



Compiled by Zhu Ling

EVOLUTION OF GREEN CHINA



NEW WORLD PRESS

EVOLUTION OF GREEN CHINA

Compiled by Zhu Ling



图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

绿动中国 : 英文 / 朱灵主编. —北京 : 新世界出版社, 2009. 11

(中外文化交流系列)

ISBN 978-7-5104-0680-5

I. 绿 ... II. 朱 ... III. 环境保护 - 概况 - 中国 - 英文 IV. X-12

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2009) 第 204485 号

EVOLUTION OF GREEN CHINA

绿动中国 (英文版)

主 编: 朱 灵

策 划: 刘伟玲 李淑娟

编 委: 黄 庆 王西民 曲莹璞 任 侃 刘伟玲 张晓刚 李卫涛
吴允和 丁学梅

执行编辑: 付 敬

主要作者: 白立德 陈 虹 牡丹德 付 敬 饶及人 阿力克斯·克比 劳长春 李 婧
李 宁 马和励 聂子瑞 丹尼斯·帕姆林 钱雁峰 司婷婷 苏 静 宛志弘
王 儒 王政华 王卓琼 于田雨 张建宇 张 琦 张晓刚 丹·巴克斯特
凯瑟琳·菲兹帕特里克 王晓军

主要图片来源: 中国日报社图片网站

责任编辑: 李淑娟 葛文聪

英文审定: 徐明强

封面设计: 郭 鹏

装帧设计: 夙焉图文设计工作室

责任印制: 李一鸣 黄厚清

出版发行: 新世界出版社

社 址: 北京市西城区百万庄大街24号 (100037)

总编室电话: + 86 10 6899 5424 68326679 (传真)

发行部电话: + 86 10 6899 5968 68998705 (传真)

本社中文网址: <http://www.nwp.cn>

本社英文网址: <http://www.newworld-press.com>

版权部电子信箱: frank@nwp.com.cn

版权部电话: + 86 10 6899 6306

印 刷: 北京佳信达欣艺术印刷有限公司

经 销: 新华书店

开 本: 787 × 1092 1/16

字 数: 180千字 印张: 17.5

版 次: 2010年1月第1版 2010年1月北京第1次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5104-0680-5

定 价: 78.00元

First Edition 2010

Compiled by Zhu Ling

Edited by Li Shujuan and Ge Wencong

Cover Design by Guo Peng

Book Design by Li Hong

Copyright by **New World Press**, Beijing, China

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced
in any form or by any means without permission in writing
from the publisher.

ISBN 978-7-5104-0680-5

Published by

NEW WORLD PRESS

24 Baiwanzhuang Street, Beijing 100037, China

Distributed by

NEW WORLD PRESS

24 Baiwanzhuang Street, Beijing 100037, China

Tel: 86-10-68995968

Fax: 86-10-68998705

Website: www.newworld-press.com

E-mail: frank@nwp.com.cn

Printed in the People's Republic of China

Foreword

During the past two years, all roads have been leading to Copenhagen and the crucial UN climate convention meeting.

That is part of the reason for the efforts China has made toward curbing greenhouse gas emissions and *China Daily's* publishing *Evolution of Green China* is of tremendous importance.

The Chinese media have been working hard to endure the push for action to combat climate change, and to preserve and improve the environment. Media, such as *China Daily*, work to ensure these goals are advanced by society at all levels, from that of ordinary people to those of national and international leadership. We are all greatly indebted to their tireless work — work such as that which has been collected in this enlightening collection of *China Daily's* comprehensive environmental reports.

This conference will either prove to be a dead end, a delay, a detour or a gear-changing moment in human affairs.

At stake is perhaps the most important international treaty since World War II — one that can put more than 190 nations on a low-carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy path that is necessary if the world is to thrive, let alone survive, over the coming decades and century. Some are already writing off Copenhagen, but this is decidedly premature.

The last two years has witnessed an explosion in the number of creative and cost-effective options that, if pursued in whole or in part by governments, can make it possible to seal a scientifically credible deal.

Many economies have actively embraced environmental investments not as a burden, but rather as a key path for job creation and recovery in the face of the worst economic crisis in a generation.

Days before the G20 met in Pittsburgh, the UNEP and other parties, including HSBC, published an assessment as part of our Global Green New Deal initiative. It spotlighted the green components of national stimulus packages, ranging from accelerated funding for renewables to smart grids and rapid rails. Among the seven countries studied in detail, the Republic of Korea's green component represents 79 percent of its overall planned stimulus. China's is 34 percent.

Copenhagen offers an opportunity to accelerate these kinds of investments. So it could be said to represent the biggest stimulus package of them all.

Second, the role and the opportunities for managing ecosystems to deliver emission reductions and adaptation have come to the fore.

Recently, the UNEP launched its Blue Carbon report in collaboration with UNESCO, the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization and a global team of scientists.

It estimates that carbon emissions — equal to half of the annual emissions of the global transport sector — are being captured and stored by marine ecosystems, such as mangroves, salt marshes and sea grasses.

A combination of the reduction of land deforestation and the restoration of the coverage and health of these marine ecosystems could deliver up to 25 percent of the emission reductions needed to avoid “dangerous” climate change.

However, the report also estimates that up to seven percent of these “blue carbon sinks” are being lost annually. That is seven times the rate of loss of 50 years ago.

One idea to tip the balance in favor of conservation and “marine ecosystem renovation” is a Blue Carbon fund that the countries of the North could use to pay countries and communities in the South.

Many countries in Asia, including China, have good areas of remaining seagrass beds alongside salt marshes and mangroves.

The idea is not so far-fetched. It is likely that nations will agree to pay developing economies to maintain the “green carbon” in forests under a partnership, such as the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

Paying developing economies to maintain the carbon stocks found in nature offers other opportunities, too.

UNEP, in partnership with the World Agroforestry Center and with funding from the Global Environment Facility, has launched a Carbon Benefits Project with farmers and landowners in Western Kenya, China, Niger and Nigeria.

It aims to rapidly develop the land-use standard or “calculator” that will enable investors to know how much carbon is being sequestered under different land management regimes.

This opens the door to pay developing countries to farm crops and carbon, and get paid for both.

Some developed economies are preparing to put billions of dollars into carbon capture and storage (CCS) at power stations. Why not invest some of this in nature-based CCS?

The natural option has been tried and tested over millennia, and could prove to be far more cost effective if rapidly enhanced.

The message here is that everyone has an opportunity to do something to meet the climate change challenge.

The fact is that climate change is not going to simply go away like a bad nightmare in the morning if governments walk away from Copenhagen without a serious deal.

You can stop the clocks, but you cannot stop the climate clock from ticking without transformative and committed action.

And the longer the world waits, the more difficult, costly and damaging climate change will become.

Copenhagen represents the opportunity to plan the future in a managed and considered way. Otherwise, the future will plan itself.

And this may well overwhelm our national and global institutions' capacities to cope, forcing societies to scramble to deal with events that are already unfolding and challenging the very foundations upon which modern civilization, as it has evolved today, depends.

Achim Steiner
UN Under Secretary-General and Executive Director,
UN Environment Programme

Introduction

Speaking on behalf of *China Daily's* executive team, I will say that my colleagues and I are pleased with the publication of *Evolution of Green China* in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

It is an anthology of articles published in our newspaper and on our website over the last several years about China's ongoing countermeasures to combat climate change and its energy-use and emission-control efforts. This book chronicles the country's initial progress as the world's most rapidly developing economy and its ambition to shoulder greater responsibilities in the post-Kyoto era.

Scarcely has any subject commanded so much interest and shared devotion from journalists around the world.

In 2007, *China Daily* became the first Chinese media organization to merge its environmental, energy and macroeconomics reporting teams. This journalistic innovation of developing an interdisciplinary approach to covering climate issues demonstrates the growing importance of these concerns.

These articles monitor not only the changes drafted on the drawing boards of government officials and their climate and energy consultants but also those emerging from the bottom up. They tell of grassroots campaigns, and make heard the voices of entrepreneurs, social movements, scientists and independent researchers — and those of the *China Daily* writers and editors.

Although China's developing country status excludes it from mandatory adherence to any specific climate-change mitigation tenet of the *Kyoto Protocol*, the Chinese government and civil society have been taking action. While this process has proved challenging, we have made it possible to meet our self-imposed targets through economic restructuring and regulatory strengthening.

China has recently declared a more powerful commitment — the one President Hu Jintao outlined at the UN Climate Conference in New York in September.

Through this new *modus operandi*, China will significantly slash its greenhouse gas emissions and reconfigure its energy structure.

We with *China Daily* are still waiting for the release of this new plan's details. I regret that we will have to wait for the publication of our next book to include them in this ongoing discourse. It is an even greater pity that we cannot include the thousands of mostly Chinese-language writings by the country's journalists and civil society leaders, who criticize China's shortcomings and call for renewed efforts.

This book is not an alibi for China's foibles. It is constantly stated at global climate forums that China is the world's largest emitter — a fact repeatedly put forth for many purposes, including the shirking of one's own responsibilities.

It is rarely acknowledged that China's per capita greenhouse-gas emission rates remain lower than developed countries' and that China is curtailing emissions in several ways.

The articles in this book reflect China's domestic situation — what the country is doing and what it must yet do.

But I do not believe China needs to use words to defend its realities, because no country can self-vindicate through mere lip service.

Every responsible country's message to the world should be the same: Watch what we do and then make your assessments.

So let us watch.

Zhu Ling
Editor-in-Chief, China Daily News Group

CONTRIBUTORS OF THIS BOOK



Fu Jing

Acting editor of the collection and senior journalist with *China Daily*

"The chance still exists that global warming will be finally mitigated by growing awareness on the ground while active international negotiations and a possible political treaty on carbon reduction to be achieved in Copenhagen may not play a big role in the end."



Frédéric Beraha

General Manager of CCIParis consulting, Ex-Cultural and Cooperation Councilor – French Embassy in China

"The development of China is probably the strongest asset for the future of the world with the fact that, inside China, some critical issues are being solved in a sustainable way and that the other countries will accept and encourage China in her new position as a world leader."



Chen Hong

China Daily journalist

"The rising GDP was offset by less blue skies, dirtier air and heavily polluted rivers. Do not achieve economic growth at the cost of environment any more."



Dr. Daniel J. Dudek

Chief Economist of Environmental Defense Fund and winner of China's National Friendship Award

"It is my greatest wish that the Copenhagen meeting will be the context for the United States and China to develop the kind of powerful collaboration in protecting the global climate that they have achieved in enhancing the global economy."



James C. Jao

Prolific writer; renowned urban planning expert and president of J.A.O. Design International Ltd

"Our future generations will pay a dear price for our mistakes and the unwise decisions made today. The wealthier and more civilized a society is, the more attention its citizens will pay to its future generation's welfare."



Alex Kirby

Former BBC senior environmental correspondent and now a trainer of worldwide environmental journalists

"Fortunately, China's leaders recognize that the Earth has only one climate, so China needs for its own sake as well as everyone else's to be responsible in caring for the environment."



Dr. Robert Lao

Environmental scientists and former senior official of Canadian Environment Department, and winner of China's National Friendship Award

"China was at that time in the unique position of being compelled to modernize its aging, inefficient, polluting industrial sectors as it met the opportunities of becoming a major player in the global market."



Dr. Khalid Malik

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China

"Climate change may well bring positive implications for some regions of the country; overall climate change poses serious risks for sustaining development in the decades to come."



Li Jing

China Daily journalist

"What we take from the nature, we pay back, someday. So please let us be humble and friendly to the mother earth."



Erik Nilsson

American reporter and copy editor with *China Daily*.

"I have covered environmental concerns and campaigns in both my homeland and China, and have been particularly impressed by the innovation and commitment of China in fighting its green revolution."



Li Ning

Climate Change Program Officer with Oxfam Hong Kong

"Fight against climate change with poor people!"

**Dennis Pamlin**

Environmental advisor for worldwide governments and NGOs; Senior Associate at Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

"Copenhagen will be an opportunity for those who seek collaboration and concrete results to launch innovative initiatives. While the world needs a global framework, it should not be forgotten that we need those who move much faster than the international negotiations."

**Su Jing**

US-China Program Director at Ameciran Council for Renewable Energy.

"Globally, however, I think the youth leadership still lacks. The earlier the younger generation starts fresh dialogues, the more environment-friendly the world might be."

**Qian Yanfeng**

China Daily journalist

"As a journalist covering the environmental beat, I feel fortunate to be able to keep abreast of the most widely discussed topic globally, one that is intended to make the lives of everyone better by creating a sustainable environment. It is also my belief that every one of us can make a difference and be part of the environmental drive by adopting a greener way of life."

**Wan Zhihong**

China Daily journalist

"Let us go green in our everyday life to make our world a better place. That's for you and me, and for the entire human race."

**Si Tingting**

China Daily journalist

"Go and join the action against global warming – it cools down the earth and warms people's heart... And remember, we need action, not lip service."

**Wang Ru**

China Daily journalist

"During investigations, I have found the inefficient management of landfills, which causes serious pollution and harm to communities, has deepened people's mistrust toward their municipal governments. How could they trust the incinerators and the new potential dangers these pose?"



Wang Zhenghua
China Daily journalist

"The environmental issue and natural resources are closely connected to our life. I hope the commitments to present a green expo next year in Shanghai will come true."



Dr. Zhang Jianyu

Head of Environmental Defense Fund's Beijing office; member of the Lead Expert Group (LEG) for China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED)

"The climate problem will ultimately be solved one way or another, and I hope we could all learn from the sometimes painful process that we are going through and gain enough wisdom to deal with the next crisis human beings face."



Wang Zhuoqiong
China Daily journalist

"We consume. We save. We damage. We protect. We owe our planet a future. It is time for us to work together to chart a new course for a greener and healthier world."



Zhang Qi
China Daily journalist

"In the documentary *This Is It*, Michael Jackson said: 'We cannot wait on the government to save the Earth; we have to do it now. This is our last chance to protect the planet'. As a clean tech reporter, I agree."



Yu Tianyu
China Daily journalist

"Don't expect any changes to come from my writing, but it is just to make sure I can tell my children without hesitation: 'You can use a blue pen to draw the crystal skies, and you can use the green one when drawing flourishing forests and grass'."



Dr. Ed Zhang
Adviser to *China Daily*

"I am deeply impressed by China's economic success in the last three decades and am equally convinced that its current development model, having already made China a leading emitter in the world, is not sustainable and should be discontinued and replaced by a climate-friendly one."

Contents

CHAPTER 1 CHINA DECLARES WAR AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING / 1

HU VOWS DEEP CUT OF CARBON INTENSITY BY 2020.....2
BY FU JING AND LI JING

CHINA'S VOICE REMAINS UNHEARD.....7
BY ZHANG JIANYU

RENOWNED ECONOMIST ROLLS OUT
CARBON CUT ROADMAP11
BY FU JING

CLIMATE CHANGE AND POVERTY IN CHINA16
BY LI NING

A LONESOME BUT WORTHY PATH WE TAKE24
BY ED ZHANG

BLAME CHINA AND LOSE THE MOST VITAL BATTLE27
BY FITZPATRICK AND WANG XIAOJUN

CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATORS URGED
TO CHANGE LANGUAGE30
BY FU JING

THIS US-CHINA DIALOGUE PROMISES TO BE DIFFERENT34
BY DAN BAXTER

WORLDWIDE GOALS IN SINO-US CLIMATE TALKS38
BY ED ZHANG, LI JING AND FU JING



CHAPTER 2 HISTORIC SHIFT TO SUSTAINABILITY / 43

STIMULUS PROJECTS MUST MEET GREEN STANDARDS44

BY DANIEL J. DUDEK

CHINA'S ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY48

BY FREDERICK BERAHA

WEN, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PREMIER54

BY DANIEL J. DUDEK

TURNING THE TIDE WITH CLEANER PRACTICES58

BY ROBERT LAO

SMART CITIES NEEDED TO SAVE OUR PLANET64

BY DENNIS PAMLIN