

CCICED Activities

■ CCICED Roundtable 2015

On May 18-19, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) held its 2015 Roundtable meeting in Shanghai, inviting council members, former research project co-chairs, renowned scholars, industry leaders, donor representatives, and government officials studying at the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP), to sit together and discuss China's green transformation.



“China's economic growth has entered the stage of “New Normal”, which is accompanied by severe environmental challenges,” said Mr. Li Ganjie, CCICED Secretary General and Vice Minister of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP). “How to deal with the relationship between environment and development under this “New Normal” puts to the test our governance skills and our capacity to serve the people.”

Li noted Beijing's new focus on “greenization” and recent actions to build an ecological civilization, pointing out that effective greenization requires not only national initiatives such as legislation, institutional arrangements and policy guidance, but also reforms and innovations at all levels of government. He stressed the importance of raising public awareness through environmental education campaigns, which will bolster progress towards ecological civilization goals.

Under the theme of “Modernization of National Governance and Green Transformation”, this year's Roundtable Meeting allowed the CCICED to share its policy recommendations on eco-environmental redlining, media and public participation policies to promote China's green development, green accounting and environmental performance evaluation, as well as green supply chains. It also offered local officials opportunities to raise both questions and challenges, and to share their experience in greening China's development.

■ International Advisory Meeting on Environment and Development for China's 13th Five-Year Plan

The International Advisory Meeting on Environment and Development for China's 13th Five-Year Plan was held in Beijing on June 9-10. Mr. Chen Jining, Environmental Protection Minister and Council Executive Vice Chairperson addressed meeting participants.

Mr. Li Ganjie, CCICED Secretary General and MEP Vice Minister, and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and CCICED Vice Chairperson co-chaired the meeting. A dozen international experts including Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, European

Commission Vice President and Mr. Henry Paulson who heads the Paulson Institute, were actively involved in the discussions. The meeting culminated in a meeting with China's Vice Premier Mr. Zhang Gaoli.

Chen pointed out that since the 18th Party Congress, President Xi Jinping has issued new ideas and requirements. President Xi stressed that the environment is essential to people's livelihood; green mountains are tantamount to beauty, blue sky brings happiness, and clean waters and green mountains are like mountains rich in gold and silver. President Xi concludes people need to cherish the environment as they value their own eyes, and nurture it as they do life itself. This reflects the determination of the Chinese government to promote ecological progress and protect the environment. The next five years will be critical to the success in protecting the environment. The Chinese government will take more aggressive measures to promote green, circular and low-carbon development, strengthen environmental protection, and strive to restore harmony between the environment and the economy in order to meet the targets of environmental quality that are part of China's commitment to create an all-around well-off society. Chen also stated he hoped meeting participants will continue to support China's environment and development, and make greater contributions to promoting sustainable development in China and globally.

Meeting participants shared their views on

how to deal with the challenges China is likely to face during the 13th Five Year Plan. They stated China should push for more ambitious long-term goals; encourage the development of green industry and green technology to promote green transformation and green development, strengthen government's green procurement, and integrate green development and environmental protection into urbanization plans. Some participants were of the view that China was bound to become the center of global green finance. They also suggested that when implementing the Belt and Road Strategy, China should closely cooperate on greenization with countries along this new Silk Road and play a more important role in global economic development and environmental development. During this next Five-Year Plan and beyond, industrialization remains one of the top economic development priorities. Thus, China's concept of green industrialization should be shared with a greater number of countries.



■ Think Tank Symposium in Washington D.C.

On 22 June, the CCICED's Environment and Development Think Tank Symposium was held at Washington D.C.. Mr. Li Ganjie, MEP Vice Minister and CCICED Secretary General, as well as Ms. Jane Nishida, Acting Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), took part in the event.

Addressing the Symposium, Li reviewed environment and development processes in China, emphasizing the CCICED's role and the impact it has had on policy making. He stated that China has entered a crucial stage of

transformation and development. In the context of goals and tasks set for ecological civilization and the needs for green development, think tanks face new expectations as well as good development opportunities.

The EPA's Jane Nishida outlined the important role American think tanks play in ensuring decision-making is evidence-based promoting key concepts and initiatives. She promised to support deeper cooperation among the two countries' environment and development think tanks. She hoped for

concerted US and China cooperation to innovate and solve common problems.

This symposium was a first for the CCICED and its American counterparts. Participants discussed think tank development, the role they play in government decision making and their influence on the public, the opportunities and challenges they face and future cooperation opportunities. As one of the events held on the margins of the seventh session of the China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED), this symposium received strong support from Chinese and American government. About 40 officials, experts and scholars from MEP, EPA, World

Resources Institute, CCICED, Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning and MEP's Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy participated in this symposium.



● CCICED Policy Studies

■ Special Policy Study on Synergic Control of Climate Change and Air Pollution

The joint Inception and Second Working Meeting of the Special Policy Study on Synergic Control of Climate Change and Air Pollution was held on June 5 in Shanghai.

Meeting participants reviewed domestic and international policies, situation analysis, technology assessment and policy recommendations of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) and non-road emission sources. Both international Chinese experts called for incorporating SLCPs and non-road emission sources into the national pollution control plans and creating mechanisms for emission reduction synergies. Mr. Hao Jiming, Chinese Co-Chair, noted that synergies can be achieved in addressing climate change and air pollution, which will bring economic and ecological benefits.

■ Task Force on Rule of Law and Ecological Civilization

The Inception and First Joint Working Meeting of the Task Force on Rule of Law and Ecological Civilization was held on June 3 in Beijing. Mr. Xu Qinghua, CCICED Deputy Secretary General, addressed meeting participants.

The Task Force will focus research on five aspects: (1) environmental legislation needed to support ecological civilization; (2) environmental law enforcement; (3) environmental justice; (4) national compliance; and (5) proposing the strategy for promoting the legal progress of ecological civilization from a macro and overall perspective.

The Task Force will complete its initial report in October 2015 and share findings at the November 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of CCICED and final conclusions during the 206 AGM.

■ Special Policy Study on Ecological Risk Management

The Second Working Meeting of the Special Policy Study (SPS) on Ecological Risk Management was held on July 3-4, 2015 in Nanjing. Discussed were the overall progress of the SPS, including ecological risk classification, trend and objectives, and systems, mechanisms and policies for environmental risk management.

Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General, said that good results are emerging, thanks to the joint efforts of Chinese and international experts. In the context of the newly revised Environmental Protection Law, Fang noted that the project team needs to identify China's potential

ecological risks based on data collection and analysis, and make policy recommendations on ecological risk management that take into account both international best practice and domestic realities.

■ **Task Force on Green Finance Reform and Promoting Green Transformation**

On 11th July, 2015, the 3rd Working Meeting for the Task Force on Green Finance Reform and Promoting Green Transformation was successfully held in Beijing. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General.

Mr. Chen Yulu, Chinese Co-chair of the task force and President of Renmin University, outlined the group's draft policy recommendations. Chen indicated the group is concluding that the green finance system needs to be an institutional cornerstone for the national green transformation. The report will also provide an analysis of green finance needs in the context of the 'New Normal', and put forward for the first time the idea of establishing a central government coordination team for green financial reform. In addition, the report will stress the importance of developing a financial legal framework supporting greenization, and will identify five priority areas for implementation. Chen noted that since the National People's Congress is amending a number of finance-related laws, the task force will call for the inclusion of legal liabilities for borrowers and the establishment of compulsory environmental liability insurance. He also proposed "green finance" be explicitly included in the G20 2016 meetings, making "green finance" a signature contribution by China.

■ **Guangzhou Demonstration Project on Sustainable Consumption Policy**

On 7-11 July, 2015, Mr. Xu Qinghua, Deputy Secretary General of CCICED and Chair of the demonstration project on sustainable consumption policy, travelled to Guangzhou with CCICED Secretariat staff to monitor progress made by the demonstration project on sustainable consumption policy. The team held meetings with a number of municipal organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Development Reform Commission, Commission of Commerce and Environmental Protection Bureau. They also looked into e-commerce and logistics enterprises, malls and supermarkets.

The city's enterprises have actively explored sustainable consumption, establishing 'green' stores, promoting the green supply chains and various markets for renewable energy and second-hand products. Guangzhou counterparts told the CCICED team that they hope government can increase its promotion of sustainable consumption policies. They indicated a willingness to cooperate on sustainable consumption policy implementation, share lessons learned and evaluate ongoing efforts.

■ **Special Policy Study on Soil Pollution Management**

The 3rd work meeting of CCICED Special Policy Study on Soil Pollution Management was held in Shanghai on 21-23, July. Meeting participants reviewed progress to date, discussed their draft report and policy recommendations, and identified follow-up work.

The team agreed on a framework for the policy recommendations, including matters related to legislation, immediate priorities, liability and issues related to the restoration and management of polluted areas, future pollution prevention, and how to address urgent and acute problems. Also considered in the team's work are necessary institutional tools and capacity building in soil pollution management.

■ **Information-sharing Workshops with Developing Country Representatives**

On May 8th and June 13th, CCICED Secretariat organized two information-sharing workshops for representatives from 41 developing countries from Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas. Altogether 97 participants attended the sessions – mostly government officials and researchers specializing in environment and development, They were in Beijing thanks to the support of the China Aid Capacity Building Program. During the workshops, Secretariat representative shared the experience and research results of the Council and explored with participants possible opportunities for south-south cooperation in environment and development between CCICED and developing

countries.

Hot Topics

■ "Zero tolerance" for Illegal Pollution Discharge with New Environmental Protection Law Supplementary Measures

MEP released four supplementary measures to the newly amended Environmental Protection Law, requiring local environmental protection departments at all levels to wield the new authority and instruments conferred by the law. The message is one of "zero tolerance" for illegal pollution discharge and more effective ways to ensure compliance.

The four supplementary measures were promulgated to ensure enforcement of the Environmental Protection Law, enhancing the powers of environmental protection departments, penalizing more severely environmental offences, and clarifying the responsibility borne by polluters for environmental protection, said the official.

■ CPC Political Bureau Deliberates Opinions on Accelerated Promotion of Ecological Progress

The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held a meeting on March 24 to deliberate and adopt the Opinions on Accelerated Promotion of Ecological Progress. The Secretary General of the CPC Central Committee, Mr. Xi Jinping, chaired the meeting.



One clear statement issued from the meeting is that the promotion of ecological progress is essential to achieving the Party's "Bi-Centenary Goals" and sustained development. Ecological progress is also critical to foster a beautiful country, which is essential to meeting the Chinese people's expectations. The new framework for modernization makes explicit the need to ensure harmony between man and nature.

Also emphasized is the imperative to drive for a number of key goals, among them better spatial planning, technological innovation, improved resource use, as well as environmental and eco-services protection. Essential to this is the need to adapt how ecological progress is interpreted based on local conditions, as well as the need to scale up successfully piloted approaches. What is clear is that for the entire CPC, ecological progress is now an important political mission, with explicit objectives to turn the blueprint for ecological civilization into reality, to contribute to the realization of global green development, and to safeguard global ecological security.

■ China Announces Action Plan to Tackle Water Pollution

The action plan, which includes a list of measures to tackle water pollution in order to achieve a quality water environment by 2030, was issued by the State Council on April 16.

It calls for a gradual improvement of water quality by 2020, as well as a reduction in the percentage of severely polluted water bodies and an improvement in drinking water quality. In addition, depletion of groundwater reserves is to be reduced; severe groundwater pollution is to be controlled; also slated for improvement are the environmental quality of marine waters as well as that of coastal ecosystems in areas such as the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. By 2030, the government anticipates improvements in marine and aquatic ecosystems, and sustainable healthy aquatic environments by 2050.

The plan includes specific indicators: By 2020, the quality of over 70 percent of the water in seven key river basins, such as the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, will reach level III or above, and the

amount of polluted wastewater in urban areas will not exceed 10 percent.

The action plan lists ten specific measures to tackle water pollution: 1. The discharge of pollutants will be controlled and measures to reduce emissions will cut down pollution. 2. There will be further economic restructuring and upgrading. 3. Measures will be taken to save and protect water resources. 4. There will be enhanced scientific and technological support in this sector. 5. The market will play a greater role in resource allocation. 6. There will be stricter legal enforcement and surveillance; there will be a crackdown on environmental violations and illegal construction projects.. 7. The management of aquatic ecosystems will be further strengthened. 8. The safety of aquatic ecosystem will be defended, including ensuring the safety of drinking water sources, controlling groundwater and major river basins' pollution, and strengthening the protection of water courses and marine environments. 9. The roles and responsibilities of all parties will be clarified. 10. More effective public participation and community supervision will be mobilized.

■ Update on China's legislative progress on environment and development

The agenda of the 15th session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress included deliberations on a number of draft laws, including amendments to the law on prevention and control of air pollution. The NPC group was also to report to the State Council on surveillance and enforcement of the air pollution law.

In order to deal with insufficient public participation in drafting environmental standards, leading to lack of effective enforcement, the NPC is looking into including air quality standards that would better protect public health and the environment, be compatible with economic and social development, and be evidence-based. Expert advice will be sought in drafting these standards; and that competent environmental protection departments, at provincial level or above, will make these standards public on their official websites.

In order to tighten regulation on monitoring devices and ensuring the accuracy of the resulting data, the Congress is looking into provisions that would have the polluters assume responsibility for the authenticity and accuracy of all reported data.

Regarding coal, the draft amendments propose the following: the ratio of clean coal is to increase with existing coal mines committing to supplementary coal processing facilities targets – with the exception of existing low-sulfur and low-ash coal processing facilities and coal-fired power plants that are already meeting emission standards. All levels of government will provide incentives to consumers to use high quality and clean coal. Existing coal-fired boilers which fail to meet emission standards will be condemned by deadlines set by municipal governments. The quality supervision departments of governments above county level will work with environmental protection departments to monitor performance and enforce environmental protection standards in the production, import, sales, and use of such boilers; those that do not meet standards will be banned.

With regard to air pollution control measures involving vehicle restrictions and traffic bans, the Congress proposes consultations with industry associations, businesses and public institutions, experts, and the public on specific strictures such as vehicle make and model, scope of the traffic bans, as well as the duration of traffic control measures such as vehicle restriction.

■ Premier Li Keqiang Stresses Need to Step Up Efforts to Respond to Climate Change

On 12 June, Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council and head of the National Leading Group on Climate Change, Energy Conservation and Emissions Reduction, presided over a meeting of this leading group.

Premier Li pointed out that China is determined to halt the growth of carbon dioxide emission by 2030 and will in fact strive to achieve this goal earlier by taking additional measures. It will substantially cut carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption and increase its forested areas. China will continue to build capacity in

climate change mitigation and adaptation, and will actively support global green and low-carbon transformation.

Premier Li observed that for China which is still a developing country, development remains critical. To meet multiple challenges including a decelerating economy and climate change, it is essential to carry out structural adjustment and shift into less damaging modes of development. China must pursue resource conservation and environment protection as a basic state policy. Also essential is the implementation of a national strategy on climate change and the formulation of a long-term road map for low-carbon development. For that to happen, China will deepen reform and promote innovation. The government will encourage nationwide entrepreneurship and innovation to deliver new technologies, products and models, and promote the growth of energy-saving and environmental-friendly industries. A strict limit will be imposed on the expansion of heavily polluting and energy intensive industries in order to bring about a low-carbon and energy-saving industrial sector. At the same time, new growth drivers will be fostered to support a healthy economic development. By introducing the "Made in China 2025" strategy and the "Internet Plus" action plan, traditional industries will be upgraded and people's way of life will become smarter and greener. The government will scale up support for public products and infrastructure for ecological protection. New mechanisms of financing and investment cooperation, such as the Public-Private-Partnership, will be instituted. While conducting international cooperation on production capacity, a greater number of global standards will be adopted for green and low-carbon growth.

■ **The Central Government's Funds to Support the Control and Prevention of Heavy Metal Pollution in 30 Cities.**

On July 2nd, MEP reported that the central government has earmarked 2.8 billion yuan to support the control and prevention of heavy metal pollution in 30 cities.

The cities that will have access to these funds are the country's most advanced. In May 2015, the Ministry of Finance and MEP assessed how major cities handle the prevention and control of heavy metal pollution and selected the top 30 performers. This will allow China to improve the efficiency of earmarked funds and accelerate the implementation of the 12th Five Year Plan on Comprehensive Prevention and Control of Heavy Metal Pollution. More specifically, the allocation of these earmarked funds is closely connected to Plan priorities and reflects competitive factors such as relative regional performance. Cities apply for the funds and only the top bids get support, ensuring only the most motivated get the needed funding.

■ **Air Pollution Control and Prevention Plan in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region**

The Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences is nearing completion of China's first regional plan for air quality, entitled 'Mid and Long-term Plan on Regional Air Pollution Control and Prevention Plan in Beijing-tianjin-Hebei Region. .

The Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau will compile its own action plan, based on this regional blueprint. There will be efforts to coordinate pollution control and prevention, set up systems for early warning and emergency response to serious air pollution events in the region. Standards in each major municipality of the region will be harmonized, and protocols for emergency response will be established to deal with a number of serious air pollution threats.

Strict air pollution controls will be determined for the municipalities of Beijing, Tianjin, Shijiazhuang, Xingtai, Handan, Baoding, Hengshui, Tangshan, Cangzhou and Langfang. Air pollution control measures will also be applied to Zhangjiakou, Chengde and Qinhuangdao, where an environmental redline has been established in terms of annual concentrations of pollutants such as PM 2.5. This year, 5.9 billion yuan will be invested in air pollution control and prevention in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and its immediate vicinity.

■ **China Plans to Enact Laws on Control and Prevention of Soil Pollution**

The Action Plan on Soil Environment Protection and Pollution Prevention and Control (Ten Measures for Soil Environment) will be issued within the year as China's government made clear it intends to contain soil pollution within five years.

Mr. Li Ganjie, MEP Vice Minister pointed out that this represents the first law focusing on protecting soil environments. It is now part of the NPC Standing Committee's legislative calendar. Included in the statute are provisions on risk management, something that is absent from other environmental laws. "The guidelines for legislation are "giving priority to protection, taking prevention as a major method, risk management, comprehensive pollution prevention and control and shared responsibility". As for soil pollution risk management, the law outlines a system for soil pollution control and management, as well as a process for assessing and reporting risks in rural construction land. Regarding the restoration of polluted lands, the law stipulates the criteria to determine responsibility for restoration, as well as the procedures and requirements for land reclamation.

■ **MEP Approves the Draft Measures for Public Participation in Environmental Protection**

On July 2nd, MEP Minister Chen Jining, chaired the meeting where approval was granted for the Measures for Public Participation in Environmental Protection.

Based on the new Environmental Protection Law, the Measures dovetail with relevant statutes such as the Law on Environmental Impacts Assessments, and the Temporary Methods for Public Participation in Environmental Impacts Assessments. The Measures include goals for legislation, the scope of issues open for public engagement, the principles guiding participatory processes, as well as such concrete issues as participation methodologies, the rights, obligations and responsibilities of participants, and the channels open to the public for reporting violations of environmental protection laws. The Measures encourage organizations and individuals to participate in environmental protection, and stipulates that environmental protection authorities can encourage and guide social organizations to participate in environmental protection through project funding and service procurement. The Measures for Public Participation in Environmental Protection, presently still in draft form, will be formally issued after a final revision.