



◀ Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director and Mr. Zhou Shengxian, Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (MEP) signed the Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between MEP and UNEP on US \$ 6 million donation to UNEP Trust Fund.

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CPC Advocates Building “Beautiful China” and New Leaders Prioritise the Environment

Hu Jintao, the President of China emphasized the importance of ecological progress and advocated the building of a “beautiful” China in the country’s overall development plan in his report to the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which was held from 8-14 November.

“High priority must be given to making ecological progress and incorporate it into all aspects and the whole process of advancing economic, political, cultural, and social progress, work hard to build a beautiful country, and achieve lasting and sustainable development of the Chinese nation.” said Mr. Hu. It is the first time that the concept of “beautiful China” has been written into the five-yearly CPC National Congress keynote report.

When listing the difficulties and problems for China’s development, Mr. Hu said unbalanced, uncoordinated and unsustainable development remains a big problem, and “resource and environmental constraints have become more serious”.

To promote ecological progress, China will improve development of its geographical space, promote all-around resource conservation, intensify protection of the ecosystem and the environment, and enhance system building.

The CPC National Congress, the Communist Party’s highest body theoretically meets once every five years. Formally, the Congress serves two functions: to approve changes to the Party’s constitution regarding policy and to elect a Central Committee. The new selected leaders include Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli.

Mr. Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Party and the Chairman of the CPC Central Military Commission, will become the President of China in March 2013. Prior to making up his new positions, Mr. Xi was Party Secretary of Shanghai.

Mr. Li Keqiang, China’s now Vice Premier, will be the Premier of the State Council of China in March 2013. Boasting a PhD in economics and being one of the few top Chinese politicians to speak fluent English, Mr. Li used to be governor of Henan and Liaoning Provinces. As the Vice Premier of China, he is in charge of environmental protection, energy, economic reform and development. He also serves as Deputy Director of the National Energy Committee, President of Food Safety Commission of the State Council, and Chairman of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). Mr. Achim Steiner has ever met with him several times in the annual meetings of CCICED. It is generally believed that improving the people’s livelihood and environmental protection will be the priorities during Mr. Li’s term in office.



China Becomes the Sixth Largest Donor to UN

China’s UN fees will increase by 61%, taking its share of the budget from 3.2% to 5.1%. It makes China the sixth largest UN contributor, overtaking Canada and Italy according to the news release of UN on 27 December.

China and other emerging nations will pay more to the United Nations after the General Assembly approved a 5% increase to the organization’s budget for 2012-2013 to US \$5.4 billion, as economic crises allow other nations such as Britain, Germany, France and Japan to cut their contributions.

China Unveils Pollution Reduction Plan

The Chinese government vowed to further cut gas emissions and pollutants as a new plan, which is China’s first comprehensive plan on reduction of overall air pollution, was unveiled on 5 December.

The intensity of PM 2.5, which measures particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometers, will be cut by at least 5% by 2015 from 2010 levels in 13 major areas, covering 14% of the nation’s geographic area and 117 cities with 71% of the country’s economy and 48% percent of the population. The level of PM10 and sulfur dioxide will be reduced by 10%, while nitrogen dioxide will be cut by 7%, according to the Plan.

China and UN Cooperate on Development of Geological Information

The Chinese Government and the United Nations signed an agreement about the cooperation for capacity development of geospatial information management, meaning that the Chinese Government will invest US \$ 4 million in a UN Trust Fund.

The money will be used in projects to strengthen China and other developing countries’ capacities of geospatial information production, management and distribution.

I. GOOD TO KNOW

UNEP Executive Director hails “Beautiful China” Concept

Chinese leaders’ determination to build a harmonious society and a “beautiful China” indicates the country’s rethinking of the relationship between the economy and the environment, said Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director. “Instead of believing that the economy and environment are obstructing each other, China has realized that they are enabling each other”, he added.

The fact that China places ecological progress on central stage in addressing its future direction and is beginning to build a pathway towards “beautiful China” reveals that the country will further develop its economy based on environmental sustainability and green improvement, not only in cities, but also in its less-developed western rural areas, Mr. Steiner said.

Mr. Steiner believes that China’s Congress expressed the country’s significant and systematic orientation towards achieving a transition to a Green Economy, something that other countries have taken much longer to do, or perhaps have not even begun.

He further called on governments and members of the public around the world to take immediate action to make the low-carbon economy a reality.

For China, Mr. Steiner said, a priority issue is to deal with pollution, as blue skies are an important element for a “beautiful China”. He highlighted the transition in energy sectors toward cleaner production, such as renewable energy and fossil fuel power stations. “Industries and enterprises should be part of our efforts to not allow pollution to be an inevitable part of industrialization,” Mr. Steiner stressed.

He also called for more efforts to protect the ecological system, river basins, forests and wetlands in China. Mr. Steiner noted that China has been increasing forest coverage in the country, which is remarkable among Asian countries, and that its investment in public infrastructure and transport to protect the environment is unprecedented.

He also expressed his appreciation for “far-reaching” cooperation between UNEP and China in scientific, technological and empirical fields and expressed his hope that it can be expected.



Facts

US\$73 million

The World Bank approved a grant of **US\$73 million** from the Montreal Protocol Investment Fund to China to support its efforts to meet its HCFC consumption and production phase-out obligations.

100 Billion Kwh

China’s wind power installed capacity is expected to reach 60 million Kwh with generated capacity to exceed **100 billion Kwh** by the end of 2013. The newly released 12th Five-Year Renewable Energy Development Plan and Wind Power Development Plan by the State Council explained that China will increase its wind power installed capacity to more than 100 million Kwh by 2015, and more than 200 million Kwh by 2020.

China leads the world in wind power installed capacity, however, a phenomenon of “abandoning wind” still exists in some areas. This reflects that traditional energy system, management system and policies cannot fully meet the requirements of new energy development.

458,000 Old Cars

Beijing’s initiative to rid the city of polluting vehicles has taken **458,000 old cars** off the road, and the Government is providing more benefits to local motorists to encourage them to scrap aging vehicles.

The policy offers people who get rid of cars made in 1995, or earlier, subsidies of 2,500 yuan (US \$390) to 14,500 yuan (US \$2260). Sellers who buy a new car from qualified dealers can receive up to 10,000 yuan (US \$1560). The upgraded plan will run from 1 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec, 2014, and has raised the average subsidy for scrapping cars from 4,500 yuan (US \$ 702) to 6,500 yuan (US \$ 1014).

51,622 Migratory Birds

A recent month-long migratory bird protection campaign saw south China’s Guangdong Province examine and punish more than 1,300 restaurants and hotels and 102 people involved in poaching, transporting and trading migrant birds and other wild animals, and saved **51,622 migratory birds** from markets, restaurants and hotels.

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UNEP and MEP Sign Agreement on Chinese Pledge of US\$ 6 million to UNEP Trust Fund

On 13 December 2012, Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Zhou Shengxian, Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China, in Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing during the Annual General Meeting of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED).

Mr. Zhou introduced the outcomes of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and pointed out that the concept of Ecological Progress/Civilization now tops China's national agenda. Environmental protection has also been mainstreamed into the national green development plan. He added that the CCICED meeting is timely and the nomination of Mr. Achim Steiner as the Vice Chairperson of CCICED indicates the high expectations of the Chinese Government on his personal and UNEP's contribution. And it is expected that the relationship of cooperation between UNEP and MEP will be promoted to new heights.

After the meeting, Mr. Achim Steiner and Mr. Zhou signed the Framework Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between MEP and UNEP for US\$6 million that has created the UNEP Trust Fund.

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New UN Collaborating Centre for Energy Efficient Lighting Opens in Beijing

Efforts by developing countries to phase-out inefficient incandescent lamps received a significant boost as the UN and partners announced the opening of the Global Efficient Lighting Centre (GELC) in Beijing, China. Launched by UNEP and the Chinese National Lighting Test Centre, GELC is designed to support the rapid deployment of energy-efficient technologies in developing and emerging countries.

The newly-launched Collaborating Centre supports developing and emerging countries by assisting in the establishment or strengthening of national and/or regional lighting laboratories by:

- Providing technical advice for the development and implementation of effective product quality surveillance mechanisms for national, regional and global institutions;
- Developing quality checking control tests commissioned by governments and the private sector;
- Providing professional guidance to countries for establishing new, or enhancing existing, lighting laboratories and quality management systems;
- Offering technical training for the testing of lighting products;
- Improving manufacturing techniques for energy efficient products; and
- Providing expert guidance for policy and regulatory issues associated with the production of efficient lighting.

Projects undertaken by the Centre include a lamp quality testing project, conducted in participation with the en.lighten initiative. It aims to strengthen national quality control and testing systems and to encourage the development of measurement, verification and enforcement programs in fourteen countries.

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The Emission Gap Report 2012 Released in China

The press conference for the release of UNEP's "Emission Gap Report 2012" took place in UNEP's China Office in Beijing on 21 Nov 2012, as one of the cities of UNEP's global launch. The event attracted more than 60 participants, including over 30 national media, officials from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) and Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), academia, NGOs, and the private sector, as well as diplomatic missions and international organizations.

Mr. Zhang Shigang, Country Coordinator of UNEP's China Office, pointed out that the Emission Gap Report 2012 is the most authorized report of the UNFCCC COP negotiation. The Report was first issued in 2010 and this is the third edition and the first time that the press conference on the Report was held in China. The Report is the result of collaboration with over 55 scientists from more than 20 countries under the leadership of the chief scientist at UNEP.

Mr. Jiang Kejun, a leading author of the Report from the Energy Research Institute of NDRC, presented the Report on behalf of the Chinese experts, and congratulated UNEP on its role in tackling global climate change issues. He pointed out that the Report was expected to impact negotiations and policy makers and it gave the solution for the action needed if the committed target is to be reached to bridge the gap. Professor Zhao Xiusheng from Tsinghua University introduced China's current situation on energy development.

The press release received wide media coverage and interviews.

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The 7th UNEP-China Annual Consultation Approved Six UNEP Projects for China Trust Fund

The 7th UNEP-China Annual Consultation was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18-19 December 2012. The meeting reviewed the fruitful cooperation between UNEP and China in 2012 and priority areas for the upcoming year which will be in line with UNEP Mid-term Strategy and Programme of Work.

At the meeting it was agreed that ongoing cooperation between UNEP and China will be taken forward in 2013 and beyond with a global and South-South Cooperation approach.

The meeting was organized at a historic moment following China's pledge of US\$6 million in support to UNEP at Rio+20 Summit. China has also designated "Ecological Progress" as its national policy at the newly completed 18th National Congress.

At the annual consultative meeting, six projects were identified for the first batch of funding support from US\$6 million China Trust Fund. The meeting also reviewed the UNEP Country Framework on China and updated UNEP's general direction for the follow up to Rio+20 and China's environmental policies which provide direction for future cooperation. It was agreed that the next UNEP-China Annual Consultation will be organized in Shanghai in 2013.

The meeting also provided a comprehensive channel of dialogue to review the partnership between UNEP and China. The Chinese delegation was headed by Mr. Tang Dingding, Director General of Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), with the representatives from MEP, Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau and Xinhua News Agency. The UNEP delegation was headed by Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto, Director of DRC, with the active participation from DRC, DPC, DTIE, DELC, DEPI, ROAP, ROE and the China Office.

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Xinhua President Honored with UN Environmental Award

UNEP presented its first award of "Excellence and Leadership in Media and Environment" to Li Congjun, President of Xinhua News Agency.

Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director attended the awarding ceremony and presented a certificate and trophy to Li.

"In recognition of the contribution in raising awareness and encouraging action in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations," the certificate said.

"This award is not only an encouragement for me and Xinhua, but also a recognition of the Chinese media for raising public awareness of environmental protection, the green economy and sustainable development. In response to climate change and environmental deterioration, the media should play a unique role and assume due responsibilities," said Mr. Li.

"Xinhua News Agency has shown through its news gathering and publishing that it is a leading organization striving and delivering that vital service to the global public," said Mr. Steiner.

"As President of what is now one of the biggest and most influential news agencies on the planet, Mr. Li has taken his advocacy for a more sustainable China and world to the four corners of the Earth, shaping public opinion in favor of the future we want," he added.

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UNEP and Tongji University Renewed MOU on Cooperation

UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner and Tongji University President Professor Pei Gang signed in Beijing the renewed MOU on cooperation between the two organizations at the 9th Board Meeting of UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) on 14 December 2012.

Last year marked the tenth anniversary of IESD, which has grown into a key institute working on education, research, international cooperation and exchange programmes in the field of sustainable development.

At the Board meeting, Professor Li Fengting, Vice Dean of IESD, outlined the progress of IESD's work in 2012. Among other achievements, the International Master's Degree programme has entered its 7th year with 30 students from 17 countries. IESD has also strengthened its capacity by bringing in fellow professors and research teams and 37 papers have been published. National/municipal flagship projects with a budget of nearly 40 million yuan (US\$6.25 million) has been undertaken. IESD has also translated a number of UNEP's influential reports, including the Chinese version of the Green Economy which was launched at the Rio +20 meeting in Brazil last year.

Professor Wu Jiang, Dean of IESD, introduced the workplan of IESD for 2013-2017 during which IESD will turn its effort to work as a think tank for UNEP by building an interdisciplinary international research team on sustainable development issues, establishing a climate change related center, promoting South-South Cooperation in adaption, diffusion and the transfer of technology, and disseminating and translating UNEP's publications.

The Board members gave their advice for improving the work of IESD, among which included the following: expanding and deepening cooperation with the Chinese Government and other organizations; conducting more research on sustainable development and building IESD into a South-South cooperation and technology transfer center within the framework of the United Nations; and facilitating the building of a Climate Change Key Research Center with the support of the China Meteorological Administration.

Also, the certificate of Vice Dean of IESD was presented by Mr. Pei Gang to Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and an Adjunct Professor certificate was awarded to Professor Zhang Yutian, former representative of China to UNEP. Professor Dai Xiaohu was nominated as the new member of the Board and as the successor of Professor Zhou Qi. Dr. Klaus Toepfer, the chief professor of IESD, sent his congratulations through video messages.

Among others who participated in the Board meeting were Mr. Wang Guangtao, Director of Environment and Resource Conservation Committee of NPCC and Chairman of IESD Board, Mr. Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of CPPCC, Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MOST), Mr. Zheng Guoguang, Administrator of China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Ms. Wu Qidi, Member of Standing Committee, National People's Congress of China, Mr. Meng Wei, President of Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Science, Mr. Xu Jianmin, China's National Satellite Meteorological Center and Mr. Johannes Dietsch, President of Bayer Group/ China, and other representatives.

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Priorities of the NSFC-UNEP Working Meeting on Cooperation for 2013-2017

A working meeting on cooperation priorities for 2013-2017 was organized by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP), a joint venture of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on 17 December. The meeting discussed the guidelines for issuing a NSFC call for proposals, and it is expected to start some new projects in 2013.

NSFC is a funding agency for scientific researches and has signed MoU with UNEP in 2010. NSFC will provide the funding for Chinese scientists to join UNEP's priority scientific studies in three areas including Ecosystem Management, Climate Change and Chemicals.

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UNEP Highlighted Progress on South-South Cooperation at Vienna Expo

Efforts by developing countries in the 'global south' to tackle degraded habitats, promote the sustainable use of natural resources, and support renewable energy were the focus of a week-long event in Vienna from 19-23 November.

The past decade has seen the growing prominence of South-South cooperation in which developing countries exchange and share resources, technology, and knowledge, to support sustainable development.

The Vienna Expo was held under the overarching themes of renewable energy and climate change. UNEP led a 'Solutions Exchange Forum' at the event, to showcase innovative, sustainable and replicable solutions being implemented by communities across the globe.

Speakers from Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Colombia and South Africa shared their innovative solutions at the Forum.

Similar case studies are also available on UNEP's South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism - an online database that aims to strengthen partnerships between sustainable development projects in developing countries.

Governments, NGOs, research centres, civil society, academics, and others working on environmental issues in developing countries can submit content to the database and share their expertise and experiences with peers.

The first online portal of its kind, the South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism also includes multimedia updates, a discussion forum, and other interactive features.

Examples include ongoing efforts to support the environment of the Coral Triangle - a geographical term that refers to the tropical marine waters around Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.

Also known as the "Amazon of the seas", the reefs, which cover 5.7 million square kilometers of ocean waters, are home to more than 2,000 marine species and sustain the lives of 120 million people.

But unsustainable fishing practices, and rising ocean temperatures leading to coral bleaching, are among the major threats to this vital ecosystem.

To meet these challenges, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) launched the Coral Triangle programme in 2007. The initiative uses regional platforms to bring countries together in an example of South-South Cooperation in order to strengthen protective action in the area. Today, the international network of countries forming a part of the Coral Triangle can be used to persuade governments, businesses and local populations to transform their behaviour in order to make coastal livelihoods more sustainable, while supporting biodiversity.

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China International Green Innovative Products and Technologies Show 2012

China International Green Innovative Products and Technologies Show 2012 (CIGIPTS 2012) was opened in Guangzhou from 9-12 November 2012. UNEP was invited to participate as one of co-sponsors with MOFCOM. The Show aimed to promote the green innovation and transition through the engagement of all the ministries and sectors where green development has been mainstreamed. UNEP is expected to play more roles to promote an inclusive Green Economy at the national level.

A photo exhibition of South-South Cooperation co-sponsored by UN China was also held at the opening with representatives from UN agencies in China and the OECD and WIPO. The photos from UNEP included the projects implemented by UNEP-MOST, UNEP-Tongji IESD and UNEP- IEMP in African countries.

During the Show, a workshop on strengthening South South Cooperation on Science and Technology, co-organized by MOST together with UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO and UNIDO to address Climate Change adaption, was held on 10 November 2012. Professor Li Fengting, the Vice Dean of IESD, chaired a session named "Applicable Technology to Address Climate Change and Technology Transfer Mechanism under the Framework of South-South Cooperation".

UNEP recommended participants from Asian and African countries and they will become the focal points for MOST technology exchange platform.

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Ozone Statue Unveiled in Vienna to Mark Montreal Protocol Anniversary

As part of ongoing celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of Montreal Protocol, one of the world's most successful environmental agreements, a statue dedicated to protecting the ozone layer was officially unveiled today at the Vienna International Centre in Vienna, Austria.

The 3.9 metre high sculpture, which depicts the Chinese Goddess Nüwa, was produced by celebrated artist Yuan Xikun, who also acts as a Patron for Arts and Environment for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

In Chinese mythology, Nüwa smelted a seven colour stone to block a hole in the sky to repair the wall of heaven. Yuan Xikun chose the figure of Nüwa to draw parallels with modern-day challenges of ozone depletion and climate change.

The unveiling of the statue in Vienna was hosted by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in partnership with UNEP's OzonAction Branch.

UNEP and UNIDO, as implementing agencies of the Montreal Protocol, have been assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to achieve and sustain compliance with the Protocol.

"I am donating this sculpture to the United Nations as a sign of my commitment to support the organization in its efforts to protect the earth, especially for future generations," said Yuan Xikun.

The sculpture has now found a permanent home in Vienna following an earlier exhibition in Beijing, China, where it was unveiled by the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team. The artwork has also been exhibited in Times Square in New York.

Attending the event in Vienna were, among others, Zhao Bin, Ambassador of China to Austria; the deputy of the Director-General of UNIDO, Taizo Nishikawa; Sidi Menad Si-Ahmed, UNIDO Montreal Protocol Branch; and James S. Curlin, Interim Head of the UNEP OzonAction Branch.

"I would like to reiterate UNEP's profound appreciation to Yuan Xikun for his sincere commitment to using his art to promote awareness of sustainable development - this time by donating this great symbol of action for conserving the ozone layer and combating climate change, his monumental statue of the Goddess Nüwa," said Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director.

China is using the Goddess Nüwa in its communication campaign to reduce and phase out the use of chemicals known as hydrofluorochlorocarbons (HCFCs), which degrade the ozone layer. These chemicals are mainly used in domestic and commercial refrigeration, air-conditioning and industrial foam.

"We are honored to have this work of art at the Vienna International Centre. It will symbolize one of most successful treaties in UN history - the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which 25th anniversary we celebrate this year," said UNIDO's Director General Kandeh Yumkella. The inauguration of the "Sky-Patching: Goddess Nüwa" serves as a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Montreal Protocol. The sculpture stands at the Vienna International Centre not only as the symbol of one of most successful treaties in the history of the United Nations, but also as the symbol of a great cooperation between UNIDO and UNEP.

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United Nations Emphasized the Promotion of Green Consumption in China

On 4 Dec 2012, Green Consumption Forum was held in Beijing co-organized by UN China and Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau to support the Sustainable Consumption and Protection (SCP) documented in Rio+20.

China is experiencing the transformation from an export-oriented economy to a domestic-led consumption economy with a strong focus on urbanization. With this continued but changing economic growth, the Chinese Government's 12th five-year national plan regards green consumption as a priority. Following it, focused on four aspects ranging from the framework of the green consumption, consumer and its lifestyle, industry and its products to policies and tools, the forum aimed to provide a platform to discuss, share and transfer the knowledge and experiences in green consumption efforts, and integrate green consumption in the process of improved living standard.

The forum invited participants from UN agencies, international organizations, government departments, research institutions, enterprises, social societies and the media, to introduce the concept, international framework and agenda of green consumption, consumption patterns, indicators, the impacts of innovation and technology on green consumption, the ecological design of products and the integration with the consumer's demands. The environmental education and policy design were also shared.

The UN China will continue the "Green Consumption" as its priority areas in 2013 to collaborate with more partners.

The forum was supported by Beijing Environmental Protection Publicity Center which has a long-term partnership with UNEP on localizing UNEP YXC guidebook and promoting sustainable lifestyle and environmental education.

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China Helps Africa to Fight Desertification

Desertification is a very severe form of land degradation. Africa is particularly threatened because the land degradation processes affect about 46% of the whole continent. China has invested heavily in anti-desertification programmes and now it is ready to share its massive experiences and best practices with Africa.

In China, desertification has been referred to "the most serious ecological problem facing the country" by the China's State Forestry Administration. Caused by a combination of a naturally dry climate, centuries of over-cultivation and decades of excessive demand on water and soil from the world's biggest population and fastest growing economy, desertification has been posing great danger to the country's sustainable development. After years of continued efforts, however, China has begun to gain ground in its ancient battle against the desert sands through afforestation, protection, natural regeneration and many other practices and technologies.

Under the UNEP-China-Africa Cooperation Program on the Environment, funded by the China's Ministry of Science and Technology, Desert Control Research Institute of Gansu Province, along with Xinjiang Ecology & Geology Research Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Lanzhou University and Gansu Complanatus Ecological and Engineering Corporation, is developing and demonstrating technologies for combating desertification in Algeria, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria and Egypt. China's experiences and best practices in desertification monitoring and planning, sand control and sand industrial technologies will be shared with Africa in an effort to build the continent's own capacity in desertification control and adaptation.

The Project commenced in 2011 now has moved into the stage of concrete implementation.

In June, 2012, a project team from Gansu Desert Control Research Institute made a visit to Niger. In cooperation with the local government and related professional departments, surveys and studies were made on the local condition on desertification control, agricultural and animal husbandry technologies. Furthermore, a series of technology trainings and demonstrations were carried out. Over 30 local technicians in related specialties and 180 farmers received on-spot training on millet and maize cultivation technologies, rainwater harvesting technologies for forestation and desert control practices.

Dr. Umar Danladi Dahiru, Executive Director of the Africa Desertification Control Initiative (ADCI) commented: "The Joint research between the Africa Desertification Control Initiative and China on Combating Desertification will certainly bring about further environmental and economic development in addition to enhancing the existing cordial bilateral relationship between China and Nigeria. The project is laudable and timely."

A three-month comprehensive training course on Eco-Restoration of Desertification Prone Regions and its Eco-Industrial Development Technologies was also held in Gansu Desert Control Research Institute from July to September 2012 for 18 experts from Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sudan, Uganda, among others.

Under the overall coordination of the Regional Office for Africa, field trips, jointed research and capacity building activities are also carried out in all the targeted countries.

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China Shares Drought Early Warning System and Adaptation Technology with Africa

Initiated by UNEP and China's Ministry of Science and Technology, the joint project has been developed since 2011 in order to establish a drought early warning system in targeted African countries and introduce drought adaptation technologies for the dry areas of Africa.

Chinese experts are now working with Africans to predict and adapt for droughts. When the project ends in 2013, the targeted countries of Morocco, Zambia, Egypt, Niger and Ethiopia are expected to be better equipped to face drought through establishing and strengthening drought early warning system as well as building national institutional capacities that will be able to deal with the challenges.

As the leading project implementation unit of the project from China, the Institute of Agricultural Environment and Resources at Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences (SAAS-IAER) is building on its years of experiences and establishing the drought early warning systems in Morocco and Ethiopia. Starting from October 2012, a team from SAAS-IAER has settled down in Morocco for one month to carry out hydrological and agro-climatic investigation and joint study. This is one step of SAAS-IAER for implementing the UNEP-China-Africa Projects.

Demonstration sites for drought adaptation technology were constructed in Egypt under the project. Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University of China is cooperating with Suez Canal University of Egypt to demonstrate advanced drought adaptation technologies in China, including soil moisture monitoring, balanced fertilization, straw mulching, plastic film mulching, conservation tillage and rainwater harvest, as well as drought-resistance crop varieties.

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Measuring the Future We Want - An International Conference on Indicators for an Inclusive Green Economy/Green Growth Policies

From 4-6 December 2012, representatives from international organizations, governments, research institutes, NGOs, businesses and other groups working in the field of indicators came together at this UNEP-led conference to support the development of the Green Economy and Green Growth policies. The overarching objectives were to share experiences and lessons from the various indicator work streams, forge a network of experts to provide advice on how to harmonize approaches and use indicators to guide Green Economic policy developments, and finally, to identify knowledge gaps and research priorities for future work.

The conference offered a rich exchange and hosted a large Chinese delegation with distinguished backgrounds.

Professor Wang Yi of the Chinese Academy of Sciences gave an instructive presentation on the Annual China Sustainable Development Report (CSDR), and the latest issue that addresses China's sustainable development in a shifting global context.

In a session on composite indicators, Professor Jin Zhouying, Director of the Center for Technology Innovation and Strategic Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences spoke about the Genuine Progress Index, suggesting that China's national strategy must move from the simplistic pursuit of GDP growth to the pursuit of green & genuine progress.

These sentiments were echoed by Yu Hai of the Policy Research Center for Environment and Economy, who cited the need for scientific development to guide the strategy towards an ecological civilization.

Professor Li Xiaoxi, Deputy Director of the Beijing Normal University highlighted the main ideas behind the China Green Development Index (CGDI). In his presentation he stated that "green" is indispensable during the development process and that sustainability is especially important to countries undergoing rapid industrialization and urbanization.

On the final day of the Conference, Professor Ge Chazhong from the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning spoke about Environmental Industry Indicators in China, which UNEP is supporting to introduce EGSS monitoring to improve environmental industry statistics in China.

Overall, the Conference was an opportunity for participants to learn from each other and further integrate their efforts in support of indicators for the implementation and evaluation of green economic policies.

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CAEP and UNEP Launch a Joint Project on Measuring China Environmental Industry

The Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning (CAEP) and UNEP launched a joint project on the Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS)-based Statistics Framework for China Environmental Industrial Sector on 1 November, 2012.

Around 30 experts from various organizations, including China Association of Environmental Protection Industry, Beijing Normal University, Hubei Association of Environmental Protection Industry, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and Dow Chemical (China) participated in the workshop.

This joint project, for the first time, introduced international experiences on EGSS statistics to China, identifying the necessity and feasibility of applying the EGSS accounting system to measure China's environmental sectors, and establish a clear definition and scope of the EGSS in the specific context of China. In addition, there will be a pilot study in Wuhan, Hubei.

Ms. Zhang Jieqing from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China expressed the support and expectations for this project from the Chinese Government.

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SWITCH Training of Trainers on Sustainable Consumption and Production

UNEP and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China organised the SWITCH Training of Trainers on Sustainable Consumption and Production, as part of the SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component Programme of Work. This event brought together 46 participants representing policy makers and academia from 12 organisations and ministries across China and Mongolia.

The objective of the training was to enhance the awareness and understanding of SCP, highlighting its relevance in Asia-Pacific and its role in poverty reduction and sustainable development. The training covered the fundamentals of SCP, the SCP policy cycle, presented SCP policy opportunities and highlighted some best practices from across the region. Specific thematic opportunities were presented for Environmental Tax Reform, Cleaner and Safer Production and Sustainable Tourism. The final session gave participants the opportunity to engage in a brainstorming session of possible policy developments for SCP in China and Mongolia.

Expert resource persons, Dr. Heinz Schandl (CSIRO), Dr Anthony Chiu (DLSU), Mr Rajan Gandhi (SAG) and Mr Ge Chazhong (Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning) delivered the training and facilitated workshop activities with the participants. The training was delivered as a training of trainers. Participants were provided with all of the materials along with a guide for trainer's booklet, to enable them to facilitate further capacity building within their organisations and countries.

The training was a result of an extensive capacity building needs assessment conducted in 2011-12, under the SWITCH-Asia PSC. The event in Beijing followed a similar event for South East Asia (in Manila) and preceded South Asia (in Colombo).

The training generally follows the content of an accompanying book Sustainable Consumption and Production: A Handbook for Policy Makers which can be found online at <http://www.switch-asia.eu/switch-policy/news/handbook.html>.

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UNEP Involved Activities

Technical Coordinating Group of the Capacity Building of Implementing Stockholm Convention

The meeting of the Technical Coordinating Group of the Capacity Building of Implementing the Stockholm Convention was organized by the Foreign Economic Cooperation Centre of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China on 12 November 2012 in Guangzhou.

UNEP was invited to introduce the current trend of global chemical production and challenges related with POPs as described in GEO-5 and Global Chemicals Outlook. UNIDO, UNDP and World Bank attended the meeting as key international partners.

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UNEP-WCMC Co-sponsored the Workshop on Protected Area in China

The workshop on Protected Area in China was held in Beijing and organized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on November 2012. UNEP-WCMC co-sponsored the workshop and introduced the World Database on Protection areas (WDPA).

The workshop aimed to improve the database of protected areas in China so that it is in sync with international standards. Representatives from the State Administration of Forestry, Ministry of Environmental Protection and other NGOs discussed the current status and challenges of protected areas. UNEP-WCMC together with IUCN provided international knowledge and data on the protected areas.

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UNEP-WCMC was Invited to the International Conference Collaboration

The International Conference on EU-China Environmental Science Collaboration was held on 14-15 November 2012 in Beijing.

UNEP-WCMC was invited by the organizer, the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) to introduce the work on carbon and biodiversity during the conference. WCMC is working on the feasibility of developing REDD projects in China to protect the land and biodiversity.

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Outcomes of the Visits of Chinese Delegations to UNEP Headquarters

Delegation from Shanghai

Green Shanghai Art Photograph Exhibition will be held from 16-28 February 2013;

MOU on anti-poaching and environmental conservation publicity between the Information Office of Shanghai Municipal Government and UNEP is on progress;

Potential donation from Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau to youth environmental education activities is under discussion.

Delegation from Lanzhou University

Progress on the project led by Lanzhou University under the UNEP-China-Africa Cooperation Program on the Environment was discussed ;

MOU on cooperation between Lanzhou University and UNEP is on progress;

The UNEP-Lanzhou University cooperatively-run institute was proposed and now is under discussion.

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Green Shanghai Art Photograph Exhibition, 16-28 Feburary, Nairobi, Kenya

Green Shanghai Art Photograph Exhibition will be held in UNEP Headquarters from 16-28 February 2013 with a signing of a MOU on anti-poaching and environmental conservation publicity between the Information Office of the Shanghai Municipal Government and UNEP. Shanghai will also donate "The window of Shanghai" Book Corner to the MCEDO-Beijing school and possible donation from Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau to TUNZA and other youth activities initiated by UNEP are expected as well.

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President of Lanzhou University Visit UNEP Headquarters, 28 Jan- 1 Feb, Nairobi, Kenya

Delegation from Lanzhou University led by the University's President Zhou Xuhong will officially visit UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi from 28 January to 1 February and meet with Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director to discuss further cooperation between UNEP and Lanzhou University. A MOU between UNEP and Lanzhou University is expected to be reached.

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