

29/06/2008 China's Hu Jintao addresses politburo "collective study" on climate change

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["At the CCP Central Committee Political Bureau's Sixth Collective Study, Hu Jintao Stresses the Need To Unswervingly Take the Path of Sustainable Development and Strengthen the Capability of Dealing With Climate Change" - Xinhua headline]

Beijing, 28 Jun (Xinhua) - The CCP Central Committee Political Bureau held the sixth collective study on the afternoon of 27 June. CCP Central Committee General Secretary Hu Jintao chaired the study. He stressed the need to fully understand the importance and urgency of dealing with climate change in the spirit of assuming high responsibility for the Chinese nation and all mankind, unswervingly take the road of sustainable development, adopt stronger policies and measures, comprehensively strengthen the capability of dealing with climate change, and devote incessant efforts to China's and global sustainable development.

The contents of the CCP Central Committee Political Bureau's collective study include climate change and China strengthening the capability of dealing with climate change. Researcher Luo Yong from the State Climate Centre of the China Meteorological Administration and Professor He Jiankun from the Low-Carbon Energy Laboratory of Qinghua University provided lectures and aired their views and suggestions on how China should strengthen the capability of dealing with climate change. Comrades of the CCP Central Committee Political Bureau carefully listened to their lectures and conducted discussions on the relevant issues.

Hu Jintao made a speech. He pointed out: China is in a crucial stage of building a well-off society [xiao kang she hui] in an all-round way. It is also in an important stage of speeding up its industrialization and urbanization. The task of developing the economy and improving the people's livelihood remains very arduous, so is the task of dealing with climate change. Appropriately dealing with climate involves China's economic and social development as a whole, the personal interests of the people, and the country's fundamental interests.

Hu Jintao stressed: China is a developing country. In dealing with climate change, we persist in the principle of common yet differentiated responsibilities set by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and maintain that developed countries should take the lead in undertaking the obligation of reducing emission and should provide financial assistance and technological transfer to developing countries. In the meantime, we also maintain that developing countries should make efforts to deal with climate change through promoting sustainable development. To deal with climate change in a better way, the Chinese government has formulated a state programme on dealing with climate change, adopted a series of policies and measures, and achieved noteworthy results in the relevant work. The 17th Party Congress explicitly set the major task of building an ecological civilization. We should give prominence to the construction of a resource saving and environment friendly society in our industrialization and modernization development strategy. This should be implemented in each and every unit and family.

Hu Jintao stressed: To deal with climate change, we should profoundly implement the scientific development concept; take into overall consideration economic development, ecological construction, domestic and international factors, as well as current and long-term interests; comprehensively carry out the state programme on dealing with climate change; combine the effort to deal with climate change with the implementation of a sustainable development strategy, the construction of a resource saving and environment friendly society, and the construction of an innovative country. By ensuring economic development as the core, taking energy saving, optimization of the energy structure, and strengthening ecological protection and construction as the key points, and taking scientific progress as a backup, we should strive to control and alleviate greenhouse emission, continually improve the capability of dealing with climate change, continually strengthen the capability of maintaining sustainable development, bring about coordination between economic development, population, energy, and environment, and make new contributions to improving global climate.

Hu Jintao pointed out the need to do a good job in the following aspects. First, we should vigorously implement the measures on controlling greenhouse emission, persist in the basic state policy of energy saving and environmental protection, persist in the path of new type industrialization with Chinese characteristics, speed up the transformation of economic development mode, strengthen energy saving and its efficient use, actively develop circulating economy and low-carbon economy, and continually expand afforestation. Second, we should vigorously strengthen the capability of dealing with climate change, strengthen farmland capital construction, rationally develop and optimize water resources distribution, continue the key construction project on ecological protection, and strengthen the appraisal of the overall impact of climate change. Third, we should vigorously bring into play the role of scientific progress and innovations, speed up major technological research and demonstrations on alleviation and adaptation to climate change, strengthen basic research on dealing with climate change, and strengthen international scientific and technological cooperation in the field of climate change. Fourth, we should vigorously improve the system and mechanism on dealing with climate change; improve the laws and regulations on dealing with climate change; push for energy management system and price reforms; improve the mechanism on monitoring different types of disasters and issuing early warnings, the mechanism on policymaking coordination with multiple departments' participation, and the mechanism on dealing with climate change in which the entire society is involved. In particular, we should improve the comprehensive monitoring and early warning capability, the resistance capability, and the disaster mitigation capability in dealing with extreme meteorological disasters. Fifth, we should vigorously improve the awareness and capability of the entire society's participation and create a good environment for the entire people to deal with climate change.

Hu Jintao stressed: All levels of party committees and governments should regard dealing with climate change as an important content in implementing the scientific development concept and achieving sustainable development; incorporate it into the economic and social development programme; work out measures that correspond with the realities of their regions and departments; and enhance the capability of organizing and carrying out the work to deal with climate change. The task of achieving the restrictive goal of energy saving and emission reduction set by the 11th

Five-Year Programme is heavy. We are hard pressed for time. All levels of party committees and governments should step up their efforts, move ahead despite difficulties, speed up their work, give more prominence to the work of saving energy and reducing emission, conscientiously implement the energy saving and emission reduction statistical system, monitoring system, and assessment system, give prominence to key undertakings and key fields, profoundly conduct an activity of saving energy and reducing emission among the whole people, and resolutely fight a hard battle of saving energy and reducing emission.

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