

SECTION I C: Opening Statement By Zhao Jiarong



Second Green Growth Policy Dialogue:
The Role of Public Policy in Providing Sustainable Consumption
Choices: The Resource-Saving Society and Green Growth



Addressing at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Region Policy Dialogue Conference-Construction of Resource Saving Society and Green Growth

Director-general of Department of Environment & Resources Conservation

NDRC Zhao Jiarong

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Ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning !

Today, more than 70 governmental officials, experts, and scholars from UN relevant organizations and over 20 countries gather in Beijing to participate in the “2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Dialogue-Resource Saving Society and Green Growth” jointly sponsored by Asia-Pacific Economic and Social Council of UN (UN/ESCAP) and China National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC), to explore the role of governmental actions, such as construction of resource saving society, promotion of green growth, etc., in promotion of sustainable production and consumption, to exchange successful experiences and typical cases, which is very important to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region. Hereby, I’d like to congratulate on this meeting and welcome all the guests on behalf of Department of Environment & Resources Conservation NDRC.

China is a developing country with a large population, short resources and fragile ecological environment. Along with the rapid economic development and population growth, the shortage of energy,

freshwater, land, mineral resources, etc. will be more striking. Paying close attention to population, resources, and environment, and strengthening the capacity of sustainable development are the strategic tasks for China to build a overall well-off society as well as the basic of long-term development of the Chinese Nation. Since the reform and opening to the outside world, the Chinese Government has been paying much attention to saving resources and has achieved definite results through adjusting the economic structure, accelerating technical progress, intensifying energy management, deepening system reform, strengthening propaganda and education, and motivating the whole society to save resources. From 1981 to 2005, the average annual growth rate of China's GDP reached 9.4% with the average annual growth rate of primary energy consumption of 5.4%, and energy consumption per unit of GDP declined by 64%, 1.1 billion tons standard coal was saved, which equaled to reduce SO₂ emission by 16.5 million tons and reduce CO₂ emission by 740 million tons.

Yet, we know that China's economic growth is still accompanied by high resources consumption, great waste, heavy pollution and low efficiency, and the extensive economic has not been transformed radically. At present, China's GDP already accounts for 4.4% of world GDP, while the consumption of main resources takes up a larger proportion. Energy and material consumption per unit output of main industrial sectors, energy consumption for heating per unit area, oil consumption of automobile per one hundred kilometers, etc., are apparently higher compared with the advanced level of the world, while energy efficiency, mineral resources recovery ratio, industrial water recycling rate, etc. are definitely lower. Thus China has great energy conservation potential, but it is the heavy responsibilities.

By summarizing and absorbing the development experiences of countries, especially the practices of China in its modernization construction, the Chinese Government advances the scientific view of the human-oriented, coordinated and sustainable development. At the *5th Plenary Meeting of 16th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party* last year, the Chinese Government demanded to take energy conservation as its basic national policy, develop recycling economy, protect the ecological environment, speed up construction of a resource- saving and environment-friendly society, and promote economic development in harmony with population, resources, and environment. The "*11TH Five-Year Plan*" passed at the *10th People's Congress of China* this March takes construction of an resource-saving and environment-friendly society as a strategic task for the next five years and advances restricting indexes, such as 20% decline of energy consumption for per unit of GDP for future five years, 10% reduction of the main pollutant emission, etc.,

which embodies the policy of the Chinese Government to implement scientific development and stick to sustainable development. At present, all levels of governments in China are actively promoting the construction of a resource saving society according to the arrangement by the central authority.

To construct a resource saving society, we should implement effective protection and reasonable resources utilization in the fields of social production, construction, circulation, and consumption as well as all aspects of economic and social, to improve energy efficiency and obtain the greatest economic and social benefits with the lowest consumption of resources. The general idea on building a resource saving society is to implement scientific development view, stick to the basic national policy of energy conservation, focus on the economic growth mode transformation, center on enhancing resources utilization efficient, emphasize on conservation of energy, water, land, materials, comprehensive utilization of resources, and development of a recycling economy, strengthen legal construction, speed up structural adjustment, push forth technical progress, improve the policies and measures, establish a long-lasting mechanism, intensify the consciousness of conservation, and gradually form the mode of growth and consumption based on energy conservation, to promote sustainable development of the society and economy by efficient and recycling utilization of resource.

First, establish regulations and standards. Waste no time to formulate and revise laws and regulations to promote efficient use of resources, revise “Energy Conservation Law”, formulate “Recycling Economy Law”, improve the market entry standards for key sectors and develop standards for energy consuming products, energy efficiency of new buildings, and water quota, and strengthen the force of law enforcement, supervision, and inspection.

Second, speed up structural adjustment. Put the service on a more striking position and enhance the ratio of the tertiary industry in the national economy. Make great efforts to develop the high-tech industry and speed up the traditional industry innovation by high-tech as well as advanced technology. Speed up eliminating backward craft, technology and equipment, carry on enterprise reorganization, and enhance industrial concentration and scale merit. Make great efforts to develop intensive agriculture. Adjust energy consumption structure and improve the proportion of high quality energy.

Third, promote technical progress. Strengthen scientific research and industrialization of energy conservation and recycling technologies. Emphasize on the development of energy conservation and comprehensive utilization technologies with great significance for promotion. Speed up promotion and

application of new technologies, new products, and new materials for resource conservation. Implement the ten key projects of energy conservation, and strengthen support for important projects saving resources and developing recycling economy as well as technical development and industrialization projects.

Fourth, be strict with energy conservation management. Establish energy conservation target responsibility and assessment system, adopt GDP energy consumption report, implement quota management on the comprehensive energy consumption per unit of product in important sector, be strict with special demonstration on reasonable energy use of fixed assets investment projects, start the drive of energy conservation for one thousand key energy-consuming enterprises, develop energy conservation audit, and improve energy metering and statistics.

Fifth, improve incentive policies. Speed up market reform of resource products to establish the price-forming mechanism reflecting the degree of rarity, relation of supply and demand, and environmental cost. Establish and improve the financial and taxation policies helping construction of a resource efficient society, speed up formulation of financial and taxation policies encouraging production and use of energy-conservation and water-saving products, energy-conservation buildings, low-oil consumption and low-emission vehicles, improve the preferential taxation policies for comprehensive utilization of resources, and adjust the polices for import and export of energy consuming products.

Sixth, promote new mechanism. Implement energy efficiency labeling management and energy conservation product certification to guide the consumers to purchase energy-conservation products and urge enterprises to speed up research and development of efficient products. Exercise Demand Side Management, optimize the power consumption, and enhance the end use efficiency. Promote energy management contract and provide services covering diagnosis, design, financing, innovation, operation, and management for enterprises to implement energy conservation innovation. Promote voluntary agreement on energy conservation and urge enterprises or industries to reach energy conservation goal voluntarily. Implement governmental energy conservation procurement and reduce the expenditure of government energy consumption.

Seventh, intensify propaganda and education. Conduct extensive and long-lasting propaganda on saving resources to enhance public consciousness of resources, saving and environment. Advocate saving as well as civilized, proper, and reasonable consumption in the whole society, turn resource conservation into voluntary action for public, gradually form healthy, civilized, and saved consumption, and try to build up the atmosphere of a resource saving society.

Ladies and gentlemen! It is a common goal for China and other countries in Asia-Pacific Region to realize sustainable development of the economy and society, and governments of countries in the region are actively exploring and constructing the mode of economic development according to their own conditions. The Green Growth advanced at the *5th Ministerial Meeting on Asia-Pacific Environment and Development* held in Seoul in Mar. 2005 aims to enhance the ecological efficiency of economic development and transform the mode of production and consumption so as to achieve sustainable development, which provides a means to solve the contradiction between economic development and restriction of resources environment and is instructive for the economic development of the countries in Asia-Pacific Region. UN/ESCAP has been engaging in promoting the green growth in Asia-Pacific Region; in Nov. 2005, it held the *1st Policy Dialogue Meeting on Green Growth* in South Korea, countries in Asia-Pacific Region exchanged experiences and lessons on green growth, and satisfactory results were obtained. Today, the *2nd Policy Dialogue Meeting on resource saving society and green growth* is held here to provide another opportunity for us to conduct extensive exchanges and dialogues and further study the theory, policies, and practices concerning green growth. We will make full use of this opportunity to study, learn, and draw experiences from countries in Asia-Pacific Region, strengthen exchanges and cooperation with relevant UN organizations and countries all over the world, speed up construction of a resources-saving and environmental friendly society in China, and together with you make greater contribution to global sustainable development.

At last, wish success of the meeting!

Thanks!