

18th GMS-WGE Annual Meeting Held in China

From May 17th to 18th 2012, the 18th Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on Environment (WGE) annual meeting took place in Jinghong, Yunnan Province, China. Senior environment officials from the six GMS countries met to discuss priority actions for environmentally-friendly GMS Economic Cooperation Program. Officials from the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) of China and CAEC attended the meeting.



Mr. Xu Qinghua, Chief Engineer of the MEP addressed the opening session. He indicated that the GMS countries are closely connected to each other economically, socially, and environmentally. He proposed that the GMS countries fully collaborate on promoting environmental cooperation initiatives such as the Biological Corridor Initiative Programme, as well as other regional biodiversity conservation and capacity building initiatives.

China-ASEAN Youth Seminar on Green Development Held in Beijing



On May 22nd 2012, the China-ASEAN Youth Seminar on Green Development took place in Beijing, China. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Tang Dingding Director-General of CAEC and Ms. Song Xiaozhi, Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation Department of MEP, moderated by Ms. Zhou Guomei, Deputy Director-General of CAEC. Representatives from ASEAN Member States (AMS), China, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), etc. attended the seminar.

The seminar was organized by CAEC with the objective to promote the communication between the youth of AMS and China, to strengthen the public awareness and participation on environmental protection, and to emphasize the role of the youth in Green Development. The Seminar is part of the “ASEAN-China Green Envoys Program” (GEP), which is a cooperation project under the framework of *ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013)*.

ED of ASEAN Secretariat and CAEC adopted the Terms of Reference for Implementing ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan

In accordance with the ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan (2011-2013), ASEAN countries and China shall set up a Joint Implementation Secretariat (JIS). The Environmental Division (ED) of ASEAN Secretariat and CAEC are responsible for the establishment of the JIS, and a Terms of References (TOR) for the JIS shall be developed by the two sides.

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On May 1st 2012, H.E. Dato' Misran Karmain, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Social-cultural Community, officially notified CAEC that the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN) have endorsed the revised draft of the Terms of Reference for the Joint Implementation Secretariat (JIS) of the *ASEAN-China Environmental Cooperation Action Plan*. Dr. Raman Letchumanan, head of the Environmental Division of the ASEAN Secretariat, is designated as the ASEAN Co-Director for the JIS.

On May 3rd 2012, Mr. Tang Dingding, Director-General of CAEC, replied and acknowledged the endorsement, and designated Mr. Peng Bin, Director of the Division for China-ASEAN Cooperation of CAEC, as the Chinese Co-director for the JIS.

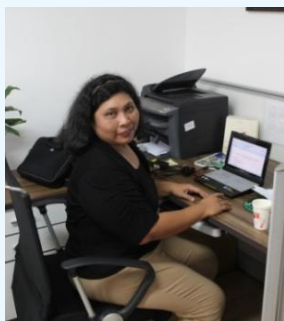
Seminars on Sustainable Cities under the Framework of the East Asian Summit Held in ASEAN Member States

Funded by the Australian aid program, the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Australia organized two seminars on *Urban Sustainability: Adapting to Climate Change* with local research institutions in Vietnam and Indonesia. The seminars were held in Can Tho, Vietnam on 13th-15th March 2012 and Makassar, Indonesia on 17th-19th April 2012. The host institutions were Can Tho University and the University of Hasanuddin, respectively. These activities were under the auspices of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Environment stream.

The seminars explored how East Asian cities could become more sustainable while responding to the challenges of climate change. The seminars also provided guidance and allowed for networking on regional climate adaption and environment issues. Delegates from ASEAN Member States, China, India, and Japan presented at the seminars. At the invitation from Australian government, experts from CAEC attended the seminars and gave presentations on Chinese policies on climate adaption and the development of sustainable cities in China.

Experts from ASEAN Biodiversity Center Visited CAEC for Exchange Programme

On 23rd April 2012, Dr. Monina T. Uriarte, Capacity Development Specialist and Ms. Lilibeth R. Cabebe, Clearing Housing Mechanism (CHM) and Knowledge Management (KM) officer of ASEAN Biodiversity Center (ACB) visited CAEC for exchange program, which lasted from 22nd to 29th of April 2012. Mr. Guo Jing, Deputy Director-General of CAEC met with them on the 23rd. They intro-



duced the basic information of their own institutions and exchanged ideas on how to promote the cooperation between CAEC and ACB in the field of biodiversity, particularly how to take advantage of ACB's expertise in compiling an report on the good practices on biodiversity and ecological conservation in ASEAN and China.

During their exchange period, the experts from ACB worked in CAEC with CAEC's staff for the joint studies. The two sides took this opportunity to share knowledge and experiences in order to forge closer working relationships in the future.

ACB is an inter-government organization founded in 2005 under the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN). ACB facilitates the cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and relevant governments and organizations on biodiversity issues in AMS. The center is located in Laguna, Philippines.



Experts from ASEAN Center for Biodiversity Visited China Research Academy of Environmental Sciences

On April 24th 2012, Dr. Monina T. Uriarte, Capacity Development Specialist of ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), and Ms. Lilibeth R. Cabebe, Clearing Housing Mechanism (CHM) and Knowledge Management (KM) Officer of ACB visited the China Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) in Beijing. They met with specialists from the Institute of Ecology of CRAES, and exchanged their views on biodiversity conservation. CAEC officials joined the meeting.

CRAES specialists introduced their institutional structure, research, and international cooperation activities. The ACB experts highly evaluated the expertise of the CRAES group, and gave an introduction on and initiatives on ASEAN biodiversity cooperation. The two sides fully discussed their work on biodiversity, and exchanged research publications.

Experts from ASEAN Center for Biodiversity visited Guangxi

On April 26th 2012, experts from ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) visited Guangxi, and met with local officials and biodiversity experts. Mr. Feng Jianhua, Division Director of the Department of Environmental Protection of Guangxi hosted the meeting. Officials and experts from CAEC, the Guangxi Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, and the Guangxi Forest Inventory and Planning Institute also attended the meeting.



Mr. Peng Bin, Director of the Division for ASEAN Cooperation of CAEC, introduced the ASEAN-China environmental cooperation background, and indicated that Guangxi is at the frontline of such initiatives, and has unique advantage in promoting the regional environmental cooperation. Officials from Guangxi introduced the biodiversity conservation initiatives in Guangxi, such as the EU-China Biodiversity Programme and GMS Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative.

During the meeting, ASEAN experts introduced the biodiversity conservation initiatives in ASEAN. The two sides exchanged views on regional biodiversity conservation, and agreed that the meeting has very optimistic effects on information exchange and future cooperation on biodiversity conservation between ASEAN and China.

Experts from ASEAN Center for Biodiversity visited Chongzuo Eco-Park in Guangxi



On April 26th 2012, Experts from ASEAN Center for Biodiversity visited Guangxi Chongzuo Eco-Park and Guangxi Medicinal Botanical Garden. Chongzuo Eco-Park is a national natural reservation area known as the habitat of an endangered species of white-headed langur (*Trachypithecus leucocephalus*). After the observation, the experts had a meeting with Dr. Pan Wenshi, a professor from Peking University who has been studying and protecting species in the Eco-Park for years. During the meeting, Dr. Pan's passionate illustration on the protection of endangered species had raised

extensive resonance among the experts. In the Guangxi Medicinal Botanical Garden, the ACB experts observed the plantation system for various herbal species. China shares an enormous amount of biological species with ASEAN Member States, including some most endangered species habitat near the joint boundaries. Therefore, China-ASEAN biodiversity cooperation is an essential cooperation priority beyond the nations' boundaries and requires long-term attention.

【About CAEC】

CAEC organized China-ASEAN Biodiversity Cooperation Workshop

On March 7th 2012, a workshop on China-ASEAN biodiversity cooperation was held in Beijing. The objective of the workshop was to promote the future environmental cooperation between China and ASEAN Member States (AMS). The attendees include officials from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (MEP), the Yunnan Province, the Autonomous Region of Guangxi, as well as experts from international organizations and academics.



During the workshop, officials and experts discussed the priorities, the principles, and the possible practices in the China-ASEAN biodiversity cooperation. The attendees agreed and emphasized that such cooperation will create long-term benefit for both sides.

CAEC organized China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Expert Group Meeting in Beijing

On May 29th 2012, an expert group meeting on China-ASEAN environmental cooperation was held in Beijing with the objective to promote the implementation of the *China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Action Plan* and the future China-ASEAN environmental cooperation. Experts from the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (MEP), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and several top research institutions in Beijing attended the meeting.

On the meeting, experts discussed the trend and priorities of ASEAN-China environmental cooperation, and expressed their high expectations on the future development of CAEC. The experts also provided many solid suggestions on how to promote the China-ASEAN environmental cooperation and CAEC's capacity building.



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