

Chinese Policies on Climate Change

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to attend the International Workshop on Green Employment held by Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (MHRSS). The green employment best practice and demonstrative project is one of the 15 projects of China-UN climate change partnership framework projects, which was signed by the Ministry of Commerce, Spanish Government and UN Beijing Representative Office in last April and jointly implemented by MHRSS and ILO since May.

According to project documents, the Project Management Office under NDRC Climate Change Department was established, which is responsible for the coordination, communication and management of the project. In last year, various agencies of UN, domestic implementation offices and project undertakers made joint efforts to basically fulfill the expected goal.

The Workshop today aims to introduce to domestic and international institutions the green employment practices of China and learn the experiences of other countries in this aspect so as to facilitate the implementation of the "Green Employment Best Practice Demonstration" project in the future.

Today, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to introduce the climate change policies and countermeasures made by China.

I. Policies on climate change alleviation

China actively adopted climate change alleviation policies and measures, such as adjusting economic structure, shifting development mode, saving energy, improving energy utilization efficiency, optimizing energy structure and afforestation, with remarkable effect achieved.

Adjusting economic structure and promoting the optimization and upgrade of industrial structure

Chinese government attaches importance to adjust economic structure and economic development mode, promulgates and implements a series of industrial policies and special planning, focuses on energy and resource consumption reduction in industrial policy, promotes the optimization and upgrade of industrial structure and tries to form the economic development mode featured with "low cost, low consumption, low emission and high efficiency".

Saving energy and raising energy utilization efficiency

Chinese government attaches great importance to energy saving. It takes energy saving as basic national policy and unswervingly follows the principle of carrying out both energy development and energy saving and prioritizing energy saving. In the Outline of 11th Five-Year Planning (2006-2010), the strategic task of building energy-saving and environmentally-friendly society was worked out, and the important goal of reducing the unit GDP energy consumption by about 20% by 2010 compared with 2005 was made.

Developing renewable energies and optimizing energy structure

China will continue to promote the cascade development of hydropower and accelerate wind power development. In addition, it will promote the development and utilization of biomass energy, drive solar energy generation and utilization, intensify the R & D and

application of new energy and alternative energies, and enhance the utilization of coal bed gas and mine methane. Moreover, China will vigorously develop nuclear power and promote relevant system reform and mechanism innovation. Finally, China will promote the cleansing utilization of coal and research on the capture and storage of carbon dioxide.

Developing recycling economy and reducing greenhouse gas emission

Chinese government places great emphasis on developing recycling economy, actively promotes energy utilization reduction and energy reusing, and reduces greenhouse gas emission from the root and the production process. In recent years, China has applied the concept of recycling economy into practice and popularizes it extensively all across the country.

Reducing greenhouse gas emission in agricultural activities and rural areas

In recent years, China has made substantial progress in greenhouse gas emission in agricultural activities and rural areas. Up to now, it has carried out soil testing and fertilizer recommendation in 1,200 counties, guiding farmers to fertilize in scientific way so as to reduce the emission of nitrous oxide from farmlands. In the meantime, it has vigorously driven the utilization of methane and promoted solar energy, energy-saving ovens and other renewable energy technologies in rural areas.

Promoting afforestation and enhancing carbon sink

Since 1980s, Chinese government has realized the annual afforestation area of 4 million hectare by constantly increasing investment. Meanwhile, it mobilizes the citizens of the right age to involve in nationwide obligatory tree-planting activity, which enhances greenhouse gas sink.

Intensifying R & D and scientifically coping with climate change

- Including coping with climate change into scientific development planning
- Enhancing talent nurturing and base construction
- Increasing the investment in the scientific work on climate change
- Highlighting key scientific research areas

II. Policies and actions on climate change

China actively implements the policies on climate change in agriculture, forests and other natural ecological systems and water resources sector etc, as well as in coastal areas and other fragile areas.

Agriculture

China enhances agricultural infrastructure construction, carries out farmland water conservancy construction, enlarges irrigation area, raises irrigation efficiency, improves drainage and irrigation capability, popularizes dryland water saving technologies, and reinforces disaster-proof ability and comprehensive production ability.

Forests and other natural ecological systems

China will further enhance the protection and management of woodland, forests, as well as wild animals and plants, promote the protection of natural forests, wild animal and plants natural reserves and wetland, convert cropland to forests and grassland, push the

sustainable management of forests and carry out water and soil conservation and other ecological constructions.

Water resources

China will accelerate the comprehensive water resource and drainage area planning, work out the water allocation plan among main rivers and speed up the implementation of south-to-north water diversion and other water transfer projects. In addition, it will intensify the unified management and coordination of water resources, limit the underground water exploitation in ecologically deteriorating areas, and try to control the excess exploitation of underground water. Besides, it will intensify the research on the effect of climate change on China water resources, develop wastewater reusing technologies and reinforce the research, development and popularization of sea water desalting technologies.

Coastal areas

China will establish and improve the emergency plans and response mechanism for marine disasters and enhance the disaster resistance of coastal areas. Besides, it will improve the climate change observation and service network in marine sector, and carry out the analysis, estimation and prediction of climate change. Moreover, it will establish sea level monitoring analysis and evaluation system and improve sea level change analysis and evaluation.

Other areas

China has intensified the monitoring and warning of extreme climate, and basically established the mechanism to cope with derivative disasters and secondary disasters. In addition, it has made great progress in preventing super typhoon, regional rainstorm, flood and other extreme climate, and established comprehensive climate change observation system.

Finally, I would like to come back to this workshop. I hope that MHRSS and ILO can make joint efforts to ensure the fulfillment of green employment project. For this purpose, I would like to put forward the following expectations:

1. It is hoped that the parties involved in the project and the various activities organized under the project center on the project documents; the project management office, project expert panel and other parties involved in the project enhance communication and make joint efforts to improve activity design, specify working plan and implement working tasks; the parties involved in project implementation actively communicate with each other to solve the problems appear in the process of project implementation.

2. It is hoped that all parties involved in the project organize various tasks according to working plans.

3. It is hoped that the organizations involved in the project actively communicate with the project management office and submit work progress report regularly.

Finally, I would like to wish the workshop a complete success. Thank you!