



**China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and
Development (CCICED)**

CCICED 2015 Work Report

**CCICED 2015 Annual General Meeting
November 9-11, 2015**

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The China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), a high-level policy advisory body now in its 24th year of operation, has steadfastly promoted sustainable development and enjoyed both recognition and support from the Government of China and international community. At the CCICED Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2014, Mr. Zhang Gaoli, China's Vice Premier of the State Council and CCICED Chairperson, said: *"The CCICED has provided a platform of dialogue between Chinese and international high-level officials, opened a door to international experience in sustainable development, and served as a bridge for bilateral exchange on environment and development best practices between China and the international community. It has played a positive role in supporting China's economic development and environmental protection for more than 20 years. The Chinese government will as always support the long-term development of the CCICED and hopes the Council will continue to provide knowledge and serve as a platform for bilateral exchange, thus contributing ever more to the green development of China and the world."*

Under the strong leadership of the Bureau and with the support of domestic and international partners, the CCICED has successfully completed the tasks set for the year and satisfactorily met its planned objectives. Below is an overview of the progress achieved over the past year.

1. SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY RESEARCH

In 2015, the CCICED carried out policy research under the theme, *"Enabling Governance Capacity for Green Development"*. The policy research, which focused on exploring governance frameworks and support systems as well as on strengthening capacity development, formulated workable policy recommendations that will improve national governance capacity and promote transformation in China.

1.1 Completing the Council's planned policy research

In 2015, the CCICED completed three task force projects and three special policy studies, with findings reported to the 2015 AGM. The topics are listed below:

1. *Task Force on National Governance Capacity for Green Transformation (2015)*
2. *Task Force on Rule of Law and Ecological Civilization (2015-2016)*
3. *Task Force on Green Finance Reform and Green Transformation (2015)*
4. *Special Policy Study on Soil Pollution Management (2015)*
5. *Special Policy Study on Eco-Environmental Risk Management (2015)*
6. *Special Policy Study on Coordinated Actions for Addressing Climate Change and Air Pollution (2015).*

Also, as authorized by the Bureau and approved by the Secretary-General, the Task Force on Green Transformation Outlook (2015-2030) and the Task Force on South-South Cooperation on Ecological Civilization were established during the year. Their findings will be reported to the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

The Task Force and Special Policy Study teams put forward policy recommendations to the Chinese Government that integrated best practices in international and Chinese experience, taking due consideration of China's realities. This way of working reflected the unique role and value of the CCICED as a bridge for achieving international cooperation on environment and development.

1.2 Holding seminars and conducting background research focusing on urgent issues on environment and development, in China and internationally

In accordance with the 2015 work plan, the CCICED successfully hosted a seminar on "*Promoting China's Green Development Story*" and produced two special policy background papers entitled: "*Overview and Implications of Sustainable Development*" and "*Environmental Protection Strategy for the 'One Belt One Road' Initiative*". Experts, scholars and journalists and business representatives were invited to discuss challenges and pressing issues related to these areas. Participants also drew on research findings and their own experience in China and internationally to share their views with the Secretariat and inform the Council's policy research agenda.

1.3 Engagement of CCICED members, donors, and partners in policy research

CCICED members, donors and partners were closely involved in our policy work this year. In particular, 12 Council members served as Co-Chairs or experts on Council research teams. Moreover, 11 donors and partners were involved in recommending 19 senior experts and scholars in a number of fields (environmental economics, environmental policy, public management, environmental law, sustainable finance, soil pollution, environmental risk, and atmosphere and climate change). These experts have greatly contributed to the high quality of this year's research.

Council members are also encouraged to submit papers to contribute to the Annual General Meetings' theme. This year, three members have provided thought-provoking papers on the issues of demographic transformation, electricity and transportation, and environment and health. All of these documents will be tabled at the AGM and available to council members and participants.

1.4 Further clarifying the direction and focus of work over the next two years

In line with the policy research framework of Phase V, the CCICED has a research plan for the next two years, based on analysis of the new international situation in environment and development, and China's need to implement ecological civilization. This proposal, which centers on the theme of the 2016 AGM and provides research direction for 2017 and Phase VI, has been submitted to the Bureau for consideration.

2. EXPANDING THE INFLUENCE OF THE CCICED

A major goal for Phase V is to promote the adoption and implementation of the CCICED's recommendations, share policy research findings with the international community, and expand the CCICED's influence within and beyond China's borders. The following specific activities were completed this year:

2.1 CCICED 2015 Roundtable Meeting.

The 2015 CCICED Roundtable Meeting entitled "*Modernization of National Governance and Green Transformation*" was held on May 18-19 in Shanghai. Innovations were made in how the program was designed, the Roundtable was organized and participants were engaged. With the active participation of our CCICED partner, the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong, research findings were shared with decision-makers and senior enterprise leaders undergoing training at CELAP. Participants had requested, and received briefings on ecological redlining, media and public participation to support China's green development, green accounting and environmental performance evaluation, as well as lessons learned from the green supply chain demonstration project. There were lively exchanges on ecological environmental governance and related capacity building. The CCICED's policy recommendations are of great help for lower level governments and enterprises in addressing practical issues and challenges. In turn, trainees' suggestions and feedback will inform how the Council can improve its policy recommendations. Some of our council members, research team co-chairs, donors and partners also attended this Roundtable.

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

In collaboration with UNEP, the CCICED hosted in June the International Advisory Meeting on Environment and Development for China's 13th Five Year Plan. The aim of the meeting was to promote greater integration of economic, social and environmental considerations in the development of the Plan. Renowned experts and leaders in their fields were invited to take part in an intensive 2-day session, culminating with a focused dialogue with Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli. Among those attending the session were Achim Steiner, UN under-secretary-general and UNEP executive director, Henry M. Paulson, chairman of Paulson Institute, and Kristalina Georgieva, European Commission Vice President for Budget and Human Resources. Participants analyzed the major environment and development challenges facing China during the 13th Five Year Plan period and carefully designed a set of policy recommendations for China's consideration. Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, who is also Council Chairperson, discussed these findings with the participants. This is the first time the Government of China solicits the advice from such an organization in the development of a Five-Year Plan – demonstrating the importance given by the government to the CCICED.

2.3 CCICED Environment and Development Think Tank Symposium

On 22 June, as part of the China-US strategic dialogue at Washington D.C., the CCICED held the Environment and Development Think Tank Symposium, in collaboration with the World Resources Institute. The objective of this symposium was to learn from the

successful experience of world-renowned think tanks, strengthen relations with leading global environment and development think tanks, as well as expand the reach of the Council. The symposium attracted 40 participants including U.S. Environment Protection Agency officials, think tank leaders, the Council's international Chief Advisor and a China delegation composed of CCICED leaders and policy research experts. Experience was shared on how think tanks develop, the role they can play in government policy development, and their influence on the general public. Participants also discussed the opportunities and challenges facing think tanks, as well as opportunities for China-US think tank cooperation. Useful suggestions were made on how to bolster CCICED capacity building and expand research areas. The exchange contributed to this year's constructive 7th China-US strategic dialogue, and was officially listed as one of the specific outcomes of the exchange. It is our view that the CCICED has contributed to the positive evolution of US-China relations

2.4 Demonstration projects that promote the implementation of CCICED policy recommendations

Policy pilot projects are a proactive initiative to enhance the CCICED's impact at the central and local government levels, and are an effective way to demonstrate the CCICED's policy recommendations in realistic conditions.

2.4.1 Demonstration project on Media and Public Participation

In response to the 2013 CCICED policy recommendations, a demonstration project on media and public participation was implemented. The *Regulations of Hebei Province on Public Participation in Environmental Protection* were formulated to establish legal safeguards for public participation in environmental protection work. This statute supports information disclosure; it also protects the public's rights to know, to participate and to supervise. It also deals with related statutes that need to be put in place to facilitate public involvement. With support from CCICED donors and partners, with the efforts of the local government, the Hebei Province *Regulations* were finally approved by the Hebei Province People's Congress standing committee, and have taken effect on January 1st, 2015.

2.4.2 Demonstration project on Sustainable Consumption

In January, The CCICED launched the "Sustainable Consumption Policy Demonstration Project" based on some of the Council's 2013 research findings. The project will explore institutional development models and evaluation systems for sustainable consumption by conducting a pilot project in one province or one city, and will lead to lessons learned and models that can be used to promote sustainable consumption nationwide. Hubei Province and one of its cities, Xiangyang, became implementation partners. The project's leading group was organized and will be key in issuing the required policy documents, establishing sustainable consumption publicity platforms and establishing used and recycled goods markets, as well as contributing to a sustainable consumption evaluation indicator system.

2.4.3 Demonstration project on Green Supply Chain

The 2013 CCICED green supply chain demonstration project implemented in both Tianjin and Shanghai, is contributing to the development of implementable policies, standards and measures to promote green production, green supply, green procurement and green consumption chains. In November, 2014, the proposal to establish the APEC green supply chain cooperation network and to open a demonstration center based on the outcome of the project was written in the Declaration of the 22nd Informal APEC Economic Leaders' Meetings. The Tianjin demonstration center officially opened in June. In addition, the APEC Green Supply Chain Cooperation Network proposed by China was approved by the 3rd APEC Senior Official Meeting. All of these achievements demonstrate that the idea of green supply chain and the various policy recommendations proposed by the CCICED are bearing fruit and proving to be a key element in Asia Pacific cooperation.

2.5 Disseminating CCICED's achievements through publications and websites

In line with the need to “strengthen its communications”, the CCICED has made progress on implementing a more effective communication strategy. With the support of the Secretariat International Support Office (SISO) and related TF/SPS teams, CCICED has a more targeted communication plan to disseminate Council achievements among different target groups.

2.5.1 *The Proceedings of the 2014 Annual General Meeting* (in English and Chinese), and *CCICED Annual Policy Report 2014* (in English and Chinese) were published and distributed.

2.5.2 CCICED Brochure (in English and Chinese) was revised and updated, and publicity document *CCICED: A Unique Think Tank* and other publicity materials were drafted and compiled.

2.5.3 CCICED's official websites in English and Chinese undergo ongoing improvements. Content is provided in a more timely and user-friendly fashion. Annual site visits have increased by 29%.

2.5.4 The CCICED also strengthened cooperation with the media to ensure in-depth reporting of CCICED major events such as the AGM, the Roundtable Meeting and the International Advisory Meeting on Environment and Development for China's 13th Five-Year Plan, as well as various CCICED policy research projects.

2.5.5 A number of CCICED staff attended an environmental protection training seminar for representatives from 41 developing countries, sharing CCICED experience as well as disseminating research findings. This will provide a solid foundation for the CCICED's support of China's South-South Cooperation initiative.

3. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING, SECRETARIAT OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

3.1 Increasing the number of vice chairpersons and council members.

CCICED Phase V emphasized regional balance, diversified backgrounds, and academic

status in selecting council members. There is now the need for the Council to strike a proper balance in terms of regions and areas of expertise, and to encourage the involvement of major international organizations, institutions as well as think tanks and internationally significant enterprises. After careful review and selection, the CCICED Bureau has approved the addition of Ms. Barbara Hendricks, Germany's Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, as CCICED International Vice Chairperson. Also appointed to the Council are three more International Members including Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Mr. Marco Lambertini, Director General of World Wide Fund for Nature; and Mr. Jan Gunnar Winther, Director of the Norwegian Polar Institute.

3.2 Strengthening partnerships through mutually beneficial cooperation

The CCICED established strategic partnerships with the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund following pro-active communication and consultation.

At the same time, the CCICED signed strategic cooperation memorandums with the following organizations: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), World Resources Institute (WRI), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Chinese Academy of Governance (CAG), and China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP). The Council worked with these organizations on policy research and demonstration projects, communications and event planning, as well as in personnel exchange and training. As a result, there has been solid progress in terms of greater institutional capacity, improved policy research, and expanded domestic and international reach. The CCICED and its partners have benefited mutually through these joint efforts.

3.3 Chief Advisors and the Chief Advisors Support Team

The work of the Chief Advisors and their Support Team is a fundamental factor behind the successful implementation of the CCICED's policy research. The Chief Advisors and the Support Team have provided the following services over the past year:

1. Advice to the Secretary General on the formation of task forces and policy research projects; academic guidance on research; drafting concept papers, terms of reference, and outlines for new policy research projects; convening initial TF and SPS seminars; monitoring and reviewing research progress, providing timely guidance to the research teams; and evaluating project achievements;
2. Proposing the themes for the AGMs and policy research projects in 2016 and 2017 to support the Bureau and the Secretary General in determining the Council's policy research agenda;
3. Holding five Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meetings, as well as holding monthly meetings among the Chinese Chief Advisor and the Support Team, to

facilitate close coordination between the Chief Advisors and the Secretariat, and to ensure the orderly conduct of all activities;

4. Drafting the 2015 Recommendations to the Government of China, the Issues Paper, and the Report on Progress of China's Major Policies Pertaining to Environment and Development and the Impacts of CCICED Policy Recommendations (2014-2015).

3.4 Strengthening internal management and improving on-going operations.

In 2015, the Secretariat and SISO sought to introduce innovations to ensure effective implementation of the work plan and made necessary improvements to on-going operations. Continued capacity building programs were designed to improve the effectiveness of operations and management.

3.4.1 Clarifying departmental divisions and conducting personnel training

Four departments were set up within the CCICED Secretariat with clear roles and responsibilities. They are: Administration, Policy Research, Communication and Partnerships, and Meetings and Event Planning. CCICED recruited new staff, adopted a systematic training approach involving both domestic and overseas study, training and joint research. These developments provide the needed conditions for the long-term, stable and healthy development of the CCICED.

3.4.2 Enhancing policy research project management

In accordance with the *Rules for Implementing the Management of Policy Research Projects* that was formulated in 2014, the CCICED has improved policy research project management. There is now ongoing information sharing during the life of any research project, and this greatly supports higher research quality.

3.4.3 The role of SISO

SISO has played an active and important role in such areas as financial and program management, communication and coordination with international Council members and international policy research experts, capacity development, expanding partnerships, and external communications.

3.5 Start-up of CCICED Phase VI preparation work to promote the establishment of a sustainable Council

Preparation for CCICED Phase VI (2017-2022) has already started. A special working group has been established to draw up initial plans, including vision and mission, basic principles, organizational structure, operational mechanisms, as well as key areas and directions of policy research. This entails active consultation with the relevant domestic organizations as well as our main donors and partners, in order to raise funds and provide the needed expertise to foster a sixth phase of the CCICED.