



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



DFID Department for
International
Development



UK-China Sustainable
Development Dialogue

THE UK-CHINA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE (SDD)

SDD Introductory Leaflet

“FORGING A PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

‘The Environmental crisis is no longer a risk we predict for our children, it is a problem that our generation must face.’

Pan Yue, Vice Minister, MEP

WHAT IS THE UK-CHINA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE (SDD)?

- A partnership between the UK and Chinese Governments to promote collaboration and good practice in sustainable development
- New alliances based on mutual learning and understanding, and joint innovation and action on sustainable development. A broad platform to engage civil society, the scientific community, and business, as well as government
- The SDD is managed by the UK Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the UK and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in China. It is strongly cross-governmental, with over 20 UK and Chinese Ministries involved.

WHY HAVE THIS DIALOGUE?

- With increasing economic and ecological interdependence, no nation can address the challenge of sustainable development alone. International collaboration is essential to share lessons and develop solutions. China's environmental problems are global in scope. Every country therefore has a stake in improving China's environment.
- This is the UK's opportunity to share its expertise with China and at the same time to learn from China's work in sustainable development. As the first nation to industrialise, the UK has rich experience in addressing the environmental dimensions of rapid economic and industrial transformation and urbanisation, which is relevant to China in its current economic development. At the same time the UK has much to gain in sharing the fruits of China's extensive experimentation and constant innovation to address its developmental and environmental challenges.
- The top leadership of both countries has committed to this dialogue. At the 2nd SDD Ministerial Meeting in London in October 2007, the Chinese Vice-Minister to the NDRC, and the UK's Minister for the Environment, committed to extending the SDD for a second phase to 2011.



