



# ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation 2016-2020

Ministry of Environmental Protection of China  
Environmental Authorities of ASEAN Member States

## Table of Contents

1.	Background.....	1
	1.1 ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation & Regional Sustainable Development .....	1
	1.2 New Progress of Environmental Protection in China and ASEAN.....	1
2.	Review of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation .....	3
	2.1 Adoption of ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation (2009-2015) .....	3
	2.2 Adoption of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013).....	4
	2.3 Adoption of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2014-2015).....	4
	2.4 Establishment of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center .....	4
	2.5 Organizing ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum.....	5
	2.6 Launching and Implementing ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program.....	6
	2.7 Promoting cooperation on Biodiversity and ecological conservation .....	7
	2.8 Advancing cooperation on environmentally sound technology and industry .....	8
	2.9 Conduct joint policy research .....	8
3.	Objectives and Principles of Cooperation .....	9
	3.1 Objectives of Cooperation.....	9
	3.2 Principles .....	9
4.	Areas of Cooperation .....	10
	4.1 Policy Dialogue and Exchange.....	10
	4.2 Cooperation on Environmental Data and Information Sharing.....	10
	4.3 Cooperation on Environmental Risk Assessment and Management .....	10
	4.4 Cooperation on Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation .....	10
	4.5 Promoting Environmental Industry and Technology for Green Development .....	11
	4.6 Cooperation on Environmentally Sustainable Cities .....	12
	4.7 Environmental Education and Public Awareness .....	13
	4.8 Institutional and Human Capability Building.....	13
	4.9 Joint research .....	13
5.	Implementation Arrangements.....	14
	5.1 Institutional arrangement.....	14
	5.2 Funding mechanism .....	14
	5.3 Forms of cooperation.....	14

## **1. Background**

### **1.1 ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation & Regional Sustainable Development**

1. In the context that environmental degradation becomes a big challenge to the economic and social development in the world, sustainable development is widely recognized as development strategy by the international community. Enhancing environmental cooperation at national, regional and international levels is vital for countries to achieve sustainable development goals.
2. Since the organization of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the international community has actively carried out cooperation on sustainable development and the cooperation witnessed remarkable progress. In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro (Rio + 20 Conference) adopted the outcome document entitled “The Future We Want”, which sets the direction and targets for the development and cooperation in the future. Given that the implementation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will reach its end in 2015, consideration of a post 2015 development agenda is underway.
3. In the area of sustainable development cooperation, South-South cooperation among developing countries received increasing attention from the international community. As an important part of the efforts to promote global sustainable development, South-South cooperation for sustainable development presents great importance and faces unprecedented opportunities.
4. The developing countries face various challenges in the field of sustainable development, such as inequitable development both within and among countries, environmental pollution and ecological degradation, lack of funds and technologies, and insufficient institutional and human capacity to address the environmental problems. The international financial crisis, climate change, food and energy shortage and intensive natural disasters cause even more difficulties for developing countries to realize sustainable development.
5. As the most dynamic and diversified region in the world, Asia-Pacific region witnessed rapid economic growth and partial achievement of MDGs over the past decades. However, the region is still home to a huge poor population. Their livelihood relies on the goods and service provided by sound environment and ecosystem. Pursuing sustainable development is particularly important for this region.
6. Strengthening ASEAN-China environmental cooperation will benefit developing countries in this region by enhancing environmental quality and conservation of natural ecosystem, thereby contributing to the improvement of economic development quality, people’s welfare, and the achievement of long-term developments goals.

### **1.2 New Progress of Environmental Protection in China and ASEAN**

7. Both China and AMS are developing countries, facing similar problems such as environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, ecosystem degradation together with rapid growth of economy, growth of population, acceleration of industrialization and urbanization. To tackle the challenges, China and AMS have adopted a series of effective policies in combination

with various measures, and made remarkable progress in promoting green and sustainable development.

8. In 2013, the Chinese government decided to comprehensively deepen the reform, by pushing forward the systemic and institutional reforms for environmental protection, promoting ecological civilization with the aim to build a “Beautiful China”. The initiatives include acceleration of the establishment of the ecological civilization system, improvement of the administration of territorial management, and resources conservation and environmental protection.
9. In April 2014, the Revision of the Environmental Protection Law was ratified by the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of China. There are some critical breakthroughs in the revised “Environmental Protection Law”, e.g. setting of the responsibilities of the governments at different levels for environmental protection, environment and economy related policies, classification of ecological function zones, delineation of ecological red lines, environmental supervision, monitoring and regulation, environmental information disclosure, encouragement of public participation, environmental public interests litigation, accountability, etc. It provides a solid legal safeguard to the environmental protection of China in the future.
10. The ASEAN Community building efforts have experienced important progress. In environment sector, progress has been made in the following 11 priority areas of cooperation as outlined in ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2009-2015:
  - (a) addressing global environmental issues;
  - (b) managing and preventing transboundary environmental pollution;
  - (c) promoting sustainable development through environmental education and public participation;
  - (d) promoting Environmentally Sound Technology (EST);
  - (e) promoting quality living standards in ASEAN cities/ urban areas;
  - (f) harmonizing environmental policies and databases;
  - (g) promoting the sustainable use of coastal and marine environment;
  - (h) promoting Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity;
  - (i) promoting the sustainability of freshwater resources;
  - (j) responding to Climate Change and addressing its impacts;
  - (k) promoting Forest Sustainable Management.
11. Key programmes include implementation of ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy including the five (5)-year International Fund for Agricultural Development – Global Environment Facility (IFAD-GEF) project on rehabilitation of peatland forests in Southeast Asia, implementation of ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan, development of ASEAN Guidelines on Eco-schools, and implementation of ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme and ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable City Award Programme.

## **2. Review of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation**

12. China and ASEAN are close neighbours with common boundaries of mountains and rivers, similar cultures and traditions. Since the establishment of China-ASEAN strategic partnership between China and ASEAN, notable progress has been recorded. The environmental cooperation between China and ASEAN supports regional social and economic cooperation and helps deepen the mutual understanding and friendship among China and AMS. Following economic and social development in China and ASEAN, environmental protection has become a priority area in the ASEAN-China cooperation.
13. Building a resource-conserving, environmentally friendly society is a common goal for China and AMS. Protecting the environment, reducing environmental pollution, curbing ecological deterioration through strengthened cooperation serve the common interests of China and AMS. In 2003, China and ASEAN signed Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity, which emphasized to strengthen cooperation through "more exchanges in science and technology, environment, education, culture, personnel", and enhance "mutual cooperation mechanism in these fields".
14. In November 2007, at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit, then Chinese Premier Mr. Wen Jiabao proposed to set up the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center and formulate cooperation strategy. In 2009, ASEAN and China formulated and adopted the "ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation 2009-2015", setting the goal, principles and six cooperation priority areas. In 2010, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China established the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center. In 2011, ASEAN and China formulated and adopted "ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013)", and in 2013 they formulated and adopted "ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2014-2015)".
15. Under the framework of cooperation strategy and its action plan, ASEAN and China have implemented various cooperation activities including cooperation on high-level policy dialogues, ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program, biodiversity and ecological conservation, environmental industry and technology, and joint research, etc. The environmental cooperation between China and ASEAN contributes to the enhancement of South-South environmental cooperation.

### **2.1 Adoption of ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation (2009-2015)**

16. In 2009, the Minister of Environmental Protection of China and ASEAN Environment adopted "ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation (2009-2015)". The overall objective of the Strategy is to strengthen ASEAN-China cooperation on agreed priority areas of environmental protection by taking a coordinated and step-by-step approach with a view to achieve environmental sustainability in the region.
17. During the period of the implementation of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation (2009-2015), the environmental cooperation between China and ASEAN focused on six priority areas as follows [AMS]:

- (a) public awareness and environmental education
- (b) environmentally sound technology, environmental labeling and cleaner production
- (c) biodiversity conservation
- (d) environmental management capacity building
- (e) cooperation on environmental goods and services
- (f) global environmental issues

## **2.2 Adoption of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013)**

18. In 2011, China and ASEAN developed and adopted the “ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013)”. The actions outlined in the Action Plan included conducting high level policy dialogue on environmental cooperation, launching and implementing the ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program, cooperation on biodiversity and ecological conservation, promotion of the environmental industry and technology exchange, and conducting joint research. National focal points were appointed for the implementation of the action plan. The China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center and the Environmental Division of the ASEAN secretariat were responsible for coordination and implementation.

## **2.3 Adoption of ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2014-2015)**

19. To further implement cooperation strategy and strengthen ASEAN-China environmental cooperation, after the expiration of the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013) in 2013, China and ASEAN held the “Seminar on ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation: Review and Prospect” in April 2013, and agreed to formulate a new action plan. Consensus was reached on the content of the new action plan during the seminar.
20. In 2013, China and ASEAN jointly formulated and adopted “ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2014-2015)”. The content of the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2014-2015) included: strengthening policy dialogue on environmental cooperation by organizing ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum; continuing implementation of the ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program; strengthening cooperation on biodiversity and ecological conservation, environmental industries and technology; and developing ASEAN-China Environmental Outlook.

## **2.4 Establishment of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center**

21. With the approval of the Chinese Government, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China launched the establishment of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center in March 2010. H. E. Mr. Zhou Shengxian, then Minister of Environmental Protection of China, H. E. Dato’ Misran Karmain, then Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and H. E.

Mr. Hu Zhengyue, then Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China inaugurated the establishment of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center in May 2011.

22. As an open platform to promote environmental cooperation among China and AMS, the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center has the mandate to do the following:
- (a) serve as a Focal Point for environmental cooperation between China and ASEAN;
  - (b) provide support to the government agencies both in China and in AMS for developing cooperation strategy/plan on environment;
  - (c) play the key roles and provide technical support on coordination and implementation of the programs and projects;
  - (d) facilitate the dialogues on environment and development policy, including the proposed China - ASEAN environment ministerial level meeting and other high level environmental exchange activities;
  - (e) promote of the cooperation on environmental technology, business community and the exchanges between public and private sectors;
  - (f) conduct joint policy study on selected key issues in the region, and provide the policy recommendations to the policy makers; and
  - (g) develop of the partnership with all interested countries and international organizations and build up the network to support the programs and activities jointly developed by China and ASEAN.

## **2.5 Organizing ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum**

23. ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum is an important platform for China and ASEAN to conduct high level policy dialogue, promote pragmatic cooperation and exchanges. The forum is focused on ASEAN-China environmental issues of common concern, with the participation of policy maker, entrepreneurs, academicians and experts from China, AMS, international organizations, and non-governmental organisations, etc.
24. In October 2011, the first ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum was held in Nanning, China. Representatives from the ASEAN secretariat, environmental authorities of AMS, Minister of Environmental Protection of China, local environmental departments, research institutions and enterprises, as well as international organizations and partners such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific, and the Asian Development Bank participated in the Forum. The Forum themed “Innovation and Green Development” was one of the events of the 8th China-ASEAN Expo.
25. In September 2012, the second ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum was held in Beijing, China, with the participants from China, AMS and their embassies in China, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, UNEP, Secretariat of United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Asian Development Bank, World Conservation Union, Fauna Flora International, World wildlife Fund, etc. The theme of the Forum was “Biodiversity and Regional Green Development”.

26. In September 2013, the third ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum was held in Guilin, Guangxi province, with participants from China, AMS, international organizations and partners such as UNEP, the United Nations Economic and Social Committee for Asia and the Pacific, Asian Development Bank, etc. The theme of the Forum was “Building up Partnership for Regional Green Transformation”. It was one of the events for the tenth anniversary of China-ASEAN strategic partnership, and also an important activity of the 10th China-ASEAN Expo.
27. In September 2014, the fourth ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum themed “National Strategy and Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development: New Challenges and New Opportunities” was held in Nanning, Guangxi province, with the participants from China, AMS, international organizations and partners,

## **2.6 Launching and Implementing ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program**

28. The ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program, officially launched in October 2011, is one action identified in the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013), in the area of public awareness and education. The program has three components, namely Green Innovation (capability building for government decision makers), Green Pioneer (awareness and education for youth) and Green Entrepreneur (establishment of partnership among enterprises for green development).
29. In order to implement the cooperation strategy, under the framework of ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program, ASEAN and China implemented following activities:

### (1)Capacity building for policy makers

Green Envoys Program (GEP) has offered capacity building projects to decision makers from AMS via forums and workshops to meet the demands for green development and regional cooperation. Several projects have been conducted for this purpose, namely the Workshop on Environmental Enforcement in Beijing in April 2011, the Workshop on Green Economy and Environmental Management in Beijing in July 2012, the Workshop on Green Economy & Urban Environmental Management in Beijing in April 2013 and the Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment in May 2014. Participants came from relative governmental departments, academies and international organizations both from China and AMS.

### (2)Environmental education and public awareness for youth

GEP has attached great importance to the special role of the public awareness and participation by youth and has made a lot of efforts in this area, such as the Youth Seminar on Green Development in May 2012 in Beijing, the Youth Seminar on Green Economy and Ecological innovation in September 2012 in Beijing and, the Youth Seminar on Green School in July 2013 in Beijing, GEP is also active in ASEAN+3 Youth Environment Forum hosted by ASEAN. Participants from both China and



ASEAN member countries have been involved in GEP. Moreover, GEP boosts the construction of the cooperation network among regional youth for more public participation and higher awareness.

### (3) Platform and partnership building

Besides support from institutions like Asian Development Bank, Center for Environmental Education and Communications of Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, UNEP, GIZ, WWF, Science, Technology, and the Environment Partnership Centre (Ministry of Education, Brunei), Green Commuting Fund and Beijing Normal University, etc., GEP has developed a good relationship with environmental administrations both from China and AMS since its launch, as well as ASEAN Secretariat and other relevant institutes.

## **2.7 Promoting cooperation on Biodiversity and ecological conservation**

30. Biodiversity conservation is one of the priorities identified by the Strategy 2009-2015. Supported by Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and the ASEAN secretariat, China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity have developed the “ASEAN-China biodiversity and ecological protection cooperation plan”. The project aims to support China and AMS to increase capacity to develop and implement policies, plans and actions of biodiversity and ecological conservation. Under the project, ASEAN and China carried out the personnel exchanges, held the ASEAN-China seminar on biodiversity conservation cooperation, and developed "Case studies on China–ASEAN biodiversity and ecological conservation” which was published in 2013.
31. With the support of the UNEP and in collaboration with ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center organized the "Workshop on ASEAN-China implementation of biodiversity conservation strategy and Aichi target capacity building" and "Seminar on China - ASEAN biodiversity conservation practice " in Kunming, China in July 2013. Representatives from China, AMS, UNEP, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Secretariat of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Fauna Flora International (FFI) attended the events.
32. With the support of UNEP, the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity together with international experts are developing the “ASEAN-China policy instruments and practices of cooperation on biodiversity conservation” which was completed in 2014.
33. With the recognition of the challenges of achieving Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi Target, South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity should be enhanced to complement North-South and triangular cooperation. This cooperation and the Multi-Year Plan of Action represent vital tools for China and ASEAN countries to enhance effective

implementation through technology support and capacity building.

## **2.8 Advancing cooperation on environmentally sound technology and industry**

34. Environmentally sound technology and industry is one of the priority areas identified in the “ASEAN-China Environmental Protection Cooperation Strategy”. Along with deepening regional economic integration and the emphasis on environmental problems, environmental technology and industry cooperation will play an important role in the future.
35. In 2012, with the support of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and the ASEAN Secretariat, CAEC developed the "ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry" which aims to provide a roadmap for China and the ASEAN to strengthen cooperation in environmentally sound technology and industry. The actions outlined in the framework includes setting up a network for environmentally sound technology and industrial cooperation, establishing a service platform, establishing demonstration base, and developing pilot projects, etc.
36. In October 2013, Premier Li Keqiang proposed to establish a China-ASEAN Demonstration Base for Environmental Technology and Industry cooperation as an initiative for China-ASEAN environmental industry cooperation at the 16th China-ASEAN Summit. In May 2014, the Conference on China-ASEAN Environmental Industry Cooperation was held by the Ministry of Environmental Protection in Yixing, China, supported by ASEAN Secretariat and AMS. The ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry was launched and the China-ASEAN Demonstration Base for Environmental Technology and Industry Cooperation (Yixing) was inaugurated at the conference.

## **2.9 Conduct joint policy research**

37. China and ASEAN are working together to prepare the China-ASEAN Environment Outlook as required by the Action Plan. The ASEAN-China Environment Outlook is designed to analyze and assess the status and future development trend of cooperation on the environment and development between China and ASEAN from a regional perspective, to provide necessary knowledge, experience and tools for deepening environmental cooperation and further promoting regional sustainable development. The ASEAN-China Environment Outlook themed “Towards Green Development” emphasizes the evaluation of green development status in China and ASEAN, analyses major problems facing China and ASEAN in respect to environment and development, and summarises the main policies & measures and best practices for promoting green development by China and ASEAN, as well as provides policy recommendations on green development.
38. The application submitted by China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center for support from China-ASEAN Cooperation Fund was approved. In February 2014, the kick-off meeting for China-ASEAN Environment Outlook project was held in Beijing, attended by ASEAN Secretariat representatives, members of core panels (including ASEAN, Chinese and international experts), and

representatives from relevant international institutions. This meeting agreed on the outline and framework of the report, and defined the overall orientation of “Outlook, division of tasks, and timeline. This ASEAN-China Environment Outlook is due to be completed in 2015.

### **3. Objectives and Principles of Cooperation**

#### **3.1 Objectives of Cooperation**

39. The overall objective of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation (2016-2020) is to strengthen ASEAN-China cooperation in priority areas of environmental protection by taking a coordinated and integrated approach with a view to achieving environmental sustainability in the region. The specific objectives of the ASEAN-China Strategy on Environmental Cooperation (2016-2020) are as follows:
- (a) enhancing high-level policy dialogue with focus on environmental issues of common concern to increase understanding, enhance cooperation and secure the harmonization of interests of ASEAN and China;
  - (b) Enhancing dialogue and cooperation on environmental protection;
  - (c) improving capacity for national and regional environmental management through sharing knowledge and experiences and implementing joint actions;
  - (d) enhancing cooperation on priority areas, improving effectiveness and quality of cooperation, and developing good practices for regional and South-South<sup>1</sup> environmental cooperation; and
  - (e) supporting ASEAN Community’s Post-2015 Vision.

#### **3.2 Principles**

40. The principles for guiding ASEAN-China environmental cooperation are as follows:
- (a) taking coordinated and integrated steps to address global and regional environmental issues by taking into account obligations under multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) [to which countries are parties to], as well as national circumstances and development status;
  - (b) conducting cooperation and dialogue on an equal position within the mandate and responsibilities of environmental authorities; and cooperation is based on the principles of mutual benefits, consultation and consensus.

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<sup>1</sup> South-South Cooperation is a term generally used to describe the exchange of resources, technology and knowledge between developing countries

## **4. Areas of Cooperation**

### **4.1 Policy Dialogue and Exchange**

41. Objective:

To provide various platforms for China and ASEAN environmental policy makers to exchange views on major regional environmental issues, to share environmental management experience, to improve cooperation by taking joint actions, and to carry out the consensus reached by China and ASEAN leaders.

42. Activities:

- (a) organizing ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum; and
- (b) organizing ASEAN-China Environment Ministers Meeting at an appropriate time.

### **4.2 Environmental Data and Information Management**

43. Objective:

To enhance ASEAN and China's capacity to collect, process and utilize environmental data and information

44. Activities:

- (a) developing ASEAN-China joint platform on environmental information sharing, a cooperation initiative made at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-China Summit;
- (b) conducting knowledge and experience sharing on environmental information and data, by taking into account the possibility of harmonization of environmental standards; and
- (c) conducting capacity building activities on collection, processing, and use of environmental information and data.

### **4.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

45. Objective:

To enhance ASEAN and China's capacity in the field of environmental impact assessment through knowledge and experience sharing.

46. Activities:

- (a) conducting capacity building cooperation on EIA; and
- (b) conducting joint research on environmental impact assessment and management.

### **4.4 Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation**

47. Objective:

To further develop and implement the ASEAN-China Cooperation Plan on Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation in collaboration

with ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, so as to improve China and AMS capacity and consciousness in developing policies, strategies or action plans with regard to biodiversity conservation, implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international obligations, and promoting the conservation, management and sustainable use of biological resources.

48. Activities:

- (a) sharing experience on ecological protection in both urban and rural areas and carrying out cooperation on demonstration projects;
- (b) enhancing capacity for biodiversity protection to contribute to poverty alleviation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- (c) promoting cooperation on priority biodiversity conservation areas such as ASEAN Heritage Parks;
- (d) promoting cooperation on marine environmental protection areas such as mangrove reserve, coastal zone planning, coral reefs restoring and marine litter pollution control;
- (e) exploring the potential of biodiversity and strengthening monitoring of the current ecology conservation and demonstration cooperation;
- (f) Promoting collaboration on scientific research in areas such as land-based pollution management, climate change research;
- (g) Conducting study on policy tools and practices of biodiversity and ecological conservation. Such studies would include but not limited to:
  - (i) The Economic of Ecosystem services and Biodiversity
  - (ii) Fair and equitable sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
  - (iii) Management and eradication of invasive alien species
  - (iv) Private sector engagement
  - (v) Awareness raising for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of its component; and
- (h) Enhancing capacity to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets

#### **4.5 Promoting Environmental Industry and Technology for Green Development**

49. Objective:

To implement the ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry by building up a platform for information exchange, conducting demonstration projects and developing joint research on environmental technology, in support of the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

50. Activities:

- (a) Implementing ASEAN-China Cooperation Framework for Environmentally Sound Technology and Industry;
- (b) Strengthening communication and cooperation among government agencies, entrepreneurs, research institutes, researchers and

associations in environmental protection industry between China and AMS by organizing conference on China-ASEAN environmental industry cooperation regularly and creating a platform for sharing experience and promoting technology transfer among enterprises in China and ASEAN;

- (c) Conducting collaborative research on environmental technology pollution prevention and treatment, and carrying out related training projects;
- (d) Continuing to promote demonstration bases and exploring appropriate equipment and cooperation methods for AMS by selecting specific cooperation projects and trying to conduct bilateral technological cooperation between China and specific AMS;
- (e) Enhancing knowledge sharing in environmental labeling products certification, organic certification, good agriculture practice attestation, and other mechanisms such as green supply chain to promote sustainable consumption and production; and
- (f) Promoting bilateral cooperation on environmental labeling to establish China-ASEAN Environmental Labeling Alliance for green trade development.

#### **4.6 Environmentally Sustainable Cities**

##### **51. Objective:**

Improving the capability in promoting environmentally sustainable cities in China and ASEAN including small and growing urban areas through knowledge and experience sharing as well as network and partnership building.

##### **52. Activities:**

- (a) conducting knowledge and experience sharing on urban ecological conservation to promote ecologically friendly urban development;
- (b) strengthening cooperation on sustainable production and consumption in the context of urbanization
- (c) conducting cooperation on environmentally sound treatment and disposal of urban waste with linkage to the ASEAN Clean Air, Clean Water, Clean Land Initiative;
- (d) promoting cooperation to address climate change mitigation and adaptation and on, environment-friendly, and climate resilient cities which supplement activities under the ASEAN Action Plan on Joint Response to Climate Change (AAP-JRCC) under the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC);
- (e) developing Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) model cities through public and multi-partner participation;
- (f) promoting cooperation with linkage to ASEAN ESC Model Cities programme;
- (g) Promoting the use of certificates and awards as incentive measures; and
- (h) Promoting a network to share knowledge and experiences on urban forestry/ forest management.

#### **4.7 Environmental Education and Public Awareness**

53. Objective:

Enhancing ASEAN-China public awareness of environmental protection through exchanges and cooperation between environmental education institutions as well as relevant government agencies and civil society of China and AMS, supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2014-2018.

54. Activities:

- (a) continuously implementing Green Envoys Program (GEP) for more actions in personnel exchange, capacity building and policy dialogues;
- (b) setting up a platform for knowledge, know-how and good practices sharing for more public participation, through linkage with ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database;
- (c) supporting Eco-schools in AMS and developing the cooperation network among youth in China and AMS, encouraging discussion on emerging environmental issues and promoting linkage with other international youth network within the region for more knowledge sharing for joint efforts; and
- (d) mobilising resources among China and AMS for enhancing the implementation of environmental education and public awareness nationwide.

#### **4.8 Institutional and Human Capability Building**

55. Objective:

To enhance capacity of environmental management in China and AMS through various means under GEP.

56. Activities:

- (a) strengthening comprehensive training for environment management personnel and enhancing capacity for policy formulation on environmental economics and environment and health;
- (b) providing a platform for sharing experience on enforcement of environmental laws, and relevant legislations; and
- (c) conducting mutual visits and personnel exchanges of environment management personnel to improve their capacity for environment management in China and AMS.

#### **4.9 Joint research**

57. Objectives:

To promote communication and exchange and capacity building among scholars and think tanks in order to forge green think tanks in China and ASEAN

58. Activities:

- (a) developing and releasing the China-ASEAN Environment Outlook; and
- (b) carrying out studies on global and regional emerging environmental and development issues of common concern in China and ASEAN, and sharing the outcome of the studies through existing ASEAN-China cooperation mechanism in order to provide targeted, scientific and information-based policy recommendations for policymakers;

## **5. Implementation Arrangements**

### **5.1 Institutional arrangement**

- 59. The Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and the environmental authorities of AMS will provide guidance and supports for implementation of the strategy.
- 60. The environmental authorities of China and AMS will keep each other informed of their respective focal points for the implementation of the strategy.
- 61. The China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center and the Environment Division of ASEAN Secretariat shall take charge of coordination and communication for the implementation of the strategy.
- 62. The China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center shall serve as the main implementation agency of the strategy, in collaboration with its ASEAN counterpart institutions to develop plans of actions and milestones to implement the activities identified in the strategy.

### **5.2 Funding mechanism**

- 63. The funding source and other support source for the implementation of the strategy include but are not limited within the following:
  - (a) ASEAN-China cooperation fund;
  - (b) other funds provided by the government of China;
  - (c) support in cash or in kind provided by China and AMS on voluntary basis;
  - (d) funds donated by international partners or third countries; and
  - (e) funds donated by private sector.
- 64. The fund will be used to support the implementation of the strategy or other cooperation activities agreed by the two sides.

### **5.3 Forms of cooperation**

- 65. The cooperation can be conducted in accordance with ASEAN and China's laws, rules, [AMS] regulations, national policies [AMS] and practices as well as the needs and funding availabilities.



66. The emphasis of the cooperation particularly the capability building activities should be placed on the lesser developed countries in accordance with Initiative for ASEAN Integration .
67. The cooperation will take various forms by taking a long term and programmatic approach.
68. AMS and China will encourage wider and deeper participation of local organizations into ASEAN-China environmental cooperation.