



# BRI GREEN REVIEW

Secretariat of BRI International Green Development Coalition



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### Chinese President Calls for Building Closer Belt and Road Partnership

China stands ready to work with all parties to build a closer Belt and Road partnership, President Xi Jinping said on June 23, 2021 in a written message to the Asia and Pacific High-level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation.

Xi said the joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that he proposed is aimed at carrying forward the spirit of the Silk Road, working together to build an open platform of cooperation, and providing new impetus for cooperation and development among countries.

Over the past eight years, 140 countries have signed cooperation agreements with China under the BRI, with more and more cooperative partners, according to Xi.

All parties have actively promoted policy coordination, connectivity of infrastructure and facilities, unimpeded trade, financial integration, and people-to-people bonds, launched many practical cooperation projects that benefit the people, established a comprehensive and compound connectivity partnership, and created a new prospect for common development, Xi said.

"In the face of the sudden COVID-19 epidemic, we pulled through difficult times together with mutual assistance, and promoted the development of the joint construction of the Belt and Road projects, which conveyed confidence and strength to the international community and made important contributions to global anti-epidemic cooperation and economic recovery," Xi said.

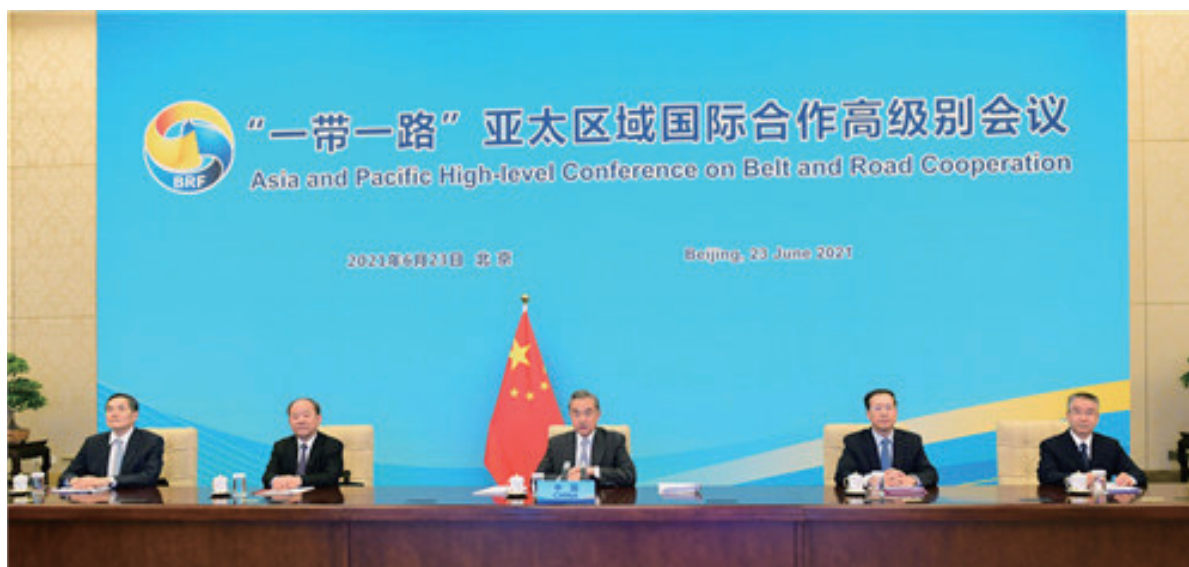
He stressed that Belt and Road cooperation follows the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, adheres to the concept of openness, green development, integrity and cooperation, and is committed to the cooperation goals featuring high standards, benefiting the people and sustainable development.

China has entered a new development stage, acted on a new development concept, and has been fostering a new development paradigm, which provides more opportunities in the market, investment and growth for Belt and Road partners, Xi said.

He added that China stands ready to work with all parties to build a closer Belt and Road partnership, adhere to the path of unity, cooperation, interconnectivity, and common development, and jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

(Source: Xinhua)

## Wang Yi Chairs High-level Talks of BRI Asia-Pacific Region



China is willing to work hand in hand with all parties to continue building the Belt and Road with high quality, and building closer partnerships for health cooperation, connectivity, green development, and openness and inclusiveness to provide more opportunities for all parties, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on June 23, 2021.

Wang made the remarks when chairing a high-level meeting on international cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the Asia-Pacific region via video link.

Wang said that, since the BRI was proposed in 2013, this initiative has made positive progress with the joint efforts of all parties.

In the past eight years, the BRI has brought huge opportunities and bonuses for other countries, becoming the widest and largest international cooperation platform, said Wang.

Facing the sudden COVID-19 pandemic, the Belt and Road cooperation has showed its strong resilience and vitality, he added.

Wang put forward four suggestions for building the Belt and Road with high quality.

All sides should continue to deepen international vaccine cooperation, strengthen connectivity cooperation, promote green development cooperation, and push forward free trade regionally and globally, according to Wang.

He said that China is willing to work with Asia-Pacific countries to provide solutions for the global fight against the pandemic, inject dynamism into global connectivity, convey confidence in the sustainable recovery of the world economy, and make greater contributions in building a community with a shared future in the Asia-Pacific region and for humanity.

Colombian President Ivan Duque said that Colombia appreciates China's initiative to make vaccines a global public good, and believes that vaccine cooperation is in the common interests of all countries. Political, economic and financing barriers should not be set up under any circumstances.

The participants support China in convening this meeting, saying that this meeting is timely and important, which will help all parties deepen cooperation in coping with global challenges such as fighting the pandemic, economic recovery and climate change, and help promote new progress in the international cooperation under the BRI.

(Source: Xinhua)

### Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development

Jointly launched by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam at the Asia and Pacific High-level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation on June 23, 2021.

1. Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement adopted under the convention, we emphasize that there is but one Planet Earth and it is our shared responsibility to work towards ecological and environmental protection. All countries need to make concerted efforts to foster green, low-carbon and sustainable development.

2. We reaffirm that climate change is one of the major challenges of our time, and all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to its adverse impacts. Climate change can be addressed through climate actions guided by the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.

3. We call for internationally collaborative efforts to achieve green and sustainable recovery, and foster a low-carbon, resilient and inclusive post-pandemic growth.

4. We take note of the progress made by relevant Belt and Road cooperation partners, on a voluntary basis, in building a green silk road, including the development of the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), and the formulation of the Green Investment Principles for Belt and Road (GIP).

5. We call upon Belt and Road cooperation partners to focus on the following:

- Continue the efforts towards achieving the goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by fostering economic, social, and environmental development in a balanced and integrated manner.

- Support green and low-carbon development, including through the implementation of the Paris Agreement and sharing of best practices.

- Strengthen policy communication and coordination on green development to draw upon each other's experience and good practices, while respecting different national circumstances as well as legal and regulatory frameworks.

- Deepen environmental cooperation to step up ecological and water resources conservation efforts and to achieve harmony between Human and Nature for green and sustainable development.

- Promote environment-friendly and resilient infrastructure through, inter alia, enhancing climate and environmental risk assessment on projects, drawing upon internationally recognized standards and best practices, as well as advocating corporate social responsibilities in protecting the ecological environment.

- Promote development and utilization of clean energy as well as enhanced international cooperation on renewables, to ensure affordable and economically sustainable energy in developing countries.

- Encourage national and international financial institutions to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable financing for environment-friendly and low-carbon projects through development of effective financial instruments.

- Strengthen human and institutional capacity in implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation.

6. We look forward to the participation of more partners in this initiative.

(Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China)

## The Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment Jointly Issued the *Guidelines for Green Development in Foreign Investment and Cooperation*

To implement the new development concepts and promote green development, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment jointly issued the *Guidelines for Green Development in Foreign Investment and Cooperation* on July 15, 2021. The full text is as follows:

### I. Significance

Green development provides the necessary groundwork for sustainable development. Greening technologies and industries are at the top of the agenda of many countries. Achieving carbon neutrality has become a global priority with the green rules in international trade and investment evolving at an accelerated pace. China is building a sound, green and low-carbon circular economic development system at home while contributing to global environmental governance and fulfilling its international obligations. In a new era, only by practicing the concept of green development can we rely on outbound investment and cooperation to reinforce domestic and international circulations, pursue open development and take the lead in international cooperation and competition.

### II. General Requirement

The greening of outbound investment and cooperation must be guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. In the process, we must implement the spirit of the 19th CPC National Congress and the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Plenary Sessions of the 19th CPC Central Committee, Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization and the decisions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council. We must stay committed to the new development concept, striving for the strong awareness of green development, efficient use of resources, strict protection of the environment and effective control of carbon emissions. We should work to showcase China's leadership in global endeavor towards green transition and our commitment to building the world into a better and cleaner place and laying the groundwork for a new development paradigm.

### III. Major Areas of Work

(1) Adhere to the concept of green development-encourage Chinese businesses to apply green principles to each of their overseas investing and cooperative steps, including construction, production, operation and innovation etc.; support outbound investment in clean energy such as solar, wind, nuclear and biomass energy, facilitate the global revolution of energy production and consumption, and build a clean, low-carbon, secure and efficient energy mix; encourage cooperation in green development with companies and institutions from other countries; work for better alignment with the global green industry chain.

(2) Promote green production and operation- encourage companies to fulfil their environmental responsibilities, abide by the laws and regulations of the host country, and work to balance the economic, social and environmental benefits at the local level; encourage companies to conduct environmental assessments and due diligence for a proposed project in accordance with international practices to identify potential environmental risks; build green supply chains, and adopt the green procurement practices, prioritize the purchasing of environmentally friendly products and services; promote green design and apply green manufacturing processes to improve the recycling efficiency of raw materials and resources, reduce pollutant emissions, and increase the waste recycling rate and aim to green the entire product lifecycle.

(3) Build green infrastructure- encourage Chinese companies to adopt the high standards in planning and designing the proposed overseas projects to balance the benefits to project owners, communities and the environment, take effective environmental measures, promote green construction using eco-friendly technologies, equipment, materials and techniques and controlling the discharge of waste gas, water, noise and solid waste, enhance the integrated reuse of waste to minimize the environmental impact of construction activities; unlock the potential of the green infrastructure market and engage in construction activities applying high environmental standards to green the brand of "Built in China".

(4) Create a green overseas economic and trade cooperation zone- encourage companies in the zone to prepare well-informed green overseas development plans; raise the environmental threshold for new entrants (both companies and projects), work to green industries within the zone to make it green and low-carbon; encourage joint construction and benefit sharing of infrastructure and work towards intensive recycling of resources and energy,

advocate centralized and safe disposal of pollutants, reduce carbon emissions; encourage the zone to provide the admitted companies specialized, targeted and quality services, expand the shared services, enhance economies of scale, bring down operating costs and energy and material consumption for companies, and raise the level of green development in the zone.

(5) Promote green technology innovation- encourage companies to set up R&D centers, innovation centers, laboratories, incubators and other technology innovation platforms overseas, conduct high-level joint research and attract talent from abroad to accelerate green technology innovation, adopt various investing methods and approaches to set up third-party cooperation with international leading businesses and join the global green technology alliance and development system; work to align and incorporate the world-class green technologies and domestic industrial strengths; and foster new drivers for green economy.

(6) Facilitate green business transition-encourage companies to prepare green development strategies, strengthen green management, assessment and studies, increase green input in capital, technology and human resources, and practice green operation concepts; strengthen the green compliance system and set a standard for business practices overseas to fill in the regulatory gaps; grow Chinese companies into world front-runners in green economy and enhance the Chinese players' capability to integrate global resources, push them to stay competitive in the international market and become leading players in their industries.

(7) Preventing environmental risks- push for prevention of ecological risks in accordance with the provisions concerning environmental protection for overseas projects, and strengthen the environmental management of Chinese companies operating overseas; encourage companies to take rational and necessary measures to reduce or mitigate adverse ecological impacts from investment and cooperation activities in accordance with the laws and regulations of the host country; protect and restore the affected ecosystems in accordance with the law or international practice in case of adverse biodiversity impacts; rely on the networking platform for overseas companies and outbound investment to build a more robust system for early warning and contingency planning against environmental emergencies; encourage companies to adopt international or Chinese standards in investing activities where local laws and regulations are non-existent or too lenient.

(8) Follow international green rules- encourage companies to align their overseas investing activities with the targets under UNFCCC, CBD, SDGs and BRI GIPs; support Chinese companies' participation in programs of international organizations to establish a set of green investment rules and standards that are appealing, effective and authoritative.

(9) Optimize green regulatory services-strengthen strategic alignment and policy exchanges with countries involved, and create an enabling environment for companies; improve the filing system for outbound investment and cooperation, strengthen the monitoring and analysis of green business development, and enhance IT-based regulation; encourage industry organizations to further green outbound investment and cooperation through norms, consultancy and self-regulation, encourage overseas Chinese chamber of commerce or associations to study and develop guidelines for green investment and cooperation in host countries.

(10) Boost green credentials of Chinese businesses- encourage companies to strengthen communication with the governments, the media, the public and NGOs in host countries, fulfil their CSR in environmental protection, expand good press about the businesses, create a favorable atmosphere, promptly eliminate the impact of bad press and build a green image for the businesses, rely on the multi- and bilateral cooperation platforms to uphold the concept of "shared future of mankind" and present China's green ideas and positions; build a case repository of China's green investment and green infrastructure, compile a green development index of China's outbound investment, and release reports on greening outbound investment of Chinese companies.

#### IV. Scope of Application

The Guidelines applies to activities related to green development of Chinese businesses in outbound investment and cooperation, and is to be observed voluntarily. It also applies to local commercial and environmental departments who provide guidance and services to businesses investing overseas.

#### V. Organization and Implementation

The central SOEs and local commercial and environmental authorities concerned should fully recognize the importance of greening outbound investment and cooperation, build a robust system tailored to the reality, improve accountability, and strive for efficiency; any major situations or events should be timely reported to the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Ecology.

(Source : Ministry of Commerce)

## China-Pakistan Cooperative Documents Signed Under the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate-Change at Gwadar Port, Pakistan

On July 5, 2021, a signing ceremony was held at Gwadar Port, Pakistan. Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, and Asim Saleem Bajwa, Chairman of CPEC Authority, attended the signing ceremony and signed the *MOU on Aids for Addressing Climate Change Between the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Republic of China and CPEC Authority, Islamic Republic of Pakistan*.

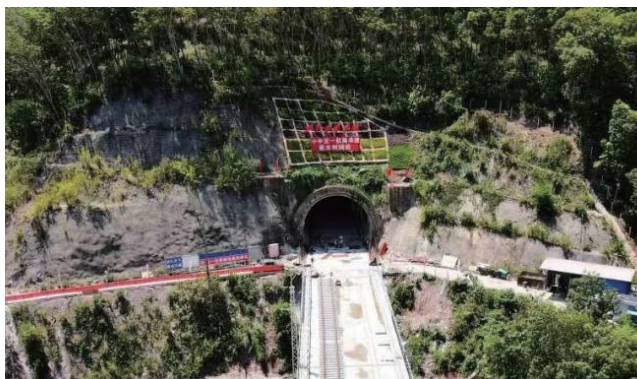
Ambassador Nong Rong said, as an important move to implement the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate-Change, China provided an aid of 3,000 sets of solar power system for domestic use to Pakistan. This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relation between China and Pakistan. China is willing to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation with Pakistan in addressing climate change to jointly promote sustainable development, build a clean and beautiful world and establish a community of shared destiny for mankind.

Mr. Asim Saleem Bajwa expressed his sincere gratitude to China on behalf of Pakistan, and spoke highly of the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change proposed by China at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. China's aid will effectively help residents in the region of Gwadar Port to meet the demand for electricity. Pakistan is willing to work together with China to support other developing countries to address climate change.

(Source: Ministry of Ecology and Environment)

## China-Laos Railway, Transporting New Development Concepts along the Belt and Road

On May 13, 2021, with the last 500-meter-long steel rail laid on the tracks, the construction team completed the welding of long steel rail on the Yuxi-Mohan Section of China-Laos Railway, laying a solid foundation for the open of the whole railway. China-Laos Railway is an exemplary project in the Belt and Road Initiative that will help turn Laos from a "land-locked country" into a "land-linked country". It is a railway that leads to win-win cooperation, development and prosperity.



Innovation injects new vitality into China-Laos Railway. With the open of China-Laos Railway, bullet trains tailored for the railway will help the Laos to step into the new era of high-speed railways. With the introduction of "Chinese standards", China also shares its good practices and experience with Laos in the construction of railways.

Coordination creates new momentum for China-Laos Railway. Encouraged by China-Laos Railway project, a series of China-Laos cooperation projects have been proposed and implemented. The highway linking Vientiane, the capital city, and

Vang Vieng, a famous tourist destination, has been put into use last year, making it the first highway in Laos.

Green development makes China-Laos Railway more resilient. The thought of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" has been instilled into every aspect of the project from planning to construction and operation. A series of effective measures have been taken to protect local ecology and environment, including planting shrubs to tamp the foundation, greening the land to solidify the ground, and reducing land occupation.

Openness brings more possibilities to China-Laos Railway. Infrastructure connectivity will promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade, finance and investment, making it possible for regional economic integration that will benefit the people of both countries.

Sharing makes China-Laos Railway more sustainable. China has become the largest source of foreign investment and second largest trade partner of Laos. The construction of China-Laos Railway sets an example for the two countries to achieve win-win cooperation and shared benefits through consultation and contribution. The enhanced cooperation with China constantly creates new momentum to the economy of Laos.

(Source: Belt and Road Portal)

### Roundtable on Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects and International Seminar on Green Investment and Finance in the Context of Carbon Neutrality Held in Beijing

On May 17, 2021, the BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), World Resources Institute (WRI), ClientEarth and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) co-hosted the Roundtable on Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects and International Seminar on Green Investment and Finance in the Context of Carbon Neutrality in Beijing. The event was attended by a number of invited speakers, including Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Senior Advisor of WRI; Ms. Kate Hampton, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF); Mr. Guo Jing, Director General of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE); Mr. Enkhbat Altangerel, Director General of Climate Change and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia; Mr. Ye Yanfei, Counsel (DG Level) of Policy Research Bureau, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC); Ms. Zhou Guomei, Director General of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO), MEE; Mr. Zhao Zhongbu, Deputy Director of Business Appraisal Committee and Deputy General Manager of Appraisal Management Department, China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure); Ms. Fang Li, Chief Representative of WRI, China; Mr. Dimitri De Boer, Chief Representative of ClientEarth China Office and Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director at Pakistan-China Institute. The meeting also attracted more than 40 representatives from dozens of Chinese and international institutions, such as China Development Bank (CDB), Appraisal Center for Environment and Engineering (ACEE) of MEE, Transport Planning and Research Institute (TPRI) of Ministry of Transport of China, International Institute of Green Finance (IIGF) of Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE), the Climate Bonds Initiative, China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC), China Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) and Tara/European Climate Foundation.



The BRIGC launched the Joint Research on Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects (the Guidance Project) in December, 2019 and released the Phase I baseline study report in December, 2020. Continuing this effort, current Phase II research of the Guidance Project aims to develop a set of application guidelines for green development of BRI projects for financial institutions, enterprises and BRI participating countries' agencies. It will also formulate technical guidelines for transportation infrastructure (railways and highways) projects, to identify and prevent ecological and environmental risks and provide green solutions covering

institutional arrangement, procedures, measures, standards, technologies, and toolkits.

In sharing the policies and standards related to green investment and finance in different countries under the background of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality, delegates discussed how to make good use of green finance to boost the development of Green Silk Road and foster the consensus and synergy of BRI green development.

Participants also discuss the framework of the Guidance Project Phase II at the meeting. Practical demand and suggestions from stakeholders such as financial institutions and enterprises were collected, with focus on improving eco-environmental management of overseas investment projects.

Research team representatives from BRIGC Secretariat, IIGF, and TPRI introduced the progress of the Phase II studies of the Guidance Project. Drawing from the experience and practices of the BRI projects, participants put forward suggestions for the research in areas such as strengthening cooperation and linkage among stakeholders, improving risk identification tools, providing green solutions, promoting convergence of international standards, and facilitating knowledge sharing and translation of research achievements into practices.

## Symposium on the Low-carbon Transition and Green Development of BRI Cities and Inception Meeting for Study on *Belt and Road Case Study Report on the Green Development of Cities* Held in Beijing

On June 11, 2021, BRIGC, Belt and Road International Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Center (Shenzhen) (BRETETC), WRI, and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) jointly held the Symposium on the Low-carbon Transition and Green Development of BRI Cities and Inception Meeting for Study on *Belt and Road Case Study Report on the Green Development of Cities* in Beijing. Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee, Senior Advisor of WRI; Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director General of FECO, MEE; Dr. Fang Li, Chief Representative, Beijing Representative Office, WRI China; and Ms. Chen Boping, Regional Director for East Asia, C40, attended and addressed the meeting. More than 30 representatives from research institutions, NGOs and businesses at home and abroad attended the meeting.

Focusing on the key areas of low-carbon transition and green development of cities, the Symposium discussed the technical pathways of low-carbon development, shared the practices and experience of domestic and international cities in pursuing green development, and launched the *study on Belt and Road Case Study Report on the Green Development of Cities*.

Experts attending the symposium discussed the latest concepts on the green development of cities as well as the opportunities and challenges, and shared cases and practices in areas such as urban planning, transportation, architecture and industrial parks. Mr. Nick Godfrey, Director of Coalition for Urban Transitions (CUT), introduced the latest research outcomes on the pathway to zero-carbon cities around the world; Mr. Cui Shenghui, Professor of Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences elaborated on the *Indicators for Green City* and shared the assessment results of major cities in China. Mr. Wei Qinpeng, Associate Professor of Building Energy Research Center, Tsinghua University, shared pathways for the development of zero-carbon buildings and zero-carbon communities in cities.

BRIGC has published two editions of *Belt and Road Green Development Case Study Report* in 2019 and 2020 respectively. *Belt and Road Case Study Report on the Green Development of Cities* will study cases on the green development and low-carbon transition of cities, covering eight priority areas, including “green and low-carbon urban planning”, “green energy, biodiversity and eco system”, “sustainable transport”, “pollution treatment and environmental improvement”, “green building”, “zero-waste cities”, and “nature-based solutions and climate-adaptive cities”. The Report will offer solutions for green development that could be referenced by other cities through sharing and analyzing the experience of promoting the green development of cities in BRI participating countries.



## Symposium on Maritime Community with Shared Future and Green Development in the Context of Carbon Neutrality Held in Beijing

On July 9, 2021, BRIGC, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), South China Institute of Environmental Sciences (SCIES) and National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center (NMEMC) jointly held the Symposium on Maritime Community with Shared Future and Green Development in the Context of Carbon Neutrality & Inception Meeting for *Study on the Green Development of BRI Maritime Connectivity*.

The meeting was attended by a number of invited speakers, including inter alia Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee; Ms. Zhou Guomei, Director General of FECO, MEE; Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director General of FECO, MEE; Ms. Wang Juying, Director General of NMEMC, MEE; Mr. Li Kaiming, Deputy Director General of SCIES, MEE; Mr. Zhang Jianyu, International Coordinator of BRIGC Advisory Committee and Vice President of EDF; and Mr. John Mimikakis, Vice President of EDF.

The event also attracted more than 70 representatives from about 20 Chinese and international research institutions, NGOs and businesses, including COSCO Shipping Group, Tsinghua University, CCCC-FHDI Engineering Co., Ltd, Shenzhen Yantian International Container Terminals, Friends of Ocean Action (FOA) of World Economic Forum (WEF), Equitable Maritime Consulting, Duke Kunshan University, and Harbin Engineering University.



Under the theme of green and low-carbon development of Maritime Silk Road, the meeting focused on key areas such as green port and green shipping to discuss the opportunities and challenges of marine ecological and environmental protection and the sustainable utilization of marine resources, and explored the roadmap for green development of BRI maritime connectivity in the context of carbon neutrality. The *Study on Green Development of BRI Maritime Connectivity* was officially launched on the meeting.

Representatives attending the meeting exchanged ideas on a series of topics, including pollution prevention and control in ports, shipping emission reduction and BRI

cooperation on the sustainable development of ocean. Mr. Cai Meijiang, Full-time External Director of the COSCO Shipping Group, introduced China's experience in shipping energy saving and emission reduction, and analyzed the shipping demand in the development of global trade, as well as the challenges and possible solutions for global shipping emission reduction. Ms. Li Yue, Chief Engineer of the Transport Planning and Research Institute of the Ministry of Transport, introduced the key measures for low-carbon development of shipping industry and proposed suggestions for promoting shipping emission reduction in a coordinated manner. Mr. Ronald Halim, Principal Transport Economist of Equitable Maritime Consulting, analyzed the development trend of carbon emission in countries along the Maritime Silk Road and proposed the roadmap for green development of BRI maritime connectivity. Mr. Zhang Junjie, Director of Environmental Research Center of Duke Kunshan University, pointed out that there is a huge funding gap to be filled in maritime eco-environmental protection, and that we could use green finance to facilitate investment in sustainable development of ocean.

*The Study on the Green Development of BRI Maritime Connectivity* is the first research project of BRIGC relating the sustainable development of ocean. The project will be carried by BRIGC Thematic Partnership on Maritime Community with Shared Future and Maritime Environmental Governance together with BRIGC Secretariat. The study will comprehensively analyze the current situation and potential of BRI participating countries in the green and low-carbon development of port and shipping, introduce Chinese and international best practices in the development of green port and green shipping, and propose policy recommendations for promoting the green and low-carbon development of BRI maritime connectivity.

## Workshop on BRI Green Finance and Environmental Management Held in Beijing

The Workshop on BRI Green Finance and Environmental Management co-hosted by BRIGC, Institute of Finance and Sustainability (IFS), and ClientEarth was held on June 24-25, 2021 in Beijing.

The event was attended by a number of invited speakers, including Mr. Rhys Gordon-Jones, Financial and Professional Services Counsellor of British Embassy; Mr. Ma Jun, Advisor of the BRIGC Advisory Committee, Chairman of Green Finance Committee (GFC) of China Society for Finance and Banking, and President of IFS; Mr. Ye Yanfei, Counsel (DG Level) of Policy Research Bureau of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC); Ms. Huang Shan, General Manager of Appraisal Management Department of China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure); Mr. Li Yuanshi, Director of EIA and Discharge Permission Division 2, Department of Environmental Impact Assessment and Emission Management, MEE; Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director General of FECO, MEE; Ms. Yin Hong, Deputy Director of Modern Finance Research Institute of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC); Mr. Dimitri de Boer, Chief Representative of ClientEarth China; Mr. Wang Canfa, Professor of China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) and Ms. Wang Yao, Director of International Institute of Green Finance (IIGF) of Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE).

The meeting also attracted more than 60 representatives from around 20 Chinese and international institutions, such as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM), Silk Road Fund, Bank of China (BOC), China Construction Bank, Bank of Jiangsu, Ping An Group, CUPL, IIGF, UK Pact, World Resources Institute (WRI), etc.



The workshop explored the opportunities and challenges in supporting the BRI through green finance, shared experience and practices on sustainable investment by financial institutions, and exchanged views on topics such as raising green development capacity in BRI projects, enhancing eco-environmental and climate management capability of financial institutions, strengthening information disclosure and public participation, and promoting innovations on green finance.

Participants discussed issues related to green finance and environmental management of overseas projects. Mr. Ye Yanfei pointed out that financial institutions should take proactive actions, focus on key areas such as risk identification and full-process credit management, and build climate-friendly banks. Ms. Huang Shan shared the specific practices of Sinosure to promote the implementation of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals. Ms. Yin Hong explored the paths for financial institutions to support green Silk Road. Mr. Wang Canfa pointed out that environmental information disclosure and public participation is one of the important ways to prevent environmental legal risks. Ms. Wang Yao introduced the relationship between international carbon neutrality strategies and green finance development. Mr. Christoph Nedopil, Director of Green BRI Center in IIGF used case study to analyze how to manage environmental and social risks in investment and financing process. Mr. Henri de Branche, Senior Environmental Specialist of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) introduced AIIB's Environmental and Social Framework and standards & procedures of Environmental and Social Appraisal. Representatives from FECO shared the work and progress of BRIGC and BRI Environment Big Data Platform. The workshop also discussed topics on enhancing banks' environmental and social management capabilities, improving information disclosure and grievance mechanisms, incorporating environmental and social factors into all project phases, and innovating climate investment and financing products.

Participants agreed that this event strengthened the connection between financial institutions and environmental authorities in advancing green finance and enhancing environmental and climate management, encouraged financial institutions to continue building consensus on green and low-carbon development, and supported financial institutions to better respond to environmental and climate challenges. It was also agreed that the workshop has achieved positive results.

## Belt and Road International Transport Symposium Held in Xi'an

On June 17, 2021, BRIGC, Belt and Road International Transport Alliance (BRITA), China Highway and Transportation Society (CHTS), and Chang'an University jointly held Belt and Road International Transport Symposium in Xi'an. Meng Qiu, Level 2 Inspector of the Department of Transportation Services of the Ministry of Transport; Li Yonghong, Deputy Director-General of FECO, MEE; Sha Aimin, President of Chang'an University and Vice Chairman of BRITA; and Liu Wenjie, Secretary-General and Vice President of CHTS and Vice President of International Road Federation (IRF), attended and addressed the opening ceremony. Zhou Wei, Former Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Transport was invited to address the ceremony as a special guest. More than 80 representatives from domestic and overseas government departments, research institutions, NGOs and businesses attended the symposium.



The symposium, themed “Sustainable Transport For Carbon Neutrality”, discussed the current situation, opportunities and challenges of the development of green transport along the Belt and Road against the background of carbon neutrality. Guests exchanged ideas on green transport philosophies at home and abroad as well as the strategies and pathways for the low-carbon transition of transport.

Zhou Wei pointed out that we could realize the transition to low-carbon transport through optimizing the structure of transport, upgrading the standard of management, promoting technological advancement, and enhancing the management of the demand side. Meng Qiu pointed out that we could effectively help the transport industry of reduce carbon emission through optimizing the structure of cargo transport, promoting green ways of life, and encouraging the use of low-carbon vehicles. Li Yonghong suggested that we provide green transport solutions to BRI participating countries and improve the management of transportation infrastructure with policy support and technological innovation, so that we could form synergy to promote the green development of transportation projects. Sha Aimin noted that we need to pool in the resources from all sides to jointly promote green transport for the achievement of carbon neutrality and contribute to the sustainable development of BRI. Liu Wenjie expressed the willingness to cooperate with BRIGC and Chinese and international partners to contribute to the realization of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals proposed by China.

Experts attending the symposium discussed the pathways for the low-carbon transition of transport. George Giannopoulos, Honorable Professor of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Member of the Academy of Athens, introduced the strategies, measures and pathways for the low-carbon transition of transport in Europe; Professor Wang Yuanqing from Chang'an University shared the research results on the life-cycle carbon emission assessment of road transportation; Sebastian Castellanos from World Resources Institute shared the pathway for realizing net zero-emission in the transportation industry by 2050; Helen Kavvadia, visiting researcher at the University of Luxembourg and former Senior Advisor of European Investment Bank, introduced the role of green finance in promoting the green development of transport infrastructure and green recovery.

The BRIGC research project of Jointly Developing Carbon Emission Standards for the Automobile Industry in BRI Participating Countries was launched on the symposium. The research project will be jointly conducted by BRIGC Secretariat, CATARC, CHTS and other partners. The research will analyze the current situation of the green development and carbon emission standards of the automobile industry in BRI participating countries and the alignment with internationally recognized standards, and propose policy recommendations for improving carbon emission standards of the automobile industry in BRI participating countries to help these countries to achieve the green development of the automobile industry.

## Seminar on Environmental NGOs and Green Silk Road Held in Beijing

On April 27, 2021, a seminar was held to discuss the role of Chinese environmental NGOs in the building of green Silk Road. The event was jointly organized by the Secretariat of BRIGC, All-China Environment Federation (ACEF) and China Ecological Civilization Research and Promotion Association (CECRPA). The meeting was joined and delivered by Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director-General of FECO, MEE, Ms. Xie Yuhong, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of ACEF as well as Mr. Yu Xuwen, Deputy Secretary General of CECRPA. More than 20 delegates from ministries, environmental NGOs, research institutes and enterprises attended the meeting.



The meeting aims to discuss existing challenges for China's environmental NGOs to practice going global, and put forward measures and recommendations on enabling Chinese environmental NGOs to help BRI participating countries improve environmental management and to promote green Silk Road.

Mr. Li Yonghong said that against the backdrop of COVID-19 outbreak and economic recession, there are high expectations from the international community on BRI's contribution to green recovery. Environmental NGOs can play an important part in building consensus on green development. Ms. Xie Yuhong noted that environmental NGOs can serve as a bridge connecting the governments, enterprises and local communities through bottom-up environmental projects. Mr. Yu Xuwen stressed that the building of green Silk Road calls for the active participation of environmental NGOs to enhance understanding and boost people-to-people bond. Mr. Liu Xiangyu, Deputy Director of the Department of Regional Opening-up, National Development and Reform Commission of China, pointed out that in the fight against climate change, China's environmental NGOs can play a more active role on the international arena and contribute more to the building of green Silk Road.

The experts' discussions focused on the current situation, problems and roadmaps for China's environmental NGOs going global. Prof. Zhang Qiang, Director of Innovation Center for Risk Governance of Beijing Normal University, said that environmental NGOs should continue to strengthen their capabilities and strive to fit in the local community, sharing China's ecological and environmental concepts, standards, regulations and experiences with BRI countries. Mr. Huang Haoming, Vice President of China Global Philanthropy Institute, came up with policy recommendations on how to support the going global strategy for China's environmental NGOs. Ms. Jia Xijin, Vice President of Institute for Philanthropy of Tsinghua University, noted that environmental NGOs should focus on the social functions and public benefit, and commit to promoting local sustainable development.

Representatives from China Three Gorges Corporation, China Road & Bridge Corporation and China Railway International Group shared practice of their overseas green projects and experiences in exchange and cooperation with environmental NGOs.

## BRI Youth Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change Held in Beijing

On June 25, 2021, the BRI Youth Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change was held in Beijing. Hosted by BRIGC, the event aimed to help young people from BRI participating countries enhance the understanding of and exchange on global environmental issues, promote their participation in building green Silk Road, and improve their knowledge and capacity related to ecological and environmental protection. More than 100 youth representatives from 16 BRI participating countries such as China, Pakistan, Jordan, Thailand, Indonesia, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone participated in the activities on site or via webinar.



Director General of FECO Dr. Zhou Guomei, noted in her speech that young people play an important role in promoting green and sustainable development, and they are expected to enrich knowledge and build capacity so as to make their own contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind. Other keynote speakers included Dr. Li Lin, Global Policy & Advocacy of WWF and Prof. Huang Haifeng, Founder of the Ecological Development Union International (EDUI), Former Assistant Dean, Visiting Professor of HSBC Business School, Peking University.

The event also invited young experts from FECO, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation of China (NCSC), WWF, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research of Chinese Academy of Science, and EDF to share their views on ecological civilization, global challenges of biodiversity conservation, China's experience and practice on biodiversity conservation, global climate governance process, and corporate practices in addressing climate change.

Based on their own experiences and majors, participants contributed their views on how land use, urban planning, and corporate social responsibility can help biodiversity conservation and address climate change in BRI development. The participants said that the BRI not only helps their countries achieve rapid economic development, but also makes their lives more convenient, in a green and low-carbon way. The achievements of China's green transformation have well explained the balance between development and protection, and China's experience can be used as a reference for other BRI participating countries. The participants also discussed responsibilities of the youth in environmental protection, the promotion of public awareness of the environment, the role of social media, and the financial mechanism of global governance. The participants agreed that it is important to combine individual destiny with the common future of mankind, and start to make a change right now, so as to quickly realize the beautiful vision of harmonious coexistence between man and nature.

This event is part of the Green Silk Road Envoys Programme in 2021, with support from WWF, EDUI and EDF. The Green Silk Road Envoys Programme is a capacity building programme by MEE. Since its launch in 2013, it has provided more than 3,000 training opportunities for government officials, technicians, scholars and young people from more than 120 countries.

## PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

### Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

#### **The Warm-up Event of “Business and Biodiversity Forum” Under the Theme of “The Business and Finance Journey to Kunming: We Are Part of the Solution” Was Held in Kunming**

The warm-up event of "Business and Biodiversity Forum", the parallel event of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), was held in Kunming on June 6-7, 2021, under the theme of "The business and finance journey to Kunming: We are part of the solution". This event was co-hosted by the CBD Secretariat Office and MEE, and facilitated by FECO, the World Economic Forum and the Office of Yunnan Steering Group for CBD COP15.

A high-level dialogue meeting and nine sub-forums were held during the two days to discuss the relation between business and biodiversity conservation. Experience and results were shared under nine topics, including the transition to sustainable food system and high-quality development, sustainable land use, sustainable supply chain, ocean protection, nature-based solutions, financing for biodiversity, biodiversity conservation empowered by technology, the mainstreaming of SDGs and post-2020 global biodiversity framework in business, climate change and biodiversity.

The event was supported by UNDP, ADB, World Resources Institute, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), WWF and other organizations. Around 500 representatives from domestic and foreign governments, international organizations, businesses, civil societies and the academic circle participated in the event on-site and on-line. More than 4,300 people from over 300 countries and regions around the world participated in related online activities.



### **The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Launched the Chinese Version of *Vision 2050: Time to Transform* Jointly with the China Business Council for Sustainable Development (CBCSD)**

On May 26, 2021, China Business Council for Sustainable Development (CBCSD) held the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Latest Trends of Sustainable Development under the theme of “business and sustainability under China’s 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan and the Government’s Vision 2035 planning”. The conference focused on “approaches and measures to realize carbon peaking and carbon neutrality”, “CBD COP 15 in Kunming”, and “the release of *Ten Major Trends of Sustainable Development for Chinese Businesses*”. Guests to the conference discussed how to promote high-quality sustainable development under China’s 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan and the Government’s Vision 2035 planning.



Wang Jiming, President of CBCSD, expressed the hope that businesses could overcome difficulties and challenges in the next decade, understand the development opportunities highlighted in the latest trends, and integrate sustainable development into long-term corporate strategies. WBCSD President and CEO Peter Bakker emphasized the private sector’s critical role in addressing climate crisis, nature loss and inequality. Li Haisheng, President of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, and Wang Zhongying, Director and Researcher of Energy Research Institute (ERI), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), shared the latest research outcomes and progress

in related areas from the perspective of coordinated regional pollution control and carbon emission reduction management respectively, providing valuable information and recommendation for businesses to implement the latest policies on environmental protection, carbon peaking and carbon neutrality.

The Chinese version of *Vision 2050: Time to Transform* was also launched at the conference. The report emphasized the private sector’s critical role, in China and around the world, in transitioning towards a world in which 9+ billion people can live well, within planetary boundaries by 2050. *Vision 2050: Time to Transform* focuses on nine pathways of system transformation, including energy, transportation and mobility, living spaces, products and materials, financial products and services, connectivity, health and wellbeing, water and sanitation, and food, written in an actionable format for business leaders around the world. Currently, 42 senior executives of WBCSD members have signed the report to advocate joint action among businesses around the world to promote reform.

## Improvement of Environmental Quality and Green Cities

### **The Delegation of BRETETC Visited POWERCHINA Chengdu Engineering Corporation Limited to Discuss on the Cooperation on Dasherikandi Sewage Treatment Plant Project in Bangladesh.**



On July 9, 2021, Yu Zhiwen, Director of BRETETC, led a delegation to visit POWERCHINA Chengdu Engineering Corporation Limited (POWERCHINA Chengdu) to discuss on the cooperation on Dasherikandi Sewage Treatment Plant Project in Bangladesh.

Dasherikandi Sewage Treatment Plant Project in Bangladesh is a key project for the building of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor under the framework of BRI. The project is funded by the government of Bangladesh with loans on favorable terms from the Export-Import Bank of China under the guidance of the Chinese government. With a contract value of USD 280 million, the project is expected to be put into operation after 36 months of construction and 12

months of maintenance. As the first sewage treatment plant constructed by Chinese companies with Chinese technologies and preferential loans from China in Bangladesh, the project adopted Chinese design and standards and is by far the largest sewage treatment facility in Bangladesh and South Asia.

As a consulting service provider of Dasherikandi Sewage Treatment Plant Project, BRETETC will take the opportunity to expand cooperation with related partners to promote ecological and environmental protection and make full efforts to make the project a model overseas project in ecological protection. During the meeting, Yu Zhiwen and Huang He, Chairman of the Board of POWERCHINA Chengdu, confirmed on the cooperation agreement for Dasherikandi Sewage Treatment Plant Project in Bangladesh and shared ideas on the priority areas and form of cooperation for the next phase.

## Erik Solheim, Convener of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC and Senior Advisor of World Resources Institute: Belt and Road Initiative is a Fantastic Vehicle to Promote the Green Global Development

On June 23, 2021, the Asia and Pacific High-level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation was held via video. Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the Advisory Committee of BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) was invited to attend and speak at the conference. Solheim's remarks are as follows:



Dear friends!

I believe we have a once in a generation chance to get it right. The old model of development – first we pollute, then we clean up - is outdated. It belongs to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The new model is about win-win policies. We can even have triple wins when we design policies which are good for Mother Earth and the environment, for people and livelihoods, for jobs and prosperity all at the same time. Economy and Ecology come together. We see this happening now in all the major economies of the World. It's time for optimism!

In order to succeed we need to cooperate. I fully share the view of the previous speaker the distinguished Singaporean diplomat and thinker Kishore Mahbubani that we need to avoid the traps of bad geopolitics. Let's jointly defeat everyone who wants to take us back to the Cold War. Let's defeat the idea that we can decouple our economies. Divided we will be weak. Working together – the sky is the limit.

Belt and Road Initiative is a fantastic vehicle to promote the green global development we all cherish.

China today is the world leader in nearly all green technologies. China is establishing half of all new solar energy on the planet. It is leading the world in wind energy and green hydrogen. 70% of all the world's high speed green trains are running on Chinese tracks. 99% of all electric buses are traveling on Chinese roads. There are indeed more electric buses in the city of Shenzhen alone, than in the entire world outside China combined. Interestingly China has over the last few years also become a world leader not only in technology but in environment practice. The tree planting in Inner Mongolia is greening the world. It's even recognized by the American space agency NASA. The fishing ban in the Yangtze and the cleaning of rivers in Zhejiang through the river chief system is world class green practice. So is the development of green cities like Hangzhou and Suzhou. Belt and Road Initiative can help the world learn from China. But for sure – China can also learn from all the other nations around the table here today.

Finally, I want to invite you to join the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition and Institute. The green Belt and Road work is set up to help phase out coal investments, replacing them with major investments in solar and wind. We also want to work on greening the great infrastructure corridors like the China-Pakistan Corridor and the construction of railroads in Africa, to make sure sufficient attention is paid to wildlife and nature. Another area of work is on supply chains to protect rain forests and other pristine ecosystems. China with its huge middle class is on top of many global supply chains. The Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition is establishing a traffic light system to inform Chinese foreign investment in a green direction. We are working with recipient countries to drive good green investments. I invite you all to join us in this exciting work! Let's together create an ecological civilization for the 21st century.

Green is gold!

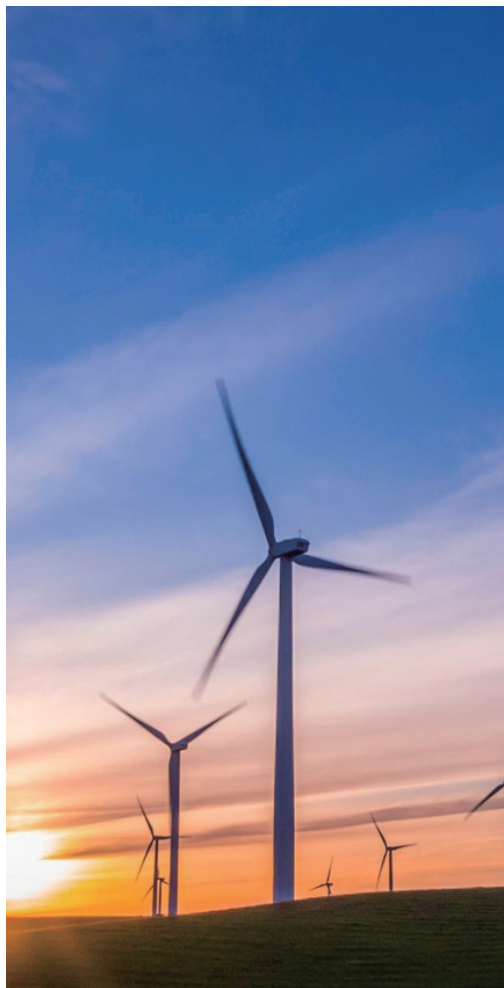
(Edited by BRIGC)

## Liu Zhenya, Convener of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC and Chairman of GEIDCO: Accelerating the Development of Belt and Road Energy Interconnection



Belt and Road Energy Interconnection has great prospect for future development. GEIDCO proposed the plan of Belt and Road Energy Interconnection covering seven electric power corridors composed of 67 key connectivity projects. The plan will provide important reference and guidance to energy facility connectivity along the Belt and Road. Energy projects, including hydropower, wind power and solar power projects, are very competitive with huge potential for promoting economic and social development in related countries. Moreover, the integration of energy, information and transportation networks is the future trend of infrastructure development, which will create new opportunities for the development of BRI.

(Source: China Daily CPC National Information Platform)



## 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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