

## **Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Working Group Meeting on Sino-Canadian Climate Change Joint Statement**

The 4th Sino-Canadian Climate Change Working Group Meeting was held in Beijing on June 26, 2008. Chinese delegates from the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Environmental Protection and China Meteorological Administration, Canadian delegates from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Environment Canada and Canadian Embassy in Beijing attended this meeting. The meeting is jointly presided by Director General Mr. Gao Guangsheng, Office of National Leading Group on Climate Change and Canada's Chief Negotiator and Ambassador for Climate Change Michael Martin. This meeting was in progress in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere. Both parties carried out policy dialogue in terms of the international climate change negotiations, exchanged views on national strategies, policies, measures in addressing climate changes as well as the current status of Asia-Pacific Clean Development and Climate Partnership, and jointly explored the bilateral cooperation plan and the future work scheme of the working group. The summary of the minutes is as follows:

### **I. International Climate Change Policy Dialogue**

**Both parties** exchanged views on various issues such as the overall statuses of

international climate negotiations, Ad Hoc Working Group, Gleneagles Process, the G8, Major Economies Meeting and impact of American Presidential election.

**Mr. Su Wei**, Director General of Office of National Leading Group on Climate Change, pointed out that, climate change brings a great challenge to human survival and social development, although differences exist in the areas of national circumstance, geographic location, development demands and historical emission, etc, the desire in addressing climate change is the same. The UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol are effective frameworks and main international arena in addressing climate change, developed countries shall continue to make the quantified emissions reduction commitments and provide financial technical support to developing countries, conscientiously offer assistance in improving the capability of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in developing countries; developing countries should, within the framework of sustainable development and with funds and technological support from developed countries, take active and effective actions of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In April 2008, the 4th ministerial-level dialogue of G8 was held in Japan, all parties strengthened their understanding and communication on climate change related issues; in June 2008, the leaders of Major Economies held the 4th Meeting in Seoul, Korea, carried out dialogue on addressing climate change challenges and the text of the Major Economies' Leaders Declaration on Climate Change and

Energy Security, to be presented to leaders on the margins of the G8. These processes are providing momentum and supplement the formal international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

**Ambassador Michael Martin** highlighted the importance of retaining the ultimate objectives of the UNFCCC as we negotiate a future agreement, principles which were reinforced by the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC in 2007. Within Canada, there is a greater sense of the impacts of climate change and the urgency of the issue than ever before, due to significant attention on the increased rate of melting ice in the Arctic, the rapid spread of the Pine Beetle in the Western Canada, and the drier temperatures confronting grain producers. It was noted that although the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol provide a good framework for negotiating a future climate agreement, the process is very complicated and challenging, and, therefore, we need to find ways to build the confidence among Parties and to enhance the political momentum required to reach an environmentally effective agreement. A significant amount of additional analytical work is required particularly regarding mitigation, in order to fully understand which measures will produce the results needed to stabilize global emissions, as well as the costs of actions and inactions: the economics of climate change are of critical importance as we all have a desire to have continued economic growth.

**Keith Christie**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Global Issues Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, believes that understanding of the climate change reality and its impact on Canada has been widely accepted, public awareness is constantly increasing, and that understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation should be considered from two aspects: the effectiveness in addressing climate change action and equity in undertaking climate change actions. He also underscored the importance of emerging economies sharing “the burden of effort” in responding to the global challenges of climate change according to the respective capacities.

**Both parties** realize that climate change issues are severe and urgent, and believe that addressing climate change requires a strong political will and express their willingness to carry out extensive cooperation and make their own efforts in addressing climate change.

## **II. Domestic policies and actions in addressing climate change in China and Canada**

**Ambassador Michael Martin** introduced the action plan on the policy transformation of climate change, he addressed that Canada has been attaching great importance to climate change, as reflected in the creation of a Chief Negotiator and Ambassador for Climate Change position. He believes that Canada's emission reduction pressure is from population growth, economic growth and energy export growth. In order to achieve the domestic

goal of reducing Canada's total GHGs, relative to 2006 levels, by 20% by 2020 and by 6-70% by 2050, the Canadian Government is implementing a series of ambitious regulatory and technology initiatives focused on the transformation of our domestic energy systems. These measures include: industrial regulations which will require improvements in emission intensity in existing facilities by 18% by 2010 and 2% continuous improvement thereafter; the deployment of clean technologies such as carbon capture and storage; the establishment of a domestic carbon market by 2010; and national regulations in the transportation and building sectors.

**Mr. Gao Guangsheng**, Director General, introduced China's policies and actions on addressing climate change. He believes that, China, as a densely populated developing country, is in the process of industrialization, urbanization, and modernization, and china primarily adopts coal-based energy mix, which causes a difficult situation and heavy task in controlling greenhouse gas emissions in China. Greenhouse gas emission is an important contributor to climate change. Climate change is not only an issue of natural ecology, but also an issue of development. He also suggested, China has earnestly fulfilled its obligations stipulated under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, submitted "Initial National Communication on Climate Change of the People's Republic of China" and promulgated " China's National Climate Change Programme" and " China's Scientific and Technological Special Action in Addressing Climate Change". In 2007, the National Leading Group

on Climate Change was established which is headed by Premier Wen Jiabao, a series of action have been conducted and positive effects has been achieved in addressing climate change

### **III. Progress of the Asia-Pacific Clean Development and Climate Partnership (APP)**

**Both parties** introduced the goal, progress, internal management structure of APP, etc.

**Director Li Gao** made a description on the progress and management structure of APP in China. China participated in eight task forces meetings under the framework of APP and served as the co-chairs of the two task forces. The management institutions of APP in China include the National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology and the China Meteorological Administration. National Development and Reform Commission is the leading agency and the secretariat is established in the Office of National Leading Group on Climate Change, NDRC. He noted that China is considering holding the 3rd APP Ministerial Meeting and the Eighth Policy and Implementation Committee (PIC) Meeting in 2009. China also conducted cooperation with Canada, the United States and Australia under the framework of APP, and Mr. Li Gao suggested Canada to vitalize new vitality and new resource to APP. China is willing to develop further cooperation with Canada under the framework of

APP.

**Director Darren Goetze** introduced progress and management structure of APP in Canada. Canada became one of APP members in the Ministerial Meeting held in Delhi of India in October 2007 and participated in seven task force activities. Canada and Japan are co-chair country of the Cement task force and Canada promised to input 20 million Canadian dollars to the member countries within four years for APP. PIC Meeting will be held in Vancouver, Canada in October 2008; APP's management institutions in Canada include Environment Canada, Natural Resources Ministry, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Environment Canada is the leading agency and the Secretariat is established in the International Affairs Branch of Environment Canada.

**Both parties** believe that APP is a useful complement to the UNFCCC Process rather than a substitute which is an important part of domestic and international action in addressing climate change and hope that APP's activities would promote the technical cooperation and exchange of experiences and policies and enhance the cooperation between the public and private sectors in addressing climate change. Both parties believe that the cooperation between the parties under the framework of the APP will have a greater potential and agree to actively promote the technical exchanges and cooperation under the framework of APP.

#### **IV. Next Work Plan of Sino-Canadian Climate Change Working Group**

**Both parties** expressed that China and Canada have broad prospects of cooperation in the field of climate change and shall take full advantage of the platform of the working group to further strengthen policy dialogue and project cooperation. Both parties expressed their satisfaction with the achievements of C5 project (a Canadian-funded project which concluded in 2006). Both parties agreed to develop further cooperation continually in the important fields of energy conservation, energy efficiency improvement, renewable energy, nuclear energy, etc. More specifically, it was agreed that Canada would explore the possibility of sending a delegation of technical experts to China this fall to exchange views with Chinese experts on carbon capture and storage, as well as econometric modeling of climate change mitigation and adaptation, which would deepen the understanding of each countries' national circumstances and options.

Both parties expressed their satisfaction with the meeting and agreed next working group meeting to be held in Canada in 2009.