



Sharing the Achievements, Embracing the Future

Summary Speech at CCICED 20th Anniversary Forum

Zhou Shengxian,

Executive Vice Chairperson of CCICED and MEP Minister

Members, experts, ladies & gentlemen, friends,

The 20th anniversary of CCICED is a big event in the environmental protection history of China. In the history of the world environment and development cause, the environment and development cause of China has basically maintained the same pace with that of the world. During this process, “two surging 20 years” deserve review, and CCICED is closely linked to the second 20-year period.

The first 20-year period was from the 1972 United Nations Conference on Environment to 1992. The Chinese Government sent a delegation to attend the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972. The conference adopted the famous Declaration of United Nations Conference on Human Environment; it quoted the statement of Chairman Mao Zedong: “Man constantly has to sum up past experience and go on discovering, inventing, creating and advancing”. This was the first time when environmental protection of China joined the international environment and development tide. Not long after, China held its First National Conference on Environmental Protection, which put forward the 32-character long guiding principle for environmental protection, that is to “make an overall plan and rational distribution, comprehensively use resources and turn disadvantages into benefits, rely on the people to protect the environment and bring benefits to the nation”. This officially opened the prologue to environmental protection of our country. The Second National Conference on Environmental Protection held in 1983 took environmental protection as a basic national policy in our country, which indicated the strategic position of environmental protection at a national level.

The second 20-years range is from the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development to now. The Chinese Government officially approved the establishment of



CCICED in April of 1992. In June of 1992, Premier Li Peng heading the Chinese Government Delegation attended the United National Conference on Environment and Development. The environmental protection current of China once again joined with the world environment and development tide, and sustainable development became the long-term national strategy and action plan of the Chinese Government. After that, the joint efforts of our government, people and CCICED have greatly facilitated environmental protection entering the main platform, main line and large arena of national economic and social development with continuous progress and achievements.

CCICED has developed a unique brand attracting high attention at home and abroad over the past 20 years. Each year, the Premier of the State Council meets CCICED Members and directly listens to their policy recommendations that cover a series of key issues in the field of environment and development as well as many practical issues on environmental problems of China in the region and the whole world. The Vice Premier or State Councilor of the State Council in charge of environmental protection serves as Chairman of CCICED and presents an important speech at the CCICED AGM each year; this is unique in the whole world. Maintaining vigor and vitality, the direct dialogue mechanism of CCICED is long in history, high in level and big in influence and attracts high attention at home and abroad, while receiving good feedback.

CCICED has put forward a series of policy recommendations with profound influence over the past 20 years. With the international environment and development trend as the background and based on policy demands of Chinese environment and development, CCICED has carried out nearly 100 policy research projects in areas such as pollution control, circular economy, eco-compensation mechanism, environmental governance and environmental economic policy. Many experts have been invited to conduct studies, over 140 policy research reports have been completed and over 200 pieces of policy recommendations have been put forward, which have attracted high attention of the Chinese Government and have been turned into action. For example, based on the findings of a study on eco-compensation mechanism, ecosystem service and management strategy, CCICED put forward the policy recommendation on establishing an eco-compensation mechanism and developing a national strategy for ecological conservation and development. At present, the Regulations on Eco-compensation in China is under development. Here is another example, the policy recommendations of CCICED on encouraging clean production and developing national industrial, financial, taxation and monetary policies to facilitate the development of circular economy have strongly facilitated the release of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Promotion of Clean Production and the Law of the People's

Republic of China on Promotion of Circular Economy. Yet another example, the CCICED Task Force on Trade and Environment suggested that the automobile industry of China should introduce the Euro II~IV emission standard. The Chinese Government has adopted this policy recommendation and carried out national Grade II~IV emission standards which are equivalent to the Euro II~IV standard. Many policy recommendations of CCICED have made evident achievements in China and will keep on playing their active role.

CCICED has developed a successful international environment cooperation and partnership in the past 20 years. Up to now, a total of 1000 Chinese and international experts and scholars from different fields, disciplines and backgrounds have taken part in CCICED research and developed good and effective cooperative relations. The government of more than 20 countries, international organizations and institutions, and international non-profit organizations provide CCICED with financial support in several ways. Adhering to an open and practical spirit, and adopting a unique perspective and service for decision making, CCICED has turned into a platform where China and the international community interact and learn from each other in the field of environment and development. It has become a bridge for international cooperation on environment and development over the past years.

Members and experts,

China now enters a new development stage of rapid industrialization, urbanization and agricultural modernization. Striving for steady economic development while protecting the environment is a dilemma for us, it tests our wisdom and capacity. The Outline of the “12th Five-Year Plan” for National Economic and Social Development” describes the blueprint for the development of the economy and environmental protection cause of China in the next five years. The Suggestions of the State Council on Strengthening Major Work on Environmental Protection released not long ago clearly require that we adhere to environmental protection during economic development and economic development during environmental protection and actively explore a new path to environmental protection that is small in cost, sound in benefits, low in emission and sustainable in development. There is a bright future and a hard task for environmental protection and economic development in China. Therefore, China is still in urgent need of policy recommendations and intellectual support from CCICED.

The Chinese Government approved the establishment of CCICED Phase V in July this year. This shows full affirmation of our government to CCICED and demonstrates the determination and will of China in sustaining CCICED. I hope that the new phase of CCICED will give full play to its advantage of intense wisdom and talents as well as its



international perspective and successfully carry out key research projects identified by CCICED Phase V. I would like to put forward the following suggestions for your reference.

First, focusing on further uplifting the development of ecological civilization, CCICED should deepen its study on the objectives, key elements and hot issues of a new path to environmental protection and better serve the environment and development cause of China.

Second, focusing on key issues and challenges for transformational development of economy and society of China, CCICED should carry out strategic and projecting studies and put forward policy recommendations that meet the national conditions of China with important guidance.

Third, focusing on issues such as reduction of total discharge, trade of emission rights, pollution control, environmental management, degradation of ecosystems and protection of biodiversity, CCICED should carry out relevant studies and put forward more specific and feasible policy recommendations.

Fourth, focusing on environmental problems such as heavy metals pollution, chemicals and hazardous waste, POPs, ozone, mercury and indoor pollution, CCICED should study countermeasures and early warning approaches.

Members and experts,

The 20th anniversary of CCICED links the past to the future, I hope that CCICED continues its research and innovation, writes new chapters and contributes to the bright future of China and the world.

Finally, I wish a complete success of the CCICED 20th Anniversary Forum!