



BRI GREEN REVIEW

Secretariat of BRI International Green Development Coalition



On 1 September 2020, Huang Runqiu, Minister of Ecology and Environment, visited BRIGC Secretariat.

GREEN SILK ROAD NEWS

- Chinese President Xi Jinping Made the Remarks in a Speech at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly
- Chinese President Xi Jinping Proposes the Building of a Beautiful Homeland for All Creatures to Live in Harmony at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity
- Antonio Guterres: "Jointly building a Silk Road of Green Development"
- Green Development Becoming a Key Driver for an Economic Rebound -- CCICED Released Policy Study of Green BRI and 2030 SDGs
- NGFS Released Overview of Environmental Risk Analysis by Financial Institutions and Case Studies of Environmental Risk Analysis Methodologies
- IE Expo China Environmental Technology Conference 2020 was Held in Shanghai
- Eyeing on China-Pakistan Cooperation in Renewable Energy Development

COALITION UPDATES

- BRI Green Development Report and BRIGC Thematic Partnerships Working Meeting held on-line
- The "Circle of Friends" of BRIGC Continues to Expand---13 Organizations Assumed BRIGC Partnership
- Mongolia Becomes the First Champion Country of BRI International Green Development Coalition
- BRIGC Shares the Latest Outcome of Green Development Guidance on BRI Projects (The "Green Light System") on the 2020 Annual Conference of Green Finance Committee of China Society for Finance and Banking and China Green Finance Forum

PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Marine Community with a Shared Future and Marine Governance
- Global Climate Change Governance and Green Transformation
- Biodiversity and Biological System

VIEWS

- Erik Solheim: China's green development experience worth learning from
- Zhou Guomei: Jointly Building a Green Belt and Road with Concerted Efforts to Create Synergies for Global Biodiversity Conservation
- Peter Bakker: China's climate commitments: marking a historic precedent
- French Expert: BRI Expected to do More to Put Greening Principles into Practice to Ensure Sustainability

Chinese President Xi Jinping Made the Remarks in a Speech at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly

China is willing to contribute more to the fight against climate change, as it aims to bring carbon emissions to a peak by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 with more forceful policies and measures, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on September 22.

Xi made the remarks in a speech at the General Debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly via video link.

He pointed out that one of the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic is that humanity must pursue the green development path and a green lifestyle.

The Paris Agreement on climate change represents the overall direction of global transformation towards green and low carbon development, he said, urging all countries to take resolute action to protect the planet.

He also called on all countries to adopt innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development concepts, grasping the historic opportunity brought by a new round of technological innovation and industrial revolution, and promoting the green recovery of the global economy.

(Source: Xinhua)

Chinese President Xi Jinping Proposes the Building of a Beautiful Homeland for All Creatures to Live in Harmony at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity

"COVID-19 reminds us of the interdependence between man and nature. It falls to all of us to act together and urgently to advance protection and development in parallel, so that we can turn Earth into a beautiful homeland for all creatures to live in harmony". Chinese President Xi Jinping made a statement at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity on 30 September 2020. In the statement, President Xi reaffirmed the standpoint of China in biodiversity conservation and shared the experience of China in biodiversity governance and ecological civilization construction, especially in the face of COVID-19. The statement fully demonstrated that China is a responsible country in promoting global environmental governance and safeguarding nature.

Biodiversity affects the well-being of humanity and provides the very basis for the human race to survive and thrive. At present, there exists an acceleration of the global extinction of species. The loss of biodiversity and the degradation of the ecosystem pose a major risk to human survival and development. It is a first priority for coordinated actions of human race to protect nature, conserve biodiversity and ecological balance, and realize the harmonious coexistence of human and nature. The UN Summit on Biodiversity gives us an opportunity to discuss major issues of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development and therefore has both practical and far-reaching significance.

President Xi made four proposals. First, adhere to ecological civilization and increase the drive for building a beautiful world; second, uphold multilateralism and build synergy for global governance on the environment; third, continue with green development and increase the potential for high-quality economic recovery after COVID-19; fourth, heighten our sense of responsibility and strengthen the power of action to tackle challenges to the environment. It is also mentioned by President Xi that "we need to find a way for man and Nature to live in harmony", "the international community needs to make active efforts toward global environmental governance", "we need to recognize that 'our solutions are in nature', we could strive to find development opportunities while preserving Nature, and achieve win-win in both ecological conservation and high-quality development", and that "we need to uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits, and accommodate developing countries' concerns over funding, technology and capacity building". Experts worldwide hailed that the proposals put forward by President Xi will have practical and far-reaching significance on conserving biodiversity and building a beautiful world. Ronnie Lins, Director of the China-Brazil Center for Research and Business, said the four-point proposal is enlightened and important for the human society to achieve green development and promote ecological civilization.

Strengthening biodiversity conservation is part and parcel of China's efforts in building an ecological civilization and an important means to achieve high-quality development. In recent years, China has pursued development under the

vision of building an ecological civilization and has always prioritized ecological progress and embedded it in every dimension and phase of its economic and social development. The 18th CPC National Congress elevated the importance of building an ecological civilization with Chinese characteristics to a high political level; in 2017, "it shall strengthen the philosophy underlying ecological civilization that nature should be respected, adapted to, and protected; fully understand that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" is included into the Constitution of the Communist Party of China; and in 2018, ecological civilization was included into the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. In his statement, President Xi also shared the experience of China in advancing biodiversity governance and ecological progress: For the last 10 years, China has topped the world in forest resource increase, with more than 70 million hectares of land afforested. We have made long-term, large-scale efforts to combat sandification and desertification, and we have effectively protected and restored the wetlands. We now have the world's largest banks of genetic resource reserve. Ninety percent of terrestrial ecosystem types and 85 percent of key wild animal populations are under effective protection.

Evidence has proved that China has rolled out strong policies and actions for preserving biodiversity and protecting the ecosystem.

China is one of the megadiverse countries in the world, as well as an important participator and promoter of the Convention on Biological Diversity and related protocols. China has always been on the forefront of improving global governance in biodiversity conservation. British journal *Nature* in a recent editorial mentioned that "China has a set of experiences that could help the world learn valuable lessons". China will host the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) in Kunming next year to set the biodiversity targets for the next decade. "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth", which is the theme of next year's COP15 in Kunming, embodies humanity's hope for a better future. As the host country of COP15, China is happy to share with all parties its experience of advancing biodiversity governance and ecological progress. Just as Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity has said, "China is always willing to share its experience with and learn from other countries, which will undoubtedly further promote the protection of global biodiversity".

Faced with the risks and challenges to the environment worldwide, countries share a common stake as passengers in the same boat and form a community with a shared future. Unilateralism finds no support; cooperation is the right way forward. As an important participator, contributor and leader of global biodiversity conservation, China is willing to work together with the global community to enhance biodiversity conservation and global environmental governance. All countries should work in concert to build a beautiful world of harmony among all beings on the planet.

(Source: China Daily)

Antonio Guterres: Jointly building a Silk Road of Green Development

Chinese President Xi Jinping and United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had a video conference on September 23.

Xi urged the international community to reaffirm their support for multilateralism and abide by their commitment to the UN Charter. Noting that COVID-19 is still ravaging the world, Xi said China firmly supports the key leadership of the UN system, especially the World Health Organization, in battling the pandemic.

China also firmly supports the UN system in strengthening international cooperation in COVID-19 prevention and containment, Xi added.

Xi also advocated a green revolution to protect the environment as well as reform and improvement of the global governance system. "It is natural for countries to have differences. What's important is to address them through dialogue and consultation," he said. "Countries may engage in competition, but such competition should be positive and healthy in nature."

Xi said all countries should strengthen connectivity and think beyond national, ethnical, cultural, and ideological boundaries so as to work together to build a community of shared future for all mankind.

Guterres echoed Xi, saying that the world needs multilateralism and cooperation now more than ever in the face of the pandemic, climate change, and other challenges. The world needs a more effective UN, he said.

During the video conference, Guterres expressed his gratitude over China's consistent and firm support for multilateralism and the UN.

Guterres highly commended a series of important initiatives and measures Xi announced at the UN General Assembly in spheres of practicing multilateralism, coping with climate change and promoting sustainable development. He also expressed his support for China's efforts to push for jointly building a Silk Road of Green Development.

Guterres said the UN supports China in deepening cooperation with Africa and developing countries, and the UN hopes to continue strengthening cooperation with China and expects China to play a leading role.

(Source: Xinhua, CGTN)

Green Development Becoming a Key Driver for an Economic Rebound — China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development Released Policy Study of Green BRI and 2030 SDGs

The global fight against COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance and necessity of international cooperation under the framework of BRI. In the post-pandemic era, BRI has the potential to create strong momentum for global economic growth and recovery with green development becoming a key driver for an economic rebound. A green BRI could promote stronger international collaboration through shared institutions and economic growth paths that are resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. It has the potential to make major contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This Special Policy Study (SPS) is the second phase of the SPS on the theme of “Green Belt and Road and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” under the auspices of the China Council on Environmental Cooperation and Development (CCICED). The first phase was implemented from 2018 to 2019 and provided broad principles, objectives and approaches towards the green development of Belt and Road. In 2021, China will host the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). For this reason, the second phase focuses on SDG 15 (Life on Land) to examine the extent to which the BRI can promote biodiversity conservation across the world. This SPS analyzes China’s policy and standards, investment tools, and governance structure as well as analogous international practices and then outlined a roadmap for building a green BRI with specific policy recommendations being proposed to better align BRI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Currently, progress is still lacking in achieving SDG 15 across BRI participating countries. Large infrastructure finance is also endemic to a set of sustainability-related risks, including biodiversity risks. Therefore, it is important to incorporate eco-environmental risk mitigation and management into the “green BRI” framework to align it with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Studies have shown that multi-lateral financial institutions adopt biodiversity impact assessment to prevent risks with an emphasis on the alignment with international or national commitments. The “mitigation hierarchy” they adopted to address identified concerns have a lot in common with China’s Ecological Redlining. For this reason, Chinese and international practices could form a synergy to effectively promote biodiversity conservation under the framework of the green BRI.

The roadmap for building a green BRI proposed by the SPS aligns the development of green BRI, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the development goals of BRI participating countries on a strategic level. On the project level, it is important to establish a mechanism for risk evaluation and management of BRI projects on a scientific basis, identify the methods for environmental and social risk assessment, and support the incorporation of ecological and environmental impacts into project rating and risk rating systems by financial institutions to guide green investment through green financing.

Under the framework and in the spirit of the general roadmap for building a green BRI outlined above, this SPS recommends the policy directions for aligning BRI, SDG 15, and CBD.

First, improve assessment and classification-oriented management of BRI projects to align the BRI with SDG 15 and the CBD. It is recommended to boost the development of the guidance on assessment and classification of BRI projects, which should include clearly defined positive and negative lists, in order to give adequate attention to the projects’ potential impacts related to environmental pollution, biodiversity conservation, and climate change based on the ongoing Joint Research on Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects undertaken by BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC). China needs to provide green solutions to the BRI participating countries.

Second, take ecological redlining as a key instrument to link the BRI and SDG 15. China can support BRI participating countries in developing their own land use strategies and plans that are specific to their own conditions and in a similar spirit of ecological redlining.

Third, mainstream biodiversity screening as an integral part of the environmental impact assessment for BRI projects. Environmental assessments should ensure that a proposed BRI project adheres to the host country’s biodiversity standards, international conventions that China and the host country are parties to, and the principles for harmonizing the BRI with sustainable development outlined by the China Development Bank.

Fourth, adopt a mitigation hierarchy for those projects identified as having significant biodiversity risks as a result of strategic environmental assessment (SEA). China is recommended to develop a standardized biodiversity conservation hierarchy that should include four components of “avoidance”, “mitigation”, “restoration”, and “compensation”.

Fifth, establish a biodiversity conservation governance and financing structure for implementing and monitoring progress towards aligning the BRI with SDG 15, and creating synergies with efforts for SDG 13 of Climate Action. Proper efforts should be made to create synergies between climate actions and biodiversity conservation; and facilitate effective linkage and alignment among different SDGs using Nature-based Solutions (NBS). It is suggested that China should further strengthen inputs in green projects on environmental protection and renewable energy.

The SPS on Green BRI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is carried out under the auspices of the CCICED with Ms. Zhou Guomei, Executive Director General of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), and Mr. Shi Yulong, Director-General of China Center for Urban Development, National Development and Reform Commission, as the Chinese co-leaders and Mr. Kevin P. Gallagher, Professor of Global Development Policy, Director of Global Development Policy Center, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, as the international co-leaders. Authors of this SPS include experts from Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of MEE, China Center for Urban Development, Boston University, Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning of MEE, Center for Satellite Application on Ecology and Environment of MEE, China Foreign Affairs University, and other Chinese and international research institutions.

(Source: people.com.cn)

NGFS Released Overview of Environmental Risk Analysis by Financial Institutions and Case Studies of Environmental Risk Analysis Methodologies

There is a growing consensus among members of the Central Banks and Supervisors' Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) that climate-related and environmental risks could result in significant risks for financial institutions, and will have serious implications for financial stability. On 10 September, NGFS released two important publications in environmental risk analysis, including Overview of Environmental Risk Analysis by Financial Institutions and Case Studies of Environmental Risk Analysis Methodologies.

The Overview of Environmental Risk Analysis by Financial Institutions provides wide-ranging examples of how environmental risks translate into financial risks, and an in-depth review of the tools and methodologies for Environmental Risks Analysis (ERA) used by financial institutions including banks, asset managers and insurance companies. The report also identifies the major barriers to wider adoptions of ERAs by the financial services industry and opportunities for mainstreaming ERA within the financial sector. Case Studies of Environmental Risk Analysis Methodologies presents a more detailed and in-depth discussion of the tools and methodologies for ERA through case studies conducted by over 30 organizations.

NGFS advocates that in order to effectively address climate-related and environmental risks, greater collective efforts are urgently needed from regulators, financial institutions, international organizations, third-party vendors, and academic institutions to promote the wider adoption of ERA in the financial industry.

(Source: NGFS)

IE Expo China Environmental Technology Conference 2020 was Held in Shanghai

On 12 August 2020, IE Expo China Environmental Technology Conference 2020 with the theme of "Looking Forward to The 'Fourteenth Five-Year Plan'-Science and Technology Improve the High-Quality Development of Ecological Environment Industry" was held in Shanghai. The Conference was organized by Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences (CSES), China Environment Chamber of Commerce (CECC), Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), Environmental Development Center of MEE, and Messe München GmbH, and sponsored by Messe Muenchen Zhongmao Co., Ltd. Ling Jiang, Level-I Inspector of the Department of General Affairs of MEE; Cheng Peng, Director of Shanghai Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment; and Zhao Lijun, Chairman of CECC, attended the Conference. Zhou Guomei, Executive Director-General of FECO attended the Conference and delivered a keynote speech on "BRI Environmental Big Data Platform".

Zhou Guomei introduced the background and progress of green BRI, challenges for greening BRI in the post-pandemic era, the contribution of BRI Environmental Big Data Platform to greening the BRI and business opportunities in the development of green BRI. Zhou pointed out that under the current domestic and international situation, a green BRI brings momentum to high-quality development worldwide and creates a favorable policy environment and market opportunities for environmental businesses in the post-pandemic era. She also highlighted the important role of BRI Environmental Big Data Platform in combining online and offline channels to facilitate information sharing, inform decision-making and provide consultancy to businesses.

(Source: people.com.cn; Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE; www.cnr.cn)

Eyeing on China-Pakistan Cooperation in Renewable Energy Development

Dawood Wind Power Station brings good effects to Pakistan society. According to a report of Associated Press of Pakistan on 17 August, Dawood Wind Power Station not only can improve energy situation in Pakistan, but also bring benefits to the Pakistani society. Dawood Wind Power Station, located in Sindh Province, is one of 14 Priority Energy projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Pakistani government hopes to boost hydropower and other renewable energy sources to increase the whole energy supply and optimize the structure of electricity. After completed, the project will generate 130 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year, which can meet 5%-10% of the national power demand and ease the country's electricity shortage. At the same time, the project also helps to reduce CO2 emission, generating significant and positive environmental and social benefits to Pakistan.

Pakistan has huge potential to attract BRI investment in renewable energy. According to a report of the Daily Times of Pakistan on 11 August, German scholar Dr. Christoph Nedopil Wang, the director of the Green BRI Centre, has stated that despite the decline in total BRI investment in 2020 due to Covid-19, Pakistan has great potential to attract BRI investment in the renewable energy sector. According to Dr. Wang, in the energy sector investment, renewable energy shows a strong performance. The share of renewable energy in BRI energy investment has increased year by year from 19.6% in 2014, and surpassed the share of fossil energy investment in 2020 (42% of energy investments were fossil fuel-related). He said that "there is a huge need for renewable investments. so far, Pakistan is 30% coal, and only 4.8% truly green (that is wind and solar), 35% is hydropower". Wang also suggested that both Pakistan and China should focus on sustainable projects that can bring returns and prepare for a better future, such as renewable energy. Meanwhile, China will work to appropriately integrate environmental and social safeguards to improve environmental and social outcomes.

(Source: Associated Press of Pakistan; Daily Times of Pakistan)

COALITION UPDATES

BRI Green Development Report and BRIGC Thematic Partnerships Working Meeting held on-line



“一带一路”绿色发展国际联盟
BRI International Green Development Coalition

《“一带一路”绿色发展报告》与联盟专题伙伴关系工作协调会

BRI Green Development Report and BRIGC Thematic Partnerships Working Meeting

2020年9月10日 北京 | 网络会议
10 September 2020 Beijing | Webinar



On 10 September 2020, the BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) held the BRI Green Development Report and BRIGC Thematic Partnerships Working Meeting via video conference. The Meeting was addressed by Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC and Advisor to the World Resources Institute; Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); and Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director General of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO). More than 80 delegates participated in the meeting, including Mr. Denis Nkala, UNOSSC Regional Coordinator for Asia-Pacific; Mr. Zhang Jianyu, Vice President of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF); Mr. John Mimikakis, EDF Vice President; and Mr. Zhu Xufeng, Associate Dean and Professor of the School of Public Policy & Management, Tsinghua University (TUSDG).

Mr. Erik Solheim, in his address, said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is one of the most important initiatives in today's world, and that he hopes the flagship report could capture and promote best practices in green development worldwide. Mr. Jeffrey Sachs pointed out that Green BRI could help China to enhance its leadership in the area of environment and social development and promote advancement in clean, green and digital technologies globally. Mr. Li Yonghong mentioned that the international community is expecting BRI to play a key role in driving global recovery in a green manner, and that BRIGC would continue to give full play to its role as an international platform and pull in resources from all partners to further promote green development along the Belt and Road.

BRIGC Secretariat and TUSDG team shared the latest progress made by the BRIGC and on the flagship report respectively. Representatives of the thematic partnerships on biodiversity, climate change, marine environment governance, green finance, green technology innovation, South-South cooperation, sustainable transportation, green cities, as well as environmental laws and standards discussed issues related to research outline, key research areas and the cases on green development and proposed recommendations on the integration of related outputs of thematic partnerships in the report.

The BRI Green Development Report is a flagship project of BRIGC that was launched in June 2020 by BRIGC Secretariat in collaboration with SDSN and TUSDG. The report, which integrates the research outputs of the thematic partnerships, aims to assess the achievements and challenges of BRI participating countries in green development and propose policy recommendations for the development of green BRI through analyzing mechanisms for cooperation and innovation in green development and BRI green development cases worldwide.

The “Circle of Friends” of BRIGC Continues to Expand---13 Organizations Assumed BRIGC Partnership

Since January 2020, 13 Chinese and international institutions have assumed partnership of BRIGC on invitation. There are 6 new international partners, including Clean Air Asia (CAA), the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), Silk Road Legal Cooperation Network, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Sustainable Development Research Center of Pakistan, and Zoï Environment Network. The rest 7 new partners are from China, including: Belt and Road Initiative Center of NDRC, China Quality Certification Center, China Daily, Chengdu Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau, China Electricity Council, All-China Environment Federation, and Jiangsu Rainbow Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.

By now, BRIGC partnership has expanded to more than 150 organizations from more than 40 countries.

Mongolia Becomes the First Champion Country of BRI International Green Development Coalition

Cooperation on champion countries is an important task of BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC). As one of the founding partners of BRIGC, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia (MET) has expressed its interest in being the champion country. The Minister of MET confirmed that Mongolia would like to be the first champion country under the BRIGC framework in April 2020. MET has ensured that Mongolia will try within its utmost effort to be the significantly contributor to the BRIGC.

The main objective of champion country is to promote understanding, cooperation, and concerted actions to achieve green development, and generate practical outcomes for implementing integration of environment and development elements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The BRIGC Secretariat and MET will cooperate on a wide range of activities under the framework of BRIGC to set Mongolia as a good example of BRIGC champion country for all the partners. The two parties are expected to engage in cooperation in a wide range of areas, including capacity building, joint research, pilot projects, as well as technical support and knowledge sharing, to identify the needs and challenges of Mongolia in ecological and environmental protection, and green and sustainable development in the process of participating in the development of BRI and find effective solutions.

BRIGC Shares the Latest Outcome of Green Development Guidance on BRI Projects (The “Green Light System”) on the 2020 Annual Conference of Green Finance Committee of China Society for Finance and Banking and China Green Finance Forum



On 19 September 2020, Green Finance Committee of China Society for Finance and Banking held its 2020 Annual Conference and China Green Finance Forum. Zhou Guomei, Executive Director-General of FECO, attended the Conference on invitation and introduced the latest outcome of the Green Development Guidance on BRI Projects (The “Green Light System”), an ongoing research project of BRIGC.

Zhou Guomei mentioned that, with green recovery becoming a shared goal for countries around the world in the post-pandemic era, the international community expects the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to play an important role in leading global recovery in a green and sustainable way. The Belt and Road aims to promote green development, so do BRI projects. The Green Development Guidance on BRI Projects will propose procedures for the assessment and classification of BRI projects, develop detailed recommendations for a mechanism to mitigate

eco-environmental risks of China’s project finance in the BRI, improve environmental governance mechanism and provide green solutions. The Guidance could effectively help government authorities, financial institutions and businesses to prevent ecological and environmental risks in investing in BRI projects and promote the green development of BRI projects.

BRIGC started the research project in December 2019, and has just finished the baseline study, which proposed detailed recommendations for greening BRI projects on the basis of in-depth analysis of the environmental policies, safeguards and practice of governments, financial institutions, and NGOs in more than 130 countries in financing overseas investment projects. The baseline study was jointly conducted by experts from Chinese and international research institutions, including FECO, Appraisal Center for Environment and Engineering (ACEE), Central University of Finance and Economics, World Resources Institute, ClientEarth, and Climate Bonds Initiative.

PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

Marine Community with a Shared Future and Marine Governance



“Green Shipping: Urgent Move to Fight Climate Change” Webinar

On 24 September 24 2020, the BRIGCG Thematic Partnership on Maritime Community with a Shared Future and Marine Governance (Ocean Thematic Partnership for short) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) jointly held the “Green Shipping: Urgent Move to Fight Climate Change” Webinar during Climate Week 2020. Well-known experts from international organizations, government departments, domestic and international shipping companies and research institutions were invited to discuss how the development of international shipping can contribute to fighting climate change. Nearly 100 guests from around the world attended the Webinar.

Globally, shipping is of great significance to trade and economic development. However, it is also a major source of greenhouse gas and other pollutants. In the long run, the demand for shipping will continue to increase. With greenhouse gas emission reduction becoming a global consensus, promoting emission reduction in shipping becomes crucial. The world needs to improve the mechanism for marine governance and enhance international and regional cooperation with the shared goal of building a “marine community with shared destiny” to develop effective technologies, supervision systems and financing mechanisms for the development of green shipping and green port and realize the sound and green development of the shipping industry.

“Bluing BRI: Increasing Finance for a Healthy Ocean” Online Forum

On 20 August 2020, “Bluing BRI: Increasing Finance for a Healthy Ocean” Online Forum was held. Experts from around the world discussed the role of a sustainable ocean economy in the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, investment opportunities of a sustainable ocean economy, financial policies related to the development of a sustainable ocean economy in China and the engagement of the private sector. The Forum, organized by Friends of Ocean Action (FOA) with the support of BRI International Green Development Coalition Ocean Thematic Partnership, Environmental Defense Fund and World Economic Forum, attracted more than 200 participants.

The ocean provides livelihood for 300 million people. The development of a sustainable ocean economy ensures that this and future generations could continue to improve wellbeing with the resources provided by the ocean. In the process, financing plays a crucial role in mobilizing resources and promoting investment.

(Source: Environmental Defense Fund)

Global Climate Change Governance and Green Transformation

China-EU Cooperation in Climate Change and Green and Low-Carbon Development: Review and Prospect Released

Climate change is a priority area in China-EU cooperation. China and the EU established partnership on signing and implementing the Paris Agreement. However, to strengthen China-EU cooperation in climate change and green and low-carbon development, more efforts need to be made in finding new opportunities in crisis. Such efforts are also crucial to establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the EU with global influence.

The Report reviewed the progress of China-EU cooperation in greenhouse gas emission reduction, carbon trade, low-carbon cities, low-emission transportation, energy efficiency and clean energy, as well as the new challenges and opportunities. The Report proposed the following recommendations:



First, enhancing China-EU high-level strategic dialogue. China and the EU are both advocates for economic globalization and world multi-polarization with shared interests in safeguarding world peace and stability, achieving global prosperity and sustainable development, and promoting the advancement of human civilization. The two sides need to enhance high-level cooperation and exchange through giving full play to China-EU high-level strategic dialogue and other platforms to facilitate communication and coordination for greater consensus and mutual trust. The two sides need to respect each other and seek for common grounds while preserving differences to find solutions to developmental issues through collaboration.

Second, strengthening China-EU strategic cooperation in fighting climate change. China and EU are both important participants, contributors and leaders in promoting global climate governance and addressing climate change with common grounds in developing mid and long-term strategy for lowering greenhouse gas emission and taking climate actions. The two sides need to carry out their commitments to the Paris Agreement, support multilateralism and work together to identify solutions for addressing climate change. To this end, it is important to organize seminars and conduct joint study on strategies, plans and legislation for combating climate change. China and the EU should respect and support each other in taking policy actions to achieve climate goals and promoting the establishment of international rules.

Third, carrying out the commitment to cooperate in green and low-carbon development. China and the EU should intensify their cooperation on the basis of the 2018 joint Leaders' Statement on Climate Change and Clean Energy, to promote low greenhouse gas emission, climate change adaptation and sustainable development while carrying out practical cooperation in carbon market and low-carbon development in local areas. The two sides should work together to implement the China-EU Summit Joint Statement, reinforce their cooperation on green finance in order to harness private capital flows towards a more environmentally sustainable economy, and promote green and low-carbon recovery in the post COVID-19 era. China and the EU also need to expand the scope of cooperation to green data technology, climate-friendly infrastructure, greenhouse gas emission control and air pollutant emission reduction.

Fourth, promoting China-EU cooperation in greening the Belt and Road and tripartite cooperation with Africa. China and the EU should promote the development of the Belt and Road Initiative and Euro-Asia connectivity strategy with clean and low-carbon energy. BRI and Euro-Asia connectivity strategy should form synergy in promoting green and low-carbon development. At the same time, China and the EU should also discuss the possibility of project cooperation in other developing countries in access to renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction. Priority could be given to identifying the demand of African countries for technology and investment in addressing climate change, and establishing tripartite cooperation fund to promote in-depth cooperation among China, the EU and Africa in climate related industries, financing, technology, marketing and capacity building.

(Source: Thematic Partnership of Global Climate Change Governance and Green Transformation)

Biodiversity and Biological System

Bending the Curve of Biodiversity Loss---Living Planet Report 2020 is Released

Using the data from 20,811 populations of 4,392 species, the 2020 Living Planet Index (LPI) shows an average 68% decrease in population sizes of mammals, bird, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016. This year's index includes 400 more species and 4,870 more populations than the 2018 one.

The Living Planet Report, WWF's flagship publication released every two years since 1998, is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet. In 2020, when more and more people begin to rethink our relation with nature, the Living Planet Report 2020, jointly completed by WWF and 127 scientists from more than 40 organizations around the world, is of special significance.

(Source: Thematic Partnership of Biodiversity and Biological System)

Erik Solheim: China's green development experience worth learning from



Erik Solheim, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and CCICED Vice Chairperson, said the concept of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" is now inspiring China and should inspire the entire world in a video speech.

Solheim discussed the great opportunities in going green, such as creating jobs and prosperity and creating a better future for mankind, at the latest Vision China event, which was held as a part of the 10th Lanzhou Yellow River Cultural Tourism Festival on September 25.

Many years ago, Solheim visited Zhejiang province and saw pollutants dying the river milky white. Children were not allowed to swim, and there were only factories, no people. Now all this has changed thanks to green development measures, and thousands upon thousands of tourists are coming to enjoy the beauty of nature and the great cultural heritage of China, promoting local economic development. Solheim believes the river chief system can inspire the rest of the world as to how to get the cleanup of rivers right.

China is the biggest solar and wind nation around the globe, he added, with much environmental experience to share with the world, such as the greening of deserts in Gansu province. The great green cities and areas such as Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Suzhou and Xiong'an New Area will begin new experiences, he added.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a fantastic new opportunity for multilateralism but needs to be taken in a greener direction, he said. "Those countries involved in the initiative see it as an opportunity for shared prosperity and for poorer nations to come out of poverty," he said.

"That's why I'm so engaged with the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, and also with BRI International Green Development Coalition," Solheim said. "And I invite all of you to cooperate with us to see how Belt and Road can be a vehicle for ecological civilization, which the planet so much needs."

He recalled his visit to Gansu to see the province's beautiful landforms and the life of its people. "I'm sure you will be able to turn the Yellow River into China's pride and joy," he said. "And together, we will create through Belt and Road and so many other mechanisms a shared global ecological civilization."

(Source: China Daily)

Zhou Guomei: Jointly Building a Green Belt and Road with Concerted Efforts to Create Synergies for Global Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity conservation has always been a key component to ensure the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). At the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed, "The Belt and Road aims to promote green development. We may launch green infrastructure projects, make green investment and provide green financing to protect the Earth which we all call home." Through building the green Belt and Road, the Chinese government actively establishes a green consensus with BRI participating countries, strengthens cooperation on global biodiversity conservation, and moves together towards the 2050 vision of "Living in Harmony with Nature".



First, set up a platform for cooperation to foster the consensus and facilitate actions on biodiversity conservation. The Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE) and partners from home and abroad have jointly initiated the BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), with the purpose to build a

cooperation platform for green BRI development and achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals together with BRI participating countries. The BRIGC now has more than 150 partners from over 40 countries, and launched 10 thematic partnerships to jointly carry out such activities as exchanges on biodiversity conservation.

Second, strengthen information sharing to provide science and data-based support for biodiversity conservation. Active efforts will be taken to further develop the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform to better gather and share the environmental laws, regulations and standards of BRI participating countries, and provide governments, businesses, organizations, and individuals with data services and support for decision-making. At present, biodiversity-related data from more than 100 countries have been included in this Big Data Platform.

Third, build capacities to jointly improve biodiversity conservation. The MEE is implementing the Green Silk Road Envoys Program to enhance capacity-building on environmental protection with BRI participating countries. More than 2,000 participants, including government environmental officials, technological staff, and practitioners, from 120 countries have joined the training programs to discuss a variety of topics ranging from ecosystem assessment and management to green infrastructure development.

Fourth, push forward green recovery and share the concept and practices of ecological civilization. The world is at the critical moment of combating the COVID-19 pandemic and planning for the green economic recovery. The Chinese government will continue to make good use of the existing bilateral and multilateral cooperation and exchange channels for BRI green development, and share China's ecological concepts and environmental practices, especially those on ecological redlining and the national park system development. In the meantime, continued efforts will be made to promote green infrastructure development, with much closer attention to the impacts of infrastructure related projects on biodiversity. Environmental risk assessment will be established gradually and green solutions be developed accordingly.

Fifth, make coordinated efforts to jointly achieve green development goals. The BRI participating countries are blessed with highly diverse and complex eco-environment. In particular, some resource-rich regions are ecologically fragile and sensitive, which are challenged by the difficulties of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. As the BRI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are highly compatible, complementary, and coordinated in terms of concepts, principles, and goals, they can work together to help relevant countries leapfrog traditional development stages and better implement the post-2020 global biodiversity conservation framework.

To realize the vision of living in harmony with nature needs the joint efforts of the international community. As an expression of Chinese wisdom and a Chinese solution to global environmental governance, jointly building the green Belt and Road will continue to provide the world with green public goods, and make its due contribution to building a community with shared future for mankind.

(Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment)

Peter Bakker: China's climate commitments: marking a historic precedent

Peter Bakker

President & CEO: WBCSD | Convener of the Advisory Committee: BRIGC (BRI International Green Development Coalition) | Member: CCICED (China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development)

The announcement at the UN General Assembly by Chinese President Xi Jinping, that China would commit to become carbon neutral by 2060 and ensure its greenhouse gas emissions would peak by 2030, marks a historic precedent.

As the world's largest emitting economy – responsible for some 28% of global emissions – China will need to drastically cut emissions every year. Announcing its new climate target, China has raised the bar for national climate commitments globally, joining the ranks of a dozen other countries who have made similar commitments, such as Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Japan, but also Fiji, New Zealand, Ireland, Singapore and South Africa.



With the commitment, China is now striving to reach a net-zero economy to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement within a set date, whilst paving the way for long-term plans for decarbonization in China. If China were to achieve its goal of achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, it would lower global warming projections by around 0.2 to 0.3°C, the biggest single reduction ever estimated by the Climate Action Tracker.

The ambitious climate action plan demonstrates China's willingness to step up and act with responsibility, which will deliver added impetus ahead of next year's COP26 but also provide solid economic opportunities in line with a sustainable economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 era. In our efforts to build forward better from the pre-COVID-19 world, bold climate policy commitments and measures will be critical to accelerate the transformations needed in our systems.

Last week, the European Commission also declared its intention to strengthen the block's commitments under the Paris Agreement, pledging to cut emissions by at least 55% by 2030. With China and the EU now publicly committed to bringing forward new plans, two of the world's three biggest emitters are pledging strong action by COP26 in Glasgow next year.

China's statement, released about a week after the EU-China summit, reflects the tacit understanding and determination of the leaders of China and the EU to strengthen regional cooperation and work together to tackle climate change. I very much hope that this will encourage other countries to improve their climate commitments, especially as countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are due this year.

As the world and major economies focus on "green recovery" to build forward better, business is playing its part to decarbonize their operations and scale impacts across value chains and build policy confidence for a greener recovery with spending and measures to build resilience. No government can achieve net-zero alone. Business has a crucial role to play in slashing emissions and putting our economy on a path to build long term resilience for people and planet. At the same time, investing in nature must be as critical as it is to invest in climate action: it's essential to deliver a transition which protects livelihoods, health and delivers critical low-carbon, nature-positive jobs.

A good example is WBCSD's climate action project SOS 1.5, to pair principles for strong, transformative policy with credible, low-carbon business solutions. WBCSD and our members are also committed to unblocking the barriers for accelerating our path to a resilient, net-zero economy, by mobilizing private-public cooperation to scale up natural solutions to tackle the climate crisis. We do this through the joint leadership of the Natural Climate Solutions Alliance with the World Economic Forum. Investing in nature offers 30% of the GHG emissions reductions we need to achieve the Paris Agreement but we still lack the finance and policies to make this reality.

What's next?

China's carbon neutral scenario of 2060 requires a path to near-zero emissions by 2050, and a more detailed implementation path needs to be developed to understand how China will achieve its target. The specifics will be presented in the upcoming 14th Five-Year plan, which will provide a blueprint for the economy from next year until 2025. It will also be very interesting to see how this commitment will impact China's Belt and Road Initiative going forward.

At WBCSD, we welcome China's commitment and hope this will pave the way for a much-needed collective (public-private) climate ambition that spans continents and sectors to achieve net-zero emissions and achieve our vision of a world where more than nine billion people live well, with the boundaries of the planet, by 2050.

(Source: China Environment)

French Expert: BRI Expected to do More to Put Greening Principles into Practice to Ensure Sustainability



Seven years have passed since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed in 2013. Recently, Sébastien Treyer, the executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) said in an interview that promoting sustainable development is a crucial issue in our times, and jointly building green BRI is in line with this trend.

According to Sébastien Treyer, over the past seven years, the BRI has developed a series of commitments and principles related to the greening of the BRI. The 2018 Belt and Road Forum was a “milestone” in terms of the formulation of the principles of greening the BRI. During the Forum, a series of cooperative documents was signed on joint efforts in green development, highlighting the BRI’s specific focus on sustainability.

Academic reports published by institutions such as the Tsinghua Center for Finance and Development and the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development are “extremely positive signals” for developing policies and building capacity to promote the timely and precise implementation of the BRI greening principles, Treyer noted.

It is expected that more efforts will be made to conduct objective assessments of the implementation and monitoring of the BRI greening principles and evaluation of their successes, failures and limitations, he said, noting that this is to ensure “the cooperation between countries on these principles becomes a real learning process.”

The COVID-19 crisis showed that the resilience of the global economy relies not only on efficient connectivity, but also on diversified sourcing strategies to avoid depending on one supplier, Treyer said. This is where “BRI projects could be an extremely useful case to be studied and discussed”, especially during the post pandemic period when countries will be driven to work together toward recovery, according to Treyer.

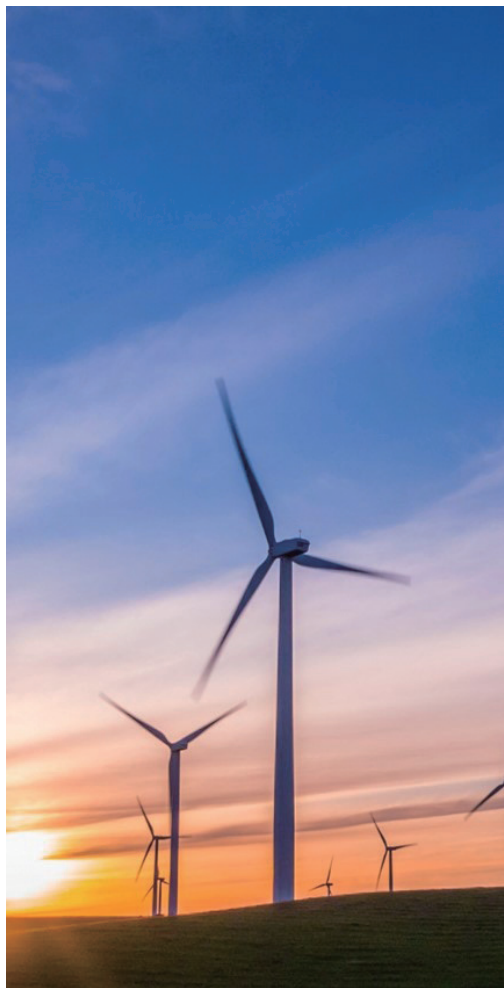
BRI can have a decisive impact on the development pathways of countries along the routes and on the norms and standards of the global financial sector, in the sense that countries are seeking to transform their economy to a mode that fits the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he said.

According to the UN, Agenda 2030 represents “bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.” It contains 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets that will stimulate action over the 15 years after 2016, when the Agenda was put into place.

Treyer said that countries along the BRI routes, which are struggling to determine their transformation pathway toward the 2030 Agenda, can be benefited through their interactions with the Chinese financial and technical operators, who “play a key role” in formulating a reference case for countries across the world.

Zooming in on the cooperation between China and Europe during the post pandemic period, Treyer said that both Chinese and European “public authorities have clearly announced that the reconstruction after the COVID crisis will be anchored in a vision of transition towards environmental sustainability.” The two parts should invest in cooperation and joint innovation towards greening the economy, not only to benefit domestic economies, but also to foster coordinated and efficient green recovery in other countries along the BRI route, according to Treyer.

(Source: The Belt and Road Portal)



About Us

The BRI International Green Development Coalition is jointly initiated by Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China and international partners. The ever-growing needs on implementing UN 2030 SDGs and the need to make progress towards the Paris Agreement targets for the BRI participating countries require the cooperation among governments, local and international development agencies, think tanks, private sectors, civil societies and other stakeholders to maximize the concerted effort on green development.

The main goal is to promote international consensus, understanding, cooperation and concredited actions to realize green development on the Belt and Road, to integrate sustainable development into the BRI through joint efforts and to facilitate BRI participating countries to realize SDGs related to environment and development. Government departments, local and international organizations, think tanks, private sectors, civil society organizations and other related stakeholders that endorses the mission of BRIGC are welcome to join as Partners.

For More Information

<http://eng.greenbr.org.cn/icfgd/>

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