

**Adhere to the Road of Green Development, and Well Perform the Role of a
Pioneer in Ecological Civilization Construction**

—A Speech by Zhu Guangyao on Workshop on New Trends of Sustainable

Development

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I. Ecological civilization construction is a significant achievement of constant innovations on the ruling ideas of the Party and the State.

1. Basic meaning of ecological civilization

Ecological civilization is an achievement of humans in respect to material, spirit and system, acquired during the activities of utilizing and actively protecting the nature and vigorously improving and optimizing the human-nature relation. For the purpose of the harmonious co-existence between human and nature, human as well as society and under the premise of the mastery of natural rules and the respect and protection of the nature, ecological civilization, as a high-level human civilization, can lead us onto the road of sustainable, harmonious and scientific development by establishing the sustainable industrial structure, production method and consumption model on the basis of the bearing capacity of the resource and environment.

It was proposed in the 17th CPC National Congress that “to build ecological civilization, we should generally form the industrial structure, growth mode and consumption model which can save energy and resources and protect ecological environment, establish large-scale recycling economy, realize the remarkable increase of the proportion of renewable energy sources, effective emission control of major pollutants and significant improvement of ecological environment quality, and firmly set up the concept of ecological civilization in the society.” This is the summarization of the three strategic tasks of the ecological civilization construction in our country: the transformation of growth mode, the improvement of ecological environment and the popularization of ecological civilization concept. Ecological civilization

construction is not the traditional pollution prevention and control and ecological restoration, but the overcoming of malpractices in traditional industrial civilization and the pursuit to the road of resource-saving and environment-friendly development. The transformation of economic development mode, the improvement of ecological environment quality and the establishment of ecological civilization concept are respectively the fundamental approach, the basic requirement and the social foundation, the three of which are inseparably interconnected and complementary to one another.

2. Great strategic significance of ecological civilization construction

Ecological civilization construction is an essential requirement of the realization of the sustainable development of our country. The extensive economic growth mode and the excessively speedy consumption of energy resources, as a long-existing situation of our country, would inevitably overburden resources, environment and the society if things continue in this way, further resulting in the unsustainability of development. Despite of positive progresses of our country's environmental protection in recent years, the situation of environment is still rather serious. The long-term accumulated environmental conflicts remain unsolved, while new problems emerge one after another. Along with the constant expansion of economic aggregate and the unceasing increase of population is the growing generation amount of pollutants, which indicates the even more intensified pressure on environmental protection. Therefore, the construction of ecological civilization is of vital importance to promote the transformation of development mode and the regulation of industrial structure, to realize the all-round, coordinated and sustainable economic and social development of our country and to enhance our international competitiveness.

Ecological civilization construction is an inherent requirement of our pursuit to a new road of industrialization. Traditional industrial civilization, though having created tremendous material wealth for the human society, has brought us unprecedented ecological crises, resulting in the severe unbalance of the human-nature relation which directly threatens our existence and development. The gradual emersion of the drawbacks and unsolvable dilemmas of the traditional industrial civilization has provoked the deep introspection and constant awakening of human beings for active explorations on the higher-level harmony between human and nature.

Ecological civilization construction is an integral part of the great cause of the socialism with Chinese characteristics. Following the 17th CPC National Congress

which put forward ecological civilization construction as one of the objectives to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 17th CPC Central Committee further endowed ecological civilization construction with the equal importance to the constructions of politics, economy, society and culture, which symbolizes a more and more prominent position of ecological civilization construction in the overall situation of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics, deepens our understanding in the law of environmental protection implementation and defines the directions in strengthening ecological environment protection, promoting scientific development and actively and effectively solving the major human-nature conflicts of our country.

Ecological civilization construction is an important practice in carrying out the scientific development concept. As a major strategic idea and guideline which dominates the overall situation of our country's economic and social development, the scientific development concept is that "regard the protection of natural environment, the preservation of ecological safety and the realization of sustainable development as basic elements for its growth instead of general requirements", and organizes the relations between economic and social development and population, resources as well as environment, and the relations between human and human, nature as well as society into an organic frame, realizing the harmony between human and nature and the all-round development of humans by the means of development. The essence of the scientific development concept is development, which is also the task of ecological civilization construction with the first priority: to be specific, ecological civilization construction aims to better promote and optimize economic development within the bearable range of environment, following the basic method of overall planning and all-round consideration, that is, make overall plans and take all factors into consideration to regulate the relation between human and nature in the process of development, so as to protect the nature during the utilization.

II. The transformation of economic development mode is an important element of ecological civilization construction.

1. Extensive economic development mode results in our high cost of resource environment.

The resource-product-waste linear development model of the traditional economic development since the industrial revolution of western countries is a production mode featured by "high input, high consumption, high emission and disharmony". However,

as the supply capacity of resources, the self-purification capacity of environment and the bearing capacity of nature are by no means limitless, the adherence to such a traditional production mode will inevitably sharpen the conflicts between development and environment, which will further arouse ecological crises. Considering the irreversibility of ecological succession, we have no difficulty in picturing the consequence of the breakdown of an overburdened ecological system. The facts about the economic and social development of our country, i.e. the scarcity of resources (the per capita reserve of such major mineral resources as oil, natural gas and iron ore as well as such natural resources as water and forest in our country is far below the world's average level), and the excessively speedy consumption of energy and resources due to the long-term extensive economic growth mode, have triggered even more obvious issues concerning ecological environment.

Therefore, ecological civilization construction is of important significance to realize the human-oriented, all-round, coordinated and sustainable development, improve ecological environment, and enhance people's welfare and fulfill the task of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

2. The economic growth mode transformation of our country is a long and heavy task.

From an overall perspective, our country is now in the middle of industrialization, i.e. in the heavy industrialization period (heavy industries include electric power, steel, non-ferrous metals, petrochemical engineering, building materials, chemical engineering, etc.), a period with the most acute conflicts between economic development and environment as well as resources. The annual growth rates of our country in natural gas, generated electrical energy, crude steel, non-ferrous metals, cement, acid and base, chemical fiber and generating equipment during 2001-2006 had generally exceeded those of GDP and industrial added value. Compared to 2006, the production of crude steel, cement and ten kinds of non-ferrous metals in 2007 was increased by 19.7%, 15.5% and 17.2% respectively, and the increase rates of sulfuric acid, soda ash, caustic soda, ethylene and other major chemical products ranged from 9.6% to 24.5%. Most of our industries are now in the period of the transformation from large industries to powerful industries, a period of capital accumulation for real powerfulness and yet with noticeable distance to the periods of "create in China" and "Chinese standards". As a result, to keep intensifying the efforts in industrial structure regulation and to speed up the transformation of economic growth mode in the

process of industrialization are the important and urgent tasks of our country at present and even in a long period hereafter.

3. The transformation of economic development mode is an important element of ecological civilization construction.

Ecological civilization construction is an inherent requirement of the transformation of economic development mode. High resource consumption, high pollution emission, serious environmental pollution and other problems caused by the traditional economic development mode urgently require for the transformation of economic development mode, which is not only an important element of ecological civilization construction but also a fundamental objective of the construction of a well-off society in our country.

Growth is not a perfect synonym for development, and economic growth should not be achieved upon the damage to the environment. Though the economic growth mode of our country has been deeply changed through years of efforts, the situations of unreasonable structure, low industrial level, backward production method and weak comprehensive competitiveness remain fundamentally unchanged, which has become a key factor influencing the sustained and stable development of our economy.

Development is also a precondition of ecological civilization construction, the only method to meet people's growing needs for material and cultural life. As a result, ecological civilization construction is not to hinder the economical and social development, but to realize the "good and fast" green and sustainable development. To achieve this, we should stick to the new road to industrialization with Chinese characteristics, vigorously promote the development of recycling economy, low-carbon economy and green economy, and strive to realize the coordinated development of economy and environment.

III. Adhere to the road of green development and well perform the role of a pioneer in ecological civilization construction.

Under a present multiplication of crises, to carry out the Green New Deal and promote green development has become a global consensus, which leaves us no choice but to boost ecological civilization and develop green economy for the sustainable development of our country.

Reasonably distribute industries and strengthen the source control. To solve the problems of low economic development quality and overlarge resource environment

cost requires the source control on industry selection, enterprise layout and development scale. Our efforts in recent years to use environmental protection as a major method for macro control enhancement and improvement and to strictly carry out the admittance of environmental protection have played an important role in optimizing and regulating the industrial structure. It has been proved that promoting environmental protection to participate in comprehensive decisions and actively implementing strategic and planned environmental impact assessments can contribute to a more scientific and reasonable productivity distribution and resource environment allocation, and will forcefully advance the green development through the reversed transmission of the pressure for easing monetary condition.

Transform the growth mode and vigorously develop green industries. Ecological civilization construction stresses on resource economization and environment friendliness. To vigorously develop green industries, in other words, is to transform the traditional modes of production, living and consumption and to realize the “win-win” situation of economy and environment as well as the harmony between human and nature. We should lay importance on the development of such strategic industries as green industries and modern service industry, constantly reforming and upgrading traditional industries, optimizing and cultivating emerging industries, constructing a reasonably-configured modern service industry system and promoting the industrialization of low-carbon technology. Meanwhile, to promote the transformation of economic growth mode, we should firmly limit and gradually eliminate “high-polluting, high-energy-consuming and resource-dependant” industries and underdeveloped production processes, equipment and products.

Fulfill the green responsibilities and undertake the green mission. In the economic globalization when our country is called a “world factory” and our enormous enterprise group is regarded as a major pollution producer, the industrial and commercial enterprises of our country are confronted with the ordeal of ecological environment crises and green responsibilities. At present, however, the green responsibilities of our enterprises are still at the early stage, in which the construction of ecological civilization and the commitment of green responsibilities are not on the development agenda of most enterprises yet.

Green responsibilities are an important historical mission of enterprises bestowed by the 21st century. Ecological civilization looks forward to the “green revolution” of Chinese enterprises, which in turn requires enterprises to become pioneers of

ecological civilization construction. Therefore, our industrial and commercial enterprises should follow the requirements of ecological civilization, actively undertaking the green mission, fulfilling the green responsibilities and integrating the concept of ecological civilization into the whole process of the enterprise's operation and management. To become the major practicers and pioneers in the construction of ecological civilization, the enterprises should further intensify their efforts in promoting the regulation of industrial structure and the updating and upgrading of products, vigorously push forward energy conservation and emission reduction, boost recycling economy and clean production and carry forward the resource harmlessness and minimization.

Thank you.