

China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

2019 Work Report

Note: *This report provides a summary and review of the major work and progress of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) during the period from November 2018 to May 2019. Under the solid leadership of the Executive Members, with the active participation of the Council Members and Special Advisors and strong support from partners, and with the strong organization, coordination and backing from the Secretariat, the Council has completed all the planned activities and has delivered results as targeted.*

2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. This is a crucial year for the establishment of a moderately prosperous society. During the reporting period, the Council has carried out the 2019 Work Plan as approved by the Executive Members under the theme of "A New Era: Towards a New World of Green Prosperity." The aim in this period focused on building an innovative platform for international cooperation on environment and development that embraces global inclusiveness, open cooperation, and mutual benefits and development. The Council has achieved positive progress in areas such as conducting policy research, promoting exchanges and communications, and expanding partnerships. Below are a few salient points about the works carried out and results achieved during the reporting period.

I. Policy Research Continued to Advance with Positive Progress

Phase VI of CCICED has established four research Task Forces on the topics of "Global Environmental Governance and Ecological Civilization," "Green Urbanization and Environmental Improvement," "Innovation, Sustainable Production and Consumption," and "Green Energy, Investment and Trade," respectively. These four Task Forces serve as a framework under which sector-specific research projects will be gradually launched. As the policy research work advances, this scientific and systematic approach has been recognized and welcomed by the Council Members, Special Advisors and partners. In the past few months, each of the Special Policy Study (SPS) teams has been proposing policy recommendations focusing on China's 14th Five-Year Plan, as well as on major global environmental topics, such as climate change and biodiversity. These works have laid a solid foundation for the successful convening of the upcoming 2019 AGM.

A. Supported Major National Strategic Priorities Reflecting Domestic Policy Demand

1. Strategized Pathways to a Beautiful China in 2030

The SPS on Goals and Pathways for Environmental Improvement in 2035 convened several workshops. With a focus on the 14th Five-Year Plan, the SPS proposed relevant policy recommendations such as establishing an indicator system and demonstration zones for building a beautiful China; mobilizing business leadership; strengthening environmental governance; and promoting the sustainable management of chemicals.

2. Contributed to Regional Integrated Development

The SPS on Green Urbanization Strategy and Pathways Towards Regional Integrated Development identified the primary tasks for China's green urbanization, researched the basic features of the consequences of traditional urbanization, analyzed patterns for China's future urbanization, and proposed policy recommendations on the strategic options for China's green urbanization.

3. Promoted the Conservation of the Yangtze River

The SPS on Ecological Compensation, Green Development and Institutional Reform in the Yangtze River Economic Belt convened an international workshop on ecological compensation. With a focus on the 14th Five-Year Plan, the SPS proposed relevant policy recommendations such as the medium- to long-term ecological and environmental protection strategy for the Yangtze River Economic Belt, calculation of natural capital, an omnidirectional and multiscale mechanism on ecological compensation, legislation on conservation of the Yangtze River and the establishment of environment protection platforms.

4. Promoted Green Life Style

Looking at consumption's impact on resources and environment, the SPS on Green Transition and Sustainable Social Governance analyzed the working mechanism of China's green consumption and socioeconomic green transformation. The SPS also reviewed China's current policy practice on green consumption and proposed strategic positioning and policy recommendations to the Chinese government on promoting green consumption.

B. Participated in the Global Environmental Governance Process with a Focus on the Emergent International Topics on Environment and Development

5. Actively Participated in Global Climate Governance

The SPS on Global Climate Governance and China's Role carried out research on the opportunities and challenges facing climate adaptation work in the context of ecological civilization and green development. The SPS also looked at China's roles in, contributions to and leadership in global climate governance. The SPS proposed policy recommendations on China's climate policy during the 14th Five-Year Plan, strengthening the government's climate leadership and promoting low-carbon development along the Belt and Road region.

6. Supported the Organization and Planning of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The SPS on Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Conservation focused on analyzing the construction of a nature reserve system in China that is mainly based on national parks. The SPS summarized the experience and progress of biodiversity conservation and proposed policy recommendations on the framework, objectives, ways and means for post-2020 biodiversity conservation.

7. Carried Out Studies on Ocean Governance Systems

The SPS on Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization completed two thematic studies on marine pollution and green shipping. The SPS focused on analyzing the sources and channels of land-based marine pollution and provided preliminary policy recommendations on marine pollution prevention and control, green shipping management, and ecosystem-based integrated marine and coastal management.

8. Supported International Cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative

The SPS on the Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development researched and identified mechanisms and pathways to realize a green BRI while advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SPS proposed policy recommendations for the pathways and long-term and effective mechanisms to develop the green BRI.

II. Operations and Management of CCICED Strengthened and Improved

A. Active Participation by Council Members and Special Advisors

The eight SPSs under the four Task Forces carried out more than 10 research activities and workshops. Nearly 30 Council Members and Special Advisors participated these SPS activities. In particular, the Executive Vice Chairs, Vice Chairs and Chief Advisors were personally leading the work of Task Forces and SPSs. They have guided and organized international and Chinese experts carrying out cutting-edge studies on emergent topics. This has led to great improvements in the quality and level of CCICED policy research.

B. Commencement of Work of New International Chief Advisor and the Secretariat International Support Office

With great support from Environment and Climate Change Canada, the past few months witnessed a smooth transition of the CCICED International Chief Advisor and the Secretariat International Support Office. The new International Chief Advisor and the new Secretariat International Support Office commenced their work from April 1, 2019. In close collaboration with the Chinese Chief Advisor and the Secretariat, they have been providing full support to

Council Members and Special Advisors on coordination and communications, policy research and event planning, and have provided strong safeguard for the planning of this year's AGM.

C. Implementation of Gender Equality Guidelines and Promotion of Gender Mainstreaming

In implementing the CCICED Guidelines on Gender Equality as approved by the Executive Members in 2018, the Council organized strategic trainings on gender equality for the CCICED research teams and the Secretariat. It also promoted the mainstreaming of gender equality into the operation and research work of CCICED.

III. Dissemination and Sharing of Outputs Strengthened

A. Played the role of bilateral communication platform and promoted international dialogue and exchanges

With the support of partners, and in conjunction with relevant SPS work, CCICED organized thematic workshops at locations around the world, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Egypt, Kenya, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, on a range of topics, including the green BRI, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, ocean governance, sustainable consumption and green urbanization. By embracing the latest international experience and practice into CCICED research outputs, these workshops have enabled the dissemination of China's most recent policies on environment and development as well as CCICED's research progress to our partners. In addition, the Council convened regular meetings for Chief Advisor-Secretariat Joint Work, as well as with donors and partners, where it promptly shared CCICED's work progress and exchanged views on important matters.

B. Strengthened Capacity Building on Communications

1. Executed the International Communications Cooperation Framework Agreements

The Council has established long-term strategic cooperation relationships with China Daily and IISD to assist CCICED in event reporting and policy research progress updates. These relationships will also enable the sharing of China's green development practices and strengthen CCICED's international communications capacity.

2. Carried Out Communications Strategy Training

The Secretariat participated in communications strategy trainings delivered by partners including World Resources Institute (WRI). The training has a laid solid foundation for improving CCICED's communication capacity in developing an open and inclusive international cooperation platform.

C. Utilized multiple media outlets and widely disseminated CCICED information

Through media outlets including the CCICED website and WeChat public account, the Council has published timely information on CCICED updates, research outputs, policy progress and innovative technologies relevant to environment and development in China and internationally. The CCICED research outputs were widely disseminated in multiple formats, such as

multimedia, graphics and videos, which has resulted in a broadened viewing audience and expanded CCICED influence.

IV. Partnerships expanded and cooperation strategy diversified

Phase VI of CCICED continued to receive strong support from the Chinese government and from the international community. In particular, CCICED has received strong financial support from government agencies from countries including Canada, Norway, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy and the European Union; as well as from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Defense Fund, the Energy Foundation and the COSCO Shipping Charity Foundation. In addition, international organizations including United Nations Environment, United Nations Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Asian Development Bank; think tanks and research institutions such as the WRI, IISD, ClientEarth World Economic Forum and the World Wide Fund for Nature. Industria de Diseño Textil, S.A. and Georgetown University also contributed to CCICED's work by participating in the research, jointly organizing events and providing capacity-building training, as well as financial and intellectual support.

In addition to those listed above, many other think tanks, universities and research institutions have pledged support to CCICED through expert consultations, supporting capacity-building activities, and disseminating and sharing outputs at home and abroad. These are all important building blocks for the long-term development of CCICED.