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China Voices Support for National Study on Value of Ecosystem Services

The Chinese government has signaled its support for a future national study on the value of the country's ecosystems and biodiversity and voiced its support for integrating key elements of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) in the country's environmental management strategies during a forum entitled 'TEEB: Towards a National Process', held on the sidelines of the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing in July 2012.

The event was attended by Ms. Amina Mohamed, UNEP Deputy Executive Director, Bai Chengshou, Deputy Director General of the Department of Nature Conservation in China's Ministry of Environmental Protection, Pavan Sukhdev, TEEB study leader and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, and other environmental experts.

UNEP's Deputy Executive Director also attended the Special Session of the China Ecological Forum, where she delivered a keynote speech on the outcomes of the UN's Rio+20 Summit and South-South cooperation.

Ms. Mohamed highlighted opportunities for new partnerships between developing and emerging economies relating to the environment and the transition to a Green Economy. She added that rising pressures on finite resources, such as water and food, underlined the need for increased South-South co-operation in the area of sustainable development.

Source: <http://www.unep.org/newscentre/>



Amina Mohamed, UNEP Deputy Executive Director delivers a keynote speech on the outcomes of UN's Rio+20 Summit and South-South Cooperation on 20 July 2012



Amina Mohamed, UNEP Deputy Executive Director meets Mr. Li Ganjie, Vice Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection



Amina Mohamed, UNEP Deputy Executive Director meets Mr. Zhang Ming, Assistant Minister, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

China to Phase-out Incandescent Light Bulbs

The lights are going out for incandescent bulbs, as China pledges to replace the one billion it uses annually with more energy efficient bulbs within five years.

China will ban imports and sales of 100 watt and higher incandescent bulbs from 1 October 2012.

Beijing's move is a major step in efforts to improve lighting efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Lighting accounts for 19% of electricity use worldwide, according to a 2007 estimate from the International Energy Agency, a figure that could drop to 7% if the rest of the world followed China's lead, the Global Environment Facility said.

The decision by the world's second largest economy to phase out incandescents follows in the footsteps of Australia, the European Union, Brazil and others.

Sources: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/>



China's First Carbon Capture and Storage Demonstration Project in Inner Mongolia

Operators of China's first carbon capture and storage demonstration project in Inner Mongolia told Xinhua they had sealed off more than 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the past 15 months. Senior engineer Shu Geping said the project had confirmed China as the first country able to carry out the process of capturing carbon dioxide and storing it in saline aquifers from start to finish.

Find online <http://www.chinadialogue.net/blog>

Chinese Basketball Star Confronts Africa's Poaching Crisis

Chinese basketball star, Yao Ming, inspects the corpse of an elephant in Namunyak, northern Kenya, as part of his conservation mission to document the poaching crisis in Africa.

The former NBA player travelled to Africa for the first time as global ambassador for WildAid. His conservation mission involves coming face-to-face with elephants and rhinos and documenting the poaching crisis that is a result of growing Asian demand for rhino horn and ivory products.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>



China's Efforts on Wildlife Conservation

China, traditionally a major market for animal parts, was awarded green marks for its efforts to slow the illegal trade in rhinos and tigers, but a yellow mark for its work on the trade in elephant ivory, prized when carved into costly ornaments. WWF said Beijing should do more to police its domestic ivory market.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/>

The Tibetan antelope has become China's symbol of wildlife conservation, according to Alaska Dispatch. The endangered creature has grabbed the attention of China's still fledgling environmental NGO community, with local government also adopting tougher measures against the illegal poaching of the sought after creature. Since the antelope's population plunged from more than 1 million in the early 1900s to just 70,000 in 1995, its numbers have stabilized and increased to more than 100,000, according to 2009 field estimates by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), a US-based NGO. Protection of the creature is now becoming symbolic of China's growing wildlife conservation.

Source: <http://www.chinadialogue.net/blog>

In May 2012, the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Mr John E. Scanlon, has also awarded a Certificate of Commendation to the National Inter-Agency CITES Enforcement Collaboration Group (NICECG) of China in recognition of two nationwide wildlife law enforcement operations carried out earlier this year. Over 100,000 enforcement officers were mobilised in this effective offensive against wildlife crime.

Source: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/>

Facts

40,000

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52.58 GWs

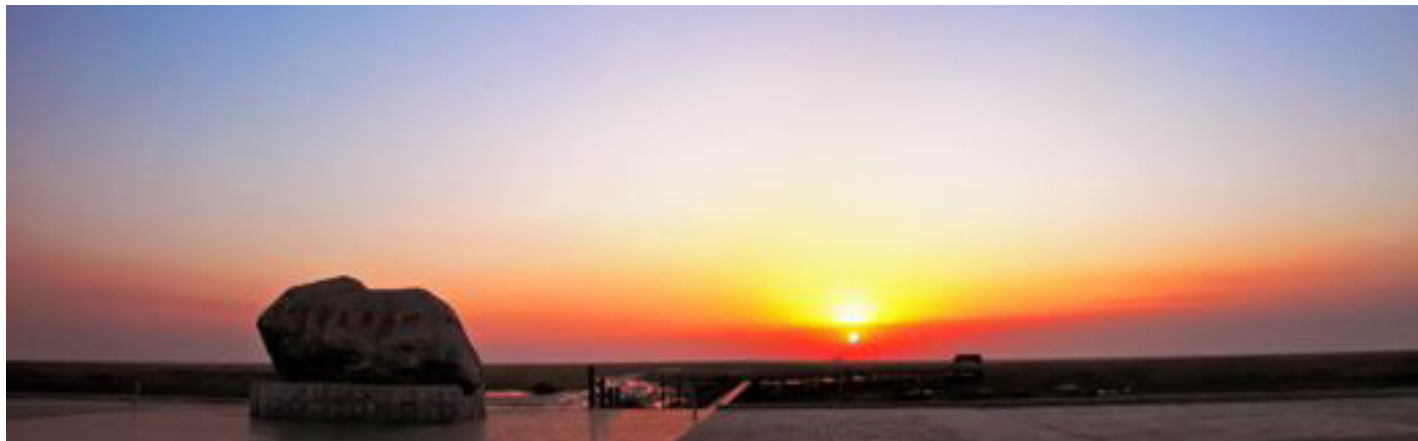
China has become the number one country in the world for installed wind power generating capacity, reports China. org. China's on-grid capacity reached 52.58 gigawatts (GW), according to the State Grid Corporation. This year on-grid wind power capacity on the State Grid reached 50.26 GW, an annual growth rate of 87 percent within the last six years.

Two more UN Heritages in China

Two tea and grain growing areas of China have been listed as UN heritage sites thanks to their traditional agricultural methods, China Daily reported. The Puer traditional tea agro-ecosystem in southwest Yunnan province, and the Aohan dryland farming system in Inner Mongolia will act as pilot sites for a new programme to recognise globally important agricultural heritage systems.

Find online <http://www.chinadialogue.net/blog>





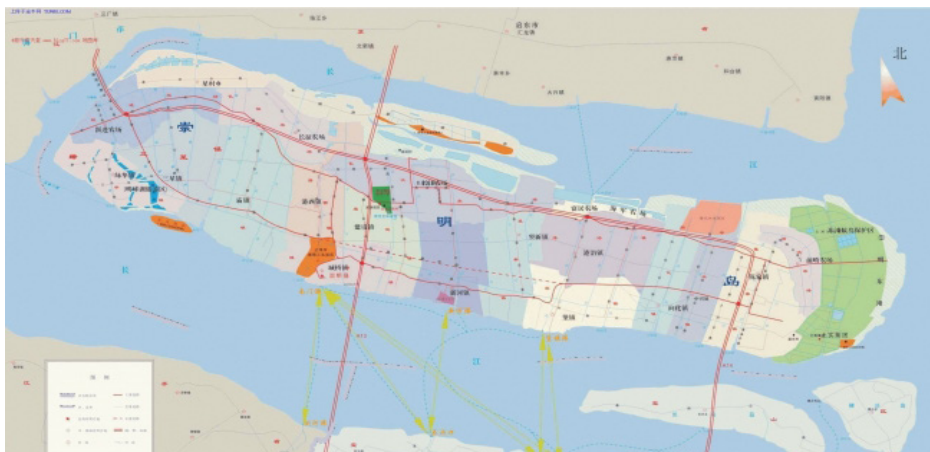
2012 Chongming Eco-island Forum was Concluded in Shanghai

On 28-29 August 2012, the “2012 Chongming Eco-island International Forum” was held in Shanghai. This forum was co-hosted by Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality and Government of Chongming County, supported by Ministry of Science and Technology of People’s Republic of China, United Nations Environment Programme, World Wide Fund for Nature and co-organized by Tongji University and other organizations with the theme of “Chongming World Eco-Island – Green economy and Sustainable Development”. Experts and guests from companies were invited to discuss current conditions of Chongming green economy, challenges and future development.

Since 2005, Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality has launched the Chongming innovation programs which aimed to provide projects, bases and talented people for the eco-island construction with concern on the integration of natural ecology, industrial ecology and inhabitant ecology under the chongming planning. In the past 5 years, Chongming undertook the recovery and rebuilding of venerable eco-system, security of drinking water, high efficient water treatment with low cost, recycling of garbage and introduction of new energy and so forth. In 2010, Chongming was approved as the state experimental area of sustainable development. In 2011, Mr. Wan Gang, the minister of Ministry of Science and Technology and Mr. Steiner, the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations signed a co-operative memorandum on Chongming construction. In the same year, Shanghai Municipality and UNEP signed cooperative memorandum of Chongming eco-island construction and assessment. In the previous three forums, experts from both home and abroad offered plenty outstanding suggestions to further Chongming eco-island planning and construction so as to supporting for its future development.

Mr. Wang Zhijia, UNEP Special Coordinator and Mr. David Osborn, UNEP Coordinator for the Ecosystem Management Programme attended the forum on behalf of UNEP

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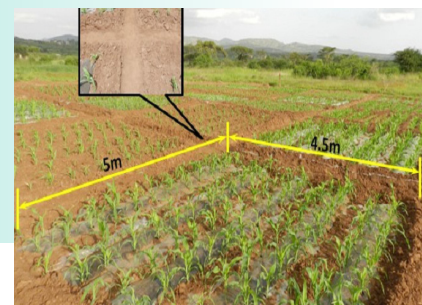


Cooperation, Development and Demonstration of Water-saving Agricultural Technology in Africa

This subproject is jointly organized and implemented by Lanzhou University of China (LZU) and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), aiming to increase productivity of crops per unit area by applying efficient rainwater-harvesting techniques to semiarid and arid Kenya.

Field experiments had been conducted in KARI Katumani Research Centre including four separate trials since this April. Three of them were designed for maize, including 1) comparison in different tillage patterns, 2) comparison between local cultivars and cultivars introduced from China and 3) comparison in different water and nutrition combinations. The fourth one was wheat trial. In each trial, four different water-saving treatments were applied respectively, including transparent film mulching, black film mulching, grass straw mulching and no mulching respectively.

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Young Chinese Painters Awarded in Special Ceremony at UNEP HQ

The young winners traveled from China to receive their prizes at a special ceremony held at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi on 16 July 2012. The winning pictures from the 2012 Chinese Children's Painting Competition show the beauty, quirks and challenges of the global environment through the eyes and imagination of a talented group of 6 to 14 year-olds.

Following the presentation of the awards by UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, the winners planted trees on the UN compound and were later joined by students from the Mathare Community Education and Development Organization, based in Nairobi's Mathare slum, for a cross-cultural evening focusing on the environment.

Over 620,000 Chinese children submitted paintings and other artworks to the 5th competition under the theme, The Green Homeland in My Mind.

The Chinese Children's Painting Competition, which began in 2008, is jointly run by UNEP and the Luo Hong Fund (founded by entrepreneur and wildlife photographer Luo Hong), with the aim of improving the environmental awareness of schoolchildren in China. To date, more than 2.2 million entries have been submitted to the competition.

The painting contest is just one part of the Chinese Children's Environmental Education Programme, also supported by UNEP and the Luo Hong Fund. A programme on environmental awareness has been integrated into the school curriculum in China, reaching the classrooms of an estimated 12.6 million children since 2008. Additionally, just under 50,000 teachers have received training on the environment and sustainable development.

Each year, the Chinese Children's Environmental Education Programme designs a special course for the first-prize winners of the painting competition, which aims to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to become young environmental leaders and to encourage their peers to take an active interest in biodiversity, sustainable lifestyles and other issues.

Each year, the artworks submitted by the competition finalists are featured in a traveling exhibition in China. Companies and organizations, including Beijing International Airport, Walmart, Panasonic, East Asia Bank, Parkson, the Capitol Building of Beijing and the World Trade Plaza have displayed the paintings to their visitors and customers. To date, more than 27 million people are estimated to have viewed the paintings.

UNEP also used the Nairobi event to officially launch the start of the 22nd International Children's Painting Competition. In keeping with the 2013 UN International Year of Water Co-operation, the theme of the competition will be Water: Where Does it Come From?

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MOU Signing Ceremony between Tongji University and Ethiopia for Safe Water Supply

On 5 June, Professor Li Fengting, Vice Dean of UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD), and Dr. Jeilu Oumer, the Academic Vice President of Addis Ababa University, signed in Shanghai the MOU between Tongji University and Ethiopia for safe water supply.

The agreement involves three collaborating institutes including UNEP-Tongji IESD, the Horn of Africa, the Regional Environment Centre/Network of Addis Ababa University and Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority.

The goal of the agreement is to improve the efficiency of water and wastewater treatment plants in Ethiopia. A joint demonstration project for safe water supply will be conducted in terms of the use of Polymer and the management of algae. Joint technical training and meetings of drinking water treatment will be performed on schedule, including participation with other collaborators, locally and in China.

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Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability Officially Launched

On 5 June World Environment Day, Presidents, and delegates from over 50 universities from 30 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean regions, and North America, attended the inaugural ceremony of Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES).

GUPES was initiated by UNEP following a high-level consultative forum in November 2010 in Nairobi. This was based on consolidating the success of the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities (MESA) initiative, which has been ongoing since 2004. A follow-up high level consultative forum was organized in Santiago in September 2011 to identify priority areas for GUPES, including a workplan focused around three pillars of education, training and networking. Wu Jiang, Vice President of Tongji University, served as the Chair of the GUPES Interim Steering Committee since its inception in 2010, and was reconfirmed as Chair following the official launch of the GUPES in Shanghai. In addition, two representatives from each of the six UNEP regions were confirmed as Steering Committee members during the official launch of GUPES.

The GUPES launch was held in conjunction with the International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability and the Asia Pacific Leadership Programme on Environment and Sustainable Development, which all together more than 500 participants. The GUPES launch was held as a prelude to the Rio+20 Summit, where the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) was launched as a partnership between several UN agencies and Universities. Prof Pei Gang, Prof Wu Jiang and Prof Fengting Li participated in the HESI side event at Rio+20, where reported on the successful launch of GUPES, and the vision for a "sustainability university" at Tongji University. It is hoped that more Chinese Universities will participate in the activities of GUPES in the coming months/years.

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2012 Asia-Pacific Leadership Programme on Environment for SD

As part of a joint effort between UNEP and Tongji University, the 2012 Asia-Pacific Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development with the theme "Green Economy and Sustainable Development" was held at Tongji University 4-9 June, 2012. The course was offered for the ninth this year, and included 25 policy makers and emerging leaders from 14 countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Supported by UNEP, Tongji University and other relevant institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, the Asia-Pacific Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development has been held successfully at Tongji University over the past eight years with more than 200 professionals and emerging leaders in the field in teaching and sharing knowledge on environmental and sustainable development issues. The annual Leadership Programme is widely recognized as a pioneering effort on sustainable development issues in the context of the Asia-Pacific region, and continues to attract much interest from policy makers and practitioners in the field.

There was a joint opening ceremony with two important international events - the International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability, and the official launch of the Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES). Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Policy Implementation, represented UNEP and delivered the opening remarks. Nay Htun, Research Professor, State University of New York, University - Stony Brook and former UN Assistant Secretary General for UNDP, Mr. Mahesh Pradhan, Chief of UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit, representatives of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Mr. Axel Neubert from HSF Vietnam and Ms. Nila Puspita from HSF Indonesia, resource persons from RUC and Prof. Wu Jiang, Dean of IESD and Vice President of Tongji University interacted with the participants.

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III. ON THE CALENDAR



Editor-in-Chiefs Attend Media Workshop in Nairobi on 12 October

A group of 17 media representatives plan to attend the media workshop on "The Media Responsibility in Sustainable Development on Green Transformation", in Nairobi, Kenya on 12 October 2012. Among these agencies are: China Environment News, Southern Weekly, New Weekly, China Entrepreneurs, 21st Century Media Group, Harvard Business Review and Tencent News. Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner will provide a insight perspective on the leading topics such as China and the Green Economy as well as bringing about UNEP's priority campaigns where the media could potentially play a key role. Chief Editors from the above agencies will brief UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner on their outstanding efforts particularly on public advocacy on environmental issues, with further discussion on bridging the gap between science and public mobilization.

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UNEP/CBD Side Event, 17 October, Hyderabad, India

UNEP and CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) will co-organize a joint side-event on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development at CBD COP11 on 17 October, 2012, in Hyderabad, India. This event aims to promote the broad use of UNEP's Exchange Mechanism as a key tool for South-South Cooperation among CBD Parties and partners. More specifically, the event will highlight the programmatic synergies between the Mechanism and the CBD network of centers of excellence in support of the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity as a key contribution to CBD's Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 and towards achieving the Aichi Global Biodiversity Targets by 2020.

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GSSD Expo, 19-23 November, Vienna, Austria

The 2012 Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 19-23 November. Hosted by UNIDO, the theme of 2012 Expo is renewable energy and climate change. The UNEP-led Environment and Climate Change Solution Exchange Forum is one of the six thematic fora of the Expo. The Solution Forum will bring forward innovative solutions from developing countries for biodiversity, forests and land in the context of energy and climate change. The UNEP South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism will be exhibited at the Expo as one of the major initiatives launched in 2012.

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