

**CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting**

**(2021 Q2)**

**May 20, 2021**

The CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting was held virtually on May 20, 2021. The objective of the Joint Working Meeting was for Special Policy Studies (SPS) teams to report on their recent work progress so the Secretariat and Chief Advisors can adjust the timeline of CCICED’s work accordingly. The working meeting was attended by more than 100 representatives from the CCICED community, including Chief Advisors and their support teams, Members, Special Advisors, SPS team experts, and partnering organizations.

**Opening Remarks
Moderated by Mr. ZHANG Huiyong, Deputy Director, CCICED Secretariat**

**Professor LIU Shijin,** Chinese Chief Advisor, CCICED, delivered the openingremarks by noting the exponential growth in both Chinese and global interest in cutting carbon emissions, as marked by the recent 2030 and 2060 commitments from President Xi. From an economic perspective, he emphasized the need to utilize this rising interest to identify meaningful ways to connect carbon with a green transition. To stay on track with the 2030 and 2060 commitment timeline, he pointed to the micro-foundation framework of sustainable green transitions as an important pathway to reach China’s carbon targets. With green recovery and transition at the top of the national agenda, Professor LIU also noted the challenges for coal-dependent industries that would require holistic transitional strategies that take all stakeholders into consideration.

**Mr. Scott Vaughan**, International Chief Advisor, CCICED, highlighted the importance of CCICED’s research to support China’s carbon commitments. He further noted the accelerated joint action amongst governments, markets, and communities to reduce emissions, including a recent report by the [International Energy Agency](https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050) identifying 400 different steps to net-zero, as well as [roadmaps](https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2021/02/new-report-charts-path-to-net-zero-carbon-emissions-by-2050-recommends-near-term-policies-to-ensure-fair-and-equitable-economic-transition-and-revitalization-of-manufacturing-industry) to net-zero. This underscores the need for clear interim targets, robust monitoring approaches, and multi-sector and multi-jurisdictional approaches that weave net-zero strategies with bottom-up, whole of society approaches. Mr. Vaughan pointed to the governance challenge of identifying practical recommendations to ensure suggested actions proceed in a coherent and integrated manner. With green finance as a systematic driver for actions towards net-zero, Mr. Vaughan noted that a practical example of integrated policies currently attracting the interest of financial markets are [nature-based solutions](https://www.iif.com/tsvcm) (NBS). Currently Mr. Vaughan co-chairs the CCICED Nature-based Solution Sub-working Group with Professor LIU, with the objective of developing an NBS-related SPS team for Phase VII.

**Mr. GUO Jing,** Deputy Secretary General, CCICED; Director General, International Cooperation Department, MEE, underscored the impact of CCICED’s work that has directly contributed to China’s 2030-carbon-peaking and 2060-carbon-neutrality commitments, and highlighted the relevance of CCICED’s on-going work (including ocean governance, green urbanization, and biodiversity protection framework) to current global issues. Mr. GUO also stressed the impact of CCICED’s work that has contributed directly to the drafting process of the 14th Five Year Plan and China’s green development strategy. Mr. GUO expressed appreciation to CCICED’s major donors and partners for their continuing interest in supporting Phase VII work, and further noted that the kick-off to Phase VII in 2022 would also coincide with CCICED’s 30th anniversary. He suggested that special activities would be organized to celebrate these important occasions.

**Ms. Jeanne-Marie Huddleston,** Director General, Bilateral Affairs and Trade Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC),was warmly introduced to CCICED colleagues as this CHAD meeting marked her first active participation in CCICED in her role as the newly appointed Director General of Bilateral Affairs and Trade Directorate at ECCC. Ms. Huddleston provided a brief overview of her background, including her time as a Government of Canada negotiator under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Her primary professional experience has focused on Canadian domestic action on climate change, including the development of greenhouse gas regulations and policy frameworks. Ms. Huddleston was impressed by CCICED’s accomplishments and noted the challenges and opportunities presented by [Canada’s 2050 net-zero commitment](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/net-zero-emissions-2050.html). She then briefly shared Canada’s recent climate plan, which takes an integrated environment and economic strategy lens. Carbon pricing continues to be a central component of Canada’s strengthened climate plan, as well as the recently created [Net-Zero Advisory Body](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/net-zero-emissions-2050/advisory-body.html), which aims to provide Canadian decision-makers with advice on pathways to net-zero.

**2020–2021 SPS Progress Update**

**SPS 1-1 Global Climate Governance and China’s Role**

**Research progress presented by Mr. Zou Ji, CCICED Special Advisor, International Co-Lead, SPS Climate; CEO & President, Energy Foundation China**

In the past year, China has made a series of pledges on carbon reduction, peaking, and neutrality, as well as promoting renewable energy capacity and carbon sinks. Concurrently, the government has also deployed national strategies and guidelines, including the mobilization of local governments, industrial associations, and private enterprises, to pursue carbon peaking and neutrality. In recent years, SPS Climate has been calling for accelerated global climate action, and has further recommended climate neutrality during the 2019 Hangzhou AGM. The preliminary findings of this SPS include: 1) carbon peaking and neutrality goals will provide new opportunities and drivers for green development; 2) China’s decarbonization pathway will require contributions from all sectors; 3) the sooner decarbonization strategies are adopted, the more technically and economically feasible it will be; 4) integration of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) with carbon tax allows for more transparent public management of carbon prices.

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, the team has proposed the following recommendations: develop a carbon cap and market credit system during the 14th FYP; develop roadmaps and standards for key industries and technologies under the context of carbon peaking and neutrality (i.e., supporting low-carbon investments and technology innovations from the perspective of industrial policies and finance); support local government in developing pilot programs for carbon peaking and neutrality; accelerate the development of modern renewable energy systems; develop combined ETS and carbon tax policies; develop effective measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems for carbon peaking and neutrality; and finally, strengthen bilateral and multilateral climate international cooperation, as well as taking the leadership role in addressing global climate change.

**SPS 1-2 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Conservation**

**Research progress presented by Mr. MA Keping, Chinese Co-Lead, SPS Biodiversity; Professor, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Deputy Director and Secretary-General, Biodiversity Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences**

In the past research year, there has been several high-level political movements on the nature agenda, including the [Leaders’ Pledge for Nature](https://www.leaderspledgefornature.org/), [One Planet Summit](https://www.oneplanetsummit.fr/en), [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](https://www.hacfornatureandpeople.org/), and the [Nature Positive](https://www.naturepositive.org/) movement. In this context, this SPS has called for the Chinese government to join the Leaders Pledge for Nature, exert China’s leadership on nature prior to COP15, and use NBS to tackle societal challenges. This SPS has identified global and regional approaches for supporting effective protected and conserved areas for the post-2020 era, including each countries’ differentiated responsibility to fulfil targets for global conservation areas. This SPS also notes the importance of optimizing the Ecological Conservation Redlining (ECR) delimitation technology to enhance China’s carbon sequestration capacity, as well as finalizing an ECR toolkit to be promoted and disseminated internationally.

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, the team has proposed the following recommendations: adopt and implement the Global Biodiversity Framework; encourage further high-level political engagement to translate ambition into action; address the driving factors of biodiversity loss (i.e., unsustainable production and consumption); share the Chinese experience of ECR internationally; and accelerate action towards social-ecological security, resilience, and gender equality for the health and wellbeing of all people on this planet.

**SPS 1-3 Global Ocean Governance and Ecological Civilization**

**Research progress presented by Ms. Birgit Njåstad, International Coordinator, SPS Ocean; Leader, Antarctic Programme, Norwegian Polar Institute**

This SPS is sub-divided into three task forces, covering: 1) the establishment of China’s sustainable fishery policies; 2) marine pollution; and 3) oceans in the future. Key findings from the three task teams include: mitigating climate change impacts on Living Marine Resources (LMR) is important; rapid development of China’s Distant Water Fishery (DWF) under supportive policies is needed; anthropogenic inputs of nutrients and mitigation actions in the Bohai Sea have significantly changed the composition and structure of the sea’s nutrients; and there is insufficient monitoring of marine plastic and mercury pollution. This SPS has also collaborated with SPS Climate and SPS Biodiversity, as well as the NBS and River Basin scoping group, to identify key issues in ocean governance from the perspective of multiple stakeholders.

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, the team has proposed the following recommendations: develop adaptive programs to reduce the risk of aquatic biological systems, fisheries, and aquaculture industries; optimize national policy support for accelerating the development of DWF; provide innovative green finance support for the protection of ocean resources; establish and improve the marine environmental protection system; and establish a roadmap for future ocean work with a focus on the societal needs for a sustainable [Ocean Decade](https://www.oceandecade.org/).

**SPS 2-1 Green Urbanization Strategy and Pathways towards Regional Integrated Development**

**Research progress presented by Mr. ZHANG Yongsheng, Chinese Co-Leader, Director, Research Institute for Eco-civilization, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences**

In the past research year, this SPS team has moved onto phase two of its research with three key focus areas: 1) reshaping urban areas formed during the traditional industrial era under the new concept of green urbanization; 2) identifying a correlation between low-carbon urbanization activities and drivers of economic growth; and 3) redefining the mainstream understanding of the countryside (rural regions 乡村 vs villages 农村). With urbanization patterns in China dramatically evolving in the digital and green-focused era, this SPS has identified emerging trends (i.e., transaction efficiency, digitalization of public services, strict protection of existing green spaces) that will play a central role in shaping cities of the future.

**SPS 3-1 Green Transition and Sustainable Social Governance**

**Research progress presented by Mr. CHEN Gang, Chinese Coordinator, SPS Green Consumption; Director, Environmental Development Center, MEE**

In the past research year, this SPS team focused on: 1) opportunities for and challenges of promoting green consumption in China; 2) policy pathways for promoting green consumption and production in the 14th FYP; 3) identifying pathways for green transition in key industries (including automobile, waste incineration, sustainable food production, etc.); 4) identifying relevant international best practices and case studies related to topics such as low-carbon transition, design of the circular economy model, clean travel, and incorporation of gender considerations.

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, the international team of this SPS has proposed the following recommendations: develop a holistic approach to sustainable consumption; link sustainability to the post-COVID recovery plan; integrate innovative technologies in the entire value chain; and use green taxation policies.

**SPS 3-2 Major Green Technology Innovation and Implementation Mechanisms**

**Research progress presented by Mr. HU Jingjing, Chinese Coordinator, SPS Green Tech; Deputy Director, Information (Innovation) Center, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, *and* Mr. James Pennington, International Coordinator, SPS Green Tech; Lead, Circular Economy & China Partnerships, World Economic Forum**

In the past research year, this SPS team focused on: 1) identifying the impacts of carbon neutrality commitments on the green development of cities and communities; 2) the role of digitalization for urban green development; 3) the role of private enterprises in the green technology innovation process for communities; 4) acceleration of innovative green technologies from a gender perspective; and 5) community-oriented green technologies and the multi-dimensional evaluation of green technologies in pilot communities. With a strong focus on community-oriented green technology application, this SPS has conducted a comprehensive analysis of emissions from select pilot communities and identified pathways towards low-carbon lifestyles. In collaboration with the World Economic Forum and UBA, this SPS also examined the impact of green technology in spatial planning and pathways to scale up green technologies with instrumental support from the private sector.

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, the international team of this SPS has proposed the following recommendations: develop the infrastructure and policy environment required to scale up innovative green technologies; and continuously promote community-focused carbon reduction programs with consumer-friendly low-carbon technologies and lifestyles.

**SPS 4-1 Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and 2030 SDGS**

**Research progress presented by Ms. ZHOU Guomei, Chinese Co-Lead, SPS BRI, Director-General, FECO MEE; Chinese Co-Leader of CCICED SPS Green BRI and 2030 SDGs**

In the past research year, this SPS team has moved onto phase three of their research study on how China, international Development Finance Institutions (DFI), investors, and BRI host countries can turn their ideas into action. The previous two phases established the principles of the green BRI and standards and policies China and international DFIs use for eco-managing investments. Key findings from this SPS include: DFI practices have seen an upward trend of convergence toward global standards; relying on host country eco-management has resulted in negative consequences for host countries, investors, and the environment for decades (case studies examined were Laos, Ecuador, and Indonesia); and identifying international best practices for approving, monitoring, and regulating BRI projects (i.e., [catalogue of projects supported by Green Bonds](https://www.climatebonds.net/china/benefits-of-issuing), [guiding principles for green industries](http://www.nrdc.cn/work?cid=92&cook=1)).

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, this SPS has proposed two branches of recommendations, both at the policy level and the project management level. At the policy level, the recommendations include: enrich the funding sources for BRI green investments; enhance capacity for decision-makers; further encourage the sharing of best practices; and strengthen stakeholder engagement. At the project management and implementation level, the recommendations include: establish a classification system for BRI projects; establish a green performance appraisal and feedback system; establish a monitoring and impact assessment framework on environmental and climate risks; and develop a green management toolkit for BRI outward investments.

**SPS 4-2 Global Green Value Chain**

**Research progress presented by Mr. Rod Taylor, International Drafting Expert; Global Director, Forests, World Resources Institute, *and* Mr. CHEN Ming, Deputy Chinese Co-Lead, SPS GVC, Deputy Chief Economist, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment**

In the past research year, this SPS has moved onto phase two of their research study, an “upstream” and “downstream” analysis of soft green commodities production and sourcing, as well as an exploration of the circular economy model from the consumption perspective. The upstream agenda of this SPS has focused on: emerging norms for legality, sustainability, and traceability in the soft commodities value chain; international and Chinese experiences and best practices of due diligence and traceability measures; and the role of technology in these experiences. The downstream agenda of this SPS focused on: the significance of the circular economy model for China; international circular economy best practices and case studies; opportunities to enhance circularity through global trade; and identifying enablers to promote a circular economy in China.

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, the international team of this SPS has proposed the following recommendations: establish regulations and standards to improve due diligence and traceability and promote green consumption; promote new financial instruments that favor green value chains, include soft commodity and circular economy activities; utilize innovative technologies to strengthen due diligence and traceability systems and accelerate the transition to a circular economy; include green value chain measures in international trade agreements.

**SPS 4-3 Green Finance**

**Research progress presented by Ms. ZHANG Chenghui, Chinese Co-Lead, SPS Green Finance; Researcher and Former Director of Institute of Finance, Development Research Center of the State Council**

In the past research year, this SPS team focused on: 1) advancing the nature positive principle; 2) identifying best practices and challenges for China’s large-scale institutional investors in conservation finance; 3) innovative financial instruments; 4) the impact of agricultural subsidy policies on financial institutions; and 4) debt and biodiversity. This SPS has organized colloquiums and field research to better facilitate ecological conservation and biodiversity finance.

With the first draft of this SPS’s report still under revision, the international team of this SPS has proposed the following recommendations: apply nature positive principles in the current financial system; improve existing financial infrastructure to better facilitate large-scale institutional investors in conservation finance; leverage REITs and government-guided funds effectively; improve agriculture subsidy policies (taking environmental targets into consideration); and address debt and biodiversity through innovative financial tools.

**Scoping Study: Ecological Compensation and Green Development in Integrated River Basin Management**

**Research progress presented by Mr. Willem Ligtvoet, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency PBL**

This scoping study focused on challenges, good practices, and promising approaches for managing river areas in times of climate change. Its scope included both international and Chinese river systems. It aims to: 1) outline the challenges and opportunities of managing river areas around the world and in China in times of climate change in the context of sustainable development and ecological civilization; 2) briefly identify promising approaches and good practices in river systems that may serve as examples for progress towards sustainable development and ecological civilization; and 3) identify requirements for a full policy study to be conducted in Phase VII on how to improve long-term sustainable and climate resilient river basin management, with a focus on China. This scoping study will present the results of its research in the 2023 UN Water Decade Conference.

*This summary has not been previously reviewed by the speakers and does not reflect CCICED official opinions.*