



## CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting

December 14, 2021

The CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting was held virtually on December 14, 2021. The Joint Working Meeting introduced CCICED's six Special Policy Studies and four Scoping Studies for the 2021-2022 research year, as well as research quality control and the preparations for Phase VII (2022–2027) of the China Council. The working meeting was attended by more than 100 representatives from the CCICED community, including Special Policy Studies (SPS) team experts, Chief Advisors and their support teams, Members, Special Advisors, and partner organizations.

### Opening Remarks

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Moderated by Mr. LI Yonghong, Assistant Secretary General, CCICED

**Professor LIU Shijin**, Chinese Chief Advisor, CCICED, delivered the opening remarks with a brief overview of the approved [CCICED 2021-2022 Workplan](#). To provide further context for the research topics for this year, Professor LIU highlighted three key takeaways: 1) pragmatic solutions are required for China to achieve its carbon peaking and neutrality goals; 2) CCICED needs to continuously innovate and improve its research quality to provide practical solutions; 3) with the shortened research timeline and condensed SPS topics, CCICED should aim to narrow its research focus to imminent issues rather than broad high-level topics.

**Mr. Scott Vaughan**, International Chief Advisor, CCICED, congratulated Ms. ZHOU Guomei on her recent appointment as Deputy Secretary General of CCICED, and Mr. GUO Jing on his appointment as the President of the BRI Green Development Institute. Mr. Vaughan noted that the six SPS teams will have the opportunity to share their research plans and ensure that they align with CCICED's agenda to support multilateral and international cooperation on environmental issues. Mr. Vaughan further highlighted the importance of collaboration amongst the SPS teams and encouraged CCICED experts to identify practical and innovative solutions to achieve the climate commitments set out by China.

**Ms. ZHOU Guomei**, Deputy Secretary General, CCICED, provided a brief recap of the Annual General Meeting that successfully took place in September in hybrid format. Ms. ZHOU described 2022 as an important transitory year as CCICED celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and initiates Phase VII. She further highlighted the second part of COP15 as an opportunity to provide



recommendations for the establishment of the global biodiversity framework. Finally, Ms. ZHOU confirmed the continued funding commitments for CCICED Phase VII from long-term partners, including Canada, Norway, and the Netherlands; Phase VII Briefing will take place in early 2022.

**Mr. Pierre-Jonathan Teasdale**, Bilateral Affairs and Trade Directorate, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), participated in this meeting on behalf of Ms. Jeanne-Marie Huddleston, Director General, Bilateral Affairs and Trade, ECCC. Mr. Teasdale noted that Canada has been the lead international funding partner of CCICED since 1992 and looks forward to continuous collaboration in Phase VII. He further confirmed that the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will continue in its role as the CCICED Secretariat International Support Office for the upcoming phase. The research topics covered in the CCICED Workplan align with both Canadian and international priorities on environment, including nature-based solutions, integrated ocean management, and green supply chains. Lastly, Mr. Teasdale provided a brief recap of the CCICED International Donors Meeting that took place in early December and said he looks forward to contributing to CCICED work from a Canadian perspective.

## 2021–2022 SPS Research Plans

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### **SPS 1: Carbon Dioxide Emissions Peak and Carbon Neutrality Policy Measures and Implementation Pathways**

**Mr. WANG Yi**, Chinese Team Lead, Vice President, Institutes of Science and Development, Chinese Academy of Sciences, provided a recap of the research outcomes and achievements from this SPS in previous years, as well as the global climate context (i.e. Glasgow Climate Pact, US-China Joint Statement Addressing the Climate Crisis) in which this SPS will continue its work in this research cycle. Mr. WANG highlighted this SPS's research objectives include carbon peaking and neutrality policy measures and implementation pathways, pathways and policy safeguards for coal phase-out, continuing Track 2 dialogue (including BRI coal withdrawal), as well as gender analysis of these climate activities.

### **SPS 2: Value Assessment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**

**Mr. OUYANG Zhiyun**, Chinese Team Leader; Director-General, Chinese Academy of Sciences, shared a recap of the NbS scoping study conducted by the Chief Advisors in the 2020-2021 research year, in which this SPS has been built upon. Mr. OUYANG highlighted two main objectives for this SPS: 1) establish valuation methods of NbS benefits, 2) provide recommendations for the implementation of NbS value assessment in China. Drawing upon case studies and established principles from both international and Chinese NbS value assessment experiences, Mr. OUYANG notes that this SPS will aim to produce both a technical and policy report at the 2022 AGM.



### **SPS 3: Ecosystem-based Integrated Ocean Management under the Vision of Carbon Neutrality**

**Ms. LIU Hui**, Chinese Coordinator; Research Fellow, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, provided a recap of the research outcomes and achievements from this SPS in previous years. Ms. LIU noted that this SPS is currently in Phase 3 of its research. With the ultimate objective of delineation of China's blue carbon, this SPS aims to study the synergies between ocean carbon and ecosystem-based management, including NbS and other marine carbon removal practices, marine carbon capture and storage methods, and reducing blue carbon footprint from human marine activities.

### **SPS 4: Low Carbon and Resilient Urban Development and Adaptation to Climate Change**

**Mr. LI Xiaojiang**, Chinese Team Leader; Professor and former President, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, identified the Yangtze River basin area as the research focus for this SPS. Mr. LI highlighted the rich and mature basin management experiences from OECD countries (i.e. Rhine, Mississippi) that will be studied by this SPS. The research objectives for this SPS will cover: 1) impacts and challenges of climate change on sustainable development of river basins; 2) climate adaptation and resilience; 3) water and land resource allocation, shoreline optimization, and governance. The policy recommendations and final report will also be shared at the UN Water Conference in 2023.

### **SPS 5: Sustainable Food Supply Chain**

**Mr. Craig Hanson**, International Team Leader; Vice President, World Resources Institute, noted that this SPS will study ways that China's agri-food system can be transformed to lower emissions along the supply chain and contribute to the carbon commitments. Aspirational outcomes of this SPS include securing food supplies and green agricultural reforms.

**Mr. FAN Shenggen**, Chinese Team Leader; Professor, China Agricultural University, provided a brief recap of the white paper published by CCICED on sustainable food in the previous research year, which led to the conception of this SPS. Mr. FAN further noted that this SPS will aim to: 1) identify opportunities within the food system to contribute to China's carbon objectives; 2) identify priorities of food safety and security, as well as avoided food waste; and 3) examine how healthy diets can align with low-carbon and eco-friendly food systems.

### **SPS 6: Key Pathways on a Green and Low-Carbon BRI**

**Mr. ZHANG Jianyu**, Deputy Team Leader; Executive President, BRI Green Development Institute, provided a recap of the research outcomes and achievements from this SPS in previous years, as well as an update on China's engagement abroad in green and low-carbon development. In this context, this SPS will focus on: 1) clean energy technology innovation, development, and transfer; 2) allocation of resources to support green and low-carbon development in BRI countries;



3) enhancing international cooperation amongst BRI countries for global low-carbon transitions and post-pandemic green recoveries.

## **CCICED SPS Gender Mainstreaming**

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**Ms. Kristine St-Pierre**, Expert for CCICED SPS Gender Mainstreaming, the WPS Group, reiterated the importance of gender equality as a cross-cutting theme and research priority for CCICED. For this research year, Ms. St-Pierre will continue to work with the SPS teams to conduct gender analysis, provide a gender mainstreaming guidance note and an updated gender toolkit, as well as deliver one-on-one gender consultation services throughout the year.

## **Briefing on Scoping Studies**

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In addition to the SPS studies, four Scoping Studies will be led and organized by the Chief Advisors on the following topics: 1) innovative finance post-COP15 and COP 6; 2) sustainable trade; 3) green technologies – digitization and sustainability; 4) green, low carbon transition.

**Mr. ZHANG Yongsheng**, Research Institute for Eco-civilization, CASS, shared a brief outline for the scoping study on the topic of risk prevention for green low-carbon transition.

**Mr. Dirk Messner**, President, German Environment Agency, shared his support for the scoping study on digitization and sustainability, and looks forward to working with CCICED partners on this topic.

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

