



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## United Nations Development Programme in China

# The New UNDP-China Partnership for South-South and Global Issues

## 2012 Highlights





*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Table of Contents

01	Introduction
02	Trilateral Cooperation
06	Experience Sharing on Foreign Aid Systems
08	Global and Regional Issues
12	Private Sector Engagement and South-South Cooperation
13	Sharing Development Experiences and Lessons through South-South Dialogue



## Introduction

In 2010, UNDP and China signed a new agreement to strengthen their partnership – the first such agreement between China and a multilateral or bilateral partner. Since then, UNDP and China have set up innovative programmes, which promote South-South Cooperation between China and other developing countries and China's regional and global engagement.

These programmes are aimed at fostering the exchange of good practices and expanding the range of policy options available to a nation, based on the understanding that each country has a specific set of challenges which require tailor-made solutions.

Each year China's global presence and cooperation with other countries in the South expands. In the past few years, its aid programme has increased by around 20 percent annually and in 2011, its FDI outflow amounted to over USD 74.65 billion, with 80 percent directed toward developing countries. While Africa has been the biggest beneficiary, the impact of China's development assistance is truly global, including a large number of countries in

Eastern Europe, Latin America and Asia itself.

As China's global role and development assistance continues to grow, UNDP's work with China under the Strengthened Partnership agreement focuses on five key areas:

- 1) Trilateral Cooperation
- 2) Experience Sharing on Foreign Aid Systems
- 3) Global and Regional Issues
- 4) Private Sector Engagement and South-South Cooperation
- 5) Sharing Development Experiences and Lessons through South-South Dialogue

In addition, the 'China in the World Theme Group' – convened by UNDP on behalf of the UN system – provides a forum to exchange views on the global role of China.

# 1

## *Trilateral Cooperation*

Trilateral cooperation supported by UNDP is a specific approach under which UNDP development expertise is combined with Chinese knowhow to respond to sustainable development challenges facing developing countries. Its large, global country office network provides UNDP with thorough knowledge of the recipient country's culture and development context to ensure the assistance is well adapted to local needs and circumstances.

A trilateral pilot can take various forms, but all involve UNDP and China collaborating at the request of, and for the benefit of, a specific third country.

When engaging in trilateral piloting UNDP has two main objectives:

- 1) To bring greater benefits to developing countries than what would be achieved by UNDP or China acting alone.
- 2) To enable China and UNDP to learn more about each other's ways of providing development cooperation.





A UNDP expert examines an agro-production site in Xinjiang.

## Several China-UNDP trilateral pilots progressed in 2012 including:

### China-Cambodia knowledge sharing on sustainable agro-production

To improve sustainable cassava production—a major development challenge for Cambodia—UNDP is working with China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). Following a successful first phase in December 2011–January 2012 that focused on training, a trilateral programme has been designed to help Cambodia benefit from China's experience, both in sustainable cultivation techniques, and in moving from producing unprocessed items to more advanced, higher value products. Reducing Cambodia's dependency on unprocessed cassava exports and moving toward

exporting processed or semi-processed products is a key element in Cambodia's national poverty reduction strategy. After a positive assessment of the first phase, the Government of China made a financial allocation to UNDP of USD 400,000 for the second phase of this trilateral project.



Ethiopian delegates are shown technical innovations in Tianjin

## China–Ethiopia experience sharing on agricultural transformation

In the past 30 years, China has enjoyed great success in modernizing its agricultural practices. The Chinese Government's Technical Task Force programme supported by UNDP has helped Chinese farmers significantly increase their incomes and living standards by transforming from subsistence farming to market-orientated farming.

This experience is relevant to Ethiopia and UNDP therefore facilitated an exchange between the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD) to help Ethiopia learn from China's innovative agricultural reforms. During his visit

to Beijing in November 2012 under the UNDP initiative, the Ethiopian State Minister expressed interest in deepening this exchange. In response, UNDP is working with MOST to analyze China's approaches and identify best practices that most suit the needs for Ethiopia's own agricultural sector transformation.

This initiative will also allow UNDP to develop similar demand-driven partnerships between China and other developing countries in the same area.



Together UNDP and China help bring sustainable energy technologies to African nations

## Renewable energy technology exchange with Ghana and Zambia

An increasing number of developing countries regard access to low-cost renewable energy technology as an important step toward sustainable development and are interested in developing cooperation with China in this area. While participating in a workshop organized in China by UNDP and the China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), government officials of Ghana and Zambia identified specific needs for low-cost renewable energy technology.

To meet these needs, UNDP helped match demand for low-cost renewable energy technology in both Ghana and Zambia with supply in China, and began designing a programme for technology transfer with financing support from the Government of Denmark. This programme is being formulated in the context of the UN's Sustainable Energy for All initiative.



# 2

## *Experience Sharing on Foreign Aid Systems*

In 2012, the Government of China and UNDP engaged in a review of various approaches to foreign aid and their impact to inform policies on China's foreign aid.

### **The role of civil society and think tanks in foreign aid**

The Government of China expressed a specific interest in studying with UNDP the role of civil society and think tanks in foreign aid. In response and with funding from the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program AusAID, UNDP conducted research into the experiences of selected countries in providing foreign aid through civil society organizations and think tanks and prepared two research papers for the China Academy of International Trade and Economic

Cooperation (CAITEC) on: a) maximising the roles of development think tanks in the provision of foreign aid; and b) the various roles of civil society organizations in foreign aid systems. Both documents provide ideas on the possible role of civil society and think tanks in China's foreign aid and their findings are now part of the dialogue between UNDP and its Chinese counterparts.



# 中非合作论坛第五届部长级会议开幕式

Opening Ceremony of the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation  
Cérémonie d'ouverture de la 5<sup>e</sup> Conférence ministérielle du Forum sur la Coopération sino-africaine

Beijing, 19 July 2012    2012 年 7 月 19 日 北京    Beijing, 19 juillet 2012



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and leaders of China and Africa

## The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

In preparation for the 5th FOCAC Ministerial Conference held in Beijing in July 2012, UNDP was approached by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a request to provide ideas and suggestions for potential development priorities between China and Africa. With the benefit of inputs from UNDP Country Offices

in Africa, suggestions were shared with the Ministry and positively received. In addition, the United Nations system was for the first time invited to participate in FOCAC and was represented by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

## The impact of China's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

When China joined the World Trade Organisation in 2001, its impact on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was uncertain. On the occasion of the 10 year anniversary of China's accession to WTO, UNDP undertook an analysis of this impact. It concluded that, overall, LDCs have benefitted from China's WTO

accession through increased exports to China. The report also provided several policy recommendations to enhance the benefits to LDCs. The research was published by a think tank affiliated with the Development Research Council and presented to senior Chinese Government officials.

## 3

## *Global and Regional Issues*

UNDP is working to enhance China's substantive engagement in regional and global development dialogues, international and regional negotiations, and development initiatives.

### **High-Level Policy Forum on Global Governance**

In 2012, UNDP and China launched an initiative on Global Governance with the objective of generating creative thinking from the South. After initial consultations and research, this initiative culminated in a High-Level International Forum on Global Governance held in Beijing in December 2012, co-organized by UNDP and the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE), a think tank affiliated to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). Under the title: 'Is Global Governance advancing or receding in an

interdependent world: Perspectives of developing countries', the Forum brought together Chinese and international leading thinkers from 15 countries to consider the current trends in global governance, how to enhance the voice of the South, and what role China could play in the future to increase inclusiveness and effectiveness in global governance systems. A report based on the presentations and discussions is being compiled and will be distributed to participants and relevant stakeholders.

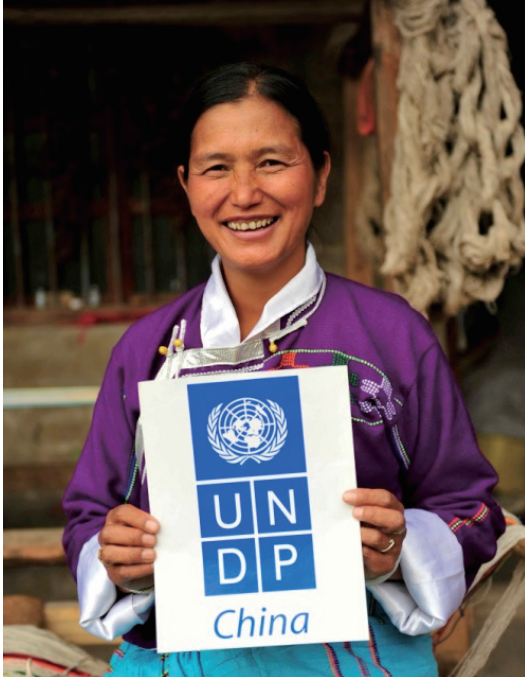


## Post-2015 development agenda

China is one of the 50 countries organizing national consultations to contribute to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. To support China's engagement in this process, UNDP with financial support from AusAID partnered with the UN Association of China to prepare a provincial Post-2015 MDGs consultation in Yunnan Province in November 2012. The consultation included national and provincial government officials, representatives from civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as project beneficiaries from various provinces of China who reflected on China's

experience with respect to the MDGs and provided perspectives on priority development issues for the post-2015 agenda. The provincial consultation was also attended by Ambassador Wang Yifan, a member of the High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda set up by the UN Secretary-General. The provincial consultation will be followed by a national-level consultation scheduled for March 2013. This participatory and consultative process is informing both the overall global process of defining the post-2105 development agenda and China's own position on the matter.





Aqi Duzhima, 49, is head of a handcraft association in Yunnan being given business training by UNDP and our partners

## China-ASEAN Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction

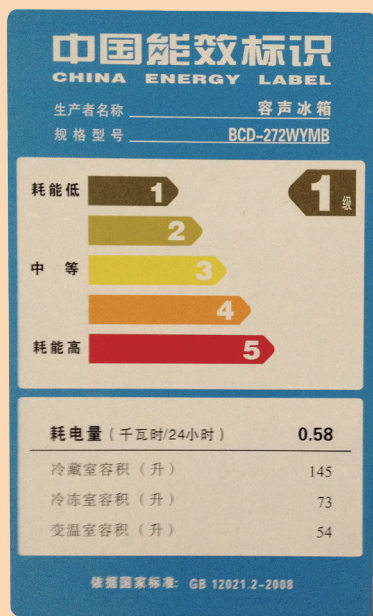
The Forum on Social Development and Poverty Reduction is part of the China-ASEAN cooperation, and is supported by the ASEAN Secretariat and UNDP. In 2012, the 6th Forum was held in China with 'Inclusive Development and Poverty Reduction' as its theme. Ethnic minority development was among the issues specifically discussed by national delegations. A UNDP

policy paper in the form of a comparative study of ethnic minority development issues in China and some ASEAN countries was prepared for that purpose and informed discussions at the session. The paper was published and disseminated along with the China-ASEAN Forum Report.

## Regional cooperation for disaster management

To enhance disaster resilience in vulnerable countries and draw from China's experience in this area, UNDP Country Office in China and Nepal assessed Nepal's urban search and rescue capacity and needs. The assessment identified the capacity gaps between Nepal and international standards, and provided practical recommendations on how Nepal could improve its disaster resilience. This assessment resulted in the preparation of a regional programme entitled 'Sharing and Learning on Community Based Disaster Management in Asia' programme, funded by

the UK Department for International Development (DfID) and implemented by UNDP in cooperation with the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs. Its objective is to improve resilience to natural disasters through enhanced preparation by vulnerable countries in Asia. The first phase of this programme for the period 2012-2015 will involve cooperation between China, Nepal and Bangladesh in disaster management, including the promotion of community based disaster management approaches.



With UNDP's support, these energy efficiency labels are becoming a more common sight in China

## Development of regional energy efficiency standards and regional energy labelling

To share Chinese good practices on how to develop and implement energy saving standards and promote energy efficiency, UNDP is working with China and its neighbouring countries to help develop and adopt a regional set of standards and a joint labelling system. The project is expected to result in an average 10 percent

reduction in total residential and commercial energy use in participating countries, thereby contributing to a more environmentally sustainable and economically efficient development. The other participating countries are Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

## 4

UNDP Country Director Christophe Bahuet addresses participants at the 5th Multinational Corporations Leaders Roundtable



## Private Sector Engagement and South-South Cooperation

Chinese companies are rapidly developing their overseas operations in other developing countries. The issue of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is taking on increasing importance for these companies as their operations have environmental and social consequences.

### CSR support to Chinese companies operating abroad

UNDP is working with the Chinese private sector to promote adherence to CSR principles in their operations in other developing countries, in particular with respect to environmental and labour standards. In this context, UNDP is launching the 'Promoting

Corporate Social Responsibility for South-South Cooperation' platform. Developed with national partners, this platform will assist companies to conduct assessment, identify good practices and exchange experience that will result in increased CSR practices.

# 5

Ghanaian and Chinese counterparts on a knowledge sharing visit organized by UNDP



## *Sharing Development Experiences and Lessons through South-South Dialogue*

China's remarkably rapid transformation from a low-income country to a middle-income country and its experience in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty has the potential to offer relevant lessons to other developing countries. UNDP is working with China to share this development experience, tailoring assistance to the specific requests received from developing countries and incorporating this customized approach into China's own, broader experience sharing exercises.

### **Building national capacities on poverty reduction and sustainable development**

As one of its founding members in 2005, UNDP supports the International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (IPRCC) to build national capacity for poverty

reduction and develop institutional cooperation with African, Asian and Latin American countries.



During 2012 the cooperation between UNDP and IPRCC included:

*China-Africa: Lessons from Special Economic Zones*

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are an attractive model for catalyzing growth in developing countries. To share lessons learned on China's SEZs and their impact on poverty reduction, UNDP and IPRCC organized a China-Africa Seminar at Shenzhen University in January 2012. Chinese experts, policy makers and entrepreneurs, and African delegates explored how African countries can use China's experience in SEZs for socio-economic development. The seminar also included visits to several companies operating in the Shenzhen SEZ.

*Exchange on poverty monitoring and evaluation between China, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan*

The Government of Tajikistan expressed interest in studying China's experience in poverty monitoring and evaluation. Through the UNDP Offices in China and Tajikistan, a tailor-made exchange programme was designed with IPRCC to answer Tajikistan's request. In August 2012, UNDP and IPRCC invited policy makers from Tajikistan and Kazakhstan to a training course on poverty monitoring and evaluation in China.

The training was positively assessed by the participants from Central Asia who conducted interactive exchanges with their Chinese counterparts and shared their respective experience in poverty reduction monitoring and evaluation and the challenges they face. To institutionalize this exchange, plans are now being drawn up for Chinese experts to undertake missions to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan and work with relevant Ministries and local authorities to strengthen capacities and support monitoring and evaluation of the national development strategies.

## Climate Change

UNDP supported the Government of China in presenting China's achievements in addressing climate change and meeting the MDGs at the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha (COP 18) and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). At Rio+20, side events highlighted best practices in poverty alleviation over the past decades; China's efforts and progress on improving sustainable development by means of science and technology; and China's sustainable development outcomes and the transition towards a green economy. At Doha, the side events underscored the importance of China's initiative on phasing out high-energy consuming incandescent lamps and promoting energy saving lamps and green lighting as one important measure to reach the carbon intensity reduction goal of 17 percent in the 12th Five-year Plan; and the significance of China's ongoing urbanization process with preliminary findings of the draft National Human Development Report 2013 (Sustainable, Liveable Cities) regarding the existing challenges and opportunities in reaching a more balanced and sustainable urban development in China. UNDP's work here was made possible by the generous support of the Norwegian Government.



UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien speaking at the Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum in Beijing, China



UNDP helps introduce energy-efficient light bulbs to rural China

## International Poverty Forum

To mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UNDP and the Government of China organize every year the International Poverty Forum in Beijing. In 2012, the Forum focused on the specific issues of social protection and social inclusion for poverty reduction with participants from 45 countries. Speakers

included China's Vice Premier Mr. Hui Liangyu, Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen, and Mr. Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Statements and papers prepared for the Forum were published and disseminated along with summary of the sessions.

## Emerging countries network for inclusive and sustainable growth

UNDP together with the China's Institute for Reform and Development and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) sponsored the international forum, 'The Road towards an Equitable and Sustainable Development – The Future of

Emerging Countries' in Hainan Province. At the Forum, discussions took place around the idea of establishing an emerging country network of think tanks that could have regular exchanges on issues relevant to emerging countries.

## Promoting green technology transfer

To promote knowledge exchange and transfer of appropriate technologies related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, UNDP, UNESCO and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) invited officials from developing countries in Asia and Africa to a workshop entitled 'Displaying Green Technologies', in November 2012.

The workshop connected about 50 overseas participants and different Chinese counterparts, particularly on the issue of water management, local renewable energy solutions and other practical applications. Further exchanges on these issues are being planned for 2013.

## China in the World

The United Nations 'China in the World Theme Group' convened by UNDP on behalf of the UN in China organizes regular sessions with guest speakers to address issues related to China's global role. Members of the group include representatives from a large group of embassies in Beijing, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the UN system in China.

Topics addressed in 2012 included:

### **China Development Bank's Sustainability Practice (April 2012)**

Ms. Wang Yuan, Chief Economist of the China Development Bank (CDB) shared her views on the Role of Financial Service in Sustainable Development and CDB's approach including innovative finance that contribute to poverty reduction.

### **The Road Ahead for Sino-African Trade (July 2012)**

Dr. Daouda Cisse from the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University in South Africa presented the impact of China's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and of China's 'going abroad' strategy on countries in Africa.

### **Doing Responsible Business in Africa (October 2012)**

Guest speakers from Norway, China and the Republic of Kenya spoke on how Chinese state-owned enterprises and private businesses currently operate in African markets, various approaches and issues faced, as well as the potential to contribute to local development.

### **The Voice of Developing Countries in Global Governance (December 2012)**

Linked to the Global Governance Forum that UNDP organized with a Chinese think tank, Dr. Martin Khor, Director of the South Centre, Professor Ngaire Woods of the University of Oxford and Dr. Xu Hongcai, Deputy Director of the Information Department of the China Centre for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) presented their views on global governance, on how developing countries can increase their influence, and the role that China can play in that respect.

## ***Acknowledgements***

UNDP China wishes to warmly acknowledge the generous financial support from the Government of China, the UK Department for International Development, AusAID, Denmark, Norway and UNDP Headquarters.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

Copyright©2013  
By the United Nations Development Programme in China  
2 Liangmahe Nanlu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, 100600

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be produced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission.