



中国环境与发展国际合作委员会

China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

CCICED UPDATE

2018 Issue 2

CCICED Activities

CCICED Roundtable on Global Governance and Ecological Civilization



The Roundtable Meeting on Global Governance and Ecological Civilization was held on the morning of June 20 in Brussels, Belgium, on the sidelines of the China-Canada-EU Climate Summit. The goal of the Roundtable was to ensure full coordination among the special policy studies which are part of the CCICED Task Force on Global Governance and Ecological Civilization. But holding the meeting in Brussels also enhanced the CCICED's profile as a China-international platform on environment and development.

The Roundtable brought together CCICED Members and Special Advisors, team leaders from the three Special Policy Studies (SPS on China's Contributions to Global Climate Governance, SPS on Post 2020: Global Biodiversity Conservation, and SPS on Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization). Other

scholars and experts joined to group to contribute to the discussions focusing on the global environmental governance system and China's evolving role in this area.

Mr. Frans Timmermans, CCICED Member and the First Vice President of the European Commission welcomed participants. Ms. Catherine McKenna, CCICED Executive Vice Chairperson and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada chaired the meeting and also addressed the group. Other key speakers were Mr. XIE Zhenhua, CCICED Vice Chairperson and China's Special Representative on Climate Change, and Mr. Erik Solheim, CCICED Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of UN Environment. Mr. Vidar Helgesen, CCICED Vice Chairperson and Norway's Special Envoy to the High-level Panel on Building a Sustainable Ocean Economy attended and spoke to conclude the meeting.



International Business Roundtable on Innovation and Green Development Held in Changsha

On the afternoon of June 5th, the International Business Roundtable on Innovation and Green Development was held back-to-back with the National Annual Event to mark 2018 World Environment Day in Changsha, Hunan Province. The meeting was co-organized by CCICED, the China-ASEAN Environmental Protection Cooperation Center, and the Hunan Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Chen Wenhao, Vice Governor of Hunan Province, Mr. Liu Shijin, CCICED Chinese Chief Advisor and Vice Chair of the China Development Research Foundation, Mr. Arthur Hanson, CCICED International Chief Advisor, and Mr. Tu Ruihe, China Country Representative of UN Environment attended the meeting and delivered opening remarks.

Speakers agreed that with the rapid development of metropolitan areas as well as small and medium-sized towns, China is experiencing a significant agglomeration of urban areas. This is characterized by the rapid migration of large populations, especially young people, to the cities. But this current round of urbanization needs to proceed on a more sustainable, green pathway. The concept of "Green is Gold" proposed by President Xi Jinping enjoys popular supports and is now the national development strategy. Green development will drive economic growth, innovation and consumption. In recent years, urbanization has exhibited a strong demand for green consumption green innovation, including a large number of new technologies and new products such as mobile payments, artificial intelligence and shared bicycles, and the vigorous development of green finance. This evolution underpins green urbanization.



Inception Meeting of the SPS on Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Conservation

On June 3, the SPS on Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Conservation held its inception meeting in Beijing. The team plans a comprehensive review the progress made implementing the global and Chinese biodiversity conservation strategies, the various safeguard mechanisms and lessons learned. The goal is to provide advice to the Government of China and help identify the critical issues to address during the 2020 Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity which is to be held in China.

Participants believe that synergies should be identified among biodiversity conservation efforts and efforts on other major environmental issues such as climate change and global ocean governance. The formulation and implementation of future strategies of the Convention should be in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification, in order to avoid fragmented and decentralized efforts. In addition, the relationship between biodiversity conservation and socio-economic issues such as poverty reduction, gender equality, investment, and trade should be fully considered.



Inception Meeting of the SPS on Ecological Compensation and Green Development Institutional Reform in Yangtze River Economic Belt

On June 6, the inception meeting of the SPS on Ecological Compensation and Green Development Institutional Reform in the Yangtze River Economic Belt was held in Beijing.

Guided by the national development strategy of Yangtze River Economic Belt (YREB), the project analyzes the problems encountered in this process, focusing mostly on ecological compensation reform, water environment quality and other needs for environmental quality improvement, comprehensive reform of the ecological environment system of the YREB, and which gender issues need to be taken into account for effective development. The Chinese experts presented the context for the project, outlined the SPS main tasks, expected results and outline how the work would be organized. International experts discussed their experience in the YREB and elsewhere in the areas of agricultural pollution control, protection of bamboo forest ecosystems, and the Chishui River Basin rehabilitation. Also discussed were the team's research priorities, expertise required and timetable. The SPS plans to submit one research report and policy recommendations to this year's Annual General Meeting.



Inception Meeting of SPS on Green Belt and Road and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On June 2, the SPS on Green Belt and Road and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development held its inception meeting in Beijing.

Issues discussed included the background and framework of the SPS, international examples in this area, the progress made in the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, the building of a long-term mechanism for greening "Belt and Road" and promote green value chains.



The 2nd Open CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting

The second open CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting was held on July 11, attended by CCICED partners and experts of Special Policy Studies (SPS).

The Secretariat gave an update on its recent work progress and the meeting discussed the preliminary arrangements for the CCICED 2018 Annual General Meeting and its open forums. Progress updates were presented by representatives from the five CCICED SPSs that have started their work, namely on Post 2020: Global Biodiversity Conservation, Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization, Green Urbanization Strategy and Pathways towards Regional Integrated Development, Yangtze River Ecological Compensation and Green Development Institutional Reform, and Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and 2030 SDGs.

MOU Between CCICED and WRI Signed

Officials with the CCICED and the World Resources Institute (WRI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on May 7, 2018. The MOU commits both parties to continue to strengthen their research cooperation and to work jointly on public information, personnel exchange and capacity building.

The MOU was signed by Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary-General, and Ms. Li Lailai, Chief Representative of World Resources Institute (USA) Beijing Representative Office.



The first open CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting

The first open CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting of the year was held on 25th, April and attended by partners and experts of the Special Policy Studies (SPS).

Meeting participants discussed the 2018 AGM, the year's plans for roundtable meetings, policy research, local demonstration projects and the Council's gender equality strategy. In 2018, the following SPS will be initiated: China's Contributions to Global Climate Governance, Post 2020: Global Biodiversity Conservation, Green Urbanization Strategy and Pathways towards Regional Integrated Development, Yangtze River Ecological Compensation and Green Development Institutional Reform, Yangtze River Ecological Compensation and Green Development Institutional Reform, Green Transition and Sustainable Social Governance, and Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and 2030 SDGs. In addition, CCICED will further work from the SPS on Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization which was established in 2017.

China Environment News

China unveils guideline to win battle against pollution

China has unveiled a guideline document to comprehensively enhance ecological and environmental protection and win the battle against pollution of air, water and soil.

The guideline, published by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council, specified pollution prevention and control targets the country expects to achieve by 2020 and beyond.

China will develop and implement a three-year plan to fight air pollution, with much focus on regions like the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and its neighbouring areas, and the Yangtze River Delta. Efforts will be made to improve the region's industry, energy, transport and land use structures.

By 2020, cities with low air quality standards should see their density of PM 2.5, a key indicator of air pollution, fall at least 18 percent from 2015 levels, while cities at prefecture level and above should see the number of good-air days reach over 80 percent annually.

Emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides should drop at least 15 percent from 2015 levels, while chemical oxygen demand and emission of ammonia nitrogen should decrease by over 10 percent, according to the plan.

For water quality improvement, the country will continue to implement the action plan on fighting water pollution as well as the systems of river and lake chiefs.

China aims to see over 70 percent of its surface water to be drinkable by 2020, while the share of polluted surface water should be controlled within five percent. Meanwhile, about 70 percent of the country's offshore area water should be of good quality.

To address soil pollution, China will comprehensively implement the action plan with specific measures taken to control soil pollution and restore polluted soil, promote classified disposal of waste and enhance prevention and control of solid waste pollution.

By 2020, about 90 percent of the polluted farmland can be utilized safely while over 90 percent of the contaminated land will be able to be used safely, according to the guideline.

Source : xinhua

China to implement three-year action plan for cleaner air

China will begin to implement a three-year action plan for cleaner air later this year, an environmental official said on June 20.

The plan aims to markedly improve air quality and people's satisfaction with it, said Zhao Yingmin, vice minister of ecology and environment, at a press briefing.

By 2020, emissions of sulfur dioxide and ammonia oxides should drop at least 15 percent from 2015 levels, while cities with low air quality standards should see their density of PM 2.5, a key indicator of air pollution, fall at least 18 percent, according to the plan.

Cities at prefecture level and above should see the number of good-air days reach 80 percent annually and the percentage of heavily polluted days decrease by 25 percent or more from 2015 levels.

To achieve the goals, authorities will optimize the industrial structure, promote clean energy, develop green transport, and strengthen regional coordination, Zhao said.

Efforts will be focused on areas including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surroundings, the Yangtze River Delta, and the Fenhe and Weihe river plains. Economic, legal, technological, and administrative means will be adopted.

China accomplished all the major tasks of its five-year clean air action plan in 2017, but challenges remain. A large number of cities still need to further improve air quality.

Source : xinhua



China to inspect enforcement of air pollution control law

China's top legislature will send four teams of lawmakers to inspect enforcement of the air pollution control law in eight provincial-level regions across the country.

The inspection is aimed at pushing the whole Party and nation to willingly adopt the new development concept and effectively implement major environmental policies made by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said Li Zhanshu, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee and a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, who presided over the meeting.

The inspection will also address outstanding environmental issues of public concern, press governments at all levels and businesses to carry out their duties, and raise public awareness, Li said.

He instructed lawmakers to follow due process and carry out their duties rigorously, target red-flagged regions and sectors and the prominent problems that harm the interests of the public, and put forward practical and effective solutions.

He also warned them against any form of bureaucracy.

In addition to sending inspection teams, the NPC Standing Committee will also entrust standing committees of the remaining 23 provincial-level people's congresses to inspect the enforcement of the law within their jurisdictions.

Source : xinhua

China sends supervisors to inspect urban water pollution control

Chinese authorities on May 14 launched a campaign against water pollution in cities, with inspection teams sent to provincial regions to check on progress in urban water pollution control.

The first batch of teams have been sent to inspect 20 cities in Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Anhui, Hunan and Hubei, focusing on "black odorous water," or sewage and garbage discharge issues, said the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

The campaign aims to accelerate the construction of environmental protection infrastructure and facilities so the urban water environment will be fundamentally improved, the ministry said.

China set a target to eliminate 90 percent of "black odorous water" in major cities by the end of last year, while that in all cities at the prefectural level and above should have been reduced by an average of 60 percent, according to a national action plan.

Inspection teams will be sent to 36 major cities and some prefectural-level cities in May and June, and they may inspect again later this year to see whether problems have been solved, said the ministry.

Besides water quality data, public satisfaction will be taken into consideration as a primary factor when assessing water pollution control work, it said.

The government has passed its toughest-ever environmental protection law and introduced a "river chief" system to protect water resources. Ecological "red lines" will also be drawn in certain regions to strengthen environmental protection, according to earlier planning.