

UNDP China Trilateral and South-South Cooperation



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Highlights from 2011



January 2012

Introduction

In November 2010, UNDP and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding for strengthened south-south cooperation. This update highlights some of the south-south work undertaken in 2011, the first full year following the signature of the MoU. The year saw China increasingly opening up to international collaboration and advice around its foreign aid. And it saw China looking to UNDP as one of its partners of choice in this area. As a result, in 2011 UNDP was able to: pilot trilateral cooperation with China and third countries; provide policy advice on global development issues; provide platforms for global south-south dialogue; and help China share its development experience with other developing countries. This is a dynamic and fast-growing area of the Country Office's work. If UNDP can succeed in fostering greater, good quality mutual learning and understanding between China, UNDP, other developing countries and the broader international development system, we can have a potentially highly significant impact on global development.

1. Trilateral cooperation piloting

The MoU included an agreement for UNDP and China to pilot 'trilateral cooperation', whereby UNDP and China work together, bringing the strengths of each side to respond jointly to an expression of demand from another developing country. 2011 saw the realization of the first trilateral pilot with the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). In addition, a trilateral with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) also moved ahead.

UNDP China and the Ministry of Commerce launch the first trilateral pilot



On 27 December, UNDP China and the Ministry of Commerce launched the first joint pilot initiative under the UNDP – China MoU on south-south cooperation. Following a request from the Government of Cambodia, 30 Cambodian participants took part in a three week training course on cassava cultivation techniques hosted by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) in Hainan.

This pilot was the result of strong cooperation between UNDP China and UNDP Cambodia, supported by the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP). The Chinese provided the training venue and Chinese experts and covered local accommodation and other

costs. UNDP undertook a full training needs assessment in Cambodia, provided substantive inputs to the agenda, and fielded an international cassava expert and a member of UNDP Cambodia staff to facilitate during the training. Further trilateral piloting with MOFCOM in 2012 is now under consideration.

High-level trilateral scoping mission to Sri Lanka on technical extension services for rural development

In late 2010, UNDP China and MOST signed a letter of intent regarding planned cooperation to share the successful lessons of a UNDP China programme on technical extension services for rural development with other interested developed countries. During 2011, an expression of interest was received from Sri Lanka and in follow-up to this in December 2011, UNDP China, UNDP Sri Lanka and the relevant Chinese and Sri Lankan Ministries jointly organized a high level scoping mission to Sri Lanka. The missions enabled both Governments and UNDP to share experiences of agricultural extension services and rural development. With a series of high level exchanges with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance and Planning, field visits and discussion



with local entrepreneurs and farmers, the mission helped clarify the expectations of exchange from the two countries. Initial agreement was reached on key areas, implementation modalities and follow up activities. This has laid a solid foundation for the formulation of this South-South cooperation initiative in 2012.

2. Policy work with China on global development issues

As a long-standing, trusted partner, UNDP China is increasingly being asked by Chinese partners for policy advice on south-south and global development issues. Though often deliberately done without fanfare, this is a highly strategic area of work where UNDP has openings that are sometimes less available to others. Some examples include:

UNDP paper on the G20 Development Working Group

In March 2011, the Ministry of Commerce sought UNDP's advice on the evolving role of the G20 Development Working Group, and suggestions on the future role China could play in the group. A paper was prepared by UNDP China, with inputs from other colleagues, and presented to the Minister of Commerce on 2 April 2011 by the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessallien.



Evaluation study on China's scholarship programme for African students

From 26 to 28 October, UNDP China, and experts from Peking and Edinburgh Universities undertook a scoping mission for a forthcoming joint evaluation of the development impact of China's scholarship programme for students from developing countries, particularly in Africa. This will be the first such joint Chinese / international evaluation of a programme which now funds over 5,000 African students per year. The report, including policy recommendations, will be completed in early 2013.

UNDP Analysis of the impact of China's World Trade Organization accession

2011 marked the 10th anniversary of China's accession to the WTO. UNDP China provided the China Development Research Foundation (CDRF), a key think tank under the State Council, with a paper analyzing the impact of China's WTO accession on other developing countries and making policy recommendations which could further enhance the benefits to LDCs. The paper is to be published in early 2012 as part of a CDRF book analyzing the overall impact of China's WTO accession since 2001.

3. Platforms for Global South-South Dialogue on Development Issues

As China steps up its engagement in international dialogue on global development issues, it is increasingly seeking to partner with UNDP to both co-sponsor high level dialogues, and to bring world class expertise to the table.

Global Think Tank Summit in Beijing

The China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) organized a Global Think-Tank Summit in Beijing on 25-26 June 2011, which was presided over by Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang. Representing UNDP, Professor Debapriya Bhattacharya, a Distinguished Fellow at the Dhaka Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and former Bangladesh Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO), gave the only presentation on global development from the perspective of the world's Least Developed Countries (LDC).

UNDP speaker at first MOFCOM Capacity Development Seminar

On 29 August China's Ministry of Commerce together with the World Bank Group held a first MOFCOM-hosted international workshop on capacity development. Mr Nils Boesen, Director of UNDP's Capacity Development Group, was invited to participate and gave UNDP's perspective on the topic of 'Diversified Approaches to Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing for International Development Cooperation'.

UNDP Administrator speaks at the International Poverty Forum in China



To mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 19 October, UNDP Administrator Ms. Helen Clark attended the 2011 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum in China. She also held discussions with Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu, and delivered a keynote speech to a large audience from 30 countries. She reminded leaders that while enormous progress has been made to reduce poverty, nearly a quarter of the world is still missing out on the benefits of global progress. She also spoke of what is needed to move forward: action at both multilateral and national levels to develop policies that target inclusive and sustainable human development; policies with a strong equity focus; and opportunities, services, and social protection systems to reach those who are marginalized.

South-south cooperation workshop explores science and technology transfer options

On 19-20 October 2011, an international workshop on South-South Cooperation was co-hosted by UNDP and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

With a focus on cooperation that will help developing countries meet their technological needs and address climate change, this event was attended by delegates from UNDP Country Offices in Ethiopia, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zambia, UNDP Regional Bureau in South Africa and participants from 40 developing countries in Africa and Southeast Asia. During the workshop, consensus was



reached on major areas for cooperation, including climate change adaptation in agricultural production, ecosystem management and renewable energy. UNDP China and African country offices are now following up on opportunities for trilateral cooperation around practical transfer of Chinese renewable energy technologies.

Conference on the Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa

The first joint Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) – International Monetary Fund Conference on the Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa was held on 30 October 2011, in Beijing. The conference was co-organised by the MOFCOM Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC) and was opened by Vice Minister of Commerce, Mr. Fu Ziyang. Senior officials from the China Development Bank, EXIM Bank and Chinese academics were joined at the event by a number of African Ambassadors. UNDP Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. Steven Sabye, was invited to speak at the event, and remarked that Africa stands to benefit from China's development experiences, particularly its investment-led growth that has translated into wide scale poverty reduction.

Seminar on development effectiveness in South Africa

On November 9 in Pretoria, UNDP South Africa and the UNDP Southern Africa Regional Centre organized, in liaison with UNDP China, a seminar on 'Strengthening capacity for development effectiveness'. The seminar involved the Chinese Ambassador to South Africa Mr. Zhong Jianhua, a representative from the China-Africa Development Fund, and two Chinese private sector representatives (ZTE & HUAWEI, two of the biggest Chinese companies in Africa).

The First Lady of South Africa gave a keynote speech on development effectiveness, and NEPAD's chief of staff made a presentation on how NEPAD is leading the continental process on the development effectiveness agenda, the priorities and strategic plan going forward. More than 80 participants engaged in the discussion. The Chinese Ambassador spoke on the history and nature of China-Africa relations and discussed China's views on development effectiveness. Following the seminar, possibilities for further joint work between UNDP, China and African regional organizations are being explored.

Preparing for the BRICS summit in 2012

On 30 November in Moscow, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS organized an international seminar 'Preparing for the BRICS summit in 2012: key themes for Russia'. The seminar looked at possible themes of Russia's engagement with its BRICS partners in the socio-economic sphere, in particular in such areas as sustainable development and innovation policy cooperation. At the request of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, UNDP China identified and arranged the participation of Dr. Li Xuefeng, Associate Professor at the Institute of Urban Development and Environment at the Chinese Academy of Social Science, who spoke about sustainable cities & BRICS.

UNDP at 2011 UN Climate Change Conference



During the 2011 UN Climate Change negotiations in Durban, UNDP took part in a Chinese side event that launched the country's National Center for Climate Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC). Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator in China, gave a speech on the need to manage global public goods and the importance of the world and China working together to transform the country's development pathway. The centre, which will be an important element in China's global interaction on climate change issues, was established following UNDP scoping work provided as part of a UN joint programme.

Emerging Countries' Network for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth



With Renmin University, UNDP supported the establishment of an “Emerging Countries’ Network for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth”. Academics from seven countries (China, Brazil, Turkey, India, Indonesia, Venezuela and South Africa) joined to share development experiences and lessons learned. The Network has developed policy studies on inclusiveness and sustainability. It has produced draft country reports analyzing the evolution and challenges of each member country. A final summary report will be released in 2012. As part of this process, an in-depth study mission was organized by Renmin University and UNDP for more than 30 participants from the developing countries to visit parts of rural China that represent different reform models for poverty reduction. Reflections from the field visits were shared during a South-South Forum held in December 2011 in Hong Kong.

China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction



At the annual high-level China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction organized by UNDP in partnership with the Governments of China and ASEAN countries, the focus was on “Poverty Reduction through Quality of Growth”. The forum was attended by a mix of senior state leaders from the Government of Indonesia and China, and development practitioners from the region. The Chinese delegation was led by Minister Fan Xiaojun of

the State Council Leading Group on Poverty. Through sharing of country experiences, inequality was highlighted as one of the major bottlenecks for developing countries among ASEAN countries and China. Among the solutions, adequate social protection was identified as a key element of social development policy.

4. Sharing China's development experience abroad

China's own development experience has much to offer other developing countries, and there is considerable demand for this. Increasingly this is being expressed through UNDP country offices. UNDP is able to use its network and substantive experience to help China ensure that its experience is shared in ways that best fits the needs of other countries, and that it reaches the key decision makers.

NGO Poverty Reduction Capacity Building Forum Focuses on Africa



An international seminar aimed at building the poverty reducing capacities of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in Africa, was held by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) in Beijing on 12 May 2011. With support from UNDP and the Ministry of Commerce, this event brought together officials from ten African countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, who convened to discuss issues related to poverty alleviation, food security, good governance, climate change and sustainable urban development.

Seminar on Financing of Micro and Small Enterprises: Experience from China

A seminar on Financing of Micro and Small Enterprises: Experience from China was jointly organised by the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) and UNDP in June 2011. The seminar brought together government officials and experts from China, Asia and Africa and provided an opportunity for participants to share experiences in the adaptation, improvement and application of micro-financing as a fundamental component in poverty reduction initiatives. The seminar was a pilot of a new form of trilateral cooperation, whereby UNDP's Africa Bureau and country offices took the lead in identifying participants for the training. Among those present, were Mr. Wei Chongjin, Deputy Director-General of the IPRCC, and Mr. Napoleon Navarro, UNDP Country Director a.i.



participants for the training. Among those present, were Mr. Wei Chongjin, Deputy Director-General of the IPRCC, and Mr. Napoleon Navarro, UNDP Country Director a.i.

Disaster management mission to Bangladesh

UNDP China provided coordination support to a Bangladeshi mission to China. The mission was organized as per request of DFID to exchange experience on community-based Disaster Management. From 17th to 21st October, meetings with Ministries and field visits to flash flood and typhoon prone areas in Jiangxi and Zhejiang provinces were organized. UNDP will provide further support to cooperation and exchange in disaster management between China and other countries in 2012.

UNDP Responds to Tajikistan's Request for Poverty Reduction Training



Supported by the UNDP Tajikistan Country Office, a delegation consisting of three senior officials from the Tajikistan Ministry of Economic Development and Trade attended meetings at the UNDP China Country Office and the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) in Beijing on 16 August 2011.

The main purpose of their visit was to discuss a request to provide training on poverty reduction and ministerial monitoring and evaluations in Tajikistan, with UNDP and IPRCC. A joint UNDP-IPRCC training programme responding to Tajikistan's specific requirements is due to commence in early 2012.

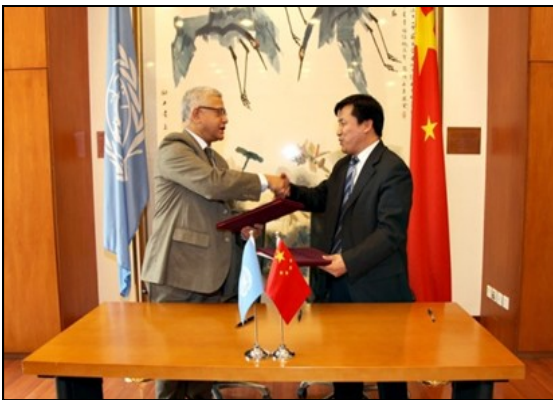
5. Strengthening institutional linkages for south-south cooperation

Both China and UNDP wish to enhance their understanding of each other's principles and practices by forging closer institutional links.

IPRCC staff secondment to Regional Bureau for Africa

As part of UNDP's partnership with the International Poverty Reduction Center of China (IPRCC) on south-south cooperation, an IPRCC staff member, Ms. Deng Yetao, IPRCC Programme Officer, undertook a 3 month placement in UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa, starting on 21 March 2011.

China-Africa Research Centre Partners with UNDP on South-South Cooperation



On 29 April 2011 a Letter of Intent was signed in Beijing between the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Cooperation's (CAITEC) China-Africa Research Centre and UNDP. The signing marked the start of collaboration between CAITEC and UNDP under the framework of South-South Cooperation.

Mr. Li Guanghui, President of China-Africa Research Center and Mr. Subinay Nandy, Country Director of UNDP China, signed the Letter of Intent. They agreed that there is great potential for collaboration between the two partners in a number of areas.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark met with Vice-Minister Fu in New York

On 20 September in New York, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark met with Fu Ziyang, Vice Minister of Commerce responsible for the Foreign Aid Department. The Administrator and the Vice Minister reaffirmed the strong partnership between UNDP and China and the role of MOFCOM in taking the lead in implementing the strategic partnership for South-South Cooperation between UNDP and China. During the meeting, a number of possibilities for specific further cooperation were discussed. On the same occasion, Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau Director Mr. Ajay Chhibber hosted a lunch for Mr. Fu Ziyang and his delegation with the participation of UNDP Associate Administrator Rebeca Grynspan. These meetings followed a first meeting between Ms. Grynspan and Vice Minister Fu in Beijing earlier the same month.

6. Convening China's south-south and trilateral development partners in Beijing

Development partners in Beijing - both from developed and developing countries - are increasingly interested in engaging with senior Chinese officials on matters related to south-south and global development. Through 2011, UNDP convened a number of relevant substantive discussions, often through its chairmanship of the UN Theme Group on China in the World.

United Nations Theme Group on China in the World Meeting with Guangxi Vice Governor



On 14 March 2011, UNDP chaired the United Nations Theme Group on China in the World at which Prof. Chen Zhangliang, Vice-Chairman, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region made a presentation to around 100 participants from UN agencies and embassies. Prof. Chen shared his experience of pursuing development in Guangxi Province, especially the efforts and challenges in Guangxi's south-south cooperation.

China in the World Theme Group meeting on China's cooperation with developing countries with CAITEC

On 6 April 2011, UNDP chaired the United Nations Theme Group on China in the World. Guest speaker Professor Huo Jianguo, President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC), delivered an insightful presentation on the work of CAITEC in relation to China's trade and cooperation with developing countries. He also offered specific insights on state-owned enterprises and their overseas investment and risk management.

To date, CAITEC has published 165 guidebooks for investment in different countries, which exemplify the influence of the academy on China's foreign investment, among other issues.



China in the World Theme Group: 10 Years of China and the WTO



As part of its China in the World Theme Group series, a presentation on the history of Chinese membership at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was organized with Mr. Long Yongtu, Secretary General of the Chinese Association for the Study of the G20, in Beijing on 1 June 2011. Mr. Long talked of the political, economic and social changes that have affected everyday life in China since it joined the WTO 10 years ago, including changes in attitudes and understanding towards the rest of the world. Addressing an audience of more than 100 including a number of ambassadors and other representatives from the international community, he also spoke of the lessons that other countries seeking to join the WTO might learn from China.

United Nations Theme Group on China in the World addressed by Department of Foreign Aid



UNDP chaired the United Nations Theme Group on China in the World seminar on 7 September with Mr. Lu Feng, Director of International Cooperation in the Department of Foreign Aid, Ministry of Commerce. At the seminar, Mr. Lu Feng gave a presentation outlining China's foreign aid. Looking at the White Paper released earlier this year, Mr. Lu discussed some of the successes, challenges and lessons learned from China's overseas aid programme so far. Mr. Lu also shared his thoughts on how China's aid programme might develop over the period of the next Five Year Plan, as well as how MOFCOM sees potential cooperation with other development partners in the future.