



China Council for International Cooperation
on Environment and Development

CCICED UPDATE

CCICED Activities

• CCICED First Working Meeting 2017 successfully held

CCICED First Working Meeting 2017 was held in Beijing on January 13.

Mr. Chen Liang, Director General of Foreign Economic Cooperation Office gave a keynote speech on the National Environmental Protection Meeting, and Mr. Shen Dan, Deputy Director of International Economy Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The meeting has discussed the key activities and research projects in 2017, preparation for CCICED Phase VI and the follow-up work.

The year 2017 is the first year of CCICED Phase VI. CCICED will well organize the Phase VI, hold important events such as the AGM, and initiate research on hot-spot topics in environment and development; cooperate with international organizations, government departments, research institutes, local government and famous enterprises to share good experience and practice in environment and development, jointly promoting ecological civilization and global environmental governance.



• MoU Signed between CCICED and WEF



On January 17, 2017, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the World Economic Forum (WEF) during WEF Annual Meeting 2017 held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

Over the past year, CCICED has conducted joint research with WEF on sharing economy and convened related high-level forums during Summer Davos 2016 and CCICED 2016 Annual General Meeting. Building upon this, two sides will draw on respective strengths, do researches on hot and pressing issues related to environment and development, and share the research results for a stronger global governance system.

CCICED Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Fang Li signed the MoU on behalf of CCICED Secretariat, which was witnessed by Ms. McKenna, Executive Vice Chairperson of CCICED and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, who also attended the Davos meetings.

• CCICED Demonstration Project on Sustainable Consumption Working Meeting Held in Shanghai

On February 28, 2017, CCICED 2016 Demonstration Project on Sustainable Consumption Working Meeting was held in Shanghai.

During the meeting, Shanghai Environmental Protection Agency introduced the building of evaluation index system of sustainable development. Taking the “take back” program and eco-store renovation project as cases, the meeting also had an in-depth discussion on the cost and efficiency, technology difficulties, and policy barriers of sustainable business model.

It was agreed on the meeting that an evaluation index system of sustainable consumption, which is of operability and continuity, geared to international standards and also in line with China’s situation, should be brought forward based on outcomes of CCICED Demonstration Project on Sustainable Consumption. The demonstration project is to further improve the evaluation index system of sustainable consumption, launch quantitative evaluation of Shanghai’s sustainable consumption level, and explore ways to break policy barriers and solve technical problems.

• CCICED salon on “Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization” Held in Beijing

CCICED salon on “Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization” was held in Beijing on February 25, 2017. Bringing together experts and delegates from fields of ocean strategy, fishery and aquaculture, ocean physics, shipping, international affairs, and nonofficial ocean strategy think tanks, the salon focused on how Ecological Civilization leads reform of global ocean governance system, protection and the improvement of ocean ecosystem, and made suggestions to attain SDGs.

Meeting attendees believe that concepts related to Ecological Civilization proposed by President Xi Jinping should not only be used to guide the eco-environment protection of “mountains, waters, forests, and farmlands”, but also to promote the greening of global ocean governance. They also suggested that CCICED should strengthen its efforts on research projects on ocean protection, such as ecological redlining and ocean protection zones, integration of the ocean and land and integrated pollution control, as well as on issues related to biodiversity, climate change and ocean, etc.



• Joint Working Meeting of CCICED Task Force on China’s Green Transition: Outlook 2020-2050 Held in Beijing

On February 28, 2017, CCICED Task Force on China’s Green Transition: Outlook 2020-2050 joint working meeting between international and Chinese members was held in Beijing.

The meeting brought together high-level international and Chinese experts in the field of macroeconomics, energy economy, industrial economy, sustainable development and natural resources management, focusing on why China needs a green transition, how the green economy would be after the transition, what are the conditions for such a transition and why a greener scenario is more efficient than the current situation.

The TF was launched in 2016 as a flagship policy research project, aiming at coming up with policy recommendations for China’s pathway towards a greener economy in the next 30 years, also reflecting on the traditional mode of development that is normally associated with a lot of serious environmental problems. According to the research roadmap, the draft final report is expected to be finished at the end of April and the next joint working meeting is planned to be held in early May.

• Working Meeting on Preparation for CCICED Phase VI Held in Beijing

The Working Meeting on Preparation for CCICED Phase VI was held on March 16, 2017, chaired by Mr. Guo Jing, Director General of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environmental Protection, and Deputy Secretary General of CCICED. During the meeting, CCICED Secretariat made report on its work on preparation for CCICED Phase VI as well as its daily operation and management. Meeting participants discussed how to further improve CCICED's work and put forward specific suggestions.

Mr. Guo Jing conveyed to the meeting instructions given by Minister Chen Jining and Vice Minister Zhao Yingmin on preparation for CCICED Phase VI. He pointed out that, faced with current situations at home and abroad, CCICED will play a more important role. CCICED Secretariat should concentrate on designing the scheme of CCICED for the new phase, and initiate the preparation of China Environment and Development Forum 2017 early on.

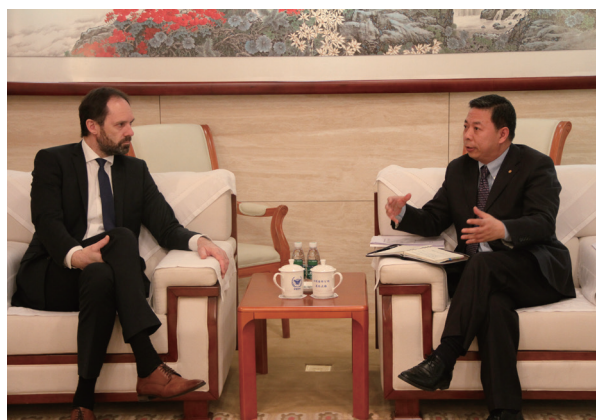
• CCICED and TNC Looking into Future Cooperation

Ms. Fang Li, Assistant Secretary General of CCICED Secretariat, met the The Nature Conservancy (TNC) delegation led by Ms. Lynn Scarlett, Global Managing Director for Public Policy at TNC.

Ms. Scarlett introduced the programmes in land and water protection, climate change and sustainable city that TNC China has launched, and expressed their strong willingness to link TNC's experience to China's national policies through the platform of CCICED.

Ms. Fang highly appreciated the achievements that TNC has made in China and introduced the overall design of CCICED Phase VI. She noted that based on TNC's areas of strength and work priorities of CCICED, two parties could explore the possibility of cooperation in sustainable city, green finance and water, air and soil protection.

• Director General Mr. Guojing met with Mr. Winther



Mr. Guojing, Director General of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection, and Deputy Secretary General of CCICED, met with Mr. Winther, Director of Norwegian Polar Institute and CCICED Member on April 7, 2017. They had an exchange of opinions on CCICED Phase VI and global environmental governance, in particular the ocean protection.

Mr. Winther noted that since ocean is very important for human beings and the society, many nations and NGOs are conducting research projects in ocean protection. Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources have been set up as one of sustainable development goals. China should play a greater role in regional and global ocean protection through the platform of CCICED.

Mr. Guo expressed his sincere gratitude to Mr. Winther for his contributions and support to CCICED, and responded that China attached great importance to ocean protection. CCICED planned to initiate research in ocean pollution, marine biodiversity and ecological management. This year CCICED will organize experts to discuss the above research areas and identify specific research frameworks.

• Director General Mr. Guojing met with representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada

Mr. Guojing, Director General of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection, and Deputy Secretary General of CCICED, met with Ms. Viletta Diamantopoulos, Director of Bilateral Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on April 10, 2017. They had an exchange of opinions on CCICED Phase VI, date of AGM and research areas.

Mr. Guo sincerely thanked ECCC for its long-term support and contributions, and hoped that as the major donor of CCICE, Canada will play a more active role in the new phase.



Hot Topics ●

• 2017 National Work Meeting on Environmental Protection Held in Beijing

On Jan 10-11, 2017 National Work Meeting on Environmental Protection was held by the Ministry of Environmental Protection in Beijing, to introduce progress made in 2016 and key tasks for 2017.

"If we look at the year as a whole, we have made substantial progress, but if we look at winter alone, the improvement is trivial," said Chen Jining, minister of environmental protection when commenting on the country's efforts in air pollution prevention.

To address the problems in winter, China will phase out unclean and inefficient coal-fired boilers, encourage off-peak industrial production and enhance scrutiny and punishment for violations of the rules. Chen vowed to take concrete steps and employ more stringent and effective measures to deal with outstanding environmental problems and improve environmental quality.

As to water quality, the environment minister said that there are 3,186 water quality monitoring stations in China, forming a monitoring network. According to the network, China's surface water quality improved in 2016, with an additional 5.7 percent reaching "drinkable" quality or better compared to the previous year.

Moreover, the country began a plan to appoint "river chiefs" to protect its waters in the latest attempt to control water pollution. Government officials will be hired as river chiefs at the provincial, city, county and township levels, and heads of provincial regions will serve as general chiefs responsible for all rivers and lakes in the region. For large rivers and lakes that span across regions, river chiefs will be responsible for different parts of a body of water and will cooperate in management. The central government expects to expand the practice nationwide by the end of 2018.

For soil protection, China set up about 15,000 risk monitoring stations throughout the country in 2016, according to Chen. In May 2016, an action plan on tackling soil pollution in China was released by the State Council, which is the third pollution action plan issued by the cabinet, following plans targeting air and water pollution. The Action Plan for Soil Pollution Prevention and Control aims to improve soil quality and ensure safe agricultural products and a healthy living environment for people.

Besides its efforts in air, water and soil protection, China is also working to build a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient modern energy system. Green development is one of the five development concepts outlined in China's 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), which also include innovation, coordination, opening up and sharing.

• China aims at "Five Unifications" in environmental protection of river basins

On February 6, the Central Leading Group for Deepening Overall Reform passed the Plan on Pilots for Setting Up Environmental Supervision and Administrative Law Enforcement Agencies in Accordance with Watersources.

In line with the Plan, environmental supervision and law enforcement agencies will be set up in accordance with watercourses to improve environmental protection. A system of unified planning, standards, environment impact assessment, supervision and monitoring, as well as law enforcement (five unifications) will be established to improve the overall effectiveness of environmental protection.

• China to strengthen ecological conservation

China will begin to pilot projects to improve the quality of forests and restore ecosystems along the Yangtze Economic Belt, according to the report to be delivered by Premier Li Keqiang at the opening meeting of the parliament's annual session.

It said China will launch the second group of trial projects to conserve the ecosystems of mountains, forests, farmland, rivers and lakes.

The government will act promptly to set redlines for ecological conservation and hold firm to these lines, the report said.

In addition, chemical oxygen demand and ammonia nitrogen emissions should both drop by two percent this year, so as to strengthen the prevention and control of water and soil pollution, it added.

(Source: Xinhua)

• China swears to make skies blue again

China pledged to markedly bring down PM2.5 density in key areas in 2017 in a government work report available to the media Sunday morning.

Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions will be cut by 3 percent this year, as part of the efforts to make the skies blue again, according to the report to be delivered by Premier Li Keqiang at the opening of the parliament's annual session.

China will work harder to address pollution caused by coal burning, the report said, adding that comprehensive steps will be taken to replace the use of coal with electricity and natural gas in more than three million households.

All small coal-fired furnaces in established districts of cities at the prefectural level and above will be shut down in 2017, it said.

China will step up work on upgrading coal-fired power plants to achieve ultra-low emissions and energy conservation, the report noted, adding that upgrading should be completed this year in the eastern region, next year in the central region, and by 2020 in the western region.

All key sources of industrial pollution will be placed under round-the-clock online monitoring, it said, noting that China will also strengthen research on the causes of smog to improve the scientific basis and precision of the steps taken.

(Source: Xinhua)