

**CHINA-ASEAN STRATEGY  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COOPERATION  
2009-2015**

Jointly Developed by  
Ministry of Environmental Protection of China  
and  
ASEAN Member States

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview.....	4
1. Background on China-ASEAN Cooperation on Environmental Protection .....	4
1.1 Cooperation on environmental protection contributes to the expansion of China-ASEAN cooperation.....	6
1.2 Cooperation on environmental protection is an important part of the regional efforts for sustainable development. ....	6
1.3 Cooperation on environmental protection is necessitated by the need to jointly address regional environmental problems.....	7
2. Review of China-ASEAN Cooperation on Environmental Protection .....	7
2.1 Progress of cooperation.....	7
2.2 Cooperation outcomes .....	8
2.2.1 China-ASEAN Environment Management Seminar.....	8
2.2.2 China-ASEAN Seminar on Environment Labeling and Cleaner Production.....	8
2.2.3 China-ASEAN Seminar on Assessment/Strategic Assessment of Environmental Impact.....	9
2.2.4 Other Activities .....	9
2.3 Assessment of Cooperation.....	9
3. Common Challenges and Opportunities .....	10
3.1 Common Challenges.....	10
3.1.1 Environment and Development Concerns .....	10
3.1.2 Institutional Mechanisms for Cooperation.....	11
3.2 Opportunities for Cooperation .....	12
3.2.1 China and ASEAN have strong political will to promote environmental protection cooperation.....	12
3.2.2 Environmental protection cooperation produces win-win results .....	13
4. Objectives and Principles.....	13
4.1 Objectives .....	13
4.2 Principles .....	13
5. Areas of Cooperation .....	14
5.1 Identification of Cooperation Areas.....	14
5.2 Existing Priority areas.....	14
5.2.1 Strengthening Cooperation in Existing Priority Areas.....	14
5.3 New Priority Areas.....	15
5.3.1 Biodiversity Conservation.....	15
5.3.2 Environmental management capacity building .....	16
5.3.3 Cooperation on environmental goods and services.....	16
5.3.4 Global environmental issues .....	17
6. Implementation Mechanism.....	17
6.1 Management and Implementation Arrangement.....	17

6.2 Financing Mechanism.....	18
6.3 Coordination Arrangements .....	18
6.4 Modalities of Cooperation .....	19

## Overview

1. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao stated at the 11<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN<sup>1</sup> Summit that "we are ready to discuss with ASEAN the formulation of a China-ASEAN strategy on environmental protection cooperation". This proposal received positive responses from the leaders of ASEAN Member States. In this context, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment have drawn up and adopted the China-ASEAN Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy)

2. The Strategy will provide long-term guidance to China-ASEAN cooperation on environmental protection. The Strategy consists of six sections: Background, Review of Cooperation, Challenges and Opportunities, Goals and Principles, Areas of Cooperation, and Implementation Mechanism.

### **1. Background on China-ASEAN Cooperation on Environmental Protection**

3. The ASEAN Leaders adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II on 7 October 2003 to establish an ASEAN Community by 2020. The Declaration calls for the establishment of the ASEAN Community comprising three pillars, namely ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability, and shared prosperity in the region. At the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 January 2007 in Cebu, the Philippines, the ASEAN Leaders affirmed their strong commitment to accelerate the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015, as reflected in the Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of an ASEAN Community by 2015.

4. At the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN Leaders signed the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015. The Roadmap for an ASEAN Community 2009-2015 is composed of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan 2 (2009-2015).

5. The Blueprint for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC Blueprint) ensures that concrete actions are undertaken to promote the establishment of an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). ASEAN's commitment to environmental

---

<sup>1</sup>ASEAN stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. ASEAN consists of 10 member states, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. ASEAN Secretariat is located in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. The ASEAN Member States are hereinafter referred to as AMS.

protection is particularly reflected in Section D of the ASCC Blueprint. Cooperation on environmental protection among AMS as well as with the ASEAN Dialogue Partners shall therefore be guided by the ten priority areas of regional importance and the relevant actions contained in the ASCC Blueprint as follows:

- (i) Addressing global environmental issues
- (ii) Managing and preventing transboundary environmental pollution
  - Transboundary haze pollution
  - Transboundary movement of hazardous wastes
- (iii) Promoting sustainable development through environmental education and public participation
- (iv) Promoting environmentally sound technology (EST)
- (v) Promoting quality living standards in ASEAN cities/ urban areas
- (vi) Harmonising environmental policies and databases
- (vii) Promoting the sustainable use of coastal and marine environment
- (viii) Promoting sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity
- (ix) Promoting the sustainability of freshwater resources
- (x) Responding to climate change and addressing its impacts

6. In addition to the above ASCC Blueprint actions on environmental cooperation and in the other relevant sectors under the ASCC Blueprint, the APSC Blueprint and the AEC Blueprint also contains actions that are related to, or has an impact on environmental cooperation, and therefore should be taken into consideration in fostering cross-sectoral collaboration in line with the holistic concept of sustainable development, i.e. encompassing environmental sustainability, economic growth and social development. Given the geographical proximity and cultural similarity, China and ASEAN have enjoyed a long history of cooperation. Since its inception in 1997, the China-ASEAN cooperation mechanism has played a pivotal role in promoting China-ASEAN cooperation, having reinforced the process of regional political and economic cooperation and built up mutual understanding and common ground on cooperation between China and ASEAN. As the economic and social development of China and ASEAN continue to gain momentum, environmental protection has gained prominence on the agenda of China-ASEAN cooperation.

7. The common goal of China and AMS is to build up a resource-conserving and environment-friendly society. It is in the common interests of both sides to protect the environment, reduce environmental pollution and contain ecological degradation and to foster greater cooperation in these areas. The *Joint Declaration of the Heads of State/Government of the People's Republic of China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity* signed in 2003 emphasizes that China and ASEAN should "further activate exchanges in science and technology, environment, education and culture as well as personnel exchanges and improve cooperation mechanisms in these areas".

8. At the 11<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Summit in 2007, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao stated that "we are ready to discuss with ASEAN the formulation of a China-ASEAN strategy on environmental protection cooperation. China is prepared to set up a China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation center next year and proposes that a China-ASEAN environment ministers' meeting mechanism be established in due course to join forces for building a resource-conserving and environment-friendly Northeast Asia". It was agreed at the Summit that environmental protection be made the 11<sup>th</sup> priority area of cooperation of China-ASEAN cooperation mechanism. The Leaders at the Summit also noted the proposal by China to formulate an ASEAN-China Environmental Protection Cooperation Strategy.

9. The establishment of China-ASEAN strategic partnership for peace and prosperity has not only spurred development and brought real benefits to the peoples of both regions, but also contributed significantly to peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the larger world. The mutually beneficial China-ASEAN cooperation has brought win-win outcomes. The interconnected ecosystem linked them even more closely. Cooperation in environmental protection, therefore, meets the need to promote harmony between the advancement of political and economic interests of the region and that of nature.

### **1.1 Cooperation on environmental protection contributes to the expansion of China-ASEAN cooperation**

10. The China-ASEAN cooperation mechanism, which is focused on economic cooperation, has been expanded to the political, security and cultural fields in recent years, showing a good trend of multi-level and wide-ranging cooperation. With China endeavoring to build a prosperous society in all aspects and ASEAN speeding up community building, they have both entered a crucial stage of development. Environmental protection cooperation between China and ASEAN will enhance mutual trust and mutual understanding, deepen and expand cooperation to a level commensurate with their strategic partnership, and contribute to regional peace, development and prosperity.

11. Since China and AMS are developing countries with varied conditions and levels of economic development, cooperation in environmental protection will create a new model of "South-South cooperation" and uphold the common interests of the region.

### **1.2 Cooperation on environmental protection is an important part of the regional efforts for sustainable development.**

12. China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation will promote sustainable development to eliminate poverty, bridge gaps and achieve common development within the framework of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Although recent years have witnessed fast economic growth in China and AMS, the need to promote harmonious economic development and eliminate poverty remains at the top of the

economic agenda.

13. China and AMS have increased effective environmental management measures in line with the rapid economic development. With the deepening of China-ASEAN economic cooperation, especially the steady progress towards the establishment of a free trade area, conditions for closer cooperation in this field is therefore maturing.

14. Such cooperation will not only enable improvement of the region's environment to support economic growth, but also helps to lower the economic and ecological cost of trade among China and ASEAN countries, as it will strengthen their exchanges and coordination on environment protection related legislation and standards. This is conducive to sustainable development of society, economy and environment and the building of a prosperous region with win-win outcomes.

### **1.3 Cooperation on environmental protection is necessitated by the need to jointly address regional environmental problems**

15. Environmental problems are closely related to social and economic development. China and AMS, all located in the East Asian region, are connected by important geographical and ecological links and face the threat of aggravating environmental problems, such as vegetation destruction, soil erosion and degradation, climate change and the loss of biodiversity as a result of economic development. To reduce risks to environment security, active engagement of China and ASEAN in environmental protection cooperation in addition to their respective national efforts to improve domestic environment is highly desirable. This has made it imperative for China and ASEAN to work together in meeting environmental challenges.

## **2. Review of China-ASEAN Cooperation on Environmental Protection**

### **2.1 Progress of cooperation**

16. With a view to strengthening environmental cooperation, ASEAN put forward the initiative of holding an ASEAN Plus Three<sup>2</sup> environment ministers' meeting and expressed interest for regional cooperation in natural resources, land use and water resources protection at the ASEAN Plus Three Summit in November 2002. The initiative received positive responses from leaders at the Summit and the environment ministers' meeting has thus become an important part of the ASEAN plus Three mechanisms.

17. Every year since 2002, the ASEAN plus Three Environment Ministers' Meetings have been hosted by AMS on a rotating basis. At the meetings, China-ASEAN cooperation on environment was also discussed and promoted. By 2008, the ASEAN

---

<sup>2</sup> Plus Three refers to China, Japan, and Republic of Korea

plus Three Environment Ministers' have successfully met seven times, and at each of these meetings ministers have reiterated their commitment to environmental cooperation. These fora have played a positive role in enhancing environmental cooperation in East Asia and promoting sustainable development of countries in the region.

18. To further deepen China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation and launch working-level dialogue on substantive issues, the State Environmental Protection Administration of China<sup>3</sup> (SEPA) and ASEAN convened the first China-ASEAN Dialogue on Environmental Policies in Sanya, China in August 2004. Senior officials from China, AMS and ASEAN Secretariat attended the Dialogue and exchanged views on environmental policies of China and AMS and reached consensus on the prospect and priority areas of China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation. China proposed specific programs for cooperation with ASEAN in public awareness and environmental education, and the promotion of environmentally sound technology and cleaner production, which received support from ASEAN. This Dialogue marked a new stage of development in China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation.

## **2.2 Cooperation outcomes**

19. Based on the outcomes of discussions at the Dialogue and as part of the activities under the China-ASEAN cooperation mechanism, China and ASEAN have since then convened a series of seminars.

### **2.2.1 China-ASEAN Environment Management Seminar**

20. SEPA hosted the China-ASEAN environment management seminar in August 2006 in Nanning, Guangxi of China, which was attended by senior officials from the 10 ASEAN countries and ASEAN Secretariat. Discussions at the seminar were focused on the following areas: China and ASEAN's legislation and management systems regarding assessment/strategic assessment of environmental impact, environment-friendly technologies, cleaner production, environmental education and public awareness, environmental education and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific, international experiences and trends of development in the assessment /strategic assessment of environmental impact, as well as the developments, experiences and features of China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation. The future orientation of China-ASEAN cooperation in environmental protection was also discussed.

### **2.2.2 China-ASEAN Seminar on Environment Labeling and Cleaner Production**

21. SEPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China co-hosted the China-ASEAN

---

<sup>3</sup> SEPA stands for State Environmental Protection Administration of China, which was upgraded to the Ministry of Environmental Protection in 2008.



Seminar on Environmental Labeling and Cleaner Production in July 2007, which was attended by 14 delegates from 9 AMS and ASEAN Secretariat. The participants exchanged information and experiences on their respective environmental labeling programmes, green procurement programmes, China's environmental labeling systems, examples of environmental label verification, and cleaner production technologies. This seminar laid the basis for enhanced cooperation between China and ASEAN in this field.

### **2.2.3 China-ASEAN Seminar on Assessment/Strategic Assessment of Environmental Impact**

22. The China-ASEAN Seminar on the Assessment/Strategic Assessment of Environmental Impact was held in Beijing in October 2007 and attended by delegates from the 10 AMS, ASEAN Secretariat, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Asian Development Bank. Chinese experts shared with ASEAN and other delegates the good practices China had accumulated in its 20-year history of environmental impact assessment, and explored with them the feasibility of future cooperation in the area with reference to advanced technology and experience of other countries.

### **2.2.4 Other Activities**

23. In the area of public awareness and environmental education, SEPA hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Tripartite Environment Education (TEEN) Workshop / Symposium among China, Japan and Korea in October 2007, which was also attended by delegates from the ASEAN Secretariat. At the Workshop China exchanged views with ASEAN on how to set up a similar platform for exchanges and cooperation in environmental education with ASEAN, promote environmental education cooperation and deepen regional understanding of environmental problems and environmental cooperation. This seminar laid a good foundation for closer China-ASEAN cooperation in public awareness and environmental education.

## **2.3 Assessment of Cooperation**

**The exchange of experiences has enhanced mutual understanding and communications between China and ASEAN.**

24. The dialogues and discussions conducted at the above-mentioned events, based on the decisions made at the China-ASEAN Dialogue on Environmental Policies, have enhanced the mutual understanding and communications between China and ASEAN and laid the foundation for enhanced China-ASEAN cooperation in environmental protection.

**China-ASEAN cooperation could be further improved.**

25. The modality of cooperation so far is not substantive, as the above-mentioned activities mainly took the form of dialogues and discussions. As China-ASEAN cooperation in environmental protection expands, concrete programmes and specific projects and exchanges and cooperation on issues of mutual interest should be carried out.

**The absence of an implementing institutional mechanism and funding scheme has impeded the further deepening of cooperation.**

26. There is a need for an implementation institution to implement programs and projects and to follow-up on the dialogues and decisions taken by the Leaders and Ministers at their annual meetings.

### **3. Common Challenges and Opportunities**

#### **3.1 Common Challenges**

##### **3.1.1 Environment and Development Concerns**

27. China and AMS share similar experiences in development and are confronted with many common challenges in environment and development.

**(i) Regional industrial structure in the context of globalization has highlighted the environmental risks.**

28. China and AMS are at a stage of rapid economic development, but their industrial clusters are mostly underpinned by comparative advantage of low cost rather than innovation-based competitive edge. As economic globalization deepens, excessive use of resources and environmental pollution are exerting mounting pressure on industrial specialization of the region. Countries are facing increasing environmental risks of water and air pollution, soil erosion and the loss of biodiversity, among others.

**(ii) Urbanization and industrialization have heightened the pressure on environment.**

29. China and most AMS are at a stage of accelerated urbanization and industrialization. In 2006, the urban population of ASEAN accounted for 43.7%<sup>4</sup> of its total population; that of China, standing at 577 million, accounted for 43% of its total. Furthermore, China and AMS have relied on manufacturing as the pillar of economic growth and modernization. Urbanization and industrialization have resulted in massive pressure on the environment. The need to respond to the problems related to environment and resources therefore have become an urgent common problem for countries in the region.

**(iii) Patterns of production and consumption of the region need to be improved.**

---

<sup>4</sup> ASEAN Statistical Yearbook 2006

30. Environmental problems resulting from economic structure and development could be attributed, to a large extent, on the absence of sound and sustainable production and consumption patterns. The UN *Agenda 21* clearly states that "the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unattainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in the industrialized countries". The realization of sustainable production and consumption will provide an important basis for sustainable development in China and AMS. For example, in the area of production, more efforts are needed to increase resource efficiency and promote waste recycling. In the area of consumption, there is also room for improvement in raising public awareness of green consumption and increasing government procurement.

**(iv) Global environmental problems have further exacerbated environmental risks of the region.**

31. Continued economic growth has resulted in environmental problems of global proportion, including the loss of biodiversity, global warming, and persistent organic pollutants contamination. For example, both China and ASEAN are rich in biodiversity. With over 60,000 species, AMS boast 20% of the world's biodiversity resources, although its total land area accounts for only 3% of the world's total. China has more than 30,000 higher plants and 6,000-odd vertebrates, or 10% and 14% of the world's total respectively, and nearly 600 types of land ecosystems. Rapid development and industrialization have exerted immense pressure on these sensitive biological areas.

32. Moreover, problems caused by climate change, such as global warming, extreme weather and increased natural calamities, also cause concern to the region, as it not only affect ecosystems, but also increases the cost of development.

### **3.1.2 Institutional Mechanisms for Cooperation**

**(i) Lack of long-term environmental protection strategy and action plan**

33. At the first China-ASEAN Dialogue on Environmental Policies in 2004, China and AMS have reached common understanding on two priority areas of cooperation, i.e. (i) public awareness and environmental education and (ii) environmentally sound technologies and cleaner production, and have launched a series of activities. However, the lack of a guiding environmental protection strategy and action plan is not conducive to long-term cooperation between China and ASEAN.

34. We need to take into consideration the future development of China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation in the coming 10 years or so as to establish a solid foundation for long-term development. The formulation of the environmental protection strategy and action plan will be an important part of China-ASEAN environmental cooperation, particularly at the initial stage of such cooperation. Given the unique and diverse national conditions of China and AMS, it is proposed to adopt a phased approach in moving towards the long term goal of the cooperation.

**(ii) Lack of effective mechanisms for environmental protection cooperation**

35. At the China-ASEAN Environmental Policy Dialogue, China and ASEAN have reached common understanding on the priority areas for environmental protection cooperation and held a series of follow-up workshops towards substantive cooperation between China and ASEAN. However, lack of effective cooperation mechanisms makes it difficult for China and ASEAN to move towards deeper and broader cooperation on environmental protection. It is therefore proposed to establish the China-ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meeting to promote dialogue and provide policy guidance, and to establish the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center to design and implement activities. .

### **(iii) Lack of sustained funding mechanism**

36. Funding support plays an important role in environmental protection cooperation and sufficient funding can ensure the smooth progress of such cooperation. As of now, there are mainly two funding channels for China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation as follows:

37. First, China and ASEAN could utilize the existing relevant regional funds. The Policy Dialogue held in 2004 was sponsored by China-ASEAN Cooperation Fund. The seminar on environment management held in 2006 and the seminar on environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment held in 2007 were sponsored by China's Special Fund for Asian Regional Cooperation. Given the temporary nature of this type of funding support, it is not feasible to support the mid and long-term development and specific cooperation projects for China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation.

38. Second, China and ASEAN could seek financial support from other international organisations and governments. SIDA financed the China-ASEAN seminar on environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment held in 2007. However such sources of funding are unreliable and may not accord with ASEAN-China priorities.

39. In future efforts to build China-ASEAN environmental cooperation funding mechanism need to addressed, including how to better use relevant regional cooperation fund, how to get support from international institutions on the basis of project development and how to facilitate the participation of businesses and the general public.

## **3.2 Opportunities for Cooperation**

### **3.2.1 China and ASEAN have strong political will to promote environmental protection cooperation**

40. Prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Summit, there were many discussions on the feasibility of establishing environmental protection cooperation mechanism as reflected in the documents adopted by China and ASEAN. At the government level, China and ASEAN have carried out exchanges in priority areas and these exchanges are becoming increasingly frequent. At the non-government level, there have been sustained cooperation on environmental protection, including academic exchanges

between universities and environmental technology cooperation between companies. In this context, environmental cooperation was identified as the 11<sup>th</sup> priority area for China-ASEAN cooperation at the 11<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Summit. This fully shows the political will of the two sides to enhance environmental cooperation in the region and provide the political vision for bilateral cooperation in the future.

### **3.2.2 Environmental protection cooperation produces win-win results**

41. As developing countries and regions, China and AMS have the shared goal of achieving sustainable development. Both sides have accumulated much experience and learned many lessons in their endeavor to achieve sustainable development. It is important for the two sides to share their experience and lessons and learn from each other to meet the severe challenges in sustainable development and seek benefit for the people in the region. Therefore, to strengthen environmental protection cooperation is conducive to sustainable development in the region and has great potential and prospects.

## **4. Objectives and Principles**

### **4.1 Objectives**

42. The overall objective of the Strategy is to strengthen and enhance China-ASEAN cooperation on common priority areas of environmental protection through a coordinated and phased approach with a view to achieve environmental sustainability in the region. The specific objectives of the Strategy are as follows:

- To work towards the establishment of the China-ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meeting mechanism at an appropriate time;
- Seek common understanding and strengthen environmental protection cooperation to promote the East Asia environment and sustainable development process;
- Explore new areas for China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation and set up regional environmental protection cooperation demonstration projects;
- Develop partnerships with AMS and ASEAN environment agencies, UN organizations, particularly UNEP, UNDP and ESCAP, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Global Environment Facility and other international organizations or multilateral institutions; study the experience of other multilateral or regional environmental cooperation mechanisms so as to enhance China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation and cooperation with other international aid agencies.

### **4.2 Principles**

- The governing China-ASEAN relations will be followed in promoting China-ASEAN environmental cooperation;
- Take coordinated steps to address global and regional environmental issues in accordance with their respective national conditions and development

- levels;
- Conduct cooperation and dialogue on an equal footing in line with the mandate of the environmental protection agencies ;
- Uphold the principle of consensus through consultation, collaboration and mutual benefit for all.

## **5. Areas of Cooperation**

### **5.1 Identification of Cooperation Areas**

43. Continue to deepen existing cooperation: given the priority areas identified at the 2004 China-ASEAN Policy Dialogue, China and ASEAN have launched cooperation in two areas, namely public awareness and environmental education and the promotion of environmentally sound technology, environmental labeling and cleaner production and some consensus has been reached. In order to facilitate the implementation of the cooperation strategy, continued efforts will be made to deepen cooperation in the above-mentioned two areas at the initial stage.

44. In accordance with ASEAN's Community Blueprints and focusing on the common interest of China and ASEAN the following areas of cooperation will be carried out: biodiversity conservation, environmental management capacity building, and global environmental issues and promotion of environmental goods and services industry.

### **5.2 Existing Priority areas**

#### **5.2.1 Strengthening Cooperation in Existing Priority Areas**

##### **(i) Public awareness and environmental education**

45. Objective: to enhance China-ASEAN public awareness of environmental protection through exchanges and cooperation between environmental education institutions as well as relevant governmental and civil society organisations of China and ASEAN member states in accordance with the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012.

46. Activities:

- Jointly formulate China-ASEAN environmental education cooperation action plan with reference to the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012;
- Establish China-ASEAN environmental education network, regularly hold workshops at various levels and share experience in environmental education;
- Conduct capacity building training for China-ASEAN environmental education institutions and improve capacity of such institutions for policy support, project implementation, fund raising and dissemination & outreach.
- Jointly develop environmental education resources. Focus on environmental issues of common concern to China and AMS and provide support for

- environmental cooperation through environmental education and publicity means;
- Facilitate China-ASEAN's exchanges and cooperation with other international organizations and countries in environmental education.

## **(ii) Environmentally sound technology, environmental labeling and cleaner production**

47. Objective: to carry out exchange of information and experiences and to take effective measures to promote the use of recycled waste in the region, promote efficient use of raw materials and reduce GHG emission, and facilitate the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; enhance cooperation in environmental labeling and cleaner production and promote sustainable production and consumption.

48. Activities:

- Share experiences and conduct training on the use of recycled waste, enhance awareness of government decision makers, businesses and the public about using recycled waste and form a sound mechanism in which the whole society promotes, advocates and implements the reduction of waste and the use of recycled waste;
- Increase the sharing of waste-use technology and carry out demonstration programs for the application of mature waste-use technology that are promising and profitable;
- Conduct pilot research on the use of recycled electronic waste and treatment and disposal of such waste;
- Facilitate joint R&D of environmentally sound technology and establish a transfer market for relevant technology;
- Assist relevant countries in the region in establishing environmental labeling system and ensure the validity and accuracy of environmental labeling certification products in the region;
- Conduct research on the common standards of environmental products, promote the recognition of green products and facilitate mutual recognition of environmental labeling of countries in the region;
- Conduct collaborative research on the promotion of green purchasing and facilitate sustainable consumption in the region;
- Facilitate cleaner production and strengthen training aimed at improving examination and verification methods and skills;
- Gradually facilitate the establishment of regional cleaner production examination and verification procedures and encourage all countries to formulate a common cleaner production examination and verification guide or handbook;

## **5.3 New Priority Areas**

### **5.3.1 Biodiversity Conservation**

49. Objective: to carry out collaborative projects and scientific research on biodiversity conservation taking into account the similar ecological environment of

Southwest China and ASEAN region, as well as to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

50. Activities:

- Conduct collaborative research on the monitoring of biodiversity and jointly carry out China-ASEAN biodiversity monitoring demonstration projects;
- Mutual learning and sharing of experience in facilitating the protection of endangered species;
- Facilitate the establishment of transboundary natural reserves and bio-corridors to protect the normal migration of species;
- Establish transboundary bio-safety cooperation system
- Establish a platform for cooperation in preventing the intrusion of alien species;
- Study benefit-sharing system for traditional knowledge resources and promote cooperation in ensuring compliance with the *Convention on Biological Diversity*.
- Conduct collaborative research on biodiversity and climate change adaptation;
- Facilitate the sharing of regional biodiversity data and information;
- Enhance capacity building for implementation of global strategies for plant conservation and global taxonomy initiative
- Promote sharing of experiences, expertise and information on urban greenery and urban biodiversity conservation.

### **5.3.2 Environmental management capacity building**

51. Objective: to enhance environmental management capacity of China and AMS through various means, including personnel exchanges and mutual visits.

52. Activity:

- Improve environment monitoring, assessment and reporting capacity of China and AMS;
- Strengthen comprehensive capacity training of environment management personnel and enhance policy formulation and implementation capacity particularly in environmental economy, and environment and health;
- Strengthen environment law enforcement capacity and facilitate the sharing of environment policy and law enforcement information;
- Conduct mutual visits and exchanges between China and AMS environment management personnel and improve their capacity for environment management;
- Strengthen training and exchanges of environmental impact assessment technology capacity.

### **5.3.3 Cooperation on environmental goods and services**

53. Objectives: facilitate the establishment of regional environmental goods and services market, strengthen the flow of environmental products and environmental service industry within the region and work to ensure that environmental goods and



services industry play a bigger role in regional economic growth.

54. Activity:

- Conduct joint research on the current state and development of regional environmental goods and services industry, identify demands for environmental products and consulting services in the region;
- Promote exchanges of technologies for air pollution treatment, solid waste management and sewage treatment and facilitate the establishment of environmental goods and services market;
- Carry out cooperation and exchanges on energy conservation and pollution reduction.

#### **5.3.4 Global environmental issues**

55. Objective: to coordinate common understanding on global environmental issues.

56. Activity:

- Strengthen bilateral coordination and consultation between China and ASEAN and its member countries on global environmental issues, including climate change, persistent organic pollutants and transboundary movement of hazardous wastes,
- Strengthen bilateral exchanges on compliance mechanisms for international environmental conventions;
- Strengthen coordination and cooperation with international environmental organizations or institutions.

## **6. Implementation Mechanism**

### **6.1 Management and Implementation Arrangement**

57. The proposed China-ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meeting shall be responsible for policy and management direction of China-ASEAN environmental cooperation including adoption and review of the China-ASEAN Environmental Protection Cooperation Strategy.

58. The China-ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Environment will be convened to prepare for, and support the China-ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meeting. The China-ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Environment will be attended by senior environment officials from China, ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.

59. China and ASEAN will jointly develop the China-ASEAN Environmental Protection Action Plan at an appropriate time to help implement this Strategy.

60. The proposed China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center will be the major implementing institution of this Strategy, decisions made by the China-ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meeting, as well as detailed activities elaborated in the Action Plan.

61. Specific Working Groups on certain priority areas as identified in this Strategy may be established when necessary so as to strengthen the coordination of relevant programs. Such Working Groups may consist of scientist, experts and technical staff in relevant fields.

## **6.2 Financing Mechanism**

62. Funding for China-ASEAN Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation may consist of the following:

- The Special Fund for China-ASEAN Cooperation: at the current stage, the Special Fund for China-ASEAN Cooperation and the Special Fund for Asian Regional Cooperation will favorably consider financing China-ASEAN project cooperation in the area of environmental protection;
- Voluntary contribution by member states: China and AMS are encouraged to provide funding support to cooperation projects.
- Project funding support given by relevant financial institutions: develop relations with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and other international financial institutions and seek support to China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation projects.

63. In addition, more fund-raising avenues for China-ASEAN environmental protection cooperation will be explored so as to seek funding support from other sources, including other international organizations or institutions.

64. The funds will be used to support the implementation of this Strategy and other activities agreed by China and ASEAN.

## **6.3 Coordination Arrangements**

65. As the major implementing institution of the Strategy, China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center will be responsible for carrying out concrete cooperation projects as outlined in the Strategy.

66. The Chinese side will set up and staff the Beijing office of the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center and provide human resources to take charge of comprehensive coordination in Chinese side.

67. The ASEAN Secretariat and relevant institutions in AMS will collaborate with the China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center to facilitate the implementation of projects.

#### **6.4 Modalities of Cooperation**

68. Specific cooperation will mainly be carried out in such forms as workshops, training, exhibitions and demonstration projects. Cooperation will be based on strengthening capacity building, promoting the mutual recognition of environmental standards and focus on demonstration projects on biodiversity conservation cooperation, environmental education and public awareness.