and promote green bond markets, sharing valuable experience with the rest of the world.



▲ Source: Xinhua



China Moves toward Taxation on Pollutants



▲ Source: Xinhua

The central government submitted a draft environment tax law to the top legislature for the first reading on August 29th, moving a step closer to a national taxation system on pollutants from business activities.

The law is expected to close existing loopholes such as inadequate implementation and administrative interference. The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress indicates this move will help China's ongoing economic restructuring.

In order to avoid negative impacts on farming, the tax will exclude agricultural pollutants, with the exception of those from large-scale animal husbandry. Also excluded are mobile pollution sources including motor vehicles, ships and aircraft, because similar taxes are already included in their prices. Emissions from urban sewage and refuse treatment plants will also be exempted. Initially, no penalties have been outlined for tax evasion or fraud, but the draft law does state that this taxation does not offset criminal penalties for serious pollution crimes.

One of the 2014 CCICED policy recommendations proposed that the government of China "levy an environmental tax on pollution emission in accordance with the 'Polluter Pays' principle".