



# BRI GREEN REVIEW

Secretariat of BRI International Green Development Coalition



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# Chinese President Xi Jinping Calls for "Unprecedented Ambition, Action" to Build Community of Life at the Leaders Summit on Climate

–We should protect nature and preserve the environment like we protect our eyes.

–China welcomes the United States' return to the multilateral climate governance process, and looks forward to working with the international community, including the United States, to jointly advance global environmental governance.

–China will strictly control coal-fired power generation projects, and strictly limit the increase in coal consumption over the 14th Five-Year Plan period and phase it down in the 15th Five-Year Plan period.

Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 22, 2021 called on the international community to work together to foster a community of life for man and nature with "unprecedented ambition and action."

"Faced with unprecedented challenges in global environmental governance, the international community needs to come up with unprecedented ambition and action," he said while addressing the Leaders Summit on Climate via video link from Beijing.

## Community of Life

To build a community of life for man and nature, Xi made a six-pronged proposal, including staying committed to harmony between man and nature, green development, systemic governance, a people-centered approach, multilateralism, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

"We should protect nature and preserve the environment like we protect our eyes," the Chinese president said, adding that failure to respect nature or follow its laws will only invite its revenge.

Reiterating the idea that "green mountains are gold mountains," Xi said that protecting the environment is protecting productivity, and improving the environment is boosting productivity. "The truth is as simple as that."

He also stressed that protecting the ecosystem requires more than a simplistic, palliative approach, calling for following the innate laws of the ecosystem and properly balancing all elements and aspects of nature.

"We need to look for ways to protect the environment, grow the economy, create jobs and remove poverty all at the same time," he said, adding that the goal is to deliver social equity and justice in the course of green transition.

## Join Hands, Not Point Fingers

In the journey toward global carbon neutrality, Xi called for strengthening partnerships and cooperation, learning from each other, and making common progress.

"We must join hands, not point fingers at each other; we must maintain continuity, not reverse course easily; and we must honor commitments, not go back on promises," he said.

China and the United States issued a joint statement a few days ago, vowing to cooperate with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis.

China welcomes the United States' return to the multilateral climate governance process, and looks forward to working with the international community, including the United States, to jointly advance global environmental governance, Xi said.

Calling the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities "the cornerstone of global climate governance," he said that developed countries need to increase climate ambition and action and make concrete efforts to help developing countries strengthen their capacity and resilience against climate change.

Xi urged developed countries to support developing countries in financing, technology and capacity building, and refrain from creating green trade barriers.

"The historical responsibility, development stage, and coping capacity of developed and developing countries are different, and that's why the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should always be followed," said Xu Huaqing, director of the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation.

## **China In Action**

Reiterating China's goal of striving to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060, Xi said that the period of China's commitment to move from carbon peak to carbon neutrality is much shorter than what might take many developed countries.

"That requires extraordinarily hard efforts from China," Xi said.

The targets of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality have been added to China's overall plan for ecological conservation. An action plan toward carbon peaking is being formulated, and China's national carbon market will also start trading.

"China will strictly control coal-fired power generation projects, and strictly limit the increase in coal consumption over the 14th Five-Year Plan period and phase it down in the 15th Five-Year Plan period," Xi said.

As a participant, contributor and trailblazer in global ecological conservation, China has also been doing its best to help developing countries build capacity against climate change.

A number of green action initiatives have been launched, covering wide-ranging efforts in green infrastructure, green energy, green transport and green finance to bring enduring benefits to the people of all Belt and Road partner countries.

"I am confident that as long as we unite in our purposes and efforts and work together with solidarity and mutual assistance, we will rise above the global climate and environment challenges and leave a clean and beautiful world to future generations," Xi said.

(Source: Xinhua)

### Chinese President Xi Jinping Delivered Keynote Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021, Calling for High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation with Other Parties

Chinese President Xi Jinping on April 20, 2021 delivered a keynote speech via video at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021. In his speech titled “Pulling Together Through Adversity and Toward a Shared Future for All”, President Xi called for joint efforts with other parties in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. His remarks on Belt and Road cooperation are as follows:

I have noted on various occasions that the Belt and Road Initiative is a public road open to all, not a private path owned by one single party. All interested countries are welcome aboard to take part in the cooperation and share in its benefits. Belt and Road cooperation pursues development, aims at mutual benefits, and conveys a message of hope.

Going forward, we will continue to work with other parties in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. We will follow the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and champion the philosophy of open, green and clean cooperation, in a bid to make Belt and Road cooperation high-standard, people-centered and sustainable.

— **We will build a closer partnership for health cooperation.** Chinese businesses have already started joint vaccine production in BRI participating countries such as Indonesia, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Pakistan and Turkey. We will expand cooperation with various parties in infectious disease control, public health, traditional medicine and other areas to jointly protect the lives and health of people in all countries.

— **We will build a closer partnership for connectivity.** China will work with all sides to promote “hard connectivity” of infrastructure and “soft connectivity” of rules and standards, ensure unimpeded channels for trade and investment cooperation, and actively develop Silk Road e-commerce, all in a bid to open up a bright prospect for integrated development.

— **We will build a closer partnership for green development.** We could strengthen cooperation on green infrastructure, green energy and green finance, and **improve the BRI International Green Development Coalition, the Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road Development, and other multilateral cooperation platforms to make green a defining feature of Belt and Road cooperation.**

— **We will build a closer partnership for openness and inclusiveness.** A World Bank report suggests that by 2030, Belt and Road projects could help lift 7.6 million people from extreme poverty and 32 million people from moderate poverty across the world. We will act in the spirit of openness and inclusiveness as we work with all willing participants to build the BRI into a pathway to poverty alleviation and growth, which will contribute positively to the common prosperity of humankind.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

# The 14th Five-Year Plan and the Vision for 2035

## How to Promote the High-quality Development of the Belt and Road Initiative

On March 13, 2021, the *14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035* was published, and in Chapter 41 “Promoting the High-quality Development of BRI” it proposes “to stick to the principle of consultation, contribution and shared benefits, adhere to the idea of being green, open and clean, deepen practical cooperation, strengthen security, and achieve common development.”

### Enhance the Connection between Strategies and Policies

Connect strategies with the planning and mechanisms, and enhance interconnection between policies, regulations, and standards. Innovate the way of connection, promote the implementation of signed papers, sign investment protection agreements with more countries, avoid double taxation agreements, strengthen cooperation in customs, taxation, regulation, etc. and realize a higher-level integration of customs. Expand the scope of rule connection, and strengthen cooperation in financing, trade, energy, digital information, agriculture, etc. Promote the connection of BRI with regional and international agendas and create synergies.

### Promote Infrastructure Connectivity

Promote the connectivity across the land, ocean, sky and Internet, build a network with the “six corridors and six channels serving multiple countries and ports” as the basic framework, economic corridors like the New Eurasian Land Bridge as the lead, information highways such as the CHINA RAILWAY Express (CRexpress) and land-sea corridors as the backbone, and railways, ports, pipe networks as support, and create new channels for international land-sea trade and commerce. Focus on key channels and key cities, promote the construction of major cooperation projects in an orderly manner, and integrate goals such as high quality, sustainability, risk-resistance, reasonable price, and inclusiveness into the construction process. Improve the quality of the CRexpress, and promote the formation of trade rules related to international land transportation. Spread the influence of the brand “Silk Road Shipping”. Advance the construction of a BRI core area in Fujian and Xinjiang. Promote the construction of a BRI spatial information corridor. Build an “Air Silk Road.”

### Deepen Practical Cooperation in Trade and Investment

Promote the optimization and upgrading of cooperation with BRI participating countries in trade and investment, and actively develop e-commerce along the Silk Road. Deepen production capacity cooperation among the international community, expand cooperation with third-party markets, establish a cooperation system on the industrial chain/supply chain featuring win-win results, and increase two-way trade and investment. Stick to the enterprise-led and market-oriented principle, follow international practices and the rule of debt sustainability, and improve the diversified investment and financing system. Innovate the cooperation framework of financing, and give full play to the role of BRI special loans, Silk Road funds, etc. Establish and improve the BRI financial cooperation network, promote the interconnection of financial infrastructure, and encourage multi-lateral and financial institutions from more countries to participate in investment and financing. Improve the BRI risk prevention and control system to safeguard its security, and strengthen relevant legal services so as to prevent and defuse risks.

### Build a Bridge for Mutual Learning

Enhance cooperation in public health, digital economy, green development, technology education, liberal arts, etc., strengthen exchanges among congresses, political parties and civil groups, increase exchanges among specific groups such as women, the youth, or the disabled, and thus form a diversified, interactive exchange pattern. Promote the implementation of the BRI technological innovation action plan, and build the digital Silk Road and Silk Road of innovation. Enhance exchanges in coping with climate change, maritime cooperation, wild animal protection, desertification prevention and control, etc., and build a green Silk Road. Conduct cooperation with BRI participating countries in healthcare and infectious disease prevention and control, and build a Silk Road of health.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

## PBC, NDRC and CSRC Issued the *Catalogue of Green Bond Support Projects (2021 Edition)*, Excluding Coal and Other Fossil Energy Projects from the Scope of Support

On April 21, 2021, People's Bank of China (PBC), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), and China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) jointly issued the *Catalogue of Green Bond Support Projects (2021 Edition)* (referred to as *Green Catalogue (2021 Edition)*).

*Green Catalogue (2021 Edition)* is optimized and improved on the basis of the *Catalogue of Green Bond Support Project (2015 Edition)* and the *Guidance Catalogue of Green Industry (2019 Edition)*, which is divided into four tiers. The first tier takes the *Guidance Catalogue of Green Industry (2019 Edition)* as the overall framework, and consists of six categories: energy conservation and environmental protection industry, clean production industry, clean energy industry, ecological environment industry, green upgrade of infrastructure, and green service. The secondary and third tiers adopt the basic logistic of the *Catalogue of Green Bond Support Project (2015 Edition)*, which is consistent with international mainstream classification standards of green asset and common statistical classification methods of energy conservation and environmental protection industry. The fourth tier is consistent with the names used in the third tier of the *Guidance Catalogue of Green Industry (2019 Edition)*, which basically covers relevant green industries and projects in the *Guidance Catalogue of Green Industry (2019 Edition)* and greatly improves the convenience of the operation. In addition, to achieve better operation and understanding, the *Green Catalogue (2021 Edition)* added "Description/Condition" column, which explains the scope of projects included in each of the four tiers according to the characteristics of green bond support projects, further refines the standards required for each project, and sets technical screening standards and detailed descriptions.

The latest *Green Catalogue (2021 Edition)* has the following key breakthroughs:

**First**, high-carbon emission projects such as clean utilization of coal and other fossil energy are no longer included in the scope of support, and internationally accepted principle of "No Major Damage" is adopted, so that the constraints of carbon reduction are more stringent.

**Second**, compared with the 2015 edition catalogue, the new edition catalogue has added categories of green industries, such as green agriculture, green buildings, sustainable buildings, water resources conservation and unconventional water resources utilization, which are national key development areas in the new period. To better reflect the support for the whole industrial chain of green equipment manufacturing, the support for the green equipment manufacturing area has expanded from the production end to related trade activities.

**Third**, the definition standards of green projects by relevant competent authorities of green bonds has been unified for the first time, which effectively reduced the issuance, transaction and management costs of green bonds, and improved the pricing efficiency of the green bond market.

The PBC official said that for the next step, PBC will continue to strengthen the communication and cooperation among relevant competent authorities of green bonds, optimize financial standards related to climate change, and continue to promote unified basic system of green bond market and the convergence of Chinese and foreign green bond standards, so as to better serve the goals and tasks of carbon peaking and carbon neutralization.

Yi Gang, governor of PBC, also revealed at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021 recently that at present, PBC is working with EU to promote international convergence of green taxonomy standards, and strive to introduce a set of common classification standards for reference by international investors, so as to promote coordinated development of international green finance. In addition, to promote capital flow into green industries and areas, PBC has included green bonds and loans into the scope of qualified collateral for PBC loan facilities, and will create carbon emission reduction support tools to encourage financial institutions to finance carbon emission reduction. PBC will also increase its support for green finance and carbon emission reduction through commercial bank ratings, deposit insurance rates, macro-prudential assessment and other channels.

(Source : gov.cn , stcn.com)



## Green Projects Inject New Momentum to Uganda's Development



View of Uganda's Karuma Hydropower Plant

The Power Construction Corporation of China Co., Ltd ("Power China" for short) undertook the construction of the Karuma Hydropower Plant in Uganda. As one of the 10 major infrastructure projects in Uganda, the Karuma Hydropower Plan will become the largest hydropower facility in Uganda upon completion.

### **"We must live and develop in a more sustainable way."**

Power shortage has been a bottleneck for the economic development of Uganda. In recent years, the government of Uganda has been attaching more importance to the development and utilization of renewable resources, and the establishment of the Karuma Hydropower Plant will greatly change the energy structure of Uganda — replacing thermal power units of the same scale, resulting in saving 1.31 million tons of raw coal and lowering the electricity price by 17.5%. This would bring great benefits to more people.

### **"A project that benefits local people and brings long-term rewards."**

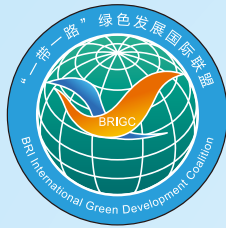
Since the Karuma Hydropower Plant is located in the plains, it doesn't have a big drop, and the main sets, power units and large transformers are "buried" in a group of caverns 80 meters below the surface. According to Jiang Xiaodong, the chief representative of Power China in Uganda, underground caverns can avoid potential problems such as excessive land occupation and large flooded area due to reservoir filling. By now, dams on the ground are all low dams, which will minimize the impact on animals and plants in the dam region when the dams are filled. As the project draws to a close, the exposed land excavated in the construction process is gradually being resumed, and the ecological environment is being recovered to what it was before the construction.

### **"Proud of contributing to BRI at the frontline."**

The Karuma Hydropower Plant has created a large number of local jobs. At its peak, the project had nearly 6000 local employees and trained a bunch of professional excavation workers, concrete constructors, equipment operators, and management staff for the hydropower industry. Chinese enterprises have actively fulfilled their social responsibilities there by digging well, repairing roads, opening clinics, building primary schools for free.

Jiang Xiaodong said, "It gives me a sense of fulfillment to be part of the Karuma Hydropower Plant and power transmission and transformation project. I am so proud of contributing to BRI at the frontline."

(Source: People's Daily)



## 2nd Anniversary of BRIGC: Highlights (April 2019 — April 2021)

Since the BRIGC was launched on April 25, 2019, more than 150 organizations from 43 countries joined BRIGC as partners, among which 79 are international partners, including 26 environmental departments of BRI participation countries.

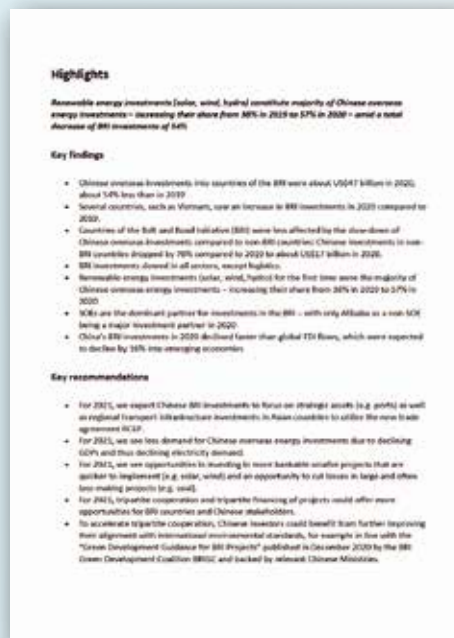




# PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

## Green Finance and Investment

### International Institute of Green Finance, CUF: Release of *China's BRI Investment Report 2020*.



In February, 2021, the International Institute of Green Finance of CUF, a close partner of BRIGC, released *China's BRI Investment Report 2020*. Studies have shown that in 2020, China's investment priority in BRI countries was shifted to renewable resources.

According to the report, in 2020, the energy industry was still the focus of BRI investment, ranking first in terms of investment amount and the number of projects; the proportion of renewable resources including solar, wind, and hydropower increased from 39% in 2019 to 57% in 2020, composing a major part of China's overseas investment in energy. Among them, hydropower accounted for about 35%, while solar and wind power accounted for 22%. It is predicted that in 2021, this positive trend will be maintained.

(Source: Green Finance and Investment Thematic Partnership)

### **Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, MEE/China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center held the Symposium on Cooperation Management of Regional Marine and Ecological Systems.**



In February, 2021, the Symposium on Cooperation Management of Regional Marine and Ecological Systems hosted by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of MEE/China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center (hereinafter referred to as "the Center") took place in Beijing, in both online and offline forms. Representatives of international organizations and institutes including UNEP, UNDP, UNICEF, WWF, CI, etc. in China attended the event.

Representatives of the Center briefly introduced the progress in their work related to the management of regional marine and ecological systems, and the arrangement of theme activities in "2021 China-ASEAN Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation". Combining with global and regional topics related to marine and ecological environment in focus, attendees had in-depth exchanges on topics including China-ASEAN collaborative governance on climate, mangrove ecosystem conservation and sustainable use, conserving biodiversity in coastal waters, sustainable ecosystem management, marine plastic waste prevention and control, etc.

At the symposium, a consensus was reached that in the future, all parties should strengthen cooperation in the above areas, practice actively the idea of being low-carbon, going green and realizing sustainable development, improve the management and cooperation network of regional marine and ecological systems, promote the green development of Silk Road, and facilitate the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The organizations and institutes participating in the symposium expressed their willingness to join and support projects and activities of the China-ASEAN Year of Sustainable Development Cooperation.

(Source: South-South Environmental Cooperation and SDGs Capacity Building Thematic Partnership)

## Green Energy and Energy Efficiency

### Conference on the Peaking of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Carbon Neutrality

In March 2021, Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO), a partner of BRIGC, held the Conference on the Peaking of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Carbon Neutrality in Beijing. The Conference released a series of research outcomes, including China energy and power development plan for 2030 and vision for 2060, as well as plans to have CO<sub>2</sub> emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. These outcomes proposed a systematic plan for China to achieve carbon emission goals through the development of Global Energy Interconnection (GEI).



The development of clean energy, including hydropower, wind power and PV power, has become a priority area for BRI energy cooperation. According to American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI), China's investment in renewable energy projects under the BRI has surpassed that in fossil fuels with its share in total investment increasing by more than 40% in the period of 2014 to 2020.

"We will further develop and improve related policies in taxation, finance, industry development and project management to effectively control the scale of coal and coal-fired power projects. We will continue to

work together with all sides to promote the development of green BRI and guide overseas investment to low-carbon and environmental-friendly areas", said Xie Zhenhua.

While China is working hard to achieve its own carbon emission goals, it is also helping countries along the Belt and Road to realize the transition to a highly-efficient, clean, and diversified energy structure. Besides, large power utilities in China are also increasing their investment in overseas clean energy projects.

(Source: Belt and Road Portal)

## Maritime Community with a Shared Future and Marine Environment Governance

### BRIGC Thematic Partnership of Maritime Community with a Shared Future and Marine Governance and BRIGC Secretariat Jointly Launched the Research Project on BRI Maritime Connectivity and Green Development

The Research Project on BRI Maritime Connectivity and Green Development will review the green development of port, shipping, tunnel and other infrastructure connectivity projects under the BRI; analyze action plans and visions of coastal countries in implementing the Paris Agreement and promoting the peaking of carbon emission/carbon neutrality; and discuss the technical paths to realize the green development of BRI maritime connectivity. A thematic partnership meeting was held on March 8, 2021 to discuss the goals, priority areas and outline of the research project.

(Source: Maritime Community with a Shared Future and Marine Environment Governance Thematic Partnership)

## Erik Solheim, Convener of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC and Senior Advisor of World Resources Institute: China has the Determination to Realize the Green Development of the Belt and Road



The Belt and Road Initiative is, by now, the largest investment initiative of our era. By prioritizing the development of wind power, solar power and other renewable energy projects, BRI has the potential to make great contribution to green development worldwide. As the world's largest green energy producer, China is the leader in the development of electric buses, battery and high-speed railways. Therefore, China could share its advanced technologies and best practices in environmental protection with countries along the Belt and Road. Scaling up the investment in solar energy, electric vehicles and power storage technologies could create a large number of jobs for both China and countries along the Belt and Road.

(Source: BRIGC Secretariat)

## Liu Zhenya, Convener of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC and Chairman of GEIDCO: Promoting the Development of BRI and a Community of Shared Future for Mankind through Building Energy Interconnection in China

The nature of global energy interconnection is a community of shared energy future for mankind. It is an important component of a global community of shared destiny. Today, taking the opportunity of building domestic and global energy interconnection, China could lead the global transition to green and low-carbon development, which also facilitates the development of a community of shared future for mankind.

(Source: China Energy News)





## Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China: Sharing “Carbon Neutrality” and Promoting the Development of a Green Silk Road

To address climate change, China proposed the goal of realizing “carbon neutrality by 2060”. Therefore, the sharing of experience and outcomes in achieving carbon neutrality will be an important component in building a green Silk Road. Such practices could be made in the following three aspects.

### **Sharing the concept of ecological civilization and the community of shared future for mankind**

Consultation, contribution and shared benefits are the golden principles of BRI. The concept of ecological civilization proposed by President Xi Jinping should be applied to consider environmental, ecological and climate issues from the perspective of building a global community of shared future for mankind. In the future, climate change will be a shared challenge for countries around the world.

### **Sharing policies and standards**

Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road Development (GIP) is effectively promoting low-carbon transition in BRI projects. The GIP jointly published by the Green Finance Committee (GFC) of China Society for Finance and Banking and the City of London’s Green Finance Initiative (GFI), aims to incorporate low-carbon and sustainable development into the Belt and Road Initiative by encouraging financial institutions investing in BRI projects to sign up to a voluntary code of practice. Currently, 38 large-scale global organizations have signed up to the principles.

### **Sharing technologies and instruments**

In terms of investment, we have published the Evaluation Methodology of Green Investment Cost and Benefit on the Belt and Road. In terms of technology for carbon reduction, China needs to work on carbon inventory methodology, develop carbon-reduction technologies for high-emission industries, promote the implementation of zero-carbon technologies in the renewable energy sector, and reduce the cost of negative-emissions technologies, including carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS). In terms of finance, China will continue to launch innovative and diversified green finance instruments to promote the massive application of insurance, fund, trust, financial leasing and other financial instruments in green sectors, so as to provide financial support to the development of a green Silk Road.

In summary, we could share the outcomes of “carbon neutrality” in terms of development concepts, policy and standards, and technologies and instruments to more effectively address climate change, promote the development of a green Silk Road, and jointly build a community of shared future for mankind.

(Source: China Financial and Economic News)



## 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://en.brigc.net/>

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