



UN Theme Group on Climate Change and Environment
联合国系统气候变化与环境专题组

Side Event: Toward an Adaptable Future – the Joint Efforts of the United Nations System in China

Chair: Mr. Zhang Shigang,
Vice-Chair of UN Theme Group on Climate Change and Environment in China (UNTGCCE)/ Coordinator of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) China

Time: 1 – 2.30pm, Thursday 7th October 2010

Venue: Yinchuan Side Event Room, Tianjin Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center

Draft Agenda

1. Introduction to the Work of United Nations System in China on Climate Change Adaptation

Speaker: Mr. Zhang Shigang,
UNTGCCE Vice-Chair

2. Adaptation Strategies in China on the Impact of Glacier Melting and Rising Sea Level

Preliminary results of research conducted by UNEP in collaboration with National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), and National Marine Bureau to enhance national capacity to adapt to the impacts of the glacier melting in North-West China and sea-level rising in coastal China. Vulnerability and risks in pilot provinces were assessed and integrated into national and provincial adaptation strategies, and adaptation practices recommended to policymakers.

Speaker: Dr. Nanqing Jiang,
Associate Project Manager, UNEP

3. UNESCO-CCPF: Tending to the Mother River of China



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The Yellow River is the sixth-longest in the world. Home to 110 million people in 2000, it is the cradle of China's civilization. Affectionately known as 'the mother river of China', the Yellow River is plagued by prolonged droughts, floods, sedimentation and severe pollution. What effect will a warming climate, booming agricultural, industrial and urban sectors have on the water supply, in a region whose rapidly growing population may tip the balance at 121 million by 2010? Supported with the China Climate Change Partnership Framework (CCPF), UNESCO, in partnership with the Yellow River Management Authority - the Yellow River Conservancy Commission, is determined to strike a balance between competing interests and take remedial measures to protect 'the mother river of China' in the global texture of climate change while safeguarding the future of more than 120 million Chinese people.

Speaker: Dr. Ramasamy Jayakumar,
Programme Specialist for Science, Technology and Environment, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
Beijing Office

4. Support to the Government of China in Groundwater Monitoring for Safe Drinking Water Supply

Groundwater reserves account for 26.8% of the total water resources in China, waters 29.6% of the irrigable acreage and provides drinking water for 65% of the rural population. However, over exploitation coupled with climate change has led to the sinking of water table and sea water intrusion; water quality has been deteriorating due to geologically formed harmful elements and waste discharged by human activities. This report presents some initiatives UNICEF has taken in cooperation with government counterparts in addressing these issues, in order to preserve a safe drinking water supply in China.

Speaker: Dr. Zhenbo Yang,
Water and Environmental Sanitation Specialist, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

5. Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sound Agriculture in China

An overview of the prospective for climate resilient and environmentally sound agriculture in China, with emphasis on work carried out together with the Chinese



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Academy of Agricultural Sciences under the China Climate Change Partnership Framework and possibilities for scaling up the experiences generated by the project.

Speaker: Mr. Alexandre Meybeck,
Senior Policy, Agriculture, Environment and Climate Officer, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

6. Action to Protect Human Health from the Effects of Climate Change in China

Current and future impacts of climate change on the health of vulnerable communities in China require policy initiatives at both national and local levels. This presentation provides an overview of recent activities focusing on strengthening capacity to enable government to build appropriate adaptive frameworks to address these impacts within the domain of environmental health management.

Speaker: Dr Brent Powis,
Consultant, World Health Organisation (WHO)

7. Q&A

8. Conclusion