

Highlights of United Nations Development Programme

Support to China During 2013



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Resilient nations.*



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Cover: A sugarcane farmer from Guangxi tends to his new irrigation system,
as part of a UNDP-supported programme.

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Foreword

This report highlights the main results of UNDP cooperation with China during the year 2013.

Building on over 30 years of trusted close cooperation and adapting to the new development stage of the country, UNDP's work with China significantly expanded in 2013. Our contributions are articulated around two pillars. The first pillar supports China's domestic development in areas such as poverty reduction, governance, energy, environment, and disaster management, where UNDP's international experience and knowledge can be of value to China at both policy and project levels. The second pillar is derived from the Memorandum for Strengthened Partnership that UNDP and China signed in September 2010 and supports China's engagement in South-South cooperation and global issues.

UNDP's programmes are fully integrated into China's development plans, and UNDP's achievements in China are therefore part of China's own achievements. In 2013, UNDP was proud to support innovative approaches and to contribute to major changes in China as highlighted in the Report. Results achieved in the development of legislation and policies, in improving the livelihoods of ethnic minorities and farmers, in enhancing access to legal aid for vulnerable groups, in reducing pollutants, and in enhancing energy efficiency have made a difference in the lives of millions of Chinese people.

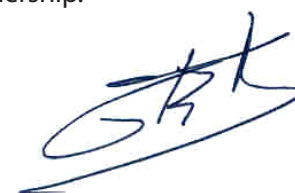
In 2013, the Strengthened Partnership between UNDP and China for South-South cooperation significantly expanded with pilot programmes being scaled up and new policy work undertaken in foreign aid policy, global and regional issues, private sector engagement, and the sharing of development experience through

South-South dialogue.

The year 2013 was also marked by the publication of important documents, including the National Human Development Report on Sustainable and Liveable Cities, a Study on Income Distribution in China, a Report on Global Governance, and a Report on Development Cooperation Experience Sharing among Middle Income Countries. These documents, which were launched in the presence of high level officials from the Government and UNDP and received extensive media coverage, contributed to awareness-raising and policy discussions on key development issues.

UNDP enjoys close cooperation with a wide range of Chinese and international partners, and the results achieved in 2013 are the product of our joint work. We are grateful to the Government of the People's Republic of China, academic institutions, social organizations, companies, counterparts from both developed and developing countries, as well as individual experts and researchers who have actively supported UNDP China and made valuable contributions to our work.

Looking to the future, UNDP China remains fully committed to supporting the Government of China in domestic development and South-South cooperation, and looks forward to the further strengthening of the UNDP-China partnership.



Christophe Bahuet
Country Director, UNDP China

PART I:

UNDP Support to China's Domestic Development



A farmer smiles at his harvest of oranges, free of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Equity and Poverty Reduction

Ethnic Minorities

In partnership with the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), UNDP provided ethnic minority communities with alternative livelihood, employment, and income generation opportunities with broadened access to modern markets. Around 200 representatives of community organizations from remote areas of China were trained on cultural product design and market exploration. A base providing training and facilities to ethnic minority weavers was established in Hainan to promote handicraft indigenous to China’s southernmost region. As a major indicator of success, the first order was placed by an international department store in Singapore for Mosuo ethnic minority hand-woven scarves.

The State Ethnic Affairs Commission adopted UNDP’s methodology on setting up community-based organizations. This participatory approach is now being replicated in other ethnic minority communities nationwide, with about 4,000 direct and 2 million indirect beneficiaries. The Yunnan Provincial Government replicated the project model to 600 villages directly, which has influenced over 10,000 villages in Yunnan Province.



The Mosuo have conserved time-honoured techniques, used to weave their scarves and other handicrafts.



UNDP advocates for the right of women to greater social participation. Support is being provided to the most vulnerable populations of women, such as ethnic minorities or those living in rural areas.

Sustainable Livelihoods

A water resource management and drinking water safety project demonstrated new irrigation and recycling techniques to sugarcane farmers in Guangxi, helping them work towards sustainable agricultural production. In partnership with Coca-Cola, CICETE, and the local Bureau of Commerce, an improved water management scheme directly benefitted 7,000 sugarcane farmers whilst indirectly benefitting more than 143,000. In the arid region of Ningxia, UNDP also collaborated with China Association for Science and Technology and trained farmers in melon / fruit production on gravel-mulching land, livestock-raising, and non-point source pollution. The success of the anti-desertification and livelihood improvement project has been shared internationally. In early 2013, a 15-member Iranian delegation visited the project sites to learn about desertification control and livelihood improvement in the area.

Inclusive Social Development

Partnering with the Legislative Affairs Commission of the National People's Congress, UNDP coordinated evaluation and provided technical support for China's first social assistance law, focusing on the protection of vulnerable groups. About 250 million people benefitted nationwide, with 75 million receiving a minimum living allowance and 97 million receiving medical relief and rural welfare support. The role of social organizations was highlighted during these processes in support of policy changes for civil society participation and development in China.

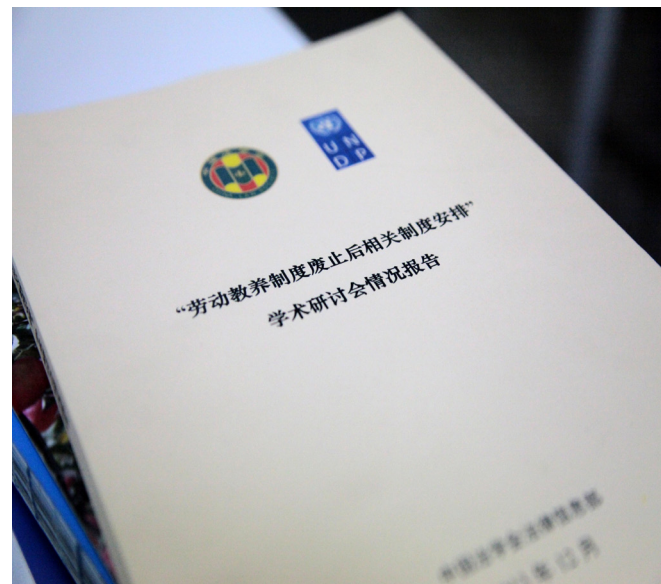


Guangxi sugarcane farmers finalize the lateral tubes of their drip-irrigation system.

Good Governance



UNDP and China Law Society sign an agreement for cooperation on 'Re-education Through Labour' reform.



RTL Learning Seminar Results Report.

The End of Re-education Through Labour

UNDP assisted the government in the abolition of the Re-education Through Labour system (RTL), used to detain individuals who had not had formal trials, or those whose offences did not fall under the Criminal Law. The Government's decision to address RTL created an opportunity for UNDP to provide policy services to contribute to this reform agenda.

UNDP and the China Law Society (CLS), a key think tank for China's rule of law and legal reform, signed an agreement for cooperation on RTL reform. Under this agreement, UNDP and CLS committed to conduct research to inform the RTL reform process. A group of 30 national experts contributed to this study, which, at UNDP's suggestion, included an analysis of Viet Nam, a country with a comparable legal context that had recently undergone a similar process.

UNDP and CLS organised an expert consultation to coincide with the 3rd Party Plenum in November. A policy report based on this consultation was submitted to the Judicial Reform Office of the CPC Commission of Political and Legal Affairs and directly informed the decision, passed on 12th November, to abolish the RTL system, affecting 60,000 people detained in 350 camps countrywide.

LGBT Rights

Under a regional initiative involving 6 Asian countries, UNDP brought together for the first time LGBT community leaders for consultations with the national government in August.

About 70 participants jointly conducted a comprehensive review of the social, cultural, and legal environment where Chinese LGBT groups live and LGBT organizations operate.



UNDP hosts 'Being LGBT in Asia' China Community Dialogue.

Strengthening Legal Aid and Access to Justice

Since 2012, UNDP has supported the Daytop Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre in Yunnan in its work of providing legal aid to people living with or affected by HIV, including drug users, sex workers, and men who have sex with men. Yunnan is the province with the highest rate of HIV infections in China. People living with HIV often face stigma and discrimination in employment and education and are driven away from accessing basic healthcare. This prevents them from accessing important prevention and treatment services and drives the further spread of HIV.

Thanks to the hiring of one full-time lawyer and two peer counselors, the Centre has dealt with over 300 cases and established five outreach sites that provide information and advice on legal issues, reaching more than 1,000 people. It has also provided HIV legal and rights training to approximately 50 lawyers and 100 law students in Yunnan Province.

In December 2013, UNDP China organized a "National Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment for People Living with or most affected by HIV." In partnership with UNAIDS, the meeting brought together the National Legal Aid Centre of the Ministry of Justice, government representatives, legal service providers, and legal aid recipients to share experiences and discuss the role that social organizations can play to strengthen access to justice and strategic litigation for marginalized populations in China. A national network of legal aid centers was formed to connect and better support the work of many small organizations across China.

Energy and the Environment

Chemical Pollutants

Playing its due part in global efforts to reduce Persistent Organic Pollutants as per the Stockholm Convention, China this year entered a transformational phase, as efforts to take more environmental responsibility were increased among agricultural industries. Part of this work included DDT insecticide reduction in a number of forms. Dicofol use was completely eliminated, with no supply or consumption identified.

Following this success, efforts were expanded to tackle the DDT pollution that also severely affects China's marine ecosystems. There are 300,000 fishing vessels spread along China's coastline, consuming 10,000 tonnes of antifouling paint (often laced with DDT) and leaving trails of harmful persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the water. In these areas, DDT pollution was reduced with 24 new paint alternatives identified and 864 tonnes produced. After building up an enabling policy environment for the phase-out of DDT-based marine paint, UNDP is supporting the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture in increasing POPs reduction initiatives and enhancing public awareness.

Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and the State Forestry Administration, UNDP partners with local NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and engages local communities to reduce land-based ocean pollution; improve agro- and forest ecosystems to sustain ecosystem functionality; and reduce POPs pesticides and mercury pollution at the community level while enhancing livelihoods. Currently, the SGP is implementing 33 projects in the area of biodiversity conservation, climate change, prevention of land degradation, protection of international waters, and elimination of toxic chemicals .

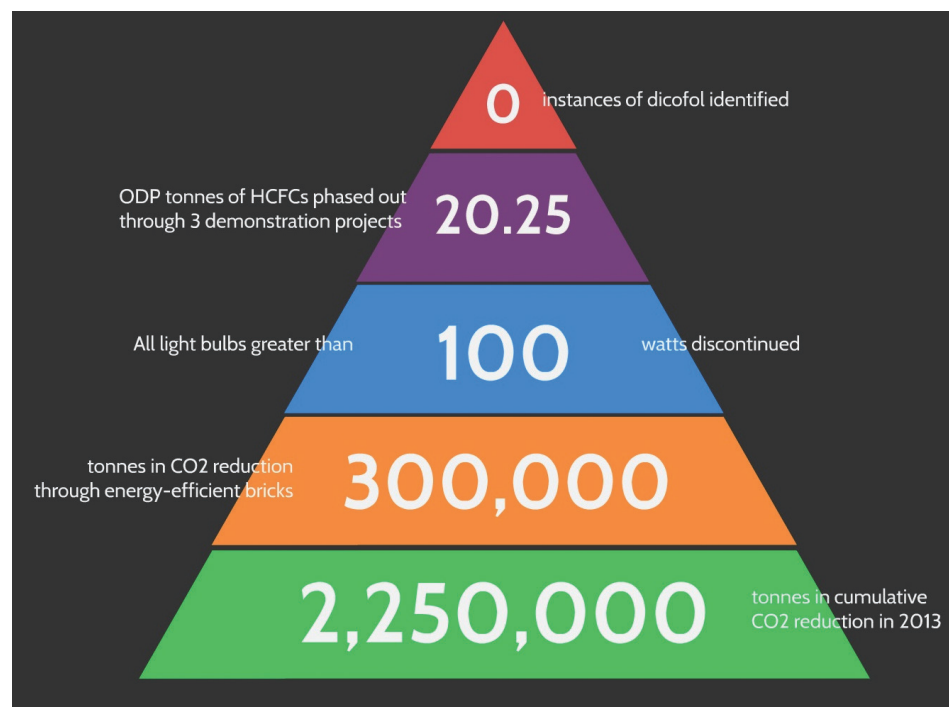


Top: A local farmer smiles at her chemical-free harvest.

Bottom: UNDP Administrator Helen Clark tours energy-saving Kang project sites around Beijing. UNDP and the GEF Small Grants Programme are running a project to assist forest communities to save energy and reduce carbon emissions by installing energy-saving hypocaust heating systems (Kang) into local homes.

Low-Carbon Agriculture

An innovative energy crop project in partnership with the Xinjiang Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development demonstrated sustainable approaches for livelihood improvement of vulnerable groups, merged with ecological restoration in an arid, desertification-prone area. Farmers in several provinces learned to use crop rotation for higher sustainability and were introduced to jatropha cultivation, increasing annual income by 6,000 RMB per household.



2013 environment results by numbers.

Market Reform for Energy Efficiency

In China's rural areas, 60% of buildings are made from clay bricks with poor insulation, which leads to unnecessary energy expenditure. To ensure that rural consumers have access to new technology, UNDP supported the Ministry of Agriculture in implementing a market reform project for energy-efficient (EE) bricks, thereby providing technological support for EE building materials in rural areas. UNDP

implemented a design standard for rural residential buildings, transferring technological know-how and critical management skills to brick makers at demonstration sites around the country.

Xianyang City, in Shaanxi Province, the centre of China's coal industry, incorporated the standards for EE building materials into its local Five-Year Plan, showing willingness

to decrease its energy consumption. Though progress has not been equal in all energy sectors, the cumulative CO2 emissions reduction from implementation of EE bricks is an estimated 300,000 tonnes.

Green Consumption and Transportation

A demonstration project on the role of women in green consumption was implemented in five communities in Beijing to promote women's leadership in creating a low-carbon family culture. Together with the Beijing Women's Federation, interactive activities have been carried out to adopt green consumption behaviours at the community level, build up women's capacity to lead greener lifestyles, and pave the way for the future in ethical consumerism. UNDP has also been promoting green transportation. During his visit to China in June, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon cycled through Beijing's streets to support UNDP's encouragement of alternative transportation.



Montreal Protocol

As the lead agency for the HCFCs phase-out plans in the Industrial and Commercial Refrigeration and Air-conditioning (ICR) and Solvent sectors, UNDP assisted the Ministry of Environmental Protection in the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With support from UNDP, China signed conversion contracts worth over 6,300 tonnes in HCFC reduction. Four companies also signed voluntary agreements to overhaul production and supply chains, with more expected to do so in 2014.



Top: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon cycles in Beijing to show his commitment to green transportation.

Bottom: Large factories are committing to the phase-out of HCFCs, a family of potent greenhouse gases with ozone depletion potential.

Disaster Management

Relief and Response

UNDP provided relief efforts in response to the Lushan earthquake early in the year, striving towards early-recovery and building back stronger. Drawing on support from the Government and international donors, UNDP helped to conduct needs assessments and initiated early recovery frameworks to strengthen

the resilience of post-disaster recovery. Positioning crisis prevention and recovery as a focus area, partnerships were established with leading Chinese government agencies on disaster management. Supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the UNDP Regional Centre for the Asia Pacific (APRC), exchange

and learning activities between China and other developing countries in the region were organized, and innovative approaches to disaster management are being explored through public participation and public-private partnership building.

Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Civil Affairs in its efforts to strengthen community resilience and preparedness for natural disasters. Emergency response and early warning for natural disasters are increasingly combined with risk-conscious planning and risk reduction initiatives. The new national standard for community disaster management issued in 2013 sees an improved indicator system with broadened social participation and protection of vulnerable populations. Approximately 1,200 communities across the nation achieved the new standards in 2013.



Representatives from China, Bangladesh, and Nepal participated in the Community-based Disaster Management Best Practice Sharing Workshop. The event was part of the Sharing and Learning on Community-based Disaster Management in Asia project, a collaboration between the Ministry of Civil Affairs, DFID, and UNDP.



A local community member participates in disaster warning training.

PART II:

UNDP Support to South-South and Global / Regional Cooperation



H.E. Mr. Teng Lao, Secretary of State (MAFF), shakes hands with Ms. Setsuko Yamazaki, Country Director for UNDP Cambodia, upon signing the agreement for Phase II of the Cambodia pilot project. Also in attendance were Mr. Christophe Bahuet, Country Director for UNDP China; Mr. Jin Yuan, Chinese Embassy to Cambodia; and Ms. Lu Zhouxiang, MOFCOM.

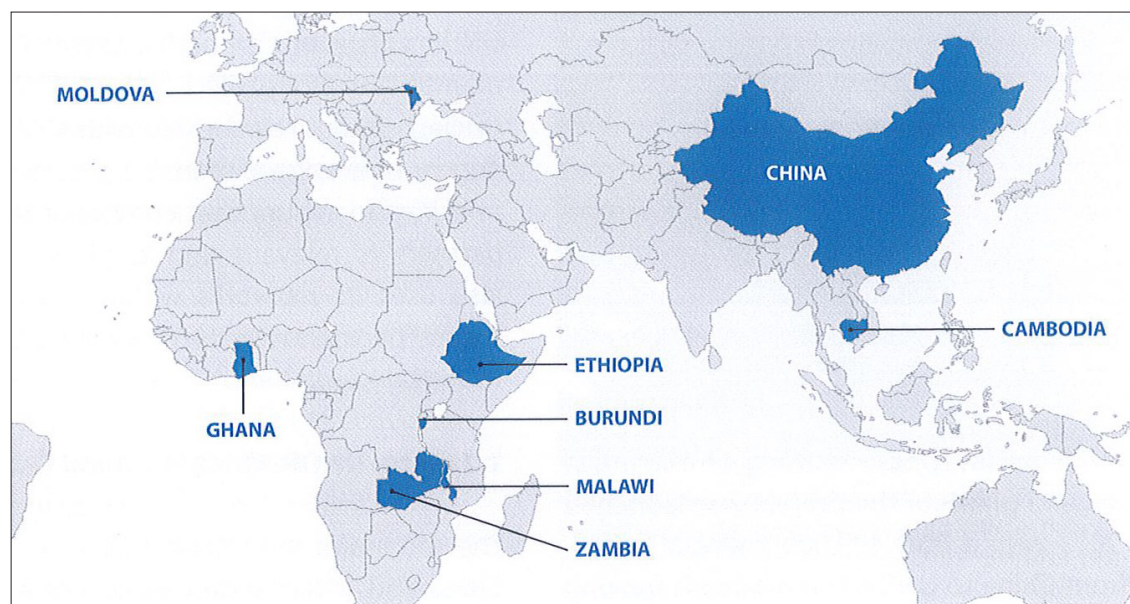
South-South Cooperation

Cambodia

As part of the UNDP-China Strengthened Cooperation for South-South cooperation, UNDP and the Ministry of Commerce are working together on a pilot project with Cambodia. The project aims at supporting Cambodia's national poverty reduction efforts through the provision of Chinese and international expertise for the development of the cassava sector for export. After a successful first phase, a second phase of the project was launched in May 2013 with a USD 400,000 contribution of the Government of China to UNDP.

Africa Umbrella Project

2013 saw the Ministry of Commerce of China and UNDP launch an umbrella project, to which the Chinese Government contributed USD 1 million. The aim is to identify and design projects in two countries in Africa. Projects involving Governments and UNDP Country Offices in Burundi and Malawi are already at the planning stage.



Locations of current or planned projects undertaken by the Chinese government and UNDP China.

Ghana & Zambia

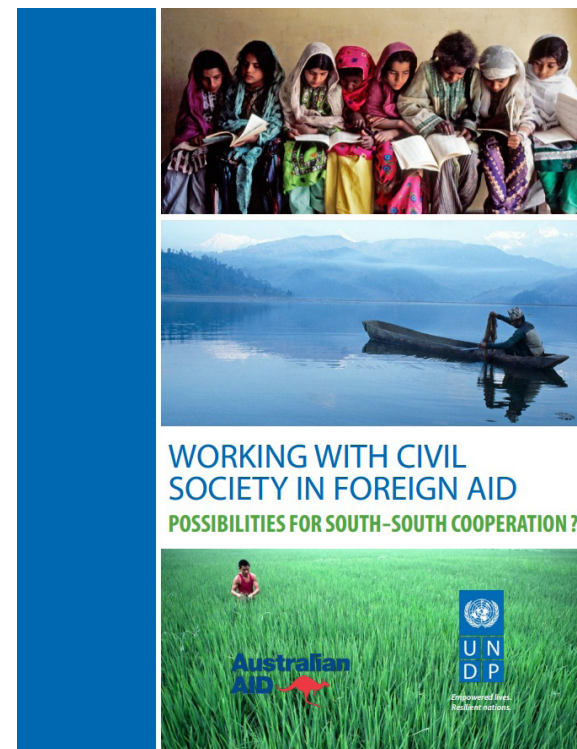
In partnership with Ministry of Science and Technology, UNDP completed missions to, and hosted return missions from, Ghana and Zambia in an innovative collaboration financed by Denmark. The aim is to build the capacities of Ghana and Zambia to better implement and make use of renewable energy technologies while simultaneously enhancing China's capacity for sustainable South-South cooperation. UNDP's approach will help the countries take a step closer to broader rural electrification and facilitate access to low-cost renewable energy technologies.

Foreign Aid Research

At CAITEC's request, UNDP commissioned a study to examine the roles for Southern civil society organizations (CSOs) in South-South cooperation. The research was further developed and released as an electronic publication entitled "Working with Civil Society in Foreign Aid: Possibilities for South-South Cooperation?"

White Paper

As part of UNDP's ongoing partnership with MOFCOM on foreign aid policy issues, UNDP was asked by the Government to provide inputs for the drafting of the second Chinese Foreign Aid White Paper.



UNDP China's first E-book

Post-2015 Development Agenda

China was one of the 88 countries to host national consultations as part of global efforts to formulate a new development framework, which will replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015.

UNDP and the UN Association of China co-organised a regional consultation in Kunming in December 2012, and followed it up with a second consultation in Beijing in March 2013. These sessions gathered insights on what the global development goals should be from a Chinese perspective. Key messages which emerged from these consultations were captured in a report to the High-Level Panel convened by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and will feed into the broader dialogue on the post-2015 agenda.

China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The annual China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction was held in August in Guangxi province, co-hosted by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) and the People’s Government of Guangxi, supported by the ASEAN Secretariat, the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China, and UNDP.

Under the theme of ‘Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development in Urbanization’, the forum allowed for comparative analysis of the experience of urbanization and lessons learned in China and ASEAN countries. UNDP’s ‘Strategy on Urbanization in Asia-Pacific’ also informed discussions.



Top: The 7th China-ASEAN Forum reviewed common challenges faced by China and ASEAN countries in reducing poverty in the midst of swift urbanization.

Bottom: Participants engage in on-site discussion during a field trip following the Forum.

Cross-Border Economic Cooperation Zones

China and its neighboring countries are seeking ways to accelerate integration of their economies.

With UNDP support, China and Viet Nam embarked in 2007 on a Cross Border Economic Cooperation Zones (CBEZs) programme to promote trade and investment between border provinces in China and Vietnam.

The project has contributed greatly to enhancing the understanding of CBEZs in both China and Viet Nam and has served as a demonstration model for cross-border economic cooperation in other cross-border contexts around China. At the end of 2012, the Chinese Government approved the piloting of CBEZs between neighbouring countries and three cities in Guangxi, Yunnan, and Inner Mongolia.



Participants gather to review the CBEZ project, a six-year endeavor which not only enhanced understanding of cross-border economic cooperation zones in China and Vietnam but also encouraged the participation of the private sector and serves as a demonstration model.

China-India Climate Change Research

UNDP is undertaking a new study that will promote dialogue between China and India on climate change, a topic that is of great relevance to the two countries. The study will identify low carbon policies and implementation strategies to help both countries achieve their larger developmental goals, while also suggesting future mechanisms for China-India cooperation in the area of low carbon development.

This research is being undertaken in partnership with: the Climate Change Department of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC); several Chinese academic institutions, including the National Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation Centre (NCSC), Central University of Finance and Economics, and Zhejiang University; the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation; and The Energy and Resources Institute of India (TERI), one of India's leading research institutions in the area of energy and environment.

Africa-Asia Drought Adaptation Forum

UNDP and CICETE helped organize the third such Forum in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China, bringing together key resource persons from five drought-prone African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania and Namibia).



Participants explore project sites in Xinjiang, giving context to topics discussed at the Forum.

(Asia-Africa Drought Adaptation Forum cont'd)

The event included a field study tour supported by the Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, where participants gained an understanding of how to localize different models of drought management.

The Forum is part of UNDP and China's wider efforts to share disaster management experience with other developing countries for mutual benefit.

Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum

This year's Global Poverty and Development Forum, organised by UNDP and the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China, was themed 'Sustainable Urbanization and Poverty Reduction,' an appropriate topic given the scale of urbanization in China and other developing countries in recent years.

The Forum, held in October, was opened by Vice Premier Mr. Wang Yang and former UNDP Associate Administrator Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, and attracted more than 300 international participants from Governments (including Bangladesh, Botswana, Colombia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Tanzania), academia, private enterprises, and civil society.



The 2013 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum was held in observance of the 21st International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.



UNDP Country Director Christophe Bahuet contributes to the discussion at the Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum. Topics discussed at the Forum included how to bridge socioeconomic disparities and promote social inclusion in urban areas.

Global Governance

Following the first High-Level Policy Forum on Global Governance in China, UNDP and the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) launched a report in August 2013 in the presence of UNDP Administrator Ms. Helen Clark and former Chinese Vice Premier Mr. Zeng Peiyan. The report, entitled 'Reconfiguring Global Governance – Effectiveness, Inclusiveness and China's Global Role,' provides analysis of the discussions held at the Forum and includes expanded insights from a selection of experts who attended. The report suggests that China can serve as a bridge between developed and developing countries, and can help developing countries play a greater role in the dialogue on global issues.

South-South Cooperation in Climate Change

UNDP is working with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and other partners to promote South-South cooperation in climate change.

In 2013, UNDP China supported NDRC in organizing three side events at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP) in Warsaw.

These included a Summit Forum on Combating Climate Change opened by Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Head of China's Delegation, with participation from UNDP, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank. A second event in the form of a high level seminar addressed the issue of South-South cooperation for climate change.

Finally, UNDP and NDRC contributed to panel discussions on low carbon development as highlighted in the Human Development Report on sustainable and liveable cities.

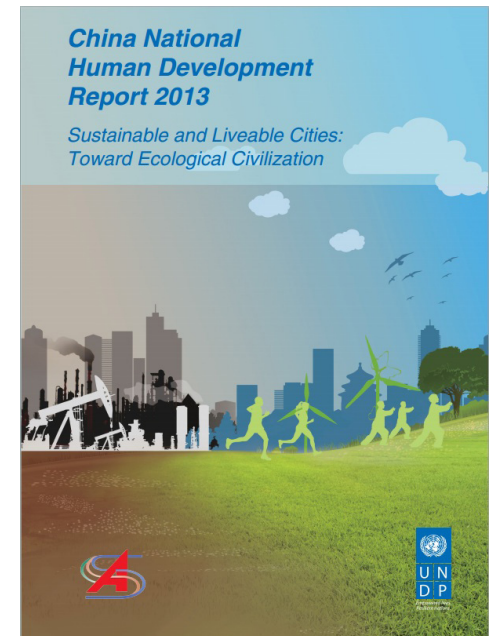
In addition, NDRC and UNDP are working on a formal agreement for South-South cooperation to jointly assist developing countries to combat and better adapt to the effects of climate change.

Research & Publications

China National Human Development Report 2013

The 7th China National Human Development Report (NHDR) was published in August 2013. Entitled 'Sustainable and Liveable Cities: Toward Ecological Civilisation,' the Report is the result of UNDP cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in particular the Institute for Urban and Environmental Studies. Framed in the context of urbanization, the 2013 NHDR examines the interconnectivity between China's economic, social, and environmental challenges, and stresses

that all three are pillars contributing to the Government's focus on human-centred urbanization. The report offers an analysis and policy recommendations regarding the management of urbanization of China from a human development point of view. NDRC Vice Chairman Mr. Xie Zhen Hua, CASS President Mr. Wang Wei Guang, and UNDP Administrator Ms. Helen Clark launched the Report in Beijing on 27 August 2013.



Conference Report: MICs Development Cooperation Experience Exchange

At the request of the Ministry of Commerce, UNDP and the Chinese Academy for International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), co-hosted a two day conference in January 2013 for 15 Middle Income Countries (MICs) to share their

experiences in planning and implementing development cooperation. The aim of the conference was to look at challenges, best practices, and lessons learned in development cooperation that may be transferable and would be of practical

use for participating nations. After the conference, a report capturing the issues presented and discussed at the conference was published.

Report: The Turning Point of China's Income Distribution

In the context of China's recent economic growth and increased inequalities in income distribution among the Chinese population over the last decades, the China Development Research Foundation

(CDRF), with the support of UNDP, launched a research project entitled 'An Impact Assessment on Income Distribution-Related Policies in China.' The study investigated trends in China's income distribution and

their socioeconomic impact. Its findings and recommendations aim at supporting Government efforts to reduce income disparities in China.



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