

China News Bi-Monthly Newsletter

United Nations Development Programme

12 September 2013



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Resilient nations.

Resident Representative's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you the UNDP China Bi-monthly Newsletter. This regular publication is a collection of some of the highlights of our Country Office's work over the last two months, as well as a glimpse into some of the other goings-on in our office community and a preview to upcoming events. We hope you find this update useful.



Renata Dessallien
UN Resident Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative



Recent Events July - September

Top Story 03 September 2013, Beijing

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark visits China

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark's week-long visit to China came with a busy itinerary including visits to project sites and meetings with Chinese state officials, notably including Vice-Premier Li Yuanchao. She also gave an address at the 2013 China-Eurasia Expo in Xinjiang, where she emphasised the continued importance of environmentally inclusive and sustainable growth models.

While in Beijing Ms. Clark assisted with the launch of UNDP China's new WeChat account and visited several project sites in Beijing, including a primary school where she spoke on eco-friendly living and presented the children with carbon calculators. Ms. Clark also held a series of bilateral meetings with government counterparts, including Minister for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and the Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng to discuss UNDP's work in China. The Administrator returned to New York with Minister Gao's pledge to increase both UNDP's core and China funds, as well as Vice-Premier Li's high praise for UNDP's work in China.



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27 August 2013, Beijing

2013 National Human Development Report

One of the highlights of the Administrator's visit was her participation in a high-profile launch event for the 2013 Human Development Report entitled *Sustainable and Liveable Cities: Toward Ecological Civilisation*. Ms. Clark was joined by National Development and Reform Commission Vice-Chairman Xie Zhenhua and President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Wang Weiguang to present the report to assembled guests and media in Beijing. The report, which focuses on China's unprecedented surge of urbanisation, calls for balanced, human-centred development in Chinese cities. Helen Clark signalled her agreement to this call and stated, "China's economic success, including lifting hundreds of millions of its people out of poverty, could not have been achieved without the vibrancy and dynamism of its cities."



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29 August 2013, Beijing

Global Governance

The Administrator was also able to help launch *Reconfiguring Global Governance – Effectiveness, Inclusiveness, and China's Global Role*, a report on the first High-Level Policy Forum on Global Governance, which involved over 100 academics and policy practitioners from five different continents.

(cont'd)



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UNDP hosts Being LGBT In Asia China Community Dialogue

Despite recent progress, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) population in China remains largely invisible. UNDP hosted the first LGBT China Community Dialogue to address discriminations faced by this group.

About 70 participants were invited, including government representatives and leaders of LGBT non-governmental organisations. Under a theme of equal representation, focused effort was made to include ethnic minorities, people living with HIV, and people with disabilities.

Though being LGBT in China is not illegal, no laws are in place to combat discrimination or protect the group's rights. The Community Dialogue discussed these issues and presented policy- and education-based recommendations. This event emphasised the UN's commitment to promoting tolerance, eradicating discriminations, and promoting human rights for all in China.

"I hope our platform will advance LGBT rights not just politically but within the community," said event organiser and UNV Officer Xu Wenxu.

"Sustainable human development is about enlarging people's choices by expanding their capabilities and opportunities in ways that are sustainable from economic, social and environmental points of view, benefitting the present without compromising the future. We believe urbanisation should be guided by the same principle."

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark
Beijing, 27 August 2013

Recent Events July - September

The report identifies major challenges to global governance, makes suggestions for policy reform to expand the voice of developing countries, and discusses China's role. At the launch the Administrator commented: "As global citizens, we face an unprecedented number of shared environmental, social, and economic challenges. . . We depend on effective global governance to address such challenges."

03 July 2013, Hangzhou

China-Africa Poverty Reduction and Development Conference convened in Hangzhou

The 2013 China-Africa Poverty Reduction and Development Conference was convened in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in July. In attendance were more than 70 representatives from China, Africa, and international organisations, including UNDP and the World Bank. Activities included a field visit and discussions on promoting employment and sustainable development. UNDP China Deputy Country Director Patrick Haverman spoke on past cooperation between China and Africa in his opening remarks and pledged UNDP's support to improving regional and global sustainable development via future China-Africa Cooperation initiatives.



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01 July 2013, Beijing

UNDP hosts "Interpreting the Chinese Dream: Challenges Facing the New Leadership" policy dialogue

A policy dialogue on "Interpreting the Chinese Dream: Challenges Facing the New Leadership" was hosted by UNDP's Beijing office. There were over 30 participants including the Austrian, Brazilian and Philippines ambassadors to China, representatives from other embassies, and officials from international organisations. Professor Kerry Brown, Executive Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, delivered a well-received keynote presentation, where he gave a situational analysis on the current Party leadership. He then discussed how the political constraints faced by these leaders may limit realisation of the "Chinese Dream" and how high priority is given to promoting internal political and social cohesion. His speech gave attendees a better understanding of Chinese policymaking and its resulting social impacts.



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Upcoming Events September - October

21 September 2013, Kunming

World Peace Day

UN Resident Coordinator Renata Dessallien will travel to Kunming for this year's World Peace Day celebrations in China. Co-sponsored for the fourth time by UNDP and the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) the event will gather regional government and NGO actors for discussions under the theme of "Education for Peace."

17 October 2013, Beijing

International Poverty Reduction Forum

The 2013 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum on Sustainable Urbanisation and Poverty Reduction will be held in Beijing on 17 October. The Forum will facilitate exchanges in the area of poverty reduction and sustainable urbanisation. It aims to bring together 300 participants, including senior Government officials from China and other countries, high level representatives from the United Nations, and other international organisations as well as renowned experts, including Nobel Prize winners.

Inside Story

Clean air, happy people

Good news – UNDP China is taking significant strides in tackling Beijing's air pollution. With the installation of brand new air purifiers, staff can breathe easier and work more comfortably.

Exacerbated by continuous industrialisation, coal-burning, and traffic emissions, the city's bad air needs 24 hour fixing. The new office air purifiers run throughout the week and will have their filters changed regularly to protect our health.

Moreover, with Beijing's air pollution reaching its toxic highpoint in winter months, the air purifiers have come at a welcome time. The machines boast an energy-saving design, improving the quality of office life with little environmental impact. "I have hay fever and am allergic to everything, so it's improved my life by 200 percent," said Poverty, Equity and Governance team intern Sissi Penttilä. "I'm loving it."



Special thanks are due to Xiao Wei for distributing and installing air purifiers in all the rooms, to the team led by Deputy Country Director Patrick Haverman who successfully lobbied for the funding from HQ to make this possible, and to the staff who lobbied Patrick!

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International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction