



- Initiated a pilot project to develop sustainable development indicators in two Chinese cities, Dan Jiangkou and Pan Zhihua. A full investigation has been conducted in Dan Jiangkou. The Chinese Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA 21) produced a Briefing Paper on SD Indicators, and set up a website for local sustainable development indicator system, which provides a good platform for further disseminating the achievements from the SDD and sharing of experience on sustainable development indicator systems.

- Improved understanding and promoted cross-cultural understanding of sustainable development challenges, through support to a successful bilingual discussion website ([www.china-dialogue.net](http://www.china-dialogue.net)) to engage UK and Chinese experts and citizens in debating sustainable development issues and challenges

- Training and official secondments on forestry, chemicals management and environmental management. This included:

- (i) Capacity building for State Forestry Administration staff. Two secondees gained an increased understanding of the policy and policy development process relating to forest governance, procurement and forest management policy in the UK and other European countries, spending time with Government Departments and NGOs.

- (ii) Participation of professional staff from the State Administration for Work Safety (SAWS) and Yunnan Environmental Protection Bureau (YEPB) in the UK Environment Agency's Fellowship Scheme. The Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) is in discussion with UK Environment Agency to participate in its Fellowship Scheme.

### 3) FUTURE PLANS

- Based on the successes of the first three years of the SDD, ministers agreed to extend the SDD for a further three year phase at the Third Annual Ministerial Meeting of the SDD.

- The next three year phase of the SDD will carry forward activities under the four existing themes.

- A new work-stream on 'Financing for Sustainable Development' will be initiated.



UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue

# THE UK-CHINA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE (SDD)

## SDD ACHIEVEMENTS

*"FORGING A PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"*

### 1) BACKGROUND

- The UK-China SDD is a partnership between the UK and Chinese Governments to promote collaboration and good practice in sustainable development. It fulfils a commitment to partnership made by Premier Wen Jiabao and PM Tony Blair in 2004. It is founded on the recognition that, in an interdependent world, cooperation is needed to ensure that learning is shared and efforts collectively made towards achieving common sustainable development goals.

- The UK and China have much to gain from mutual learning and collaboration on sustainable development. As the first country to industrialise the UK has a wealth of experience and expertise relevant to China as it seeks to better manage the environmental and social down-sides of economic transition. And the UK is also keen to learn from China's experience: China has now become a hub of global experimentation and learning and an incubator of solutions in a range of SD areas.

- The UK-China SDD has proved an innovative and effective mechanism for strategic level exchanges and substantive collaboration on a wide range of sustainable development issues, covering: (1) sustainable consumption and production; (2) natural resources management; (3) sustainable urban development, and; (4) governance and capacity building for sustainable development.

- The nature of the work is long term but it is already reaping significant rewards and establishing new collaborative relationships and direct lines of communication between key partners in both countries to address common sustainable development challenges.

### SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

**Activities** - Activities include collaboration on chemicals management; sustainable trade, industrial resource efficiency and waste management; and life cycle analysis to improve the environmental performance of energy using products. Specifically:

- A project to improve the environmental performance of energy-using products

- Introducing innovative approaches to industrial waste reduction and reuse through a pilot project in Yunnan Province

#### Achievements:

- Existing impact of energy consumption in China for eight types of energy-using products was assessed, and findings and recommendations presented to policy-makers. Policy briefs and policy action plans were also presented on improving the environmental performance of electric motors, set top boxes and display technology.

- The Yunnan circular economy pilot project worked with government, industry associations and companies to improve knowledge and working practices on resource efficiency. The project highlighted areas of legislation that could promote efficiency, good practice in design and production with regards to waste minimisation and establishing a programme to promote resource exchange between companies. Partners and companies were trained in techniques to reduce waste through better production and design methods.

- A multi-pronged dialogue and technical cooperation project to enhance the capability for chemicals management in China, involving a legislative seminar to explain the UK legislative approach to chemicals management and emergency response

For more information please visit <http://ukinchina.fco.gov.uk/en/working-with-china/sdd> or contact:

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### 2) A QUICK RETROSPECTIVE: ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Since its official launch in November 2005, the SDD has evolved in to a genuinely cross-governmental platform for policy exchanges and technical collaboration, involving the active participation of 17 government departments and agencies from both countries.

- The SDD delivers a range of innovative joint-projects in support of our common interests. To date, lots of projects are ongoing under the four themes of the dialogue, with involvement of a range of stakeholders from universities, civil society, and the private sector, as well as across government and in the provinces.



procedures and, in particular, to highlight how the various UK agencies work together; a series of CEO level chemical forums for senior representatives of UK and Chinese chemical companies to discuss the business implications of sustainable development and to look for common solutions; and a high level study visit by Chinese Officials to look at the UK emergency response systems and the role of various organisations and official bodies is under discussion.

- A draft training package for fire-fighters to improve their capacity to handle environmental risks associated with chemical incidents using novel techniques and establishing new working partnerships. The training, devised to combine both UK and Chinese expertise, is due to be taken forward in the next few months.

## NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**Activities** - Policy dialogue and projects are being undertaken on: forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and biodiversity. The emphasis is on better understanding across government of international practices for resource management, better collaboration between all stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society, etc.) and better management practices on the ground. Specifically:

- Collaboration to address domestic and global forestry challenges
- Scientific and research collaboration in Shaanxi Province to address nitrogen fertiliser overuse and improve farmers' livelihoods
- A dialogue on policies and practices for sustainable agriculture and fisheries. This includes collaborating on new approaches to fisheries management, aquaculture systems and enhancements, and tackling illegal fishing. Technical exchanges were conducted on measures to counter illegal trade in endangered species.

### Achievements:

- Establishment of UK-China Forestry Working Group and agreement of an Action Plan to address sustainable forest management, climate change, forest certification, governance and forest landscape restoration. First phase completed, with agreement on second phase reached and to hold next Working Group meeting in 2009 in the UK.
- Improved understanding of forest certification and afforestation practices through UK based workshops. A follow-on project will explore using the UK Woodland Assurance Standard in trial forest certification sites.
- Agreement to continue UK-China collaboration on illegal logging and trade issues under the SDD, and to share experience on verification of timber legality, with the aim of tackling the trade in illegal timber.
- Recognition of the importance that forest landscape restoration can play in addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation, achieved through a workshop and study tour.
- Development of practical tools to help farmers improve their livelihoods by reducing their use of costly and polluting inorganic nitrogen fertiliser, leading to a potential halving of the amounts of fertiliser applied to wheat and maize without impacting on yields, as well as greenhouse gas emissions savings of at least 25% and increases in farm profits by 20% in the project location
- Agreement of a three year China-UK work-programme on Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, covering: (1) Agricultural sustainability strategies, policies and approaches; (2) Agricultural biomass utilisation and biogas; (3) Sustainable global fisheries; (4) Management of agro-chemical inputs; (5) Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation; (6) Ecosystem services and poverty alleviation Establishment of a China-UK Sustainable



Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN), providing a framework for long-term collaboration on agricultural innovation, with a focus on translating policy and science into practical action.

- A successful China Agriculture Insurance Application International Symposium was held in July 2008, which built consensus on promoting China's agriculture insurance.
- Dialogue established on new approaches to fisheries management, aquaculture systems and enhancements, and tackling illegal fishing. This included a well-attended seminar held in Shenzhen in April 2008 which led to significant local interest and fruitful technical exchanges on fishery management, increasing fishery resources, and construction of artificial fish reefs. As a follow up, a future fisheries collaboration programme has been developed and is currently under discussion with the Beijing Bureau of Fisheries.
- Agreement to develop a programme of work which would encompass training protocols and guidance on identifying traditional Asian medicines, that may contain derivatives of endangered species, and intelligence led wildlife monitoring, protection and enforcement

## SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**Activities** - Under the SDD, the UK and China are carrying out joint research on the best ways to regenerate old industrial cities and provide affordable housing to low income households with the aim of better equipping UK and Chinese practitioners in the public and private sectors to apply sustainable development skills and know-how to their work in the urban realm.

### Achievements:

- British and Chinese Ministers have signed a joint agreement to strengthen collaboration on sustainable cities.

■ A joint-research team has compiled the foundation paper for collaborative projects. The consultants from UK and China have finished an investigative visit to Wu Han and Nan Jing on June 23rd-27th and finalized case study reports for the two cities.

■ The work is still underway with a visit from the Chinese consultants to the UK due to take place in November. It is clear that whilst China and the UK operate at very different scales and the two countries are at different stages in development there are some similar challenges to be addressed and the collaboration will be beneficial to both sides. It is also anticipated that the results will be disseminated to a wider international audience.

## GOVERNANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Activities** - Capacity building and governance issues cut across every theme. Activities include:

- Training for high-level Chinese decision-makers in sustainable development concepts and tools
- A project to pilot sustainability indicators systems in two Chinese cities
- Training and staff exchanges for professional staff on forestry, chemicals and environmental management.

### Achievements:

- 42 high-level Chinese government decision-makers participated in a training programme on sustainable development concepts and how to apply them at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.
- Supported a groundbreaking partnership between the Global Environment Institute and the Central Communist Party School (CCPS) to develop a new curriculum on sustainable development for CCPS trainers