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STEADY HAND

Developing nations call for balanced approach to climate change in Doha

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A Self-Motivated Response

At the recently concluded UN Climate Change Conference in Doha, China once again showed its commitment to combating global warming. The reason for China's eagerness to address climate change has nothing to do with taking the moral high ground, nor because it has yielded to international pressure. It is keen on reversing the alarming trend mainly because of its self-motivation to shift to a more sustainable model of growth, as well as its sincere wish to create a better environment for the future generations.

China's explosive growth in the past three decades has caused daunting environmental problems, some of which have even sparked protests and raised social tension. The more than 656 million rural residents in the country are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters associated with climate change. There has been widespread concern in China over the discharge of pollutants such as greenhouse gases. It is imperative that the Chinese Government give prominence to environmental protection and emission reduction.

From 2006 to 2010, China's energy consumption per 10,000-yuan (\$1,605) GDP dropped nearly 20 percent—an equivalent of cutting 1.46 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions. It plans to cut carbon dioxide emissions per 10,000-yuan GDP another 17 percent by 2015. By 2020, its carbon intensity will hopefully be reduced 40-45 percent from 2005 levels.

In a sense, the struggle to cope with climate change is part of a larger battle to transform China's economic growth model in the quest for stronger and more balanced development. The country views emission reduction as an opportunity to upgrade its industrial structure and spur technological innovation, to which China will remain committed to accomplish in the years ahead.

Climate change transcends national boundaries and demands a global response. Industrialized countries are expected to help developing countries through technology transfers and financial assistance. They are duty-bound to do so because they have consumed a high share of the world's resources and released huge quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution began 250 years ago. They should live up to their responsibilities rather than shift the blame to emerging economies. Narrow-minded wrangling at the Doha conference was not conducive to forging a global synergy to deal with climate change at a time when the clock is ticking.

When Western countries underwent rapid industrialization, their emissions went unchecked. Bitter lessons learned from their history have inspired emerging economies like China to pursue drastic emission cuts on a voluntary basis. But there is no justification for the demands that they take on binding targets, an unfair obligation that will strain efforts to seek further development and improve people's livelihoods. The principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" should continue to serve as a cornerstone of the international climate campaign. ■

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A Warm Winter

Pupils at a local primary school carry donated supplies home in Meigu County of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, south-west China's Sichuan Province, on December 3.

The winter supplies were collected via an online donation started by China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and Alibaba's retail website Taobao.com. The donation raised 300,000 yuan (\$48,000) in support of children in western impoverished regions.

“China’s leaders value the importance of foreign experts and welcome us to work in the country and share our insights during its development.”

Yahia Mustafa Mohamed Ahmed, a senior news editor from Sudan who has been working in China for 15 years, after attending a meeting in which Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China met with foreign experts on December 5

“It’s far from enough for a mistress to expose a corrupt official after a breakup. We need legislation in place for reporting officials’ asset information to anti-corruption agencies and the general public.”

Ma Huaide, Vice President of China University of Political Science and Law, at a seminar convened by the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on November 30

“The new requirements reflect the ministry’s purpose in recruiting university presidents publicly—ministry officials want our universities to have professional leaders impervious to the influence of administrative power.”

Xiong Bingqi, Deputy Director of the 21st Century Education Research Institute, in response to the Ministry of Education’s recent move to publicly recruit presidents for three universities in China on December 5

“My dream is to live with the girl I love. It doesn’t matter if I have to cut firewood and pick up rags for a living. What is the use of studying? Is it getting high marks and ranks to compete with my buddies for limited places at top high schools?”

Feng Shaoyi, a 10-year-old junior middle school student from Zhuhai, south China’s Guangdong Province, posting online about his desire to quit school, which has attracted more than thousands of comments due to his harsh criticism of the country’s education system



LET ME HELP YOU A volunteer checks a migrant worker's blood pressure in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province, on December 5, International Volunteer Day

Pomp Ban

In a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on December 4, Party leaders pledged to reject extravagance and reduce bureaucratic visits and meetings.

The meeting adopted a document making explicit requirements on how CPC Political Bureau members should improve their work style in eight aspects.

“There should be fewer traffic controls arranged for the leaders’ security of their trips to

avoid unnecessary inconvenience to the public, and inspection tours as a mere formality should be strictly prohibited,” said a statement of the meeting.

Political Bureau members are not allowed to attend any sorts of ribbon-cutting or cornerstone-laying ceremonies, nor celebrations and seminars, unless they get approval from the CPC Central Committee, according to the statement.

Officials’ visits abroad should only be arranged when needed in terms of foreign affairs with fewer accompanying members, and

on most of the occasions, there is no need for a reception by overseas Chinese people, institutions and students at the airport.

It was also agreed at the meeting to strictly regulate the arrangements of national official meetings and major events, and improve the efficiency of official conferences and issuing of official documents.

Party leaders also urged senior officials to maintain a frugal lifestyle and strictly comply with regulations on housing and vehicles.

Land Reclamation

The Ministry of Land and Resources is expected to issue measures on land reclamation in mining areas and has finished collecting public feedback.

China promulgated the Land Restoration Regulation in February 2011. The country’s 1,500-plus mining areas occupy about 2 million hectares of land, and the figure is expanding by 33,000 to 47,000 hectares annually, according to ministry statistics.

The land reclamation rate is merely 15 percent, far below the international level, which mainly stands at around 50 to 70 percent.

Land destroyed near coal mines makes up about 80 percent of the total ruined by all kinds of mining. Thus, future efforts will mainly focus on coal mine areas, said Hu Zhenqi, Secretary General of the Land Reclamation and Ecological Restoration Committee of the China Coal Society.

Monastic Ceremony

The 11th Panchen Lama conducted a ritual with Tibetan Buddhism scholars, all monks at the High-level Tibetan Buddhism College of

Provincial Official Investigated

Li Chuncheng, Deputy Secretary of the Sichuan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), is under investigation for alleged discipline violation, according to the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection in early December.

Li, 56, is the first provincial- and ministerial-level official investigated after the 18th CPC National Congress held on November 8-14. He was elected as an alternate member of the 18th CPC Central Committee at the congress.



LUXURIOUS LINEUP Luxury cars are on display at the 2012 Wujiaaba International Automobile Carnival in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on November 30

China, in Beijing on December 5.

Eleven of the monks in attendance graduated from the school on December 4, receiving the Tho Ram Pa degree, one of the highest academic degrees in Tibetan Buddhism.

The monks received their degrees after passing a six-day exam, defending their dissertations and being interviewed by a panel made up of distinguished monks.

The Tho Ram Pa degree system was launched in 2004 in an effort to improve the study of Tibetan Buddhism and the training of outstanding monks by incorporating elements of modern education.

Underground Palace

The remains of a massive “imperial palace” have been uncovered at the mausoleum of China’s first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, archaeologists said on December 1.

Sun Weigang, an associate researcher at the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, said that based on its foundations, the courtyard-style palace was estimated to be 690 meters long and 250 meters wide.

Covering an area of 170,000 cubic meters, the palace is nearly one fourth the size of the Forbidden City in Beijing, the imperial palace of China’s last two feudal dynasties, the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911), Sun said.

The palace, the largest complex yet unearthed at the site, includes 18 courtyard houses and a main building that overlooked the houses, according to the researcher.

The mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang is best known for its “garrison,” the Terracotta Army.

Fight Against Polio

A commission under the World Health Organization (WHO) announced in Beijing on November 30 that China retains its polio-free status, having eradicated an outbreak in 2011.

After more than 10 years of being labeled as a “polio-free” country, China confirmed four cases of wild poliovirus infection in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on August 25, 2011. The last case was reported on October 9, 2011, bringing the total count to 21, including two deaths, according to the Ministry of Health.

Upon request, WHO labs later found the poliovirus was imported from neighboring Pakistan, where the disease remains endemic.

The Chinese Government promptly launched emergency response plans and a massive vaccination campaign, according to a report issued at the closing session of a four-day meeting of the WHO Regional Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication.

The ministry confirmed that over 43 mil-



GO FOR THE AWARD
Journalists interview Mo Yan at the Beijing Capital International Airport on December 5 as he left for Sweden to accept the Nobel Prize for Literature



RISK ALERT Performers demonstrate the dangers of drunk driving during an event in Jinan, Shandong Province, to mark China’s first National Road Safety Day on December 2

lion people in Xinjiang have been vaccinated.

Investigation and response actions undertaken in China in 2011 should serve as models for any other outbreak following importation globally, said the report.

Charity Volunteer System

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) will improve its volunteer system in a bid to expand the country’s volunteer participation rate, according to a conference held on

December 5, International Volunteer Day.

Zhao Baige, Executive Vice President of the RCSC, said that the RCSC will give full play to the roles of volunteers based on their professions and fields and improve the capabilities of volunteers at the community level.

The RCSC will establish an online information platform covering provincial-level volunteer programs, Zhao said, adding that the platform can better protect volunteers’ rights.

Energy Agreements

China and Russia inked four agreements on energy cooperation on December 5.

Following the ninth energy negotiators meeting between the two countries, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on energy market assessment, a roadmap on cooperation in the coal sector and an agreement on electricity supply.

The documents were aimed at further enhancing energy cooperation between China and Russia.

During the meeting co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich, the two sides agreed to start oil and natural gas cooperation following the principle of upstream and downstream integration.

They also agreed to further expand coal and power trade, undertake research on energy reservation and promote the application of renewable energy.

Since the establishment of the China-Russia energy negotiations in 2008, the two sides have held eight official meetings and two work meetings.

Cooperation between the two sides has been solid this year. For instance, the China-Russia crude oil pipeline is functioning smoothly. It is expected that China will import 15 million metric tons of crude oil from the neighboring country in 2012, said the Chinese National Energy Administration.

Benefits Improved

China's employee benefit system is still underdeveloped, with a majority of employees hoping to see improvements in their packages, according to a research report on December 5.

The China Employee Benefit Index 2012, the country's first index gauging the well-being of employees, stands at 65.37, indicating that the benefit system is still at a basic level.

The index was launched by Ping An

Annuity Insurance Co. of China and the Industrial Relations Research Center of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

The index took into account factors like coverage and penetration of benefit packages, and employees' satisfaction levels.

According to the report, a score under 60 indicates a preliminary stage, while a score ranging from 80 to 100 indicates a sound system. The figure regarding benefit coverage is only at 61.33, indicating that coverage remains limited.

The report said that employees want better basic benefits. For example, 62.3 percent of the employees surveyed said that they hope their housing provident funds can be raised, while 60.3 percent believe that their supplementary commercial insurance needs improvement.

However, companies are not adequately motivated to invest in employee benefit plans due to their own financial reality and a lack of policy support.

Only 42.5 percent of the company representatives polled indicated that employers plan to allocate more resources to employee benefits.

The report said that the financial industry offers the best employee benefits, while advertising, media and the print industry offer the worst.

Also, foreign-funded companies have the best employee benefit systems, but private companies rank low on the list.

"The government should offer policy support measures for small and medium-sized hi-tech firms to offer better employee benefits for retaining talented professionals," said Yang Yansui, Director of the Research Center of Employment and Social Security at Tsinghua University.

"Sophisticated employee benefit systems are playing an increasingly important role in attracting talented personnel, motivating staff and improving companies' efficiency," said Du Yongmao, CEO of Ping An Annuity Insurance Co.



SPEEDING UP CONSTRUCTION Staff members work on steel penstocks at the Hongping Pumped-Storage Power Station in Jiangxi Province on December 5

Numbers

7.7 percent

The predicted growth rate of China's GDP in 2012, according to a blue paper issued by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on December 5.

4 trillion yuan

The estimated cross-border trade settled in yuan in 2013, up 30 percent from 2012 and accounting for 15 percent of China's total foreign trade, Deutsche Bank forecasted in a recent report.

Airspace to Private Planes

China will loosen its strict control over low-altitude airspace in 2013 across the country, opening more airspace to private planes, after a two-year pilot reform in several cities, including Guangzhou, Hangzhou and Xi'an, according to media reports.

Once the nationwide reform is implemented, airspace below 1,000 meters will be divided into a restricted area, a monitoring area and a reporting area. In the monitoring and reporting areas, private aircraft would be allowed to enter after a pre-flight report to administrators, and the restricted area would be open only to qualified private aircraft.

Stimulated by the reform, the number of general-purpose airplanes is expected to soar to more than 10,000 from the current 1,000 and the private aircraft market is expected to explode to more than \$1 trillion.

Lower Profit Margin

China's lucrative banking sector will experience lower net profits in the next year, weighed down by interest rate reforms initiated by the Chinese central bank's two consecutive rate cuts, experts predict.

Zhou Kunping, Vice General Manager of the Financial Research Center of the Bank of Communications, predicted that the net profits of China's banks will slow to single-digit growth in 2013.

His words were echoed by Guo Tianyong, a researcher at the Central University of Finance and Economics. Guo said banks, especially small and medium-sized ones, will be confronted with more pressure as interest rates are now more market-oriented.

To refuel the slowing economy, the People's Bank of China introduced two interest rate cuts in June and July, which, experts believe, served as a prelude to a reform of interest rates.

China's banking sector has faced increased scrutiny for its unreasonably huge profits. The combined net profits of all the 16

banks listed on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges totaled 812.77 billion yuan (\$129.23 billion) in the first three quarters of 2012, accounting for over half the profits of the 2,493 listed firms.

Cultural Expo

The Seventh China (Beijing) International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo (ICCIE) will be held on December 19-23 in Beijing, according to the ICCIE Organizing Committee.

With a theme of "culture integrated with science and technology and innovation leading transformation," the Seventh ICCIE includes exhibitions, forums, summit conferences, trade promotions and creative activities.

Established in 2006, the ICCIE is a national-level international exchange and cooperation event set up by the Chinese Government in Beijing to carry out the country's strategy for developing the cultural industry. According to the ICCIE Organizing Committee, during the previous six ICCIE sessions, contracts worth roughly 256.4 billion yuan (\$40.76 billion) were signed.

Businesswoman Renounces Membership

Zhang Lan, founder and Chairwoman of the Beijing-based restaurant group South Beauty, has submitted a written application to give up her membership of the Beijing Chaoyang District Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) on November 26. The committee approved her application on November 30.

According to Zheng Huang, the committee's vice chairman, when a CPPCC member no longer holds Chinese nationality, he or she is deprived of the membership.

The Hurun China Rich List of the nation's wealthiest individuals ranked Zhang 589th, with an estimated fortune of 3.1 billion yuan (\$490 million) in 2011.



GREEN CONSTRUCTION
Citizens observe a model of an urban energy-saving building at the 2012 China International City Construction Exposition in Jinan, Shandong Province, on December 5

48,000 km

The total mileage of China's electric railway network—ranking first in the world, said the China Railway Engineering Corp. Railway Electrification Bureau Group Co. Ltd. on December 4.

10.6 million

The number of private enterprises set up in China by the end of September, achieving an annual growth rate of 76.1 percent from 2007, said the State Administration for Industry and Commerce on December 4.

THIS WEEK WORLD



Outgoing Mexican President Felipe Calderon (left) presents the national flag to incoming President Enrique Pena Nieto during a power transition ceremony in Mexico City on December 1

MEXICO



People visit the Louvre Museum on the first day of its opening to the public on December 4 in Lens, north France. The Louvre opened a new satellite branch in the former mining town in an effort to bring high culture and visitors to one of France's poorest areas

FRANCE



M23 rebels withdraw through a hillside after departing from the village of Karuba on November 30. Hundreds of rebels pulled out of frontline positions around Goma as promised under a regionally brokered deal, while government forces entered the key eastern city to resume control

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Smoke billows from the entrance of a collapsed expressway tunnel as police and fire workers gather for rescue operations in Koshu, 80 km west of Tokyo, on December 2

JAPAN



Activists mark the 25th World AIDS Day on December 1 in Colombo

SRI LANKA



A Swiss shepherd dog feeds orphaned tiger cubs and her own cubs in the Black Sea resort of Sochi on December 4. The baby tigers were abandoned by their mother shortly after their birth in a local zoo

RUSSIA

COVER STORY

SEEKING A CLIMATE SOLUTION

China plays a responsible role in coping with climate change By Yu Shujun



ON

CLIMATE CONVENTION: Delegates from around the world attend the opening ceremony of the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha on November 26



Tit-for-tat negotiations at this year's UN Climate Change Conference recently concluded in Doha, Qatar, effectively reminded people about the Doha round of WTO talks; but unlike the fruitless trade talks, climate talks have a common ground of tackling humankind's biggest threat—climate change.

“Ambition” and “finance” are always the key words at climate talks. So it was in Doha. Developing countries urged developed countries to be more ambitious in emission reduction targets and assist them in finance, technology transfer and capacity building. Developed countries, on the other hand, called for equal participation over the long term.

As the largest developing economy, China sometimes is stuck in the middle. Some developed countries want to put binding targets on China, because it has become a major greenhouse gas emitter. However, the world's second largest economy still has to lift 100 million people out of poverty.

“Even without the binding treaty, China is making a lot of efforts,” said Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, at a press conference in Doha on November 4.

Just before the Doha climate conference, ecological progress became an integral part of China's future development plan, together with economic, political, cultural and social progresses, in the then Party General Secretary Hu Jintao's report to the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

China has already taken a lead in tackling climate change as a responsible developing country, said Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Striking a balance

“We've always maintained hope that the parties can achieve a balanced result that takes care of the common interests of humankind and addresses the realities and needs of different countries,” said Xie Zhenhua, Vice Minister of the National



CHP

CLEAN CARS: Engineers work on electric vehicles at the Beijing New Energy Automotive Co. on November 7

Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and head of the Chinese delegation to the UN climate conference.

The realities and needs of those different countries are precisely what heated up the negotiations in Doha.

What developing countries need most is the support from developed countries, especially financial support, which was the most controversial issue at the Doha climate talks.

The Copenhagen Accord in 2009 stated the collective commitment of developed countries to provide developing countries with the fast-start fund of \$30 billion from 2010 to 2012 and also introduced the idea that developed countries will jointly mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 for developing countries.

The fast-start fund comes to an end

and the long-term fund of \$100 billion per year from 2013 to 2020 is still up in the air. Questions surrounding the funds have since arisen, touching on the transparency of the fast-start fund, whether the money has been paid, how it has been used, and when the long-term fund will be paid.

Todd Stern, U.S. Special Envoy on Climate Change, said that the overall amount for the donor countries is \$30.6 billion, with around \$7.5 billion from the United States.

But there is discrepancy in the exact totals. Xie said he heard about three figures: more than \$30 billion, similar to the U.S. version, \$26.3 billion and \$13 billion, respectively.

To ensure the long-term fund, developing countries said at the Doha conference that they need at least \$60 billion from 2013 to 2015 to deal with droughts, floods, rising seas

and storms caused by climate change.

“We know that the United States and the EU are facing financial difficulties, so we propose the mid-term fund,” Xie said. “They should give a clear answer.”

Connie Hedegaard, EU Commissioner for Climate Action, said EU donors who are willing to continue giving money are also willing to give in the short term.

But in order to scale up to \$100 billion a year, there is no way but through public money, said Hedegaard. The EU needs time to find out how they can leverage private financing through public money, or secure more private sources.

Stern said the United States will continue the long-term goal of mobilizing funding by 2020 in the context of mitigation and transparency.

While some developed countries agreed

to continue providing money, whether mid-term or long-term, developing countries are still in doubt.

“When it comes to political statements, developed countries are ready to support, but in terms of figures, they are not fulfilling their commitments,” said Larbi Djacta, Minister Counselor in charge of G77 of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations. G77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations, in which Algeria currently holds the chairmanship position.

“The only thing developed countries have to do now is to fulfill their commitments, and the means of implementation is our biggest concern,” said Djacta.

The means of implementation, according to Djacta, refers to supporting developing countries financially, helping them in technology and enhancing their capacities, which could make it possible for them to adapt to the challenge of climate change and enable their capacities to face the adverse impact of climate change.

“We obviously need financial assistance, capacity building and technological assistance,” said Dr. Mariyam Shakeela, Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Maldives. The country is one of the small island states that are most vulnerable to climate changes.

“Our infrastructure was not built to adapt and we need climate-resilient methods to build communities,” said Shakeela. “So we need the money and technology.”

But achieving a balanced result also means that China hopes that all previously agreed upon commitments before 2020 should be implemented, said Xie, head of the Chinese delegation.

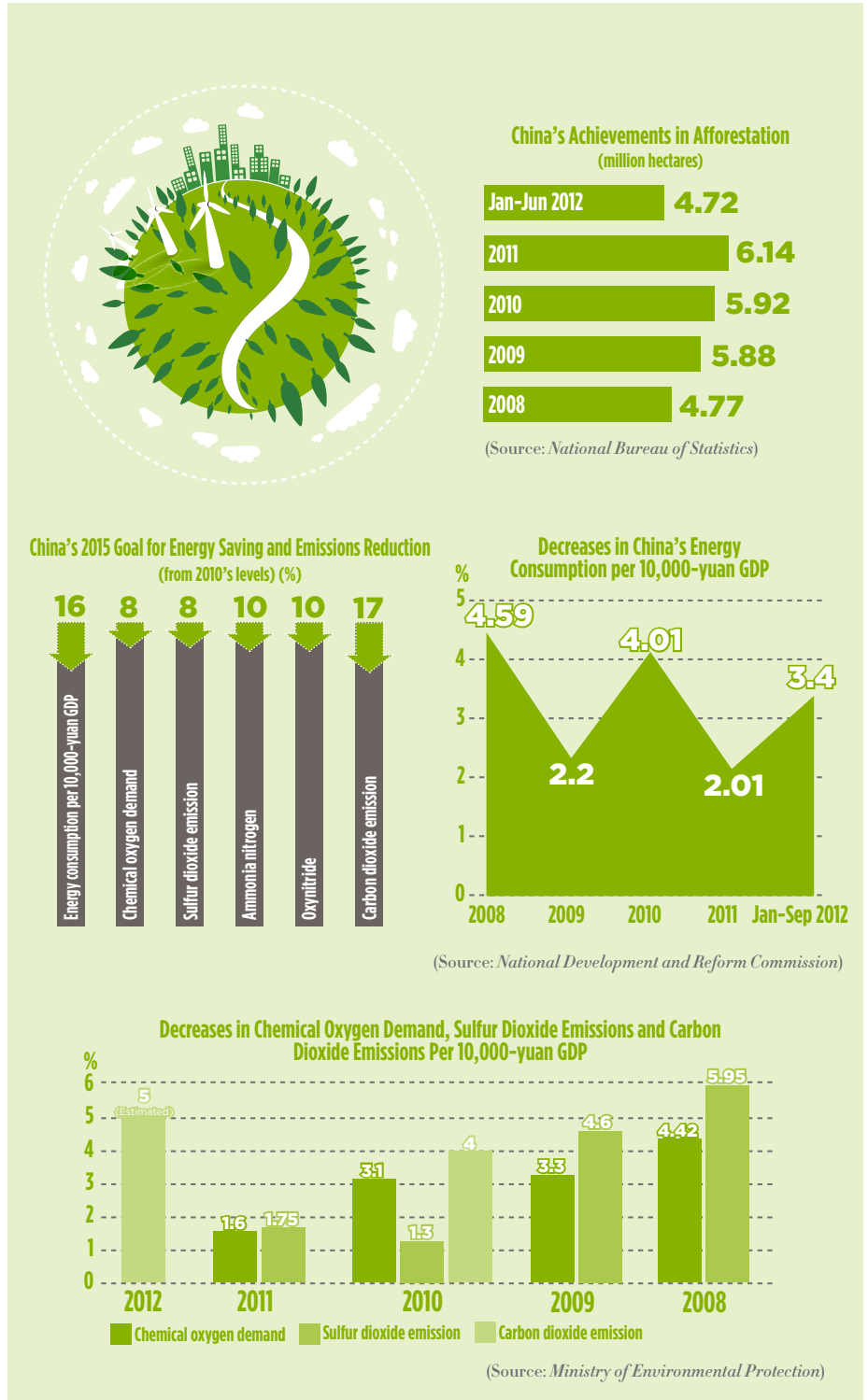
On the basis of this result, China will provide and has provided some money to help developing countries through South-South cooperation, he said.

Facing a dilemma

While China has emerged as the world’s second largest economy, it has become the world’s largest carbon dioxide emitter, and its per-capita emission is around the world’s average level.

“In tackling climate change and seeking sustainable development, China is facing enormous challenges,” said Xie.

‘We’re not surprised that emissions are



rising significantly in China,” said Hedegaard. “Latest statistics we’ve seen show that actual emission levels are growing even more than its GDP is growing.”

The challenge for China is to try to decouple economic growth and growth in emissions, she said.

A country’s emission level will increase in tandem with economic growth, but when emission peaks, the level will remain stable for a period and then begin to drop, said Xie. It resembles an inverted U-shaped curve.

Developed countries’ emissions stopped increasing when their per-capita GDP reached \$40,000-50,000, said Xie. “But China’s per-capita GDP is only about \$5,000 and China’s emission is at the climbing stage.”

However, with efforts, China’s emission can peak when its per-capita GDP is only half of the developed countries’ peak level, he said.

In Doha, U.S. climate envoy Stern also rejected the current division of developing and developed countries, which implies differentiated responsibilities.

“While there certainly needs to be differentiation between countries, differentiation should be built on a country’s national circumstances and capabilities, but not built on an ideology that says we’re going to draw a line down the middle of the world,” said Stern, indicating a challenge to China’s status as a developing country.

“China is still a developing country. It has

to feed more than 1 billion Chinese and it has hundreds of millions of poor people,” said Djacta.

Other emerging economies including Brazil, South Africa and India, which together with China are called BASIC countries, are facing the same pressure.

Djacta also said that the number of poor people in India or Brazil is two or three times that of the UK or France.

Fulfilling commitments

“We will not follow the past development model of developed countries and can’t delay decreasing our emissions until our per-capita GDP reaches \$50,000,” said Xie.

Without developed countries’ financial and technological support, China has made its commitment to cutting carbon dioxide emission per 10,000-yuan (\$1,605) GDP by 40-45 percent in 2020 from 2005. This target is much more ambitious than many developed countries.

In its 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15), the Chinese Government set the goals of cutting energy consumption per 10,000-yuan GDP by 16 percent and carbon dioxide emission per 10,000-yuan GDP by 17 percent, and raising the proportion of non-fossil fuel energy consumption to 11.4 percent.

During the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-10) period, energy consumption per 10,000-yuan GDP dropped by 19.1 percent. The index dropped by 2.1 percent in 2011 and

3.4 percent from January to September 2012, according to Xie. He estimated that carbon dioxide emission per 10,000-yuan GDP will drop by 5 percent this year.

To seek sustainable development, China is restructuring its industry by strictly limiting projects with high energy consumption, high pollutant emissions or excess capacity and eliminating outdated capacities. Although these efforts will erode economic growth, the government still spares no effort and has actually lowered its economic growth target in the 12th Five-Year Plan.

Energy-saving and new energy industries have been set among the country’s strategic emerging industries, which are considered new growth engines for the country’s economy during the 12th Five-Year Plan period.

“We can see that actions are going on in China and climate change is perfected in the five-year plan,” said Hedegaard, EU Commissioner for Climate Action.

“The Chinese Government has been investing a lot in a smart way to diversify their sources of energy to mitigate and adapt by their own national government policies,” said Ban Ki-moon. “This is highly commendable.”

“China is successful in using green technology, like solar and wind power, to decrease the use of fossil fuels,” said Alexander Bedritsky, Special Envoy for Climate Affairs of the Russian Federation.

To mitigate the impact of climate change, China has been making efforts in

Non-Fossil Fuel Energy

Hydropower

Installed capacity:

230 million kw

Electricity generated:

66.26 billion kwh

Nuclear Power

Installed capacity:

12.57 million kw

Electricity generated:

86.9 billion kwh

Wind Power

Installed capacity:

65 million kw

Electricity generated:

80 billion kwh

increasing forest coverage and conserving grassland.

It has also launched low-carbon projects like transportation in many regions and initiated pilot programs for carbon emission trading in cities including Beijing and Shanghai.

“We appreciate that in China a concrete goal of targets has been set, analysis has been made, market mechanism is broadly used to help to fulfill the goals of decreasing climate change,” said Bedritsky.

Outside the country, China has helped other developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change through South-South cooperation.

“We’re getting the largest help from China, not only in terms of the environment, but also for infrastructure,” said Shakeela, Maldives’ Minister of Environment and Energy.

The Chinese Government has pledged to earmark 200 million yuan (\$31.7 million) to finance climate programs in Africa, the least developed countries and small island states in the next three years, said Xie.

Grenada, a small island country in the Caribbean, has increased its energy efficiency by 50 percent and saved \$1 million in public spending by using energy-saving lamps donated by China, he said. ■

(Reporting from Doha, Qatar)

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Sustainability Education’s Long March

By Stephanie Tansey & Qi Ping

China’s long-standing commitment to sustainable development is reflected by a decade of ongoing reform to the college entrance examination system and the inclusion of sustainability education in the national geography curriculum.

Questions concerning sustainable development and environmentally friendly lifestyles have appeared on the geography section of the national college entrance examination, or *gaokao*, since 2002.

Relevant items on the *gaokao* pertain to climate change, energy consumption, the ecological effects of hydroelectric dams, the economy’s influence on the environment, and the pressing need to change human behavior.

Some are multiple-choice questions. Others are case studies which challenge students to explain environmental phenomenon, describe which human behavior caused it, and write about potential solutions to the problem.

Changes in the exam system in higher education complement changes in primary education. The junior middle school curriculum changed in 2011 to include compulsory geography courses.

The value of geography teachers has also improved. Zhu Kexi, master teacher in Beijing’s Fengtai District in charge of geography, explained, “From 2002 to 2007 only professors and post-graduate students were permitted to grade the [national college entrance] exams and they would just follow the exam key. Then, in 2008, it was recognized that teachers, who are the ones who actually teach the subject, are an important piece in the grading system. This is because they can better assess the nuances of the written answers,” she said. ■

*(Stephanie Tansey is the author of *Recovery of the Heart: Dialogues With People Working Toward a Sustainable Beijing*, published by New World Press; Qi Ping is a nature studies educator and primary school teacher)*

Geothermal and Ocean Energy

Installed capacity:

**24,200 kw and
6,000 kw**

Electricity generated:

146 million kwh

Biomass Power

Installed capacity:

6 million kw

Electricity generated:

30 billion kwh

Solar Power

Installed capacity:

3 million kw

(Source: China’s Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change 2012)

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