



CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting

November 29, 2022

The CCICED Chief Advisors and Secretariat Joint Working Meeting was held virtually on November 29, 2022. The Joint Working Meeting introduced CCICED's eight Special Policy Studies and three Scoping Studies for the kick off for Phase VII and the 2022-2023 research year, as well as research quality control and incorporation of gender into the SPS research. The working meeting was attended by more than 70 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

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 outcomes from the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that recently took place in October 2022, include the subsequent report which outlined the objectives, basic principles and key policies for [China's green transition](#). Professor LIU reiterated President XI's proposal for Chinese-style modernization and stressed the important of high-quality development to achieve the 2030/2060 carbon targets. Finally, as CCICED continues to provide valuable policy recommendations to the State Council, Professors LIU recommends the SPS teams to pay close attention to the ways in which climate targets and slogans are translated into concrete and effective actions.

Mr. Scott Vaughan, International Chief Advisor, CCICED, encourages the SPS teams to actively identify cross-cutting topics of relevance beyond their current SPS for opportunities of collaboration, including building and integrating resilience, accelerating green transition, and finding solutions to work through the geopolitical challenges with international partners. He further reaffirms Professor LIU's suggestion for the SPS teams to examine successful case studies when implementing climate goals that are effective and inclusive. Mr. Vaughan share a few important outcomes from the recent COP27, including the 1st inclusion of the term "nature-based solutions" in the COP cover text, as well as to consider resource mobilization from nature and climate perspective. Lastly, he highlighted the recent reestablishment of the [G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group](#), and the launch of the [UN High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities](#), chaired by Chaired by Catherine McKenna, the former



Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change and former CCICED Executive Vice-Chairperson.

Ms. ZHOU Guomei, Deputy Secretary General, CCICED, provided a brief recap of the 2023 Annual General Meeting and the celebration of 30th Anniversary of CCICED that took place this past June. She announced the additional resources that the Chinese Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) will devote to CCICED and introduced the newly appointed Deputy Secretary General of CCICED, Mr. ZHANG Yujun. Ms. ZHOU concurs with the significance of Chinese-style modernization and further notes the close entwinement between green low-carbon development with economically focused high-quality development. She thanked Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the Canadian government for their continuous support and looks forward to participating in the upcoming COP15 to continue negotiations on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Ms. Jeanne-Marie Huddleston, Director General, Bilateral Affairs and Trade, ECCC, expressed appreciation for the work of CCICED and the secretariat, as well as remarked on the successful completion of the 2022 AGM and the initiation of Phase VII research. Ms. Huddleston noted the key policy priorities from the 20th National Congress on the topic of environment and sustainable development was very promising, and further encourages the SPS teams to take into account outcomes from other major international events (including G20, COP14) when drawing cross-cutting links to address environmental challenges. Lastly, Ms. Huddleston remarked on the important role CCICED will play in the upcoming COP15 and shared her enthusiasm for the meeting of MEE and ECCC Ministers.

Mr. ZHANG Yujun, Deputy Secretary General, CCICED; Director General, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE, shared remarks of honor and fortitude to formally join CCICED. Under the backdrop of the on-going global environment crisis, Mr. ZHANG highlighted the value of the CCICED platform in gathering experts from across the world to partake in candid dialogues with the common goals of promoting a green and low-carbon future. As part of the China delegation to COP15, Mr. ZHANG looks forward to arriving in Montreal and working with international partners to develop a biodiversity framework that is both ambitious and pragmatic.

2022-2023 SPS Research Plans

SPS 1: Pathways for Achieving Carbon Neutrality and China's Role in Global Climate Governance

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. COP27) in which this SPS will continue its work in this research cycle. Mr. WANG highlighted five research objectives: 1) promote China's safe, inclusive, orderly, and equitable low-carbon transformation; 2) clarify China's role and position in global climate governance and promote cooperation with international partners in developing countries for green and low-carbon transition; 3) share best practice and



case studies of implementing carbon peaking/neutrality initiatives at the local and industrial level; 4) organize “Track II” climate expert dialogues; 5) consider gender vulnerabilities when addressing climate impacts.

SPS 2: Pathways and Policies of Blue Economy in Supporting Carbon-Neutrality Target

Mr. DAI Minhan, Chinese Team Lead; CCICED Member; Professor, College of Ocean and Earth Sciences, Xiamen University; Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, provided background context on the importance of blue economy and challenges in the development of ocean-based carbon adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Mr. DAI further noted the importance of establishing an integrated ecosystem-based ocean governance framework with concurrent goals of maximizing the blue economy through low-carbon activities. This SPS will focus on three main areas: 1) ocean-based solutions for carbon neutrality; 2) blue economy and marine plastic reduction; 3) reduce blue carbon with increased governance on the fishery industry.

SPS 3: Collaborative Mechanism for Pollution Reduction, Carbon Reduction, Green Expansion and Growth

Mr. LU Xi, Chinese Coordinator; Tenured Professor, PhD Advisor of School of Environment, Tsinghua University, provided introductions to this newly established SPS with focus on ways for reduction of carbon emissions to promote economic growth. Mr. LU shared four main research issues: 1) how to efficiently promote emissions reduction while promoting economic growth; 2) how to efficiently internalize the external costs associated with green development; 3) how reduction in emissions of traditional industries may provide opportunities for new emerging industries (i.e. EV cars); 4) How to dematerialization and shift economic growth to focus on the development of other economic functions in society (i.e. eco-services apps, education, creative public content).

SPS 4: High-Quality Development of River Basins and Adaptation to Climate Change

Mr. Bob Tansey, International Coordinator; Global Policy Lead, Degraded Lands and Restoration; Senior Policy Advisor of The Nature Conservancy, provided a brief introduction into this SPS's research theme: coordination mechanisms from mountain to sea. Mr. Tansey notes that this SPS will examine Chinese and international cases on major river systems, as well as the process of transitioning into a regenerative agriculture system.

Mr. LI Xiaojiang, Chinese Team Lead; Professor and former President, China Academy of Urban Planning and Design, provided background context on the environmental challenges and fragmented governance of China's Yangtze River, and will work with international partners to take on the three main research objectives: 1) establish river basin targeted stress risk and adaptability assessment framework to realize the real integrated management of river basins; 2) examine development trends and successful case studies in river management; 3) put forward recommendations on cross-region or cross-country collaborative governance mechanisms. Lastly,



Mr. LI identified 3 basin regions this SPS will focus on: Taihu Lake Basin, Jialing River, and Pearl River Estuary.

SPS 5: Promoting Digitalization and Green Technologies for Sustainable Development

Mr. GONG Ke, Chinese Team Leader; President, World Federation of Engineering Organization; Former President of Nankai University and Tianjing University; Executive Director, Chinese Institute for New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Strategies, provided introductions to this newly established SPS and stressed the importance of utilizing digitization and its driven digital economy in achieving the SDGs. The SPS will address how digitization helps to shift and accelerate the systemic transformation towards carbon neutrality, circularity, and inclusivity, and explore the levers and enabling environment for such pathways. The study will also zoom in on cities as a complex system to illustrate where and how digital solutions could help solve the vital issues in climate mitigation and adaptation, which will cover energy, mobility, building, industry 4.0, and others.

Ms. Antonia Gawel, International Team Co-Lead; Head, Climate Change, Deputy Head, Centre for Nature and Climate; Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum, reiterated the impact of climate risk and highlighted the role technology can play to adapt and mitigate these challenges. Lastly, Ms. Gawel encourage decision makers to consider forward looking policy designs to effectively incorporate the climate solutions that continuous digitization of our society provides.

SPS 6: Trade and Sustainable Supply Chains

Mr. YU Miaojie, Chinese Team Lead; Professor and President of Liaoning University, provided a brief recap of the emerging Chinese political and economic goals set during the 20th National Congress, including 1) 2030/2060 carbon targets; 2) achieve food and energy security and resiliency; 3) lead in industrial production. In this context, Mr. YU laid out two key questions for this SPS: 1) how can China transform its supply chain in a manner that simultaneously supports multiple environmental targets? 2) How to strengthen governance and institutional synergies between trade and the environment to facilitate the transformation of the supply chain? Lastly, Mr. YU shared the challenges and opportunities China's supply chain currently faces during the process of green transition.

Ms. FU Xiaotian, International Coordinator, Food And Natural Resources Program Director, World Resource Institute (WRI) China, provided remarks on behalf of **Mr. Craig Hanson**, International Team Lead, Managing Director and Executive Vice President for Programs at WRI, introduced the research outline, including recommendations that aims to address gender inequalities and avoid negative gender impacts.

SPS 7: Innovative Mechanism of Sustainable Investment in Environment and Climate



Mr. PENG Wensheng, Chinese Leader; Chief Economist, Head of Research Department, Executive Dean of the CICC Global Institute (CGI), provided background context on the balance between decarbonization and energy security under the current global energy supply shock, as well as noting the direct financial support required for decarbonization across all industries. With consideration for 3 main groups of stakeholders (policy makers, private enterprises, and investors), this SPS will focus on ways to scale up innovative green finance despite the ongoing energy shock. With a range of case studies identified from China and abroad, this SPS will look into major pension funds from across the globe and their ESG practices.

SPS 6: Sustainable Development Innovation Mechanism Boosted by the Belt and Road Initiative

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 commitments and achievements in green and low-carbon development. With invigorated confidence from the 20th National Congress in continuing to "support energy green and low-carbon development in developing countries", this SPS will explore innovative and best practices of investment and financing, technological and international cooperation to support sustainable development along the BRI countries.

Briefing on Scoping Studies

In addition to the SPS studies, three Scoping Studies will be led and organized by the CCICED Chief Advisors on the following topics:

1) Scoping 1: Climate Data

This scoping study will focus on the timeliness of climate data and how it may enhance green financing to establish an effective and reliable carbon market.

2) Scoping 2: Green Consumption and Young Adults

This scoping study will focus on enhancing public engagement and mobilization for sustainable development. Target demographic for this study is Generation Z youth of China.

3) Scoping 3: Integrated Land Use

This scoping study will review China's relevant economic-environmental governance system and related policies that have been enacted, and propose integrated land-use policy recommendations.

CCICED SPS Gender Mainstreaming

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. Lastly, Ms. St-Pierre notes that selected SPS with meaningful consideration of gender into their final report will be featured during the 2023 AGM.

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

