



## ● Hot Topics

### ■ Li Keqiang chairs State Council executive meeting

Li Keqiang, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC), chaired a State Council executive meeting on Sept 18 to study and deploy the tasks on further strengthening government information disclosure as well as appraise and approve the Regulations on Urban Drainage and Sewage Treatment (Draft Edition).

The meeting urged that, first, it is necessary to improve the government department spokesperson system and put it as an important arrangement in information disclosure of government affairs; various departments in various places shall strengthen news release through multiple forms, learn about public feelings and opinions and frequently publicize important information closely concerned about by the public such as macro economy and people's livelihood; second, it is necessary to actively respond to social concerns. After introduction of major policies, laws and regulations, it is necessary to scientifically present the interpretation through multiple ways so as to allow the public to better know and understand the government's economic and social development policies and reform measures. The government department shall positively respond to and dispel misunderstandings on important public opinions and social hot issues and pay attention to considering people's expectations in government's decision and tasks; and third, it is necessary to strengthen the responsibility and make efforts in implementation. Government departments shall take government affairs information disclosure as an important content in administration according to the law, strengthen supervision, inspection and accountability, and strive to improve effectiveness. It shall better play the role of governmental websites at various levels as a platform for releasing government affairs information in timely, authoritative, comprehensive and correct manner, conscientiously make good use of telephone hotlines and strive to strengthen and enhance government's "soft power" of credibility and social cohesion.

The Regulations on Urban Drainage and Sewage Treatment (Draft Edition) approved in principle during the meeting explicitly requires that: first, urban drainage and sewage treatment planning should be in accordance with the special planning such as urban development and construction, road, green space and water system; the construction of drainage and sewage treatment facilities should be preferentially arranged for new urban districts; new urban districts without drainage and sewage treatment facilities should not be put into use; new urban districts failing to meet the standards must be renovated; second, it is necessary to standardize rainwater and sewage discharge, promote sewage treatment and recycling as well as utilization of sludge and rainwater resources; third, it is necessary to strengthen the supervision over sewage discharge and treatment facility's operation situation, intensify maintenance and management of the facilities including manhole cover; fourth, it is necessary to improve city's waterlogging prevention and control capability; local governments should make emergency-response preplans, strengthen renovation in areas where waterlogging frequently occurs; and fifth, it is necessary to strictly inspect and punish conducts such as sewage discharge in violation of laws and rules; it is necessary to strictly hold

those accountable and strictly punish those approving and issuing licenses against the laws or lack of supervision. (Source: [www.gov.cn](http://www.gov.cn))

## ■ Zhang Gaoli attends conference on haze control in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and surrounding areas

Zhang Gaoli, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC), attended and addressed a working conference on air pollution prevention and control in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and the surrounding areas on Sept 18, 2013 in Beijing. At the conference, he mobilized and deployed work on accelerating air-pollution comprehensive control in six provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government, namely Beijing municipality, Tianjin municipality, Hebei province, Shanxi province, the Inner-Mongolia Autonomous Region and Shandong province.

Zhang Gaoli requested that it is imperative to take air quality as an ecological red line in the overall plan for economic and social development to improve the health of the air we breathe and to promote scientific development. Zhang Gaoli said that governments in various regions should strictly perform their duties and achieve intended targets and that local governments should take responsibilities for the local air and environmental quality. Further, the state will release a list of 10 cities with the best air quality and 10 cities with the worst air quality respectively on a monthly basis. In addition, examination and assessment should be carried out to fulfill the objectives set out by provincial-level governments. Zhang Gaoli said it is necessary to establish a regional cooperative and linkage mechanism, make great efforts to build an early-warning and emergency-response system, push forward the sharing of environmental information, gradually achieve intra-regional industry access and pollution-control integration and carry out regional joint inspection and cross-department law-enforcement. He added it is imperative to strengthen capability constructions such as environmental monitoring and measurement and accelerate the reform of the supervision system - and that it is important for different departments to coordinate and cooperate well, speed up the introduction of supporting measures and form an incentive and constraint mechanism to promote the energy conservation and emission reduction of enterprises. It is essential to establish a standard of conduct that all the people across society should share weal and woe, make joint efforts and perform their duties in air pollution prevention and control, mobilize everyone's participation, disclose environmental information in a timely fashion and solicit public supervision in order to lay a solid social foundation for the sustainable improvement of air quality, added Zhang Gaoli. (Source: [www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com))

## ● Policy Updates

### ■ State Council issues atmospheric pollution control plan for air quality improvement

The State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC) recently issued the Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution Prevention and Control (hereinafter referred to as the Action Plan) which will act as the guidelines in China's atmospheric pollution prevention and control work in the present and future periods.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Council pay high attention to the atmospheric pollution prevention and control work. Soon after its formation, the new-term government has taken the atmospheric pollution prevention and control as an important focus in people's livelihood improvement, a specific action in

ecological civilization construction and an important measure in maintaining stable growth, adjusting structure, promoting reform and building an upgraded version of China's economy while formulating the overall deployment. The Action Plan issued and implemented based on in-depth studies and repeated demonstration embodies the central government's work style which is scientific, rigorous, practical and realistic, its attitude which is highly responsible for the people and its resolute determination which adheres to putting people first, striving to improve environment and ensuring public health rights and interests.

The atmospheric pollution issue in China resulted from long-term accumulation. The task to control atmospheric pollution is heavy and difficult and requires long-time and hard efforts. Everyone is responsible for air pollution prevention and control so as to establish a code of conduct that the whole society should share weal and woe and make joint efforts. It is imperative to pursue development while the environment is under protection so as to achieve a multi-win situation in environmental benefit, economic benefit and social benefit.

The Action Plan specifies that it is necessary to accelerate the formation of a new mechanism in atmospheric pollution prevention and control which is led by governments, implemented by enterprises, driven by markets and participated by the public. This is in accordance with the general requirements which require to combine governmental regulations and control with market adjustment in a bid to all-roundly drive forward the coordination with focus on key breakthroughs, the collaboration between regional cooperation and regional management as well as the synchronization of total emission reduction and air quality improvement. The Action Plan proposes to implement the atmospheric pollution prevention and control work on regional and phased basis according to the principles that "those who cause the pollution should take the responsibility, those who cause more emission should take more responsibility and those who do the energy saving and emission reduction work can enjoy the benefits and subsidies from governments".

The Action Plan also plans to make five years of efforts so as to generally improve the air quality in China and substantially decrease heavy pollution weathers; the air quality in areas including Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei as well as the Yangtze River Delta region and the Pearl River Delta region should apparently turn for the better. It plans to use another five years or longer to gradually eliminate heavy pollution weathers and apparently improve air quality in China. The specific targets include: the concentrations of respirable particulate matter in cities at prefecture level and above in China by 2017 should be lowered by 10 percent or more than that in 2012; the number of days with excellent and good weathers should increase year by year; the concentrations of fine particulate matter in areas including Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei as well as the Yangtze River Delta region and the Pearl River Delta region should decrease by about 25 percent, 20 percent and 15 percent respectively, among which the annual average concentration of fine particulate matter in Beijing should be controlled at a level of about 60 microgram per cubic meter.

The Action Plan determined ten specific measures in order to achieve the above mentioned targets. (Source: [www.gov.cn](http://www.gov.cn))

## ■ NDRC: polluter pays, the standard for price rising in fuel

The National Development and Reform Commission said on Sept 23 that it will implement the policy of "good quality, competitive price" for the upgrading of fuel quality. An official from NDRC expressed the price rising shall be based on the principles such as reasonable compensation for costs, competitive prices and "polluter pays".

The official said according to the spirit of documents issued by the State Council, the pricing of fuel shall be based on the principles such as reasonable compensation for costs, competitive prices and the "polluter pays", which means, the refinery plants shall bear some

of the costs and customers shall pay some as well.

The official pointed out in order to establish the standards for price rising of upgrading the gasoline and diesel standard from Phase 4 to Phase 5, the NDRC and the Ministry of Finance have conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the cost for the incoming upgrading in Petro China and Sinopec, along with local departments. Based on the evaluation results and the “self-absorbed costs” of refinery plants, the prices of motor gasoline and diesel that meet the national “Phase 4” standard will be raised by 290 yuan per ton and 370 yuan per ton respectively. The prices of motor gasoline and diesel that meet the national “Phase 5” standard will be lifted further by 170 yuan per ton and 160 yuan per ton respectively.

The official stressed that during the upgrading from “Phase 2” to “Phase 4”, there has been a rise of 410 yuan per ton and 480 yuan per ton in the prices of motor gasoline and diesel in Beijing and Shanghai. As a result, the prices of motor gasoline and diesel that meet the national “Phase 5” standard in these regions will only be lifted by 50 yuan per ton. (Source: www.chinanews.com)

## ● Local News

### ■ Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei to fight air pollution in next five years

The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), along with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MOHURD) and the National Energy Administration (NEA), issued recently the Regulations on Implementing Air Pollution Prevention and Control Action Plan in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and Surrounding Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations). The Regulations consist of two parts, namely, key targets and major tasks.

The key targets are laid out as follows: after five years of efforts, Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei and surrounding areas will have greatly-improved air quality with a drastic reduction of heavy polluted weather; in another five years or more, the gradual elimination of heavy polluted weather and the overall improvement in air quality will be achieved. To be specific, by 2017, the fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentration in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei shall be reduced by 25 percent compared with that in 2012, that in Shanxi province and Shandong province shall be cut down by 20 percent and that in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region by 10 percent, and the annual concentration of PM 2.5 in Beijing shall be kept around 60 micrograms/cubic meter.

The major tasks are as follows: to carry out integrated governance and strengthen the cooperation in reducing pollutants discharge; to coordinate urban traffic management and control motor vehicle pollution; to adjust industrial structure and optimize the layout of regional economy; to control total coal consumption and promote the use of clean energy; to strengthen the basic capabilities and improve the monitoring and early warning system and emergency-response system; and to strengthen organizational leadership as well as supervision and evaluation. (Source: China Environment News)

### ■ Beijing publishes 2013-2017 Clean Air Action Plan

Beijing Municipal Government published the 2013-2017 Clean Air Action Plan in Beijing (hereinafter referred to as the Five-year Action Plan) on Beijing-China after the State Council issued the Action Plan for Air Pollution Prevention (hereinafter referred to as the Action Plan) on Sep 12. The Five-year Action Plan timely publicizes the scheme for air pollution prevention and treatment in Beijing in a timely manner so as to put into practice the ten measures for the prevention of air pollution imposed by the State Council.

According to the Action Plan, Beijing is required to reduce its annual density of PM2.5 to 60 ug/m<sup>3</sup> or so by 2017. Therefore, the capital devised the Five-year Action Plan to initiate comprehensive management of air issues, introducing multiple measures to speed up the reduction and control of air pollution.

To meet the target set by the State Council, Beijing has to reduce its density of PM2.5 by 5 percent annually in the next five years while maintaining economic and social development. The Five-year Action Plan is considered as the most all-inclusive, systematic, detailed and forceful measure Beijing has taken against air pollution in recent years. It specifies eight emission reduction projects and highlights pollution reduction efforts including “reduction of coal burning, controlling car use to decrease oil consumption, cleansing and bringing down dust, and pollution treatment and emission reduction”.

The eight emission reduction projects involve source control, restructuring energy resource structure and motor vehicle structure, optimizing industrial structure, terminal pollution treatment and control, meticulous city management, development of ecological environment and exigent reduction measures in case of severe air pollution. The specific measures include the following: integrate relevant measures to maintain the car parc fewer than 6 million; replace coal with clean energies like electricity and natural gas, and decrease the total amount of coal consumption sharply; give strong support to public transport, so as to bring the electric railway mileage to 660 kilometers in 2015; regulate small-sized polluting enterprises, reform and eliminate 1,200 contaminating enterprises by the end of 2016; and plant a million mu of forests by the end of 2016, spare no efforts expanding the area of vegetation and cover more than 60 percent of the total urban area in green by 2017. (Source: People’s Daily Online)

## ● CCICED Activities

### ■ CCICED holds coordinators’ meeting of on-going projects

CCICED Secretariat held the coordinators’ meeting of on-going projects on the afternoon of September 10, 2013. The Chinese coordinators of task forces on Environmental Protection and Social Development, on Sustainable Consumption and Green Development, and on Evaluation and Prospects for a Green Transition Process in China, as well as special policy study on Media and Public Participation Policies on Promoting China’s Green Development, on Corporate Social Responsibility in Green Development, and on Promoting Urban Green Travel attended the meeting.

Coordinators communicated at the meeting with each other on style and structure problems of the submitted first drafts of summary reports of the TFs and SPSs, and further emphasized to prepare reports and documents according to CCICED requirements on report style, content and structure. The relevant information of 2013 CCICED Annual General Meeting and the preparations to be made by the TFs and SPSs were also discussed at the meeting.

### ■ Tang Dingding meets with Johnson, acting director of Bilateral and Multilateral Affairs Division of Canadian Ministry of Environment

Tang Dingding, deputy secretary general of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) and Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), met with Ms. Johnson, acting director of the Bilateral and Multilateral Affairs Division of the Canadian Ministry of Environment, on Sept 9, 2013 during his trip to attend the 8th China-Canada Joint Committee on Environmental Cooperation in Canada and held talks with her about the work of CCICED.

Tang Dingding spoke highly of the China-Canada cooperation on CCICED project during the meeting and expressed that since the establishment of CCICED in 1992, Canadian government was always the most important donor and partner of CCICED, offering its continuous support to CCICED in both talents and financial terms, playing an important role in operation of CCICED and making important contributions to the communication and exchanges between Chinese government and international community in environmental and developmental fields. The Chinese side would like to express its heartfelt thanks to the work done by the Canadian government for CCICED, added Tang Dingding.

Johnson expressed that the China-Canada CCICED project has a solid basis for cooperation and fruitful achievements in cooperation and said that the Canadian Ministry of Environment is greatly honored to continue the work of CCICED in place of Canadian International Development Agency. The Canadian side is willing to pay closer attention to CCICED projects, and play a more active and constructive role in CCICED's activities and long term development, added Johnson.

Both sides exchanged views on topics including candidates for CCICED executive vice chairperson of foreign side, further playing the roles of the Canadian Embassy to China and the International Supporting Office of the CCICED Secretariat as well as arrangements for the CCICED 2013 Annual General Meeting (hereinafter referred to as the 2013 AGM).

As for the 2013 AGM, Tang Dingding pointed out that this will be the first time for Zhang Gaoli, vice premier of the State Council of the PRC and newly appointed chairperson of CCICED, to attend the CCICED Annual General Meeting and this will also be the first time for Li Keqiang, premier of the State Council of the PRC, to attend CCICED activities in the form of "meet with key participants". Therefore, the 2013 AGM is particularly important. The Canadian side agrees with it and is willing to work with the Chinese side to positively prepare for a successful 2013 AGM, especially focusing on better playing the role and function of the CCICED executive vice chairperson of the Canadian side.

Tang Dingding expressed that the Canadian Embassy to China has played a positive role as a bridge and a link in the China-Canada CCICED project for years, and promoted its implementation. The Canada-based International Supporting Office of the CCICED Secretariat has also provided positive and strong supports for the CCICED's routine operation, added Tang Dingding. Both sides unanimously agreed to continuously strengthen the roles of the Canadian Embassy to China and the International Supporting Office of the CCICED Secretariat under the current cooperation framework, especially play greater roles in aspects including expanding CCICED's relations with its international partners and sharing CCICED's research results with international community.

Both sides unanimously agreed that CCICED, as a unique advisory body, has made positive contributions to promoting China's environmental protection and development for years. The China-Canada CCICED project is an important part of the China-Canada environmental protection cooperation. Both sides are willing to carry out more fruitful cooperation under the platform and framework of CCICED.

Personnel attending the meeting included Fang Li, assistant secretary general of CCICED and deputy director general of the MEP FECO.

## ■ CCICED deputy secretary general Tang Dingding meets with WRI President Steer

Tang Dingding, deputy secretary general of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) and director general of MEP Department of International Cooperation, met with Steer, president of the World Resources Institute (WRI),

on Sept 11, 2013 in New York, the US, and held talks with him about the work of CCICED.

Tang Dingding expressed during the meeting that CCICED, as a policy advisory body on environment and development, attaches tremendous importance to exchanges and cooperation with international think-tanks and research institutes and that the WRI, as an international think-tank, assumes profound authority and influence in forward-looking and early-warning researches on issues concerning global resources and environment. China is willing to carry out more substantial cooperation with the WRI under the framework of CCICED. Steer said that the WRI as a whole and he himself has always been paying close attention to CCICED, and are willing to actively participate in and support the work and activities of CCICED.

Both sides agreed to carry out long-term cooperation between CCICED and the WRI in the following aspects. First, jointly launch a flagship professional publication as the mark of mutual cooperation, the specific field and detailed contents of which will be confirmed after further working-level communications by both sides; second, conduct thematic researches with low investment but quick results on topic issues, and then offer policy advices to Chinese government; third, send the other side invitations to international conferences and activities held by each other or jointly hold activities and seminars to enhance the international influence of both sides; and fourth, initiate personal exchange and training programs, especially selecting and dispatching the staff of CCICED to participate in vocational trainings in the WRI to improve their work capabilities on the one side and generate detailed suggestions on mutual cooperation on the other side.

Both sides agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding for long-term cooperation during the CCICED Annual General Meeting 2013.

They also exchanged views on joint efforts in promoting dialogues between Chinese and American think-tanks and reached a preliminary agreement to hold the first Sino-America think-tank dialogue in 2014 to exchange ideas on mutually-concerned macro strategies and policies on environment and development. The WRI and the US Environmental Defense Fund will take the charge of organization on the part of US, and the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy of the MEP on the part of China. As to the specific time, the dialogue could be integrated into major international conferences or activities.

Fang Li, assistant secretary general of CCICED and deputy director general of MEP FECO, and Manish Baptna, vice president of the WRI, also attended the meeting.

## ● CCICED Policy Studies

### ■ The 4th working conference of the research group on sustainable consumption and green development held

The 4th plenary session of the research group on sustainable consumption and green development of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) was held from Sep 16-17 in Beijing. The session was hosted by Xu Qinghua, the Chinese group leader and deputy secretary general of CCICED, and Michael Quint, the foreign group leader and the principal of German sustainable consumption and production cooperation center. Arthur J. Hanson, International Chief Advisor of CCICED, Tang Dingding, deputy secretary general of CCICED and director general of MEP Department of International Cooperation, and Fang Li, assistant secretary general of CCICED and deputy director general of MEP FECO, attended the session. Other 40 attendees included foreign and Chinese members and consultants of the research group, and representatives from United Nations Environment Programme, GIZ, World Wildlife

Fund, Chief Advisor Supporting Expert Group, the Secretariat of CCICED and CCICED International Supporting Office.

The session was the last working conference of the research group. At the session, the abstract of the research was briefed and its structure and chapters discussed; amendments on existing 9 policies and proposals were put forward; and the final requirement and assignment of report amending was set out.

The Secretariat of CCICED reported the preparation progress for CCICED annual general meeting and preparation should be made by the research group. The session required that the research group should submit the final draft for report abstract on Sep 30, the final draft for report on Oct 20, and two group leaders' PPT to be reported at the annual general meeting should be submitted one week before the meeting.

7

*(For more news on China's environment and development, please log on [www.cciced.net](http://www.cciced.net) or contact CCICED Secretariat)*

