



BRI GREEN REVIEW

Secretariat of BRI International Green Development Coalition

HAPPY NEW YEAR



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2021 BRIGC Highlights

Xi Urges Continuous Efforts to Promote High-Quality BRI Development



Chinese President Xi Jinping called for efforts to continue promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) through joint efforts on November 19, 2021. The BRI should aim for high-standard, sustainable and people-centered progress, said Xi, while addressing a high-level symposium on the initiative. The symposium, the third of its kind, was presided over by Vice-Premier Han Zheng, who is also head of the leading group for promoting the BRI.

Over the past eight years, regions across China have opened wider to the world through the BRI, and a win-win cooperation has been achieved between China and participating countries, Xi said.

Xi also warned of the ever more complex international environment for the BRI development, enumerating contributing factors including the fierce competition caused by a new round of sci-tech revolution and industrial transformation, as well as the impacts on human community made by climate change, COVID-19 and other global challenges.

Xi called for stronger political mutual trust, more cooperative mechanisms and a better connectivity network linking land, sea, air and cyberspace.

He urged efforts to increase trade with neighboring countries, expand imports of high-quality products, promote international industrial-capacity cooperation and enhance financial connectivity and cultural exchanges.

Highlighting cooperation in health, green development, digital industry and innovation, Xi said that China will continue to engage in international cooperation of COVID-19 response, support developing countries in green and low-carbon energy development, advance the Silk Road E-Commerce initiative, and nurture an open, fair, equitable and nondiscriminatory environment for sci-tech progress.

Land transport routes should be safe and unimpeded, have unique strengths and supplement each other while maritime connectivity should be streamlined, he said, calling for a smooth connection between the industrial chain and supply chain.

Projects to improve people's livelihood could be an effective means to increase people's sense of fulfillment in countries along the Belt and Road, he said.

Xi also stressed developing an all-weather early-warning and risk assessment platform for China's overseas projects.

COVID-19 responses should be coordinated with the efforts to promote the BRI, he said.

China will educate and guide its citizens and enterprises abroad to abide by local laws and customs and step up efforts to combat cross-border graft, he said, warning that enterprises should regulate their business activities and will not be allowed to damage the country's prestige.

Noting that work related to the BRI should be high on their agenda, Xi asked relevant departments to step up management of overseas projects and risk control.

While presiding over the meeting, Han Zheng said Xi's important address has provided the fundamental guiding principles for promoting the BRI through joint efforts in the new era.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

The Meeting of the Advisory Council of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation 2021 is Held via Video Link

On December 17, 2021, the Meeting of the Advisory Council of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation 2021 was held via video link. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi addressed at the opening ceremony of the meeting and witnessed the release of the Report from the Meetings of the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council members spoke highly of President Xi Jinping's important speech at the third symposium on the development of the Belt and Road Initiative and held that the speech demonstrates China's confidence and determination in advancing the Belt and Road cooperation, and serves as a guiding principle for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in the next phase. The Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by President Xi Jinping are conducive to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The two initiatives complement and reinforce each other and contribute to the common development of the world.



The meeting held that since its inception eight years ago, the BRI has yielded tangible results, boosting global poverty reduction, trade and economic growth. It has become an important international public good and a platform for global economic cooperation guided by an overall vision and featuring cooperation mechanisms and practical projects, and embraces more promising prospects. The BRI has enhanced mutual trust and cooperation among countries, demonstrating China's vision of promoting global connectivity,

addressing common challenges faced by the international community and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The Advisory Council members proposed that BRI cooperative partners should continue to aim at high-standard, sustainable and people-centered growth, and work for higher-standard cooperation, better deliverables from inputs, higher-quality supply and stronger resilience in development. Members of the Advisory Council hopes that under the current circumstances, all parties will continue to synergize the BRI with the development strategies, plans and initiatives of all countries and regions, and promote infrastructure connectivity and cooperation in health, green development, digital, innovation and other fields, injecting stronger impetus into the global fight against the pandemic and economic recovery, especially poverty reduction and development causes in developing countries, and making greater contributions to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Risk prevention and control is an integral part of international cooperation under the BRI. All partner countries should share responsibilities and risks.

During the meeting, the High-Quality Belt and Road Cooperation: Partnership on Connectivity, a Report on the Findings and Recommendations from the Meetings of the Advisory Council of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in 2019 and 2020 was released. Based on the research findings, the report held that the BRI will open up more space for global economic development, provide more opportunities for partner countries to improve people's livelihood, and make greater contributions to creating a better future for mankind by establishing cooperative platforms and carrying out cooperation. A series of policy recommendations on high-quality Belt and Road cooperation were put forward in the report, including implementing high-quality projects, improving Belt and Road cooperation partners network, fostering an open world economy, building green and digital Silk Road, and conducting international cooperation on vaccines, etc.

The Advisory Council is a non-profit and international policy advisory body, with the main function of offering intellectual support for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Members participate in the Advisory Council's activities in a personal capacity. Current members are Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy; Jean-Pierre Raffarin, former Prime Minister of France; Mikhail Fradkov, former Prime Minister of Russia Federation; Essam Sharaf, former Prime Minister of Egypt; Erastus J. O. Mwencha, former Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission; Shamshad Akhtar, former Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the United Nations; Kishore Mahbubani, Professor of the National University of Singapore; Sir Douglas Flint, HM Treasury's Financial and Professional Services Envoy to the Belt and Road Initiative, United Kingdom; Justin Yifu Lin, former Vice President of the World Bank; Mari Elka Pangestu, Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, World Bank Group (Special Guest); Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Special Guest). Convener of the Advisory Council and Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu chaired the meeting.

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

Decorate the Earth with a "Green Ribbon" – The Green BRI to Promote Global Environmental Governance

In the face of climate change and other severe challenges to the survival and development of humanity, China and its partners are working together to promote high-quality BRI cooperation. Those green projects have boosted local development, making a tangible contribution to global environmental governance and decorating Mother Earth with a "green ribbon" that well demonstrates the concept of harmonious coexistence of man and nature.

The BRI promotes common development and "being green" is a crucial guidance. "Lucid waters and lush are invaluable assets", this concept has been implemented earnestly in the process of BRI construction, offering a Chinese solution to the world on how to balance development and environmental protection.

The Amazon, the river with the world's largest basin, provides Brazil with abundant energy resources, but at the same time, the tropical forests it nurtures form a natural barrier for electricity transmission: while most hydropower resources are concentrated in the Amazon basin in northwestern Brazil, the main consumers are in the densely populated southeast and south.

Owning a full set of technologies for UHV transmission and equipment manufacturing, China has worked with Brazil to build an "energy highway" running north and south: the 1st and 2nd phases of Brazil's Belo Monte Hydropower UHV Transmission Project have been completed and put into operation, with a mileage of over 4,500 km and extremely low losses along the way, solving the dilemma resulting from the reverse distribution of energy resources and demand in Brazil.

China has shown the greatest sincerity in sharing its advanced technologies, and has demonstrated its genuine goodwill in safeguarding Brazil's "green heart". The 2nd phase of Brazil's Belo Monte Hydropower UHV Transmission Project spans 5 states and 81 cities in Brazil, with 161 tower position changes and 1,100 hectares of off-site revegetation to protect local nature reserves.

The results of China's South-South cooperation in addressing climate change are visible, tangible and effective. Since 2011, China has altogether arranged 1.2 billion RMB for this purpose, signed 40 agreements with 35 countries, and trained about 2,000 officials and technicians to deal with climate change. China is doing its best to help developing countries improve their capacity to fight climate change.

With sincerity and goodwill, China has been "teaching others how to fish instead of just giving them fish", pursuing development while protecting local environment. To improve global environmental governance, China sticks to the principle of respecting nature, conforming to nature and protecting nature, and has taken a sustainable development model to benefit the people of BRI participating countries in the long run.

By practicing the new concept of green development and advocating green, low-carbon, recycling and sustainable ways of working and living, China is actually promoting the low-carbon energy transformation and technological innovation in BRI participating countries. The Mesopotamian Plain gave birth to the ancient Mesopotamian civilization, one of the earliest human civilizations on the earth, but due to desertification and soil salinization, this land is gradually being buried by sand and dust. Desertification, one of the direct results of climate change, is known as the "cancer of the earth".

China shares its technologies and experience with its BRI partners, not only to safeguard the cradle of civilizations, but also to develop together while protecting the environment: China's water-saving terracing model has been "copied" to Egypt to conserve water in the mountains of the Sinai Peninsula; with China's technical support, the "Green Great Wall" in Africa has been able to stop the Sahara Desert from encroaching southward; in the Terai plains of southern Nepal, in the pilot area of China's green fertilizer, the yield of wheat and other crops has been increased by 400% at maximum.

Glaciers are a product of climate, and also an indicator of climate change. The Moreno Glacier is one of 3 glaciers in the world whose total area is still growing, and its meltwater flows into the Santa Cruz River, which flows all the way from the Patagonian Plateau to the Atlantic Ocean. For half a century, it has been the dream of Argentines to build the "southernmost" hydropower station on the Santa Cruz River. After the completion of "Nestor Kirchner Dam - Jorge Cepernic Dam" hydropower project, the average annual energy output of the station will reach 4.95 billion kilowatt hours, which can satisfy the daily electricity demand of 1.5 million households, save Argentina about \$1.1 billion in oil and gas imports each year, and enable the country to export electricity to neighboring countries.

Iceland, a country on the ocean in the far northwest corner of Europe, is located at the junction of the Eurasian plate and the American plate and has a unique energy – geothermal energy. Iceland has been using geothermal energy for nearly a century, and China also has abundant geothermal resources. China has provided Iceland with the market, capital and platform to extend the use of geothermal energy to more parts of the world, and the two countries have co-launched relevant training programs to train professionals for the international community. Geothermal cooperation has become one of the projects between Iceland and China under the BRI framework.

From technological exchange to project development, China and partner countries constantly learn from each other and share advanced technologies and solutions, providing more diversified thinking on clean energy and sustainable development related to the BRI development.

From a "freehand style" to an "elaborate style", the BRI development continues to go deeper, and the partnership on green development has become closer. China has launched the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development with 28 countries and been building the **BRI International Green Development Coalition and the Environmental Big Data Platform**, implementing the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change, and establishing the Belt and Road Energy Partnership. In such context, the green nature of BRI cooperation is becoming stronger.

The disorderly emissions of developed countries in their industrialization process over the past 200 years are the biggest cause for the deterioration of the climate. Jointly addressing climate change and building a shared future for all life on earth has become an inevitable requirement for the harmonious development of humanity and nature.

May humanity and nature live in harmony and the green scenery stay forever. The "green ribbon" from China travels through mountains and oceans to reach the farthest corner of the world, delivering hope for global environmental governance.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

2021 Annual Conference of the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform & Workshop on Integrated Water and Environment Management Held in Shenzhen

The 2021 Annual Conference of the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform & Workshop on Integrated Water and Environment Management was held on December 17, 2021 in Shenzhen. The event focused on the summary and sharing of achievements made by the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform, with the purposes to better serve the development of green Silk Road and the war against pollution, promote green investment, and deepen the exchanges and cooperation between China and partner countries on environmental protection, synergizing pollution reduction and carbon emissions, and green technology.

The conference noted that the development of green Silk Road has made positive progress and tangible outcomes. As an important vehicle to promote the green BRI, the BRI Environmental Big Data Platform is expected to improve its data integration and comprehensive analysis, offer better consulting services on environmental management of overseas investments, and provide more technical support to the development of green Silk Road. The guest speakers gave keynote speeches on topics such as the digital empowerment of carbon neutrality and cooperation in air pollution control, the approaches to achieving carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals, and prospects of the BRI carbon market. The participants had fruitful discussions on issues such as the application of environmental information in BRI green development, as well as innovative approaches and practices of integrated watershed management. The conference also released *2021 Typical Cases of Synergizing Pollution Reduction and Carbon Emissions*.

The conference was jointly organized by the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), the Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Center (Shenzhen) (B&RETTTC), World Resources Institute (WRI) China, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and Energy Foundation China. The event was attended by Mr. Hu Baolin, Member of the National Expert Committee on Ecological and Environmental Protection, Mr. He Kebin, Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Professor of the School of Environment, Tsinghua University, and nearly 200 delegates from Chinese and international institutes.

(Source: Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment)

BRI Green Innovation Conference (2021) in Shenzhen

On December 16, 2021 the BRI Green Innovation Conference (2021) themed “Green Recovery and Innovative Low-carbon Development” was held in Shenzhen in a hybrid manner. Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE), and Ms. Zhang Hua, Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government attended the Conference and delivered opening remarks.

The Conference pointed out that over the past eight years, China has joined hands with BRI participating countries to promote the high-quality development of the BRI, and has made concrete and impressive achievements. Green has become the under color of the BRI, bringing new opportunities for the sustainable development for BRI participating countries. The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. It is important for China to take the innovation of green and low-carbon technology as the driving force, focus on providing green solutions, promote the green recovery of BRI participating countries, build a closer partnership for green development, deepen the international cooperation on green development, accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote a stronger, greener and healthier global development.



The Conference was held under the guidance of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE) and Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government. It was co-hosted by Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of MEE, BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), Shenzhen Municipal Ecological Environment Bureau, Shenzhen Longgang District People’s Government and Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, and organized by Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Center (B&RETTTC). The event attracted Conveners of the Advisory Committee of BRIGC, including Mr. Erik Solheim, Advisor of the World Resources Institute and Mr. Peter Bakker, President and CEO of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); advisors of the BRIGC Advisory Committee, including Ms. Galit Cohen, Director General of Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel, and Mr. James Thornton, CEO of ClientEarth; Mr. He Kebin, Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and nearly 200 representatives of BRIGC partners. The Conference released the *Interim Report of BRI Green Development Outlook* (Abstract), *BRI Environmental Big Data Report (2021)* and *Blue Book on Policies, Regulations and Standards in BRI Participating Countries*.

During the Conference, the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of B&RETTTC was held, and the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) of B&RETTTC was adopted in principle.

BRI Green Development Outlook Interim Report Released

On December 16, 2021, the BRI Green Innovation Conference (2021) was held in Shenzhen. The BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) released its BRI Green Development Outlook Interim Report (Abstract) at the Conference. Mr. Zhang Jianyu, International Coordinator of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Executive President of BRI Green Development Institute, and Mr. Zhu Xufeng, Executive Associate Dean and Professor of the School of Public Policy & Management of Tsinghua University, introduced the report content and preliminary research outcomes.



With the studies launched in June 2020, the *BRI Green Development Outlook* (hereinafter referred to as the Outlook) is a flagship report jointly supported by BRIGC, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Institute for Sustainable Development Goals of Tsinghua University (TUSDG), Energy Foundation China, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and relevant lead partners from BRIGC thematic partnerships. The Outlook will be regularly updated and released. The research outcomes and policy recommendations will provide references and directions for decision making on aligning and

supporting green development needs in BRI participating countries and deepening BRI international cooperation on ecology and environment.

Under the theme of BRI green development, the Outlook is a comprehensive report that focuses on the interaction and integration of environment and development and builds up a BRI Green Evaluation System to assess the green development potential of BRI participating countries. Focusing on the relevant green development indicators and participating countries, the Outlook is systematic, science-based, international and forward-looking. It assesses the green development status of BRI participating countries and at the same time looks into the future of green Silk Road development, with the purpose to identify directions and the blueprint for BRI green development.

The report covers the following aspects: systematically review and summarize the progress and achievements of the Green Silk Road in the past eight years since the BRI was proposed; build the BRI Green Development Index and Evaluation Systems to assess the status quo and potential of green development in participating countries; analyze the contribution of the Green Silk Road to the sustainable development of BRI participating countries; as well as identify the opportunities, challenges, key focus areas and propose cooperation recommendations for BRI green development.

Key areas of Green Silk Road development are initially identified in the report, including biodiversity conservation, climate change response, green energy and energy efficiency, green finance development, green marine development, and sustainable transportation. The report will make an in-depth analysis of the above areas and identify future opportunities and challenges. An in-depth analysis of the above areas will be included in the report helping to identify the future opportunities and challenges.

The full version of the *BRI Green Development Outlook* will be released by 2022. The next step is to improve the index system, evaluation methods and database to establish a more comprehensive and balanced BRI green development evaluation methodology. Planned improvements also include: focusing on key countries and areas, applying integrated research methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis, data analysis, scenario analysis and case study, and incorporating factors such as economic and trade cooperation, project development, and regional distribution. Built on these improvements, a number of typical countries will be selected from the existing ones for highly-focused analysis. Policy and action recommendations on green Silk Road will be further refined to echo the identified key areas, opportunities and challenges.

BRIGC Hosted the Expert Meeting on *BRI Green Development Outlook*

On December 8, 2021, the BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) held the Expert Meeting on *BRI Green Development Outlook* online to systematically summarize the progress and effectiveness of building the Green Belt and Road over the past eight years since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed. BRIGC invited Chinese and international experts to discuss the current situation and potential of green development in BRI participating countries, identify the opportunities and challenges of BRI green development, and propose the outlook for a green, low-carbon and sustainable BRI development.

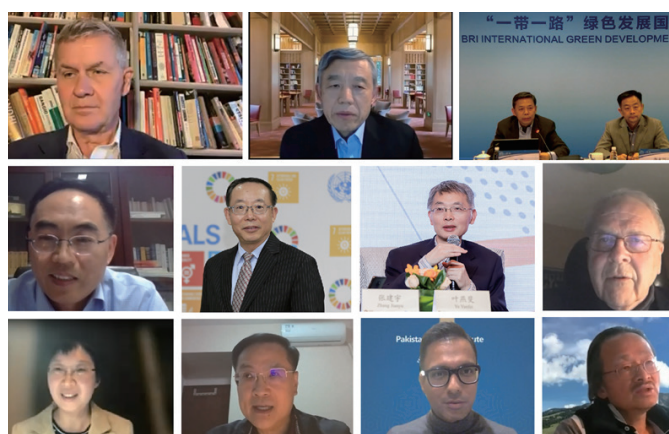
Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee, Mr. Xue Lan, Co-Director of Institute for Sustainable Development Goals and Dean of Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University, Mr. Guo Jing, President of BRI Green Development Institute attended the meeting and delivered opening remarks. The event invited Chinese and international experts to share insights and comments, including Mr. Zhai Dongsheng, Director General of BRI Construction Promotion Center of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Mr. Liu Hongpeng, Director of Energy Division of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Mr. Ye Yanfei, Counsel of Policy Research Bureau of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC), Mr. Arthur Hanson, Advisor of the BRIGC Advisory Committee, Special Advisor and Former President of International Institute for Sustainable Development, Ms. Zhang Jieqing, Country Director of Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) China, Mr. Wang Tianyi, Advisor of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Chairman of the Board of China Everbright Environment Group Limited, Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director at Pakistan-China Institute, and Mr. Sheng Fulai, Head of Economic and Trade Policy Unit, Resources and Markets Branch, Economy Division, UN Environment. Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director General, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) and Mr. Zhang Jianyu, Executive President of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Executive President of BRI Green Development Institute, moderated the meeting.

The seminar also attracted more than 50 representatives from Chinese and international institutions to join online, including inter alia BRIGC Advisory Committee, lead partners from thematic partnerships, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Institute for Sustainable Development Goals of Tsinghua University (TUSDG), Energy Foundation China (EF China), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and ClientEarth.

Dr. Zhu Yuan, Associate Director Specialist from BRIGC Secretariat and Mr. Zhu Xufeng, Associate Dean and Professor of the School of Public Policy & Management of Tsinghua University, introduced the research progress of *BRI Green Development Outlook*. At present, the study has established a BRI Green Evaluation System that covers economic, social and environmental sectors and has delivered preliminary evaluation results for over 90 BRI participating countries' green development.

The meeting concluded that BRI participating countries, especially developing countries, are facing the dual challenge of COVID-19 and climate change. BRI green development can

contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to the post-pandemic recovery. The experts recognized the importance of conducting the study on the *BRI Green Development Outlook* in the current situation and hoped that the study could become a flagship brand in BRI green development. Experts suggested that the study should be science-based, international and visionary, with a focus on key areas such as green infrastructure, green investment and finance, green development of overseas projects, green technological innovation and building green development capacity for BRI participating countries. Targeted research methods including scenario analysis, case analysis and comparative analysis were recommended to further improve the database and carry out dynamic assessments. Experts also emphasized the importance of the participation of BRI participating countries based on their needs and the necessity to carry out extensive consultation with various stakeholders to put forward priority areas and feasible paths for promoting the green Silk Road.



The BRI Green Development Outlook is a flagship project of BRIGC. Officially launched in June 2020, it has been carried out by BRIGC, SDSN, TUSDG, EF China, EDF and relevant BRIGC thematic partnerships. The research outcomes and policy recommendations will provide references for decision making on aligning the green development needs of BRI participating countries and deepening BRI international cooperation on ecological and environmental protection. The interim report will be released at the BRI Green Innovation Conference (2021) in Shenzhen in December 2021.

Seminar on BRI Sustainable Infrastructure Development

On December 6, 2021, BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) co-hosted the Expert Seminar on BRI Sustainable Infrastructure Development in Beijing. The seminar discussed the demand, development prospects and industry practices of the sustainable infrastructure development under the BRI, and aligned *Green Development Guidance for BRI project* of BRIGC with *International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure* of UNEP to further the supportive role of sustainable infrastructure in BRI high-quality development.

Ms. Zhou Guomei, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (MEE), and Mr. Tu Ruihe, Head of UNEP China Office, attended the seminar and delivered the opening remarks. Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director-General of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO), MEE and Mr. Zhang Jianyu, International Coordinator of BRIGC Advisory Committee and Executive President of BRI Green Development Institute (BRIGDI), moderated the seminar. The seminar also attracted more than 200 representatives from over 50 Chinese and international institutions to join online and offline, including inter alia UNEP, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), MEE, the Ministry of Finance of China, the Ministry of Commerce of China, and environmental departments of BRI participating countries, Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (BOCWOG), China International Contractors Association (CHINCA), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), China Development Bank (CDB), Bank of China (BOC), State Power Investment Corporation Limited (SPIC), Pakistan-China Institute, Tongji University and Wuhan University.



Developing sustainable infrastructure is an important measure to promote high-quality BRI development to achieve tangible new results. Ms. Zhou Guomei pointed out that sustainable infrastructure development should strengthen sustainability from three aspects, notably ecological environment, social governance and project management. With focus on the two key areas of infrastructure connectivity and alignment of rules and standards, it is important to advance the construction of high-quality, resilient and sustainable infrastructure projects in an orderly manner to promote high-quality BRI development. Mr. Tu Ruihe noted that infrastructure connectivity plays a vital part in

BRI development. He hoped that China can share its best practices and experiences with developing countries on green development, pollution control, climate change, and biodiversity conservation, under the guidance of new development vision and ecological civilization.

In the keynote speech session, Dr. Zhu Yuan from BRIGC Secretariat introduced the progress of the study on *Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects* (Guidance project). Launched in 2019, the study has delivered a series of practical outcomes through *Baseline Study Report*, *Application Guide for Enterprises and Financial Institutions*, and *Guide for Key BRI Sectors – Highways and Railways*. The study puts focus on the impact of BRI projects in areas of environmental pollution, biodiversity conservation and climate change. It has developed classification and assessment guidance for BRI projects, including energy and transport infrastructure projects, which have gained close attention at home and abroad. Ms. Gu Beibei, the Sustainable Infrastructure Specialist from UNEP, shared the *International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure* (the Principle) and practice cases, which include ten good practice principles and management decision bases for the whole life-cycle sustainability of infrastructure projects from a global and systematic perspective.

The thematic discussion was divided into two parts.

The first part discussed “BRI Sustainable Infrastructure: Industry Practices and Prospects”. Ms. Liu Xinping, Director of the Sustainable Development Office of the General Planning Department, BOCWOG, introduced the Sustainability in Beijing Winter Olympic Games and the actions and measures taken to create positive environmental impacts, regional development and a better livelihood. Mr. Xie Fei, Director of the China Public Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC), shared industrial practices in which PPP approach supports the sustainable development of BRI infrastructure projects. He recognized the application of the Guidance Project and the Principle could facilitate the development of an international standard system on sustainable infrastructure to meet the development demand of BRI participating countries. Mr. Shang Shengping, Director of Strategy and Consulting Department, CHINCA, said that the Association has established two industrial sustainable development standards in line with the Guidance Project and the Principle, which are Guide of Social Responsibility for Chinese International Contractors and Guidelines of Sustainable Infrastructure for Chinese International Contractors (SIG). The Association is happy to cooperate with the BRIGC and UNEP to strengthen the visibility and dissemination of standards and facilitate the convergence and application of standards, so as to support Chinese environmental consulting businesses to “go global”. Mr. Guo Yu, Director of International Business Department, SPIC, introduced SPIC’s industrial practices and strategic objectives in supporting green and low-carbon energy development and providing intelligent power solutions. He mentioned that in the future, SPIC’s investment in the globe as well as in BRI participating countries will predominantly be in clean energy such as photovoltaic and wind power and clean energy installed capacity will take up over 90% of the total capacity to accelerate the transition from the traditional power generator to green and low-carbon power supplier.

The second part was the “Role and Development Needs of Financial Institutions”. Mr. Eric Usher, Head of the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), pointed out that the integration of sustainable investment principles such as the Equator Principles and the UN Principles for Responsible Investment with responsible investment frameworks (i.e. ESG, Environment, Social and Governance) has been widely recognized and applied by financial institutions. China is expected to play an active role in green finance to enhance the alignment between similar standards. Ms. Zhu Zhixi, Environmental Expert of AIIB, introduced the Infrastructure for Tomorrow project of AIIB and the key steps and actions taken to apply the AIIB Environmental and Social Framework in the whole project life cycle. She said that AIIB stands ready to help developers, contractors and supervisors going abroad to enhance their environmental and social management to promote global cooperation on sustainable infrastructure. Ms. Fan Binbin, Manager of Credit Administration Department, BOC, addressed that, in recent years, banks have gradually taken ESG factors into consideration to tighten the requirements for environmental risk management. The Guidance Project and its outcomes have given positive guidance for financial institutions. BOC will continue to give full play to its international and comprehensive advantages to actively support BRI green and low-carbon development.

Against the backdrop of global post-pandemic green recovery and low-carbon transition, the seminar discussed the needs and potential for sustainable infrastructure development to respond to the international community’s concern about high-quality, resilient and sustainable infrastructure. It has provided recommendations and guidance to enterprises and financial institutions to participate in sustainable infrastructure development under the BRI and has obtained favorable results.

Workshop on BRI Green Finance and Environmental Management (Phase 2)

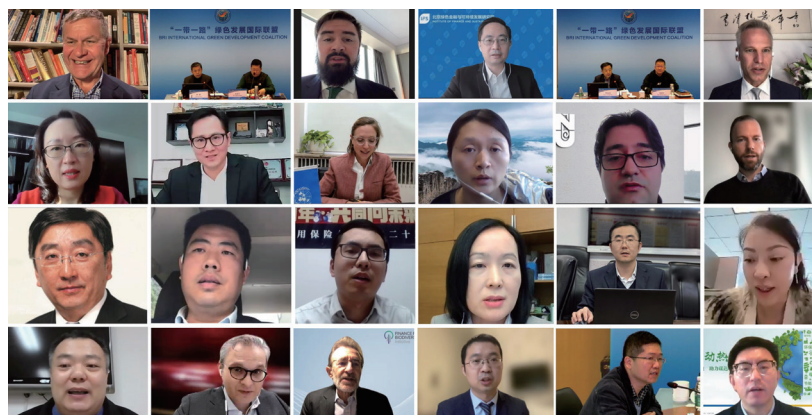
The Second Workshop on BRI Green Finance and Environmental Management co-hosted by the BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), Institute of Finance and Sustainability (IFS), and ClientEarth was held on December 21-22, 2021.

A number of experts attended the workshop and delivered speeches, including Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Senior Advisor of the World Resources Institute (WRI), Mr. Guo Jing, Secretary-General of BRIGC and President of BRI Green Development Institute, 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 of Finance and Banking and President of IFS, Mr. Li Yonghong, Deputy Director General of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of MEE, Ms. Zhang Xiang, Secretary General of China International Contractors Association (CHINCA), and Mr. Dimitri de Boer, Chief Representative of ClientEarth China.

Over 60 representatives from Chinese departments, financial institutions, United Nation agencies, research institutions, enterprises and relevant agencies from BRI participating countries joined the discussion, including inter alia China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), China Public Private Partnerships Center (CPPPC), China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute (CREEI), China Development Bank (CDB), China Exim Bank, China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure), China International Capital Corporation Limited (CICC), Silk Road Fund, Bank of China (BoC), China Construction Bank, Bank of Jiangsu, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Fudan University, Tsinghua University, University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), Nazarbayev University of Kazakhstan, and Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association (MSFA).

The workshop shared the latest policies and developments in carbon neutrality, energy transition and biodiversity conservation, explored the opportunities and challenges in supporting the BRI through green finance, and exchanged views on topics such as policy needs of financial institutions, BRI energy low-carbon transition, green financing tools, and recommendations on synergizing Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects (GDG) and Green Investment Principles (GIP).

Mr. Erik Solheim noted in his remarks that the global response to climate change is now facing key opportunities. It is important to fully exert the joint effort of relevant departments, financial institutions and enterprises of BRI participating countries and continue to promote the development of a Green Silk Road and green finance to provide impetus for the green and low-carbon transition of developing countries. Mr. Guo Jing suggested a series of efforts



can be made to jointly support green and low-carbon development of overseas investment, including strengthening the synergy among platforms such as the BRIGC, GIP and Global Development Initiative, and improving the BRI green development policy system. Mr. Rhys Gordon-Jones said in his remarks that the series workshops serve to enhance the climate management capacity of financial institutions on overseas investment projects. He looked forward to further cooperation between China and the UK in areas such as green financial standards and climate financing, so as to achieve net-zero development nationally and globally. Mr. Ma Jun pointed out that there has been the consensus among governments and investors to build a consistent sustainable financial standard, and control the risks of ecology, environment and climate. He suggested focusing on using financial tools to address transition risks of high-carbon emission industries to promote BRI green development.

Mr. Zhu Yuan from BRIGC Secretariat, Mr. Cheng Lin, Coordinator of GIP, and Mr. Christoph Nedopil, Associate Professor of FISF Fudan University and Director of Green Finance & Development Center, introduced the progress of Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects (GDG) and Green Investment Principles (GIP) and provided recommendations for their future alignment.

Representatives exchanged ideas on green financing and environmental management of overseas projects. Ms. Zhang Xiang shared cases of enterprises improving ESG management and promoting green development, and offered suggestions for enterprises to accelerate green transition under the new situation of global carbon neutrality. Mr. Xie Ruizhe, Director of CCPIT introduced the *Business Environment Guide for Enterprises Investing in Foreign Countries and Regions*, and is expecting to support green investment and financing along with other relevant platforms. Ms. Violante di Canossa, Development Economist and Head of Policy and Research Team of UNDP China said that the promotion of BRI green and low-carbon development includes three aspects, notably clean energy technology innovation and transfer, green and low-carbon investment and financing, and capacity building for developing countries. Mr. Ferhat Karaca, Associate Professor of Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan, took the construction sector as example to introduce the progress of Kazakhstan Circular Economy Action Plan and presented the demand of green investment and financing. Ms. Zhang Muzi, Division Director of General Affair Division of International Cooperation Department at China Renewable Energy Engineering Institute, focused on ASEAN region to present the potential of wind power cooperation in ASEAN countries and the future outlook of wind power. Mr. Boldoo Magvan, Acting CEO of Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association (MSFA) shared the progress of *Mongolian Green Taxonomy* and provided advice for promoting green financing international cooperation. Mr. Angelov Bagrin, Managing Director and Head of China Cross-border M&A, CICC, analyzed the potential of BRI green investment and financing, and proposed measures to reduce the financing cost of green projects. Ms. Wang Bolu, Leader of Green Project Team, Tsinghua National Institute of Financial Research introduced the background and key features of the *China-EU Common Ground Taxonomy* and suggested enhancing the mutual recognition of relevant standards to promote the connectivity of sustainable finance market.

Representatives from nearly ten financial institutions discussed the focus and policy needs for BRI green investment and financing from the sector perspective. They agreed that this series of events strengthened the connection between financial institutions and environmental authorities in advancing green finance and enhancing environmental and climate management, and supported financial institutions to better respond to environmental and climate challenges. It was also agreed that the workshop has achieved positive results.

PROGRESS OF THE THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS

Improvement of Environmental Quality and Green Cities

Training Workshop of Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Capacity Building (Phase II) Successfully Held

The Training Workshop of Belt and Road Ecological and Environmental Capacity Building (Phase II) sponsored by Belt and Road Environmental Technology Exchange and Transfer Center (Shenzhen) was held from November 30 to December 3, 2021. The workshop, themed “carbon peaking and carbon neutrality policies”, provided training on policy interpretation and low-carbon project case study, carbon asset management, policies and practices of climate investment and financing, international environmental cooperation, and global environmental convention fulfillment. The workshop attracted extensive attention from home and abroad. Administrative and technical staff from government departments of BRI participating countries, including Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos attended the workshop online. Meanwhile, over 700 representatives from government departments, research institutions, universities and businesses in China attended the workshops on site and online.



The workshop invited senior experts from the Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO) of MEE, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC), BRI International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC), Shenzhen Municipal Bureau of Ecology and Environment, businesses and research institutes to interpret carbon peaking and carbon neutrality policies, introduce experience and practices on low-carbon development, and share international cooperation experience to promote technical exchange and cooperation.

(Source: Thematic Partnership on Improvement of Environmental Quality and Green Cities)

South-South Environmental Cooperation and SDGs Capacity Building

Signing Ceremony of the China-Burkina Faso Cooperation Document for the Construction of Solar Power Stations Under the Framework of South-South Cooperation on Climate Change Held in Burkina Faso

On October 22, 2021 the Signing Ceremony of *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and The Ministry of Energy and Mining of Burkina Faso on the Construction of Solar Power Stations Under the Framework of South-South Cooperation on Climate Change* was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Mr. Li Jian, Chinese Ambassador to Burkina Faso, signed the document with the Minister of Energy and Mining of Burkina Faso on behalf of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE).



Road South-South Cooperation Initiative. The signing of the MoU is a sign of tangible progress in jointly promoting South-South Cooperation on Climate Change between China and Burkina Faso. The project will be promoted and supported by Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center of MEE with the guidance of the Department of Climate Change of MEE.

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

In recent years, China witnessed continuous improvement in ecology and environment with the Chinese people having higher sense of happiness and fulfillment. Meanwhile, China has also been offering solutions to promote sustainable development around the world. To support Burkina Faso's efforts in addressing climate change, MEE, in spite of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, identified the scope of cooperation with full consideration of the demand for electricity and capacity building for addressing climate in Burkina Faso after several rounds of friendly negotiations between the two sides. Burkina Faso appreciated China's aid and thought highly of China's program of Belt and

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

Asian-African Youth Dialogue: From COP15 to COP26 - Collaboration on Biodiversity and Climate Change Successfully Held

On October 26, 2021, Asian-African Youth Dialogue: From COP15 to COP26 - Collaboration Between Biodiversity and Climate Change, a sub-forum of ASEAN-China High-level Forum on Green and Sustainable Development & ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Forum 2021, was held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.



Mr. Wu Peng, Director General of Department of African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China, Mr. Turhan Saleh, Resident Representative of UNDP Ethiopia, Ms. Silvia Danailov, UNICEF Representative to Senegal, and Dr. Yang Mee Eng, Executive Director of ASEAN Foundation, attended the sub-forum moderated by Ms. Zhang Yan, Partnerships Specialist of UNICEF China, and delivered opening remarks online. According to Mr. Wu Peng, Asia and Africa have common interest and shared destiny with shared needs and goals in promoting collaboration between biodiversity and climate change. Guiding young people to pay attention to environmental issues, improving their environmental awareness,

enhancing youth exchange and cooperation, and encouraging youth engagement in addressing environment and sustainable development challenges is of vital importance to realizing green development and promoting the engagement of youth in global environmental governance.

(Source: Thematic Partnership on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management)

Mr. Erik Solheim, Convener of the BRIGC Advisory Committee and Advisor of World Resources Institute: China is the World's Biggest Investor in Renewable Energy



The Chinese delegation played an important role in the adoption of the implementation guidelines of the *Paris Agreement*. China not only leads the global climate negotiation process, but also takes effective actions to address climate change. Today, China is the global leader of many green technologies and the world's biggest investor in renewable energy. China ranks first in the world in terms of the aggregated installed capacity of hydropower, wind power and PV power, providing more than 70% of components to the world's PV market and leading the rest of the world in the production of green hydrogen. Besides, China also has the world's largest afforestation area. Last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced China's "twin carbon goals" at the General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. This year, China announced the decision to step up support for other developing countries in developing green and

low-carbon energy and stop the building of new coal-fired power projects abroad. Jointly building green Belt and Road will promote investment in and utilization of renewable energy, green the global industrial chain, ensure green infrastructure development and guide BRI participating countries to step on the road of energy transition.

(Source: People's Daily)

Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Former Deputy Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission: BRI Aligns with *African Union Agenda 2063*

BRI aligns with *African Union Agenda 2063*. Through accelerating infrastructure modernization and market connectivity in African countries, the BRI is in the interests of Africa. It will bring Africa the technologies and investment for developing digital economy, improve manufacturing capability, drive technology transfer, promote green financing, and enhance people-to-people bonds. The implementation of highway, railway, port and digital infrastructure projects under the BRI has already brought positive changes to Africa and promoted connectivity and seamless trade. The implementation of transportation infrastructure, energy, information and telecommunication technology projects has reduced the cost of doing business and improved the living standard of Africans. Mombasa-Nairobi Railway in Kenya, in particular, brought revolutionary changes to passenger and cargo transportation in the local area, created numerous jobs, drove technology transfer, and made great contribution to the development of the national economy.

(Source: Belt and Road Portal)



Mr. Essam Sharaf, Former Prime Minister of Egypt: The Joint Construction of BRI will Promote the Common Development of All Countries



The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the greatest international cooperation initiative, as it is an inclusive initiative that could address current problems, promote economic growth and realize common development of BRI participating countries. Besides, BRI also offers solutions to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through building an extensive economic and connectivity network. The world needs to learn about and better understand BRI. It is recommended that publicity be strengthened to allow people from different countries to better understand the principles, aims and significance of BRI, and effectively respond to false accusations from some countries, especially fake news and false accusations from Western media.

China's promotion of the high-quality development of the Belt and Road shows its confidence and determination in jointly building the Belt and Road, which facilitates the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. As an important global public good and economic cooperation platform, the BRI has a bright prospect. It will promote world economic development and make new contributions to the realization of common development around the globe.

(Source: Belt and Road Portal)



2021 BRIGC Highlights

April 20, 2021 Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021, Boao, Hainan Province

Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed in the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of BFA Annual Conference 2021 that we could "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."

October 24, 2021 Notice of the State Council on Printing and Distributing the *Action Plan for Carbon Dioxide Peaking Before 2030*

We will make the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) a green initiative and strengthen cooperation with other participants on green infrastructure, green energy, and green finance. We will bring into full play the role of cooperation platforms such as the **BRI International Green Development Coalition**.

Seminar on Environmental NGOs and Green Silk Road

April 27, 2021 Beijing



Belt and Road Forum on Green Finance and Low-carbon Development

May 25, 2021 Beijing



Belt and Road International Transport Symposium

June 17, 2021 Xi'an



BRI Youth Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change

June 25, 2021 Beijing



International Seminar on Environmental Standards among BRI Participating Countries

August 26, 2021 Beijing



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

May 17, 2021 Beijing



Symposium on the Low-carbon Transition and Green Development of BRI Cities

June 11, 2021 Beijing



Workshop on BRI Green Finance and Environmental Management

June 24-25, 2021 Beijing



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

July 9, 2021 Beijing



Belt and Road Seminar on Green and Low Carbon Transition

August 27, 2021 Beijing



Open Forum on Green BRI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

September 8, 2021 Beijing

The CCICED Special Policy Study Report *Green BRI and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2021)* was released.



Dialogue on Developing Green and Low-Carbon Energy via Belt and Road Initiative

September 29, 2021 Beijing



Expert Seminar on Sustainable Infrastructure Development under the BRI

December 6, 2021 Beijing



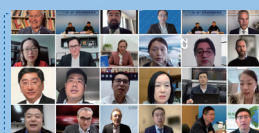
Expert Meeting on BRI Green Development Outlook

December 8, 2021 Beijing



Training Workshop on BRI Green Finance and Environment Management (Phase 2)

December 21-22, 2021 Beijing



Symposium on Synergizing Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects and BRI Green Investment Principles

August 30, 2021 Beijing



Webinar on Green and Low-Carbon Development in ASEAN Member States within BRI

September 28, 2021



Roundtable on BRI Green Development and BRI International Green Development Coalition Policy Studies Release 2021

October 26, 2021 Beijing



7 reports were Release:

- ★ *Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects (Phase II)*
 - Task 1: *Application Guide for Enterprises and Financial Institutions*
 - ★ *Green Development Guidance for BRI Projects (Phase II)*
 - Task 2: *Guide for Key BRI Sectors – Railways and Highways*
 - ★ *BRI Case Study Report on Green Development of Cities*
 - ★ *BRI Case Studies Report on Biodiversity Conservation*
 - ★ *Study on the Green Development of BRI Maritime Connectivity*
- ★ *Research on Green Development of Transportation in BRI Participating Countries*
- ★ *Research on Carbon Emission Standards of Automobile Industry in BRI Participating Countries*



BRI Green Innovation Conference (2021)

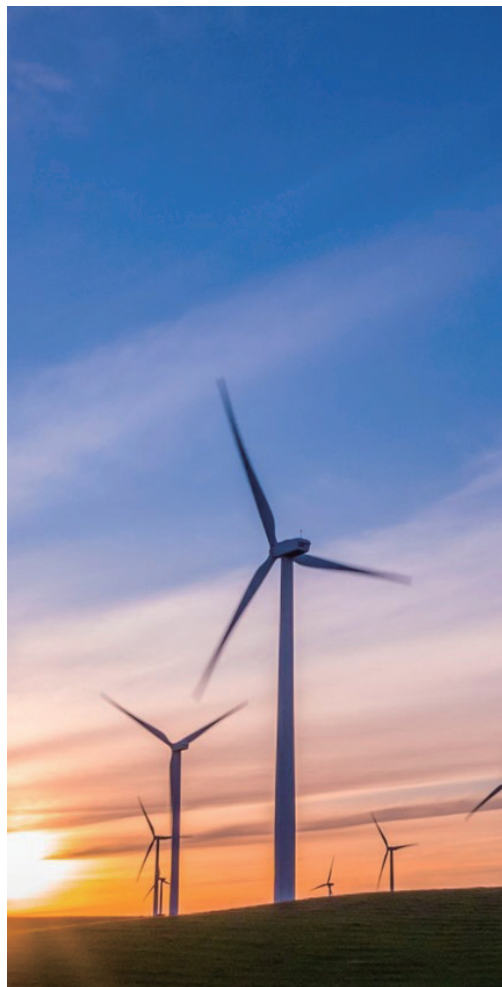
December 16-17, 2021 Shenzhen



The *BRI Green Development Outlook Interim Report (Abstract)* and the *Blue Book on Policies, Regulations and Standards in BRI Participating Countries* were released.



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.



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 concreted 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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