

● CCICED UPDATE 2014

■ Sino-Germany CCICED Seminar Holds in Germany

Sino-Germany CCICED Seminar was held in Germany during July 13-27, 2014, it was supported by German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit or GIZ) as a representative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit or BMUB). 8 participants from CCICED attended the conference, including Secretariat, members from the Chief Advisor Support Team (ST) and department staffs from the Ministry of Environmental Protection that participate in CCICED policy research work. During the visit in Germany, the delegation had organized academic discussion and symposium with more than 20 institutions including BMUB, GIZ, Municipal Government of Berlin, Federal Environmental Agency of Germany (Umweltbundesamt), German Society for Sustainable Construction (Deutsche Gesellschaft für nachhaltiges Bauen e.V. or DGNB), Ecologic Institute and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The Seminar was held centering on the corresponding domains relating to CCICED projects and special policy studies in 2014. Experience exchange was carried out on many major issues including the formulation of relevant policies, the implementation of laws and regulations, enforcement and supervision. Further, carry out field investigations and researches were also conducted to gain a full understanding of the experience and lessons Germany acquired in fields including new energy, urbanization, corporate social responsibility, and environmental impact assessment. In addition, the delegation paid a visit to some well-known think tanks in Germany where discussions were organized between the two parties centering on relevant policy research works, providing vital reference for CCICED's own policy research project management and performance evaluation.



The two-week seminar is of great success for it has improved participants' cognition and laid a solid foundation for the sustainable cooperation between the two parties in the future.

■ Seminar on Environmental and Development Management under Sino-Canada CCICED Project Successfully Holds in Canada

CCICED Seminar on Environmental and Development Management based on Sino-Canada CCICED Project Cooperation Agreement and CCICED Work Scheme 2014 was held at Simon Fraser University, Canada during Jun 23-Jul 11. 8 participants from China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center, CCICED, and some departments and subordinate units of the Ministry of Environmental Protection such as General Office, Department of Planning and Finance, Department of Human Resources Management and Institutional Arrangement,

Department of Environmental Monitoring, Department of International Cooperation and Environmental Development Center attended the Seminar.

The goal of this Seminar is to deepen participants' understanding of the hotspot issues concerning environment and development so as to help CCICED and its partners to further improve their capability of managing international cooperation projects in this field. The agenda of the Seminar centered on discussing the key environmental and development issues and learning from Canada's experience in relevant domains. Canadian specialists and scholars from academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, along with representatives from enterprises and citizens were invited to present systematic introduction of environmental management policies and practices in Canadian Confederation and British Columbia. Deep and thorough exchanges of views and discussions were carried out between the specialists and other participants on the following issues: construction and management of environmental infrastructure; stakeholders' participation in environmental decision-making; sustainable urban planning; utilization of renewable energy; management of persistent organic pollutants; management of ecological protection areas; management of river basins and water source areas; management and sustainable utilization of forest and fishery resources; environmental recovery and ecological reconstruction in mining areas; environmental rights of indigenous peoples and their roles in eco-environmental protection.

The following views and opinions were proposed during the Seminar: exchanges and cooperation between decision makers and researchers, especially between government departments and non-governmental researchers, including those from academic institutions and private sectors, shall be strengthened so that scientific and technological achievements can be converted into effective and feasible policies measures concerning environment and development; when making and implementing strategies concerning climate change, clean and safe energy, management and utilization of resources, eco-environmental protection, urban and transportation infrastructure and other domains, governments at each level shall allocate reasonably, cooperate closely, and actively interact with stakeholders including the social public so as to hand in hand with them to explore the development path on inclusive, win-win and sustainable basis.

■ **CCICED Holds the 4th Working Meeting for the SPS on Performance Evaluation of the Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan and Regional Coordination Mechanism**

On August 29, the 4th working meeting on the Special Policy Study (SPS) on Performance Evaluation of the Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan and Regional Coordination Mechanism carried out by China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) was held in Beijing. It was co-hosted by Mr. Hao Jiming, Chinese Leader of the SPS Task Force, CCICED Council member, academician of the China Academy of Engineering, and professor of Tsinghua University and Mr. Michael Walsh, International Leader of the SPS Task Force and former Chair of the International Council on Clean Transportation. More than 20 representatives attended the meeting, including Mr. Wang Jian, Deputy Director General of the Pollution Control Office of Ministry of Environmental Protection, Chinese and international SPS members, CCICED Chief Advisor Support Team (ST), CCICED donors and partners, and members of the CCICED Secretariat.

The meeting listened to the briefings on the four components, namely "Indicators and Methods for the Performance Evaluation of the Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan", "Goals and Roadmaps for Air Pollution Prevention and Control Towards the 13th Five-Year Plan and 2030", "International Experience on the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Air Pollution Prevention and Control", and "Regional Coordination Mechanism for Air Pollution Prevention and Control and Policy Research". Experts and participants conducted in-depth discussions and exchanges on the preliminary findings and policy recommendations of the four components, providing an important basis for modifying and finalizing the SPS report.



The SPS Task Force will submit the final SPS report prior to October 20, 2014 and report to the 2014 CCICED General Annual Meeting in November 2014.

■ CCICED Holds the Fourth Joint Working Meeting and the Second Consultation Meeting of the Task Force for Institutional Innovation of Ecological Red Line

The Fourth Joint Working Meeting and the Second Consultation Meeting of the Task Force for Institutional Innovation of Ecological Red Line, initiated by China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), was held during September 3-5 2014 in Beijing. The meeting was hosted by Mr. Ouyang Zhiyun, the Chinese Co-chair of CCICED and Deputy Director General of Research Center for Eco-Environment at the Chinese Academy of Science, and Mr. Derek Thompson, the International Co-chair of CCICED and Former Deputy Minister of Environment, Lands & Park, British Columbia, Canada. More than 40 representatives attended the meeting, including Mr. Shen Guofang and Dr. Arthur Hanson, CCICED's Chinese and International Chief Advisors, Mr. Xu Qinghua, CCICED Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Zhang Xiwu, Director General of the Department of Forest Resources Management of State Forestry Administration, Mr. Hou Daijun, Deputy Director of the Department of Nature and Ecology Conservation of Ministry of Environmental Protection, as well as Chinese and international experts and advisors, Chief Advisor Support Team, and representatives from the CCICED Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed the research progress, revised the first draft of the study by discussing the initial report and policy recommendations chapter by chapter and solicited opinions from the experts and advisors. The Task Force will submit the Final Report on October 15 as required by CCICED and report to the Annual General Meeting 2014 held on November.



■ CCICED Holds the Third Working Meeting of the Task Force for Evaluation and Prospects for a Green Transformation Process in China

The Third Working Meeting of the Task Force for Evaluation and Prospects for a Green Transformation Process in China, initiated by China Council for International Cooperation on

Environment and Development (CCICED), was held on September 5, 2014 in Beijing. It was hosted by Mr. Fan Gang, the Chinese Co-chair of CCICED and Director General of National Economic Research Institute of China Reform Foundation, and Mr. Lars-Erik Liljelund, the International Co-chair of CCICED, and Executive Director of the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research. More than 30 representatives attended the meeting, including Mr. Xu Qinghua, CCICED Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Arthur Hanson, International Chief Advisor of CCICED, Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director of Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of Ministry of Environmental Protection, Chinese and international experts and advisors of CCICED, Chief Advisor Support Team of CCICED, and representatives from the CCICED Secretariat.

Background reports were presented to the meeting, including Policy Assessment for a Green Transition Process in China, Review of the Green Transformation in Developed Countries, and Latest International Policies and Measures for Green Transformation. Representatives discussed the initial report chapter by chapter, and made comments on the report and especially policy recommendations, providing an important reference for the Final Report.



The Task Force will submit the Final Report on October 15 as required by CCICED and report to the Annual General Meeting 2014 held on November.

■ CCICED Holds the Fourth Chief Advisor - Secretariat Joint Working Meeting in 2014

The Fourth Chief Advisor - Secretariat Joint Working Meeting of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) was held during September 9 -10, 2014 in Beijing. It was co-hosted by Mr. Shen Guofang, CCICED Chief Advisor and Academician, and Dr. Arthur Hanson, CCICED International Chief Advisor. More than 50 representatives attended the meeting, including Mr. Hao Jiming, Council Member, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Professor of the School of Environment at Tsinghua University, Mr. Ren Yong, CCICED Assistant Secretary General, Leader of the Chief Advisor Support Team (ST), and Deputy Director of Human Resources and Institutional Arrangement of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), Ms. Fang Li, CCICED Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Director of MEP Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Co-chairs or representatives of the six ongoing Special Policy Studies, ST members, as well as representatives from CCICED donors and partners and the CCICED Secretariat and Secretariat International Support Office (SISO).

In the public meeting, the CCICED Secretariat reported the progress in the preparations of the Annual General Meeting 2014 and the arrangements for important events in the second half of 2014. Task Forces for the six ongoing Special Policy Studies reported the preliminary research findings and policy recommendations and listened to the advice of experts. In the subsequent internal meeting, Chief Advisors, ST, and the CCICED Secretariat conducted in-depth discussions on a variety of topics, including the 2014 Report of Recommendations to the Chinese Government, Report of Concerns, Report on the Progress in China's Environmental and Development Policies (2013-2014) and the Impact of Policy Recommendations, as well as the subjects, content, and task forces of Special Policy Studies in 2015, concept paper of new policy

demonstration projects, and theme of the year 2016. Arrangements for the next step were made on this basis.

■ **CCICED Holds the Fourth Working Meeting of the Task Force Good City Models under the Concept of Ecological Civilization**

The Fourth Working Meeting of the Task Force Good City Models under the Concept of Ecological Civilization, initiated by China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), was held during September 10-11 2014, in Beijing. The meeting was hosted by Mr. Li Xiaojiang, the Chinese Co-chair of CCICED and President of China Academy for Urban Planning and Design, and Mr. Hans van der Vlist, Former Secretary General of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) and Vice Chairman of Environmental Assessment Committee of the Netherlands. More than 20 representatives attended the meeting, including Chinese and international experts of CCICED, Chief Advisor Support Team of CCICED, and representatives from the CCICED Secretariat.

The meeting discussed the initial report and policy recommendations chapter by chapter and commented for further modification. The meeting deemed it necessary to clarify the content and features of good city models under the concept of ecological civilization, with full consideration of regional and sectoral integration, and thereby to implement the concept of good city models at the macro-policy level.

The Task Force will submit the Final Report on October 15 as required by CCICED and report to the Annual General Meeting 2014 held on November.

■ **CCICED Successfully Holds the Side Event of Ecological Civilization and Institutional Innovation for Green Transformation during China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Forum 2014**



China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) successfully held the Conference on Ecological Civilization and Institutional Innovation for Green Transformation on September 17 2014, as a side event of the 4th China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Forum during the 11th China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, Guangxi Province. The conference demonstrated China's achievements in ecological civilization, green transformation and CCICED's policy research findings,

shared the experiences in promoting sustainable development in ASEAN area, and explored the possibilities of cooperation between China and ASEAN to push ahead sustainable development. The Conference facilitated the dialogue and exchange on environment and development, enhanced mutual understanding and recognition, and laid a solid foundation for further contacts and exchanges between China and ASEAN.

The conference was hosted by Mr. Li Haisheng, Director General of Department of International Cooperation of Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) and Deputy Secretary General of CCICED. Mr. Larry Maramis, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community of the ASEAN Secretariat and Mr. Liu Zhengdong, Vice Chairman of Political Consultative Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, attended the meeting and made an opening

statement respectively. Dr. Arthur Hanson, International Chief Advisor and Invited Senior Advisor of Institute of Sustainable Development and International Relations, Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Director of the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific of United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Mr. Chatchai Intatha Senior Environmental Specialist of the Thailand Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and Mr. Li Zuoxun, Vice Mayor of Guiyang City, delivered keynote speeches respectively. Representatives and experts from MEP and CCICED partners, including Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Brunei, as well as UNEP, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Institute in Stockholm, also attended the meeting.

A broad consensus has been reached through active and thorough discussion. The meeting agreed that: 1) green transformation and institutional innovation is a necessary call of ecological civilization, the only way for China's future development and transformation, and the effective route for ASEAN in sustainable development; 2) green investment, green trade, green technology, and sustainable consumption are important means to promote green transformation and institutional innovation; 3) the green transformation of economic development patterns is a major initiative to promote the concept of ecological civilization; 4) regional cooperation is a vital engine to promote green growth. CCICED is expected to act as a platform for information exchange on ecological civilization and green development. Policy recommendations by CCICED are also of reference value for other developing countries.

CCICED is a high-level non-for-profit international advisory body composed of high-level Chinese and international figures and well-known experts in the field of environment and development. Founded in 1992, CCICED is subordinated to Ministry of Environmental Protection and contributes policy recommendations on major issues of environment and development in China. Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli serves as Chairman of the Fifth Council of CCICED. This side event was organized by the CCICED Secretariat, with the support of China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center, Bureau of Environmental Protection of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and WWF.



● CCICED Council Members Update

■ United Nations Opens First Forum with the Theme of Sustainable for All at UN Headquarters

The United Nation opened its first forum with the theme of Sustainable Energy for All at its headquarters on June 4th. The forum was attended by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Special Representative of Sustainable Energy for All and more than 1,000 representatives from governments, international organizations, industrial and commercial circles, and civil society organizations. Two books were released during the forum, Poor People's Energy Outlook Report and Renewables 2014 Global Status Report. Ban ki-moon launched the Sustainable Energy for All initiative in 2011. A UN resolution was unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly in 2013 declaring the decade 2014--2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

(Source: Representative Office of China in the United Nations Environment Programme)

● Hot Topics

■ The First Session of UN Environmental Assembly Opens in Nairobi, Minister Zhou Shengxian is Granted the Environmental Policy and Leadership Contribution Award

The first session of UN Environmental Assembly took place in Nairobi, Kenya on June 23 2014 and lasted for 5 days. More than 1,000 representatives from over 160 countries and more than 20 international organizations and non-governmental organizations, including 90 ministerial officials, attended the assembly. Ms. Sanjaasuren Oyun, the minister of Nature, Environment and Green Development of Mongolia hosted the assembly. UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon and other officials also attended the assembly. The conference focused on two major agendas: the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 Development Agenda. Several decisions and resolutions were passed in order to urge international community to take actions to cope with air pollution, illegal wildlife trade, ocean plastic trash, chemicals and dangerous waste and other major environmental issues. During the assembly, Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under Secretary General and UN Environment Programme Executive Director, presented Environmental Policy and Leadership Contribution Award to Minister Zhou Xiansheng for his outstanding leadership performance in promoting China's environmental protection and global sustainable development.

(Source: Department of International Cooperation of MEP)

■ Article on ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2014

FIRSTHAND INFORMATION: President Xi Jinping (right) visits the Chinese National Engineering Research Center for Control and Treatment of Heavy Metal Pollution at Central South University in Changsha, Hunan Province, on November 4, 2013 (WANG YE)

Among the 40,000 or so residents in Dapu Town in Hengyang, central China's Hunan Province, more than 300 children were diagnosed with excessive lead in their blood earlier this year. In the most severe cases, blood lead levels hit 322 micrograms per liter, far exceeding the limits of the healthy range—100 micrograms per liter. Since it is difficult to rid oneself of heavy metals through normal metabolism, the harm they inflict on these children could conceivably continue for years.

While the pursuit of effective approaches to alleviate environmental pollution are underway, similar scandals such as the German village of Wewelsfleth, dubbed "the village of cancer patients" as virtually every household in the area contains a member afflicted by the condition, have continued to rear their ugly head in almost every corner of the world, especially in relatively less developed countries and regions.

On September 17 and 18, carrying the theme "National Strategy and Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development: New Challenges and New Opportunities," the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2014 was held in Nanning, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

With the participation of more than 200 experts, entrepreneurs and government leaders from across the world, more opportunities have been created to facilitate exchanges of information and to introduce the relevant expertise and technologies to China.

"The Asia-Pacific region has contributed greatly to the momentum of the world economic recovery and sustainable growth. However, global challenges such as climate change, ecological degradation and the energy crisis have become increasingly formidable, calling for global economic and environmental governance," said Li Ganjie, China's Vice Minister of Environmental Protection, at the opening ceremony of the forum.

Teaming up in Guangxi

Since the forum was established three years ago, it has served as an important platform for high-level dialogues concerning environmental policies and cooperation. To reinforce regional green development, Li suggested pushing for the establishment of a regional community of environmental cooperation by building a "green maritime silk road" through concerted efforts of all concerned parties, shaping a multi-layer cooperative network through intensifying policy exchanges and capacity improvement, and taking the initiative to extend partnership on environment-related technological and industrial cooperation.

At the opening ceremony, Vice Chairman of the Guangxi Regional Government Tang Renjian, expressed hopes for the creation of a new pattern of cooperation to make regional sustainable development a reality.

Tang held that China and the ASEAN should promote the establishment of a green development demonstration area and focus on the development of low-carbon recycling economy, agritourism, as well as intensifying green trade and cooperation. Beyond that, he opined more input should be generated in terms of bilateral exchanges on biological diversity and ecological protection.

Inar Ichšana Ishak, Assistant Minister of Socio-Cultural and Environment Health of Indonesia, believed that all-round cooperation encompassing green food production and infrastructure should be carried out to achieve sustainable urban development. "In recent years, Indonesia has adjusted related legislation and policies to solve environmental problems," she said.

ASEAN members and China are facing three historic opportunities in intensifying environmental sustainability, said Kaveh Zahedi, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. "The prospective China-ASEAN economic community will propel the region into an engine for world economy and for green growth, which will significantly benefit local people," he said.

Sanath Ranawana, a senior specialist on natural resources management from the Asian Development Bank, suggested that the bank be prepared to give further consideration to regional cooperation and investment in building cross-border natural protection areas and safeguarding biological diversity.

Land contamination

A survey released in April by China's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Ministry of Land and Resources showed that 16.1 percent of the country's land had been affected by heavy

metal contamination. It revealed that the quality of arable land in the wastelands of mining and metallurgical industries is worrisome.

Among all inorganic pollutants, heavy metals, a term referring to metals that weigh over 5 grams per cubic centimeter, present the greatest danger to the health of animals, plants and human beings. If mercury is absorbed by the root system of a plant and then disseminated, its leaves, flowers and stems will typically turn brown or black, its growth will be retarded and more importantly, its fruits will contain mercury.

"In China, land contamination is characterized by the coexistence of new and old pollutants and the mixture of organic and inorganic pollutants," said Zhang Weili, a research fellow with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Aside from the development of mining and mineral industries, agriculture is another source of pollution, for most Chinese farmers are preoccupied with the effects of chemical fertilizers on grain output.

Zhang Fusuo, a professor at the College of Resources and Environmental Sciences at the Beijing-based China Agricultural University, pointed out that China only accounts for 10 percent of the total arable land in the world, but consumes more than one third of the total chemical fertilizers used. While its grain output grew 150 percent from 1980 to 2008, its consumption of chemical manure also tripled.

Soil pollution affects the quality of surface and underground water, and contaminates agricultural products. However, the treatment of pollution necessitates huge inputs of funds and resources.

At present, most related remediation technologies are still in the experimental stage, and thus far, there has been no case of successful heavy metal pollution treatment in China, said Liu Shuai with the Hunan Provincial Environmental Protection and Resources Conservation Commission.

"China's environmental sustainability has captured the attention of overseas Chinese entrepreneurs who are willing to shepherd funds into related fields such as the research and development of environmentally sound technologies," said Qiao Lihua, an overseas Chinese who migrated to the United States in 1986 and went on to found his own real estate company.

"On the front of heavy metal pollution treatment, China is in its infancy, we can bring about our technologies and share it with Chinese and ASEAN people," said Michael Gianchetta, Vice President of Gianco, an environmental services company in the United States.

Gianchetta said that the United States has accumulated rich experience and developed advanced technologies in the field of heavy metal pollution prevention and control, which have been employed in the effective treatment of mining and metallurgical wastes. "We are expecting more concerted efforts from China as well as ASEAN members in combating heavy metal pollution," he added.

(Source: Beijing Review)

